



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

May 2011

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

OUR MAY MEETING

Our speaker this month is Stefania Tutino, Professor at the Department of History at the University of California Santa Barbara. Dr. Tutino was born in Italy and earned her Ph.D. in History from the Scuola Superiore di Pisa in 2003. Her research interests include politics and religion in early modern Europe. The title of her talk for this evening is "Galileo and the Catholic Church: Science and Religion in Context." Dr. Tutino summarizes: "This talk will take us behind the scene of the Galileo affair. It will first put the trial of Galileo in its proper historical context and then it will show a series of primary documents on what actually happened to Galileo. The aim of this talk is to give a sense not simply of the manyfold and complex layers of the Galileo affair, but also of the larger religious and scientific issues at stake in the early modern debate on Copernicanism."



A smiling Jim Williams shows off his brainchild, the UC2, a wheelchair-accessible telescope system. Jim has spent hundreds of hours in the UC2's conception, development and construction. You, too, can see the UC2's maiden voyage during National Astronomy Day, May 6th, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last outreach report, intrepid astronomy volunteers Andy Allen, Bill Clausen, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Nancy Emerson, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Dale Lowdermilk, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Scott Orlosky, Dennis Pease, Jiri Polivka, Bob Richard, Javier Rivera & Mike Bennett & the Quasars, Rosemary & Al Rice, Nancy Rohrer, Gary Schneider, Colin Taylor, Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore & Westmont students Danny Runkel & Jackson Kwiatkowski, and Tim Wittenburg showed neat stuff in the sky to **880** customers.

MAY EVENTS

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for May. May 7 is our big day, **International Astronomy Day**, so come out and help if you can. To get the latest information on schedules, or directions, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net

MONDAY, MAY 2, SETUP 5 PM

Solar and radio telescopes for Science Night at Harding School, at 1625 Robbins Street in Santa Barbara from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. We park and enter from the north side of campus, off Gillespie Street.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, SETUP 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Brandon School in Goleta, at 195 Brandon Drive, from 6 to 8 PM. Enchiladas at 5:45 for volunteers.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 7 PM

Monthly meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Start with a quick planetarium show by Javier, then hear an intriguing talk by UCSB History Professor, Dr. Stefania Tutino.

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 10 AM TO 10 PM

International Astronomy Day at SBMNH. Come admire the UC2!

TUESDAY, MAY 10, SETUP 7 PM

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for UCSB students at Santa Catalina dormitory, the old Francisco Torres, at the corner of Storke and El Colegio in Isla Vista. We set up next to their basketball courts, on the east side.

THURSDAY, MAY 12, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Washington School, at 290 Lighthouse Road on the Mesa. In the past, we've entered through a gate on the south side of the playground, off Shoreline Drive.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 6 PM

Planning meeting in the classroom next to Javier's office at SBMNH.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 8 PM

Monthly Public Star Party outside Palmer Observatory at SBMNH.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Isla Vista School, at the corner of Storke and El Colegio, from 5:30 to 7 PM.

FRIDAY, MAY 20, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for the monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, at their new observatory, next to the baseball field.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio State Beach. We set up in the day use lot at the southwest end.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 - SUNDAY, MAY 29

Annual RTMC Astronomy Expo at Big Bear Lake. Hang out with 2000 or so of your favorite amateur astronomers at over 7000 feet.

From the President's pen...

R. Gutierrez

Congratulations...

The Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit = THE NUMBER ONE ASTRONOMY CLUB IN THE NATION! Yes, *Astronomy Magazine*, the best-

selling magazine in the world, has declared the SBAU this year's winner of the "Out-of-this-World" award based on the tremendous outreach program during 2010. The AU logged in over 16,000 individuals who had a look through one of our telescopes, many for the first time in their lives. Astronomy Magazine received over 30 entries for the award, from nearly two dozen states, and six countries. Hmmm, number one club in the WORLD? Well, based on the feedback I received from Astronomy Magazine Editor David J. Eicher, I certainly believe the AU can claim that title. And, as noted in his congratulatory letter to the AU, "The AU separated itself from the pack with its forward-thinking UC2 (wheelchair accessible telescope viewing system), addressing practically the one segment of your community not firmly in your outreach sites." This annual award is a great tribute to AU Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin, who scheduled all of the Club's star parties, for not only 2010, but 2009 (when the AU was ranked the number one club for outreach in the latter part of "International Year of Astronomy" by the Nasa/JPL Night Sky Network), and for the many years preceding that, as well as this year. The other AU Super Star is UC2 designer Jim Williams, who saw his dream fulfilled. With the \$2,500.00 that came with the award, coupled with the \$1,162.00 grant from Trinity Episcopal Church, Jim was able to design the UC2 to the specifications he wanted. I certainly can't forget the many other members that worked hard to win this prestigious award; it was truly a team effort. FANTASTIC JOB EVERYBODY! YOU REALLY ARE THE BEST!

