



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

November 2012

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Edgar Ocampo shares a moment with Albert Einstein at the Griffith Observatory. Photo: Mike Farris.

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

Our speaker for the November general meeting will be Dr. Gary Horowitz from UCSB's Physics Department. His talk this evening is titled "Mysteries of Space and Time." Gary's research focuses on questions involving gravity under the most extreme conditions. These include the big bang in cosmology and the spacetime inside black holes. Recently elected to the prestigious National Academy of Science, he has won numerous awards in gravitational theory.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, AU outreaches Angela Bates, Anthony & Luis Castrejon, Tim Crawford, Coni Edick & Joe Doyle, John Edkins, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Kazue & Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Dennis Nord, Edgar Ocampo, Sydney Pappas & Family, Rosemary & Al Rice, Bob Richard, Javier Rivera & Quasars, Nancy Rohrer, Melissa Romo, David Salvia, David Snyder, Tom Totton, Barry White, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, and Tim Wittenburg showed the night sky to **1886** happy visitors.

OUTREACH FOR NOVEMBER

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for November. *We're switching Telescope Tuesdays to the third Tuesday of the month to keep up with the Moon.* Remember, 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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 7 PM

Monthly meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Our speaker is Dr. Gary Horowitz from UCSB.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2 AM

Daylight Saving Time ends. Fall back an hour, so it's dark sooner for astronomers!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, SETUP 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Coastline Christian Academy, on Cathedral Oaks at the NE side of the intersection with Fairview.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for an Astronomy Night at Peabody Elementary School, at 3018 Calle Noguera in Santa Barbara.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 5 PM

AU Planning Meeting in the classroom outside Javier's office at SBMNH. Come help plan your club's activities.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH. Bring a scope and have fun showing goodies in the sky outside Palmer Observatory, or just show up and enjoy looking at them.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for an Astronomy Night at Goleta Public Library, 500 North Fairview Avenue in Goleta.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, SETUP 6:30 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, at the observatory, next to the baseball field. The Leonid Meteor Shower peaks overnight.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, SETUP 7 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta. We set up in the plaza by the theater. See the Lunar "X" from about 5:10 to 7:45 PM.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, SETUP 5 PM

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, SETUP 7 PM

Slide show and telescopes for La Colina Junior High School in Santa Barbara, off Foothill near 154. We always get a lot of students coming out for this event.

From The President's Pen...

Another Award for SBAU – SBMNH Legacy Award

I thought I could not be prouder of the SBAU after being awarded Astronomy Magazine's international "Out-Of-This-World" Award, followed by SBAU's Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin receiving the International Las Cumbres Outreach Award from the Astronomical Society of The Pacific. Well, it's my utmost pleasure to inform you that the SBAU was recently informed that we will be receiving the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History "Legacy Award" during its annual Patron Dinner on January 17, 2013! In a letter to the SBAU, Executive Director Karl L. Hutterer indicated that as the museum looks back on nearly 100 years of serving the community and region, the Board of Trustees felt it appropriate to highlight some of the great contributions by community supporters, donors, volunteers, and others that have made the Museum and its mission so successful. With that in mind, and due to the "extraordinary contributions" made by the SBAU, the Board has decided to, for the first time in its history, grant this award to an organization and not an individual. What an incredible honor this will be, for a simply incredible astronomy club!

JPL talk, and upcoming 2013 tour

Speaking of incredible, if you missed last month's General Meeting presentation by JPL Engineering

Developer and the Martian Rover Curiosity Operations Manager Jordan Evans, you missed one of the most fascinating, and most well-attended (standing room only) presentations the SBAU has had. A BIG THANKS to Sydney Pappas for setting this up. The SBAU Board was so impressed, that we decided to make next year's field trip a tour of JPL, in conjunction with a visit to the Los Angeles Science Exposition Park to view the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Now how cool is that! We don't know the dates yet, just that it will be sometime after mid year. Stay tuned!

Avocado Festival Thanks

Thank you to all those who helped out with this year's Avocado Festival outreach. As always, as soon as we set up and opened our telescopes to the public at 10 AM, the public enjoyed our equipment until we closed down at 10 PM. The day was filled with curious festival visitors, campers, and beach goers. The Park Rangers made their customary visit, and took a peek or two through the scopes themselves. All in all, it was a great day.

SBAU Holiday Dinner, Friday, December 14, 2012

Have you paid for your SBAU Holiday Dinner Reservation yet? If you haven't, you should do it right away as it sells out every year. The cost will still be just \$30 since the SBAU will be picking up part of the tab. The event will take place on Friday, December 14th, at the Goleta Beachside Restaurant, starting at 6 PM. This is always one of the most fun-filled evenings of the year, so don't miss it. Bring your cash or your check (made out to SBAU / SBMNH) to SBAU Treasurer Pat McPartlin at the 2012 November and December meetings! ***The last day for money to be received by Pat is during the December meeting, Friday, December 7, 2012. The dinner list closes that night!***

Speaking of the December 2012 meeting...

Another fun-filled evening of the year is the December "Members Night" General Meeting. I've been told we have quite a line up this year, with the Grand Finale being the Michael Farris annual video production. Hmmm, I wonder who's going to be the Darth Vader this year? Well, we may get a clue at the November General meeting as rumor has it there may be, for the first time in AU history, a commercial played? Don't miss this one!

Make Your Nominations for SBAU Positions

And, don't forget to vote. No, I'm not talking about the United States presidential election, I'm talking about the SBAU Presidential and Board members election. As I mentioned before, I have termed out, and a new person will have to take over the helm. To date there has been no nomination for the President's position. So, make sure your nomination (which could be you!) is submitted to VP Mike Farris at mike1@mikewfarris. Not to worry, there will be no presidential debate, just lots of fun in the future of the person who's elected.

Also, the SBAU Secretary and the Treasurer positions have termed out, and are up for grabs. Remember that you don't go into any position without assistance. You'll have lots of help from prior position holders, if you wish. The appointed position for Refreshments Coordinator is open, too. Look under "How to Contact Us" on the SBAU website for a list of duties for each of these positions. The SBAU runs with *your* participation. Contact VP Mike Farris today with your nominations!

New and Renewing Members – Thank you!

Finally, I'd like to give a huge Thanksgiving, with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, and pumpkin pie welcome aboard to new members, Jack Azar, Henk Aling, and Raymond Mortimer, and an equally delicious thank you to renewing members, Matt Hall and Kathryn Eisler LeMay. I hope the upcoming Holidays will find you in good health, happiness and, of course, clear skies!

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Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 AU MONTHLY MEETING 7 PM	3
4 DST ENDS. "FALL BACK" AT 2AM	5 COASTLINE CHRISTIAN 5:30PM	6 	7	8 PEABODY ELEMENTARY 6PM	9	10 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
11	12	13 	14	15 GOLETA PUBLIC LIBRARY 6PM	16 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30 PM	17
18	19	20 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM 	21	22	23	24 BACARA RESORT AND SPA 5PM
25	26	27	28 	29 LA COLINA JR. HIGH 7PM	30	

The Astronomical Unit

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