



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

June 2005

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Although there will be no general meeting for the AU over the next few months, take some time to enjoy those wonderful, low-lying full moons that grace our summer skies!



May Full Moon over San Roque Canyon – T. Whittemore

### May Outreach

Since the last newsletter, outreach activities have quieted down quite a bit. Astronomy Day is past, and the schools are winding down for the year. Still, AU outreach volunteers Bridget & Andy Allen, Warren Bitters, Bill Clausen, Tim Crawford, Art Harris, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Barb O'Grady, Craig Prater, Tom Whittemore, and Tim Wittenburg showed the sky to 571 customers. For summer, we'll be bringing scopes to local campgrounds, so come join in the fun.

At our May Star Party at the Museum, Marni Berendsen of the NASA/JPL Night Sky Network, and six members of NSN clubs from around the country, taking a break from the JPL Open House down in Pasadena, joined us. Some of them were jealous of our Santa Barbara city skies, compared to the level of light pollution they face in their cities (believe it or not!).

### AU Events for June

#### Saturday, June 4, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Park. Nice skies and friendly people.

#### Saturday, June 4, all night

Dark Sky. Contact Joe Doyle or Paul Winn for details.

#### Friday, June 10, 6:30 PM

Annual AU Potluck Picnic at the Broder Building at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, across the creek. Contact Tim Crawford for details.

#### Saturday, June 11, 8 PM

Monthly Star Party at SBMNH. Note: No planning meeting this month.

#### Friday, June 17, 8 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College. Van Kampen Observatory.

#### Saturday, June 18, setup 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake. More nice skies and friendly people!

#### Friday, June 24, setup 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake, again!

#### Saturday, June 25, setup 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Lopez Lake. Contact Chuck if you're planning to come, so we can set up appropriate overnight camping arrangements.

## A Reminder about the June 10<sup>th</sup> Potluck

Greetings,

This is your fearless refreshment coordinator here (except sometimes in the dark) to remind you of a change in the date of the June potluck. We have moved it to the second Friday of the month, June 10th. If you haven't been to one of these it is, in my opinion, a great way to celebrate the end of the first half of the year's events and welcome the summer break. In short come on down and just plain relax. Please let me know by email how many of you plan to attend and what you will bring. I've been advised you can bring anything for about 4-6 people. We will be meeting at **6:30** at the **Broder Building** (across the bridge from the Museum). Bring your dish. The AU will provide plates, utensils (plastic though), napkins, cold drinks & cups. If you have the time and inclination, come on out and join us! The next evening, June 11th, is a public star party- but if you want a preview... bring a scope.

Tim Crawford

## VCAS Observer's Calendar

The ever-popular Observer's Calendar produced by the fine folks of the Ventura County Astronomical Society is now available for sale, covering June 2005 to May 2006. This year they feature upgraded paper quality and all color astro-photos, plus the usual information on Moon phases and astronomical events, all for only \$10. Contact them by email at [VCAS1@aol.com](mailto:VCAS1@aol.com), or visit <http://www/vcas.org> Or, send \$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling (per calendar) to VCAS, PO Box 982, Simi Valley, CA 93062, and include your name and address.

## Astronomy Web Forum

Mr. Cedric Thomas has created a site called Astro Guiding, and would like to invite you to connect at: <http://www.astroguiding.com/> to read or post astronomy-related messages.

## Poetry Corner



Rosse's "Leviathan of Parsonstown"

This is the pipe that pierces the dam  
that holds back the universe  
that takes off some of the pressure,  
keeping the weight of the unknown  
from breaking through  
and washing us all down the valley.

Because of this small tube,  
through which a cold light rushes  
from the bottom of time,  
the depth of the stars stays always constant  
and we are able to sleep, at least for now,  
beneath the straining wall of darkness

*-Ted Kooser, Unite States Poet Laureate*



M51 as viewed through the "Leviathan"

## Night Sky

Walking up the hill at night  
Looking down on city lights  
See them reflect way up high  
In the dark and rounded sky.

Looking up, I see many friends  
They seem to go without end  
There's Orion doing good deeds  
Warrior, hunter, keep us free.

Many more friends there to see  
Far they go into eternity  
Glad to see Leo, Twins and Bull  
Looking up will never be dull.

Enjoyed the walk and friendly chat  
Time to return and feed the cat  
Keep stargazing on the menu  
I will be back to continue.

*By Nancy Rohrer*



## AU Information Box

<b>President:</b>	Chuck McPartlin 964-8201 <a href="mailto:macpuzl@west.net">macpuzl@west.net</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Tim Wittenburg 969-6945 <a href="mailto:black10@aol.com">black10@aol.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ken & Kathy Pfeiffer 687-2327 <a href="mailto:Keagle10@cox.net">Keagle10@cox.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bob Brown 683-2138 <a href="mailto:BobBrownSB@cox.net">BobBrownSB@cox.net</a>
<b>Outreach:</b>	Chuck McPartlin 964-8201 <a href="mailto:macpuzl@west.net">macpuzl@west.net</a>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Paul Winn 685-5646 <a href="mailto:strg8zn@cox.net">strg8zn@cox.net</a>
<b>Refreshments:</b>	Tim Crawford 962-3619 <a href="mailto:tcrawf3@cox.net">tcrawf3@cox.net</a>
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Tom Whittemore 687-2025 <a href="mailto:kometes@aol.com">kometes@aol.com</a>

### AU Astronomy Information Pager

(Leave a short message) 564-9002

### SBMNH Astronomy Program Coordinator

Krissie Cook 682-4711x173  
[kcook@sbnature2.org](mailto:kcook@sbnature2.org)

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the current month!

### AU annual membership rates:

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

### AU mailing address:

Astronomical Unit  
c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta Del Sol Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998

**On the Web:** [www.sbau.org](http://www.sbau.org)

**June 2005**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Refugio Beach State Park 8 PM Dark Sky
5	6 ●	7	8	9	10 Pot Luck SBMNH 6:30 PM	11 Star Party SBMNH 8 PM
12	13	14	15 ◐	16	17 Westmont Public Observing	18 Cachuma Campgrounds 8 PM
19	20	21	22 ○	23	24 Cachuma Campgrounds 8PM	25 Lopez Lake 8PM
26	27	28 ◑	29	30		

**The Astronomical Unit**

c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta Del Sol Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998