Our Big Day...

International Astronomy Day 2011 has finally arrived, taking place at the beautiful Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on May 7th, at 10:00 AM. As I mentioned last month, the day will not only feature the much-anticipated debut of the UC2, but there will also be booths with meteorites, astrophotography, the world-renowned AU Astro Flea Market, mirror grinding demonstrations, telescopes with white light, as well as H-alpha filters to view the sun, a radio telescope, jumbo binoculars, Gallileoscopes, AU Club clothing sales (we're the best dressed club too), and of course, the main event; the raffle of a Deluxe 8 inch Zhummel Dobsonian telescope! The raffle will also make some lucky winner the owner of a tabletop Orion Star Blast telescope, as well as numerous other

prizes. And it's all FREE! Tickets will be given to museum visitors all that day - sorry, AU members, the drawing is for the public only - with the drawing taking place at 3:00 PM. You need to be present to win, so set some time aside and blast on over to the museum for a fun packed day with the #1 astronomy club on the planet. And if that isn't enough, the educational "Telescope Clinic" will start at 7:00 PM where anyone can bring his telescope and learn how to use it. We'll then wrap up this incredible day with a proud display and star party using club member telescopes, with some having been superbly handcrafted by the members themselves. So, come bring your friends.

A final thanks...

There have been many people who have made this club the finest in the nation. Every contribution helps, from Nancy Rohrer braving the cold every second Saturday and staffing the table with Pat McPartlin at our monthly star party and greeting the public, Tim Crawford designing the new AU bumper stickers, Timma Buck making cookies and brownies, to John Martinez spear heading the reconstruction of the Palmer Observatory and being an instrumental part in the donation of a spectacular telescope. I encourage you to take an active part in this incredible astronomy club of ours, because it truly is "Out of this world." I wish to thank renewing members James Robertson, Marcia Kuplerski, Ibrahim Khogeer, and Rosalind Perry for their continued support, and a big welcome to the hottest astronomy club on Earth to new family members Deborah Gibbons & Elijah Bittleston, and Geri & Dylan & Sean Riehl.

The AU and I both congratulate our membership for helping those that simply want a chance to look at "what's up there."

AU Information Box

President: Ruben Gutierrez 450-7451
rubenalvag@aol.com

Vice President: Mike Farris 637-3300
mike@mikewfarris.com

Secretary: Jim Williams 588-8823
j_alison_w@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Pat McPartlin 964-8201
parsnip7@yahoo.com

Outreach: Chuck McPartlin 964-8201
macpuzl@west.net

Webmaster: Paul Winn 886-2319
paul@sbau.org

Newsletter: Tom Whittemore 687-2025
kometes@aol.com

Equipment: Art Harris 968-4017
n6is@cox.net

SBMNH Astronomy Programs Manager

Javier Rivera 682-4711x173
jrivera@sbnature2.org

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:

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

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

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ● HARDING SCHOOL 5PM	3	4	5 BRANDON SCHOOL 5:30PM	6 MONTHLY AU MEETING 7PM	7 ASTRONOMY DAY 10AM – 10PM
8 MOTHER'S DAY!	9	10 ● CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	11 UCSB STUDENTS 7:30PM	12 WASHINGTON SCHOOL 5PM	13	14 PLANNING MEETING 6PM SBMNH STAR PARTY 8PM
15	16	17 ○	18	19 ISLA VISTA SCHOOL 5PM	20 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	21 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 7 PM
22	23	24 ●	25 RTMC	26 RTMC	27 RTMC	28 RTMC
29 RTMC	30	31				

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