



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit



July 2009

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Edgar, Art and Tom prepare for an outreach at Lopez Lake a couple of summers ago. Photo: Chuck McPartlin.

Outreach Summary

Since the last newsletter, volunteers Andy Allen, Warren Bitters, Greg Brinser, Chad Caprio, Marciano Chan, Bill Clausen, Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Helen Osenga, Javier Rivera & the Quasars, Nancy Rohrer, John West, Tom Whittemore, and Tim Wittenburg showed good stuff in the sky to 1042 customers.

Outreach for July

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for July. Events are subject to change, so to get the latest information on schedules, or directions, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net

Thursday, July 2, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach. Contact Chuck if you can bring a scope, so he can tell Ed Edwards.

Thursday, July 2, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for the Bacara Resort, on the Miro Lawn.

Saturday, July 4, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Campground, in the day use parking lot, southwest corner.

Tuesday, July 7, setup 7:30 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta. We set up in the plaza between Borders and the theater.

Wednesday, July 8, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for the Biltmore. Contact Chuck for details.

Friday, July 10, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake Campground. We set up on the grassy field at Dakota Plains.

Saturday, July 11, 6 PM

Planning meeting in the classroom next to Javier's office at SBMNH. Come plan your club's activities. All are welcome.

Saturday, July 11, 8 PM

Monthly Public Star Party, next to Palmer Observatory at SBMNH.

Friday, July 17, setup 7:30 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, just outside Carroll Observatory.

Saturday, July 18, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake Campground. We set up on the grassy field at Dakota Plains.

Friday, July 24, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Campground, in the day use parking lot, southwest corner. Pat and Chuck can't make this event, so we'll need a little extra volunteer turnout. **Please come if you can!**

Saturday, August 1, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake Campground. Again, Pat and Chuck can't make this event, so **please come if you can!**

From our President's Pen...

Although it appeared the weather was not going to cooperate for our annual AU Pot Luck at the museum, the clouds slowly floated away and the evening was beautiful. There was a full house in attendance and all enjoyed the favorite foods of our many members. This event is always a great one to sit down and simply enjoy each other's company and conversation. During the course of dinner the group discussed this year's Cachuma Lake Camp Out/Pot Luck and Star-B-Q. It was decided this year the AU will combine the two events and encourage members to take the short (and beautiful) ride up to the lake where it's promised all will be enchanted with the natural surroundings, and of course barbeque tri-tip and chicken.

The AU has always enjoyed a free of charge premium camp spot thanks to the outreach efforts of Chuck McPartlin, and limited free parking as well. But fear not, if a member drives up and the free spots are all taken, the AU will pick up the tab. So, jot down September 25, 26, and 27 as the weekend up at the lake!

Another idea tossed around at the Pot Luck was the gathering of favorite recipes from the members and putting together an AU COOKBOOK. Wow, I'm going to need to learn how to cook!

The following week the monthly Planning and Star Party took place. Some of the topics discussed at the meeting were the ordering of (believe it or not) 2010 calendars, the major refurbishing of the Museum's Space Lab, the selection process of the facility for our 2009 Holiday Banquet, and even the possibility of creating an AU cold weather stocking cap (aka "beanies"). Keep in tune with the AU AstroNews for more information.

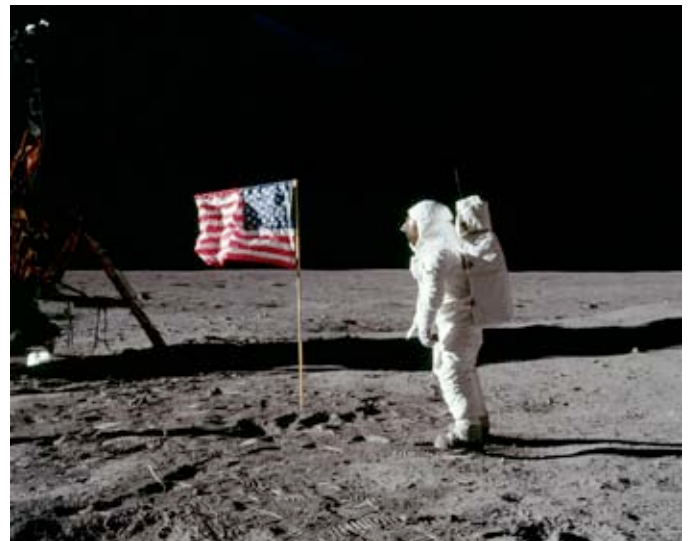
It's always a pleasure to thank members renewing their membership, and this month is no exception. I wish to thank Brian and Gail Kenny, Colleen and Dennis Pease, Gordon Specht, Dora Drake, and Robert Bernstein. Your continued membership and support of the Astronomical Unit allows this club to

enjoy the heart-felt appreciation of the community and the rest of the members!

Ruben Gutierrez, SBAU President

Did You Know?

July 20, 1969, is the date a human being first stepped on the moon. Yes, it's the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing and when Neil Alden Armstrong took those first steps on the surface of an alien world. Perhaps reaching the rank of Eagle Scout prepared him for this voyage? Or, maybe it was his college education at Purdue University (Go, Boilermakers!), where he received his BS Degree, or the MA Degree he received at USC (Go Trojans!)? Well, perhaps the 78 missions he flew over Korea, which included 20 combat missions, or his experience flying experimental rocket and space planes had more to do with it. All things considered, it was a proud moment for all when Neil Armstrong set his boot on the surface on the Moon so long ago and said those now famous words, "That's one small step for a man. One giant leap for Mankind." Indeed it was!



Moon Meets the Mind

Jürgen Hilmer

For ages Man saw the moonshine
But had to wait to combine
The Eagle and Man's mind.

Forty of our years ago, now in 1969
He landed for the first time
Finally to combine his mind
With the everlasting moonshine.

Of Music and Light...

T. Whittemore

The other night I looked up at the star, Spica, as it appeared high in the sky. Some time ago I read that Spica was 260 light years distant. We all know this means that the light I saw took 260 years to get here. A good thought, but sort of antiseptic. No sense of scale. Suppose, I thought, we think about the light's journey through time from the point of view of music. It started its journey in the year 1749. Bach was still to be with us for another year and Haydn was 17 years old. Mozart's birth was another seven years away and Beethoven's, twenty-one. This light witnessed the end of the Classical Period and the beginning of the Romantic! After its first one hundred fifty years of travel, it would pass into the modern era with Ravel, Debussy and Schoenberg. Later, Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Shostakovich. What a journey! After I stepped out from under the night sky and into our house, I saw Spica as a beacon of time, a musical measuring stick upon which we could also travel. And, because of this, its light did not seem so cold, white and distant.

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Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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On the Web: <http://www.sbau.org>

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Carpinteria State Beach 7:30PM	3	4 Refugio State Beach 7:30PM
5	6	7 Camino Real Marketplace 7:30PM 	8 Biltmore Star Party 7:30PM	9	10 Cachuma Lake Campground 8PM	11 Planning Meeting 6PM SBMNH Star Party 8PM
12	13	14	15 	16	17 Westmont College 7:30PM	18 Cachuma Lake Campground 8PM
19	20	21 	22	23	24 Refugio State Beach 7:30PM	25
26	27	28 	29	30	31	

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