



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

June 2012

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



*Dmitrii Zagorodnov demonstrates how to capture multiple images of the recent solar eclipse using a kitchen colander.
Photo: D. Zagorodnov.*

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last AU newsletter, volunteers Robert Bernstein, John Boyd, Bill Clausen, Anne & John Cotton, Tim Crawford, Kate & Jim Doordon, Dora Drake, CJ & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, June Kelley, Ibrahim Khogeer, Tom King, Chris Larson, Mike Lawson, Zanna Lucy, John Martinez, Janet & Martin Meza, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Shib Mookherjea, Steve Morse, Susan & Max Neufeldt, Julian Nott, Edgar Ocampo, Mark Parker, Barbara Reid, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera & his Quasars, David Salvia, Michael Sommermann, Linda Liker & Colin Taylor, Cez & Tom Totton, John West, Tom Whittemore & Westmont students Melissa Romo and David Snyder, Jim Williams, and Deb Felch & Paul Winn shared astronomy with 2797 customers. The solar eclipse event at Camino Real Marketplace was 1200 of that.

JUNE EVENTS

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for June. 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 Note: The Biltmore events have limited space, so if you're planning to attend with a scope, please contact

Chuck by the day before to find out whether there is room!

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 6 PM

Annual AU potluck picnic at the McVeigh House at SBMNH, across the creek from Farrand Hall.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, SETUP 8:30 PM

Telescopes and slide show for campers at Carpinteria State Beach. We set up along the new bike path across from the ranger station.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, SETUP 2 PM

Solar scopes for the Transit of Venus, at Camino Real Marketplace. This won't happen again for over 105 years. We set up in the plaza by the theater.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Starry Nights at the Biltmore. We set up on their Monte Vista lawn. See note above and contact Chuck.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the Miro Lawn, on the bluff overlooking the ocean. Contact Chuck for access if you haven't come before.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 6 PM.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 8 PM.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 11, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for campers with the Police Activities League, in the RV campground just to the west of El Capitan Canyon Resort.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Starry Nights at the Biltmore. We set up on their Monte Vista lawn. See note above and contact Chuck.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 8 PM

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, SETUP 8 PM

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

4:09 PM - Summer Solstice, the official start of Summer!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Starry Nights at the Biltmore. We set up on their Monte Vista lawn. See note above and contact Chuck.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 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, JUNE 26, SETUP 7 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta. We set up in the plaza by the theater.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Starry Nights at the Biltmore. We set up on their Monte Vista lawn. See note above and contact Chuck.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, SETUP 8 PM

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, SETUP 8 PM

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

SPECIAL NOTE:

Krissie Cook and family will be traveling to Cairns, Australia for the November 13, 2012 total solar eclipse, and would like to know if any other AU members will be nearby - krissiecook@gmail.com



AU member, Andy Allen, captured this amazing eclipse sequence from the Rose Garden at the Santa Barbara Mission.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...

R. Gutierrez

A Very Special Award to SBAU Member

When the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit was named the number one astronomy club in the nation last year through an international competition sponsored by Astronomy Magazine, I didn't think that could ever be topped. Well, I was wrong. It is with much pleasure and pride that I'm happy to announce the Astronomical Society Of The Pacific (ASP) will be awarding the prestigious 2012 Las Cumbres Amateur Outreach Award to SBAU Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin!

This award (which is only presented annually if there is a truly worthy recipient) is to astronomy clubs the equivalent of the Nobel Prize, as it "honors (at the international level) outstanding educational outreach by an amateur astronomer to K-12 and the interested lay public." Chuck will be honored and presented this award, along with a

\$500 check, during the ASP awards banquet on August 7th. The Awards banquet will take place in conjunction with the ASP Annual Conference August 4th through the 8th in Tucson, Arizona, with all of Chuck's travel expenses paid including lodging at the Double Tree Tucson-Reid Park Inn. What an honor this is - to a most deserving astronomer!

As I've said in the past, Chuck is the "Heart, Soul and Backbone of the AU." He has spearheaded the nationally-acclaimed outreach efforts of the SBAU for years and is now going to receive a most deserving recognition. I have much to say about Chuck - the countless star parties, the late night returns home, the incredible bank of knowledge, his seemingly limitless energy to promote astronomy and the AU - it would fill this entire edition of the AstroNews. I think I'll only share one event that has very much stood out in my mind about this incredible person.

