



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

November 2015

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



*The Lunar X. Photo: Mike Farris/Tim Crawford.*

### OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Professor Ruth Murray-Clay will speak on the topic of the formation and evolution of planetary systems, including the solar system. Ruth Murray-Clay is an Assistant Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics in the Physics Department at the [University of California, Santa Barbara](#). From 2010-2014, Ruth was a federal Astrophysicist at the [Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory](#), an Affiliate (2013-2014) and Lecturer in the [Harvard Department of Astronomy](#), and a senior member of the [Institute for Theory and Computation](#), all of which are part of the [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics](#). She was an Institute for Theory and Computation Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard from 2008-2010. Ruth received her Ph.D. in Astrophysics in 2008 from [UC Berkeley](#), where she worked with [Eugene Chiang](#). She has an A.B. in Physics and Astronomy and Astrophysics from [Harvard University](#).

### OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, AU outreaches: Chatt Aiton, Angela Bates & Abigail, John Boyd, Bill Clausen, Krissie Cook, Tim Crawford, Zak Dafaallah, Joe Doyle, Ed Edwards, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Wes Kelm, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Bonnie & Bruce Murdock,

Susan & Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Victoria & Quasars, Bob Richard, Rocio & Javier Rivera, Timothy Rodgers, David Salvia, Keegan Stewart, Colin Taylor, Cez & Tom Totton, Chris Ulivo, Tom Whittmore, Jerry Wilson, and Tim Wittenburg showed the night sky to 1748 astronomy tourists.

### OUTREACH FOR NOVEMBER

*Note that the AU campout will be November 6-8, so the November meeting will be on the second Friday, November 13.*

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for November. 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](mailto:macpuzl@west.net)

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS!

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, SETUP 5:30 PM

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

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for an astronomy night at Midland School, at 5100 Figueroa Mountain Road, past Los Olivos in the Santa Ynez Valley. Dark skies!

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 8 PM

Free LCOGT exoplanet talk by Dr. Don Kurtz of the Kepler team at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for an Astronomy Night at Peabody Charter School, at 3018 Calle Noguera in Santa Barbara. We set up on their blacktop, with entry at the SW corner of the campus.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, SETUP 5 PM**

Telescopes for a Science Night at Foothill School, 711 Ribera Drive in Goleta. We set up on their blacktop, with entry at the NW corner of the campus.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

Annual AU Campout at the Mohawk Shores group site at Cachuma Lake.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, SETUP 7 PM**

Telescopes to UCSB for Santa Cruz Residence Hall. We'll set up on the lawn at the corner of Channel Islands Road and Lagoon Road. Contact Chuck if you can come, so he can arrange for parking permits.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 7 PM**

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Hear about Brown Dwarf Stars.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 5 PM**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, SETUP 6:30 PM**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, SETUP 6 PM**

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the Bluff Lawn.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, SETUP 7 PM**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, SETUP 6 PM**

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the Bluff Lawn.

***Time Travel***

*Tom Totton*

Our October 2nd, "1st Friday" general meeting was with Paul Winn presenting his Photoshop tricks on bringing out the desired details of a wide field view of the stars above the trees, an astro-landscape. Some snaps of his presentation are here: <http://tinyurl.com/noasdl2> but you can get a disk with his whole videotaped talk from Paul, if you ask nicely. It is great that we have so many talented astronomers in the SBAU who share their knowledge with us.

On October 5, 2015, I was at the Palmer Observatory Celebration with some local bigwigs and politicians to say a few words about the refurbished Palmer Observatory and donated telescope. You can read about that and see my intended words in the SBAU forum: <http://tinyurl.com/nl3waq6> (Comments? Or add your stories to the Forum). I wish I could say things off the cuff like the politicians, but I am not that polished! The telescope itself is a fantastic donation by Wayne Rosing, which pushed the Museum of Natural History to refurbish the observatory. SBCC connections found the dome at an abandoned observatory in Arizona. More photos of the event here: <http://tinyurl.com/nrt8gg2>. Members ArtH