



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

July 2010

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

### OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, volunteers Andy Allen, John Boyd, Chad Caprio, Bill Clausen, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Laurence Harms, Art & Howard Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Beatrice & Tiffany Meier, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Colleen Pease, Javier Rivera & the Quasars, Bob Richard, Nancy Rohrer, David Salvia, Tom Totton, John West, Dennis Weston, and Tom Whittemore showed good stuff in the sky to 1854 customers.



Look! Up in the sky! The AU "reaches out" at the Montecito CC. Photo: R. Gutierrez

### 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](mailto:macpuzl@west.net)

#### FRIDAY, JULY 2, SETUP 8 PM

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

#### SATURDAY, JULY 3, SETUP 8 PM

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

#### SUNDAY, JULY 4, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort, on the Miro Lawn.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 9, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach, at 5361 6th Street in Carpinteria. The Casitas Pass offramp is best. We set up in the grassy area to the right of the main entrance, right across from their ranger office.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 10, 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 10, 8 PM

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

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for the Biltmore. Contact Chuck for details. We set up on their Monte Vista lawn.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 16, SETUP 7:30 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, at the new observatory, next to the baseball field.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 17, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Lopez Lake, up by Arroyo Grande. **Contact Chuck if you're planning to come, so we can arrange camping for Friday and Saturday night.**

#### TUESDAY, JULY 20, SETUP 7:30 PM

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

#### FRIDAY, JULY 23, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach, at 5361 6th Street in Carpinteria.

### **SATURDAY, JULY 24, SETUP 8 PM**

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

### **FRIDAY, JULY 30, SETUP 8 PM**

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

### **SATURDAY, JULY 31**

Annual AU Starbecue at the Gun Club. Eating and observing - what the AU does best! See the article in this newsletter.

### **AU SCOPE HEADS SOUTH...**

*Javier Rivera*

The beautiful city of Mérida in México has a popular planetarium and a thriving astronomy club called CosmoNavis. Last year they contacted the AU and requested a donation of a telescope. After several weeks of searching and waiting, the AU was able to donate an 8" Celestron scope with its tripod and a few lenses. The scope was shipped to Mérida last January and we recently received a very warm thank you letter from CosmoNavis stating how grateful they are for the scope and their plans to use it in the future during their outreaches. Thanks to the AU, children and grownups in Mérida are going to have more "Mare!" moments (Wow! moments) as they enjoy closer views of the universe.



*"First light" in Merida, Mexico.*

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...**

*Ruben Gutierrez*

#### ***June Fun***

No "June Gloom" for the AU; our club enjoyed a full month of festivities and exciting outreaches! This year's annual AU Potluck was as delicious and well attended as ever. It's always such a treat to simply sit down with friends in the AU and have some good food. We even had an AU cake baked by our own Timma Buck. All this, combined with the beautiful setting of the gardens, trees and pathways of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History made for an enchanting evening.

#### ***Outreach recap for June***

Thanks to our outreach group headed by Chuck McPartlin, the AU was not only able to conduct outreach events at some of our usual spots, such as "Telescope Tuesday" at the Camino Real Market Place, and the Four Seasons Biltmore Hotel, but also new venues such as the UCSB Manzanita Beach area, and the fun-packed combination of 7th game NBA Championship/Star Party at the Montecito Country Club (Go Lakers!).

#### ***July activities***

For the month of July, AU members are invited to not only participate in the many scheduled outreach events, but also the ***AU's annual STAR-B-QUE at the Gun Club, located near the very top of San Marcos Pass, on Saturday, July 31st, starting at 6 PM.*** This fantastic spot not only offers great viewing, but also a nice place to enjoy the outdoors, yet it's only 15 minutes away from State Street. This year the AU will provide the membership with barbecued tri-tip and chicken, as well as baked beans and french bread from the Country Meat Market, along with soft drinks and water. All you need to bring is a side plate to share with the group. Make sure you contact the "Food Dude" (Tim Crawford) at [tcrawf3@cox.net](mailto:tcrawf3@cox.net) and let him know you're coming. If you need a map or directions, please go to the AU website ([www.sbau.org](http://www.sbau.org)) and click on the button, "Dark Sky Sites." See you on the 31st!

Remember that for the months of July and August, the AU takes a break from first Friday meetings. Monthly meetings begin once more in September.

### ***New Folks and Renewing Members***

I wish to give a shout out and welcome aboard to new members: The Meier Family (especially Beatrice and Tiffany, who also earned outreach credit at the Museum's June star party, on their first night of AU membership!) and renewing members Robert Bernstein, Ron Nixon, and Gordon Specht. The AU is truly a unique and exciting club filled with unique and exciting members!

### **AU ARTS CORNER...**

#### **Far Visions**

*A.U. Poe*

We pause a while along the placid shore  
Where waves from ancient stars that shine no more  
Rain softly down, and bathe us in their flow  
The edge that blends our now with long ago.  
Like memories of loves and friends once dear  
Ephemeral, yet brilliant, seeming near  
They form a vivid image, showing much  
But move in subtle ways, eluding touch.  
If in an instant we could travel free  
We'd move in four dimensions, not in three  
And turning round, and looking as before  
Would see our ripples, bound for evermore.



*Dedication of Westmont's new observatory, May 12, 2010.*

*Photo: R. Gutierrez*

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#### **SBMNH Astronomy Program Tape**

Updated monthly 682-4711x405

**AU AstroNews**, the monthly publication of the **Astronomical Unit (AU)**, is mailed to the AU membership. For publishing consideration for the next month, submit astronomical items by the 20th of the current month!

#### **AU annual membership rates:**

**Single = \$15 Family = \$25**

#### **AU mailing address:**

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## July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 8PM	3 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM
4 BACARA RESORT 8PM 	5	6	7	8	9 CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 8PM	10 PLANNING MEETING 6PM SBMNH STAR PARTY 8PM
11 	12	13	14 BILTMORE 7:30PM	15	16 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7:30PM	17 LOPEZ LAKE 8PM
18 	19	20 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7:30PM	21	22	23 CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 8PM	24 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM
25 	26	27	28	29	30 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 8PM	31 AU'S ANNUAL STAR-B-QUE 6PM

### The Astronomical Unit

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