During International Year of Astronomy 2009, for the first time I got the chance to work closely with Chuck - in particular "100 Hours of Astronomy." This event really was 100 hours, and for four straight days, Chuck showed up early in the morning at the four different observing sites, made sure all was ready by 10 AM, worked his telescope and shared his knowledge until 10 PM, then disassembled and packed the equipment away. He did this four days in a row, and always with a smile on his face and sharing his now famous chunk of space rock that's "Older than Dirt." And - what was even more amazing - during this whole time Chuck was dealing with a terrible cold, which didn't slow him down in the least. INCREDIBLY AMAZING! A side note, Chuck has a not so secret weapon-"his" heart and soul and star party partner: his loving wife, Pat (thanks, Pat). On behalf of the AU I wish to congratulate the Number One Amateur Astronomer in the World, our very own, SBAU Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin!

Deep Partial Eclipse, Sunday, 5/20/12, lots of sun gazers
Speaking of something incredible, the 2012 annular solar eclipse was one of the most spectacular AU events ever held. We had clear skies, a lot of AU club members helping, and over 1000 sun gazers. The event was so spectacular that the AU was the top opening story for the evening television news, that sent a camera crew to cover our club's "Sun" party live, featuring interviews with club members

and even using our solar filters to share the spectacle with its many viewers. Our club really "shined" that day and I wish to thank the numerous AU members that helped make this event such a success. I invite you to check our web site to get the links to the many eclipse photos, and the Michael Farris amazing video on YouTube.

Coming Up: Transit of Venus, Lots of Summer Outreaches
What's next you ask? In addition to the many star parties scheduled, including the commencement of the Summer Star Parties at the luxurious 5-Star Biltmore Hotel, the Transit Of Venus on June 5th will be held at the Camino Real marketplace. If you haven't signed up to bring a scope or lend a helping hand, please contact Chuck and let him know you want to take part in the Transit of Venus event (as it won't happen again for over 105 years).

The Summer Kick-off: Annual Potluck, Friday, 6/1/12
Finally, I would like to make sure you know there will be no General Meeting on June 1st, as it's the AU's tradition to hold our annual club pot luck at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, at the McVeigh House this time. This event is a fun time for all. We bring food to share with about four other people, take in the beautiful grounds surrounding us, and simply enjoy each other's company. It starts at 6 PM, see you there!

New and Renewing Members – Thank you!
Finally, I wish to give a sun blazing welcome aboard to new member Neal Carron, and a super-solar powered thank you to renewing members Timothy Rodgers, Edwin Potts, Eric Larson, Sharon Kantanen, Dora Drake, and Joe Doyle.

This club, with the sponsorship from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the amazing SBAU membership, has taken community outreach to a whole new level. A level we should all be proud of.

GOODBYE FOR NOW

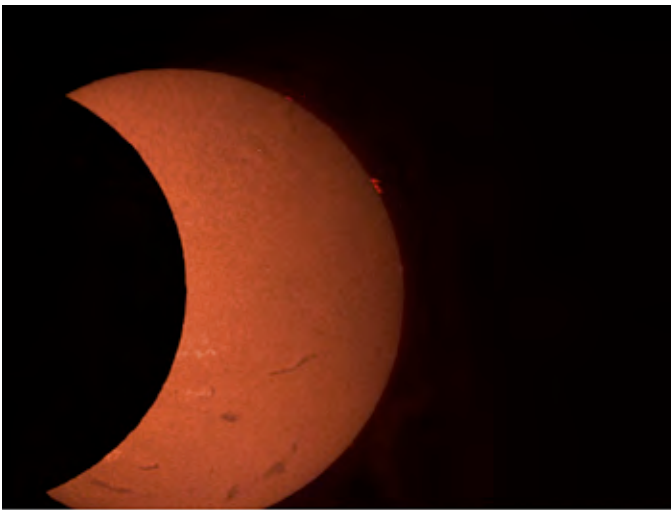
Jiri Polivka, 15-year member of the AU, is leaving Santa Barbara. You have probably seen him at Astronomy Day outreaches with his hand-built radio telescopes. He told us at the May general meeting that he has retired from his dream job, and is moving to the Midwest to be with his adult children and their families. He also said that the AU has been his dream club, and wishes all of us well. All of us touched by Jiri's incredible knowledge and

quiet humility say to him: we wish you well and hope you visit often! His last day will be at the June 2012 AU potluck. May all of his days be filled with many radio adventures!

