



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

May 2013

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Zoe Reifel proudly presents her award-winning "Solar Tracking Robot" display at this year's Astronomy Day at the Camino Real Marketplace. Photo: Mike Farris.

OUR MAY MEETING

Our speaker this evening will be Jane Houston-Jones from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Her talk this evening is titled "What's Up with the Cassini Solstice Mission." Her talk will consist of a short mission overview, including the top Cassini Mission science highlights and images from 2012 and 2013. She will conclude with the final extended mission timeline, and will describe the dramatic end-of-mission scenario planned for 2017.

Jane is on the E/PO (Education and Public Outreach) teams for the Cassini, Juno, and Insight planetary missions at JPL and since 2007 has produced a monthly video podcast about observing the Night Sky with a focus on NASA missions called What's Up:

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/news/whatsup-archive.cfm>

In addition, she is a long time member of the Sidewalk Astronomers and many other amateur astronomy clubs, and has written articles for Sky and Telescope and Astronomy magazines and hundreds of astronomy club newsletters.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last outreach report, intrepid AU astronomy volunteers Henk Aling, Angela Bates, John Boyd, Sabine & Marciano Chan, Tim Crawford, Zak Dafaallah, Joe Doyle, Ed Edwards, Nancy Emerson, Mike Farris, Rod Fritz, Ruben Gutierrez, Laurence Harms, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Jared Kendrick, Tom King, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Steve Morse, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Nick Raimondi, Bob Richard, Javier Rivera & the Quasars, Al Rice & Grandson Tom, Nancy Rohrer, Colin & Nick Taylor, Tom Totton, John West, Tom Whittemore & Melissa Romo & David Snyder, Jim Williams, Jerry Wilson, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenberg showed neat stuff in the sky to 1785 people.

MAY OUTREACH EVENTS

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

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 7 PM

Monthly meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Start with a quick planetarium show by Javier, then hear about the Cassini mission.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, SETUP 7 PM

Slide show and telescopes for a group of Boy Scouts at Cachuma Lake, at the usual outreach site at Dakota Plains

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 6 PM

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

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 8 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Isla Vista School. We'll have the Moon early. We should be able to get in through the SW gate.

FRIDAY, MAY 17, SETUP 7:30 PM

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

MONDAY, MAY 20, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria Family School at the Chumash Meadows site at Cachuma Lake.

TUESDAY, MAY 21, SETUP 7 PM

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 - MONDAY, MAY 27

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

THURSDAY, MAY 30, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on their Miró Lawn. Contact Chuck for access if you haven't come before.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Park. We set up in their day use parking lot, on the southwest side of the park.



...and the winner is... Nam Nguyen, who won the 8" Skyquest telescope at this year's Astronomy Day. Photo: Mike Farris.

From the President's Pen...

Mike Farris

Hello again, AU'ers!

A rousing success...

On April 20th we hosted the International Astronomy Day at the Camino Real Marketplace where over 600 hundred enthusiastic, star-seeking folks attended. Many AU members pitched in to help to make it a very successful event. I would like to give you my heartfelt gratitude for your hard work and dedication in making it such a success. Zoe Reifel, our Science Fair winner, was also present. Everyone loved her solar tracking project. Thank you, Zoe, for coming. Two very lucky people, Nam Nguyen, who won the 8" SkyQuest and David Heuer, who won the 4" StarBlast, were both very excited to win these two brand new scopes. Nam came to the star party later that night on a quest to see the stars with his new SkyQuest. I am also sure that David will have a blast with his StarBlast, too. Jim Williams had at least one customer who was very happy to use the UC2, but I think that Jim was even more excited than he was.

JPL on the horizon...

Flash! Just in! The bus scheduled for the August 28th trip to JPL will leave the SBMNH at 7:30 AM sharp. The bus company said we would need to leave by 7:30AM to smoothly arrive at JPL on time.

Don't forget...

RTMC will also be happening this month, so come along and have fun with your favorite SBAU members. If you are planning to attend RTMC, get your tickets before the price goes up on May 10th.

The Arts Corner...

No Goldilocks Exo-Planet for Us!

*Our planet began 4 billion years ago.
7 billion of us need it to remain.
Its destruction makes pain.*

*Billions of us together
Must stop acting insane!*

Jürgen Hilmer



Jim Williams helps a Sun-seeker with the club's UC2 at this year's Astronomy Day Event. Photo: Mike Farris.



Tim Crawford shows his expertise in mirror making at the Camino Real Marketplace. Photo: Tom Totton.

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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

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May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 	3 AU MONTHLY MEETING 7PM	4 CACHUMA LAKE 7PM
5	6	7	8	9 	10	11 PLANNING MEETING 6PM STAR PARTY 8PM SBMNH
12	13	14	15	16 ISLA VISTA SCHOOL 5PM	17 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7:30PM 	18
19	20 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM	21 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	22 RTMC	23 RTMC	24 RTMC 	25 RTMC
26 RTMC	27 RTMC	28	29	30 BACARA RESORT 7:30PM	31 REFUGIO BEACH 7:30PM	

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