More Eclipse Photos by AU Members...



John Boyd



John Boyd



Jerry Wilson – near St. George, Utah.

Arts Corner...

Fireflies In The Garden

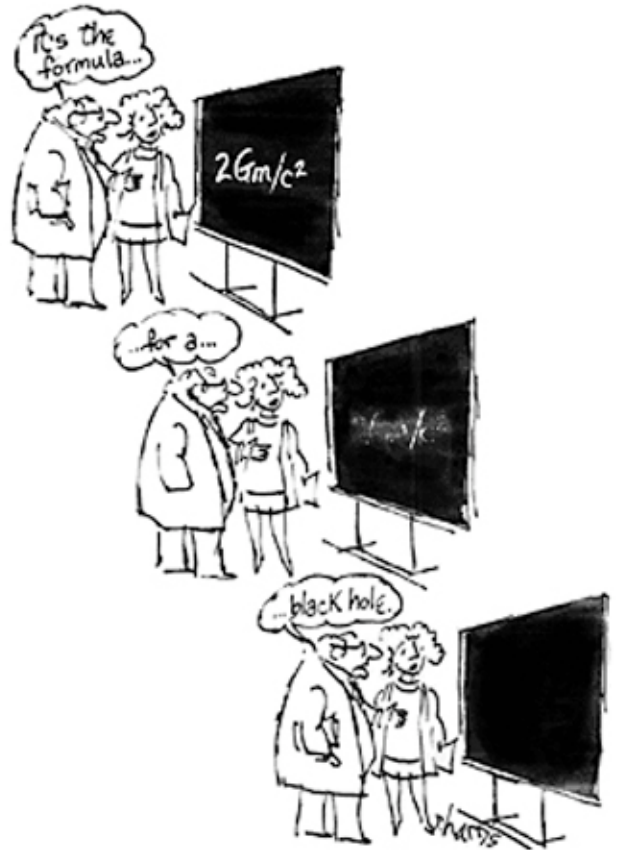
Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,
And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.

Robert Frost, 1928

A Clear Midnight

This is thy hour O Soul, thy free flight into
the wordless,
Away from books, away from art, the day
erased, the lesson done,
Thee fully forth emerging, silent, gazing,
pondering the themes thou lovest best,
Night, sleep, death and the stars.

Walt Whitman



The More Loving One

Looking up at the stars, I know quite well
That, for all they care, I can go to hell,
But on earth indifference is the least
We have to dread from man or beast.
How should we like it were stars to burn
With a passion for us we could not return?
If equal affection cannot be,
Let the more loving one be me.
Admirer as I think I am
Of stars that do not give a damn,
I cannot, now I see them, say
I missed one terribly all day.
Were all stars to disappear or die,
I should learn to look at an empty sky
And feel its total darkness sublime,
Though this might take me a little time.

*W. H. Auden, 1957, tiré de From Homage to Clio
(1960)*

Fire And Ice

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To know that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Robert Frost

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June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AU ANNUAL POTLUCK 6PM	2 CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 8:30PM
3	4	5 TRANSIT OF VENUS CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 2PM	6 BILTMORE 7PM	7	8 BACARA 7PM	9 PLANNING MEETING 6PM STAR PARTY 8PM SBMNH
10	11 EL CAPITAN CANYON RESORT 8PM	12	13 BILTMORE 7PM	14	15 WESTMONT COLLEGE 8PM	16 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 8PM
17	18	19	20 BILTMORE 7PM SUMMER SOLSTICE! 4:09PM	21	22	23 LOPEZ LAKE 8PM
24	25	26 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	27 BILTMORE 7PM	28	29 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 8PM	30 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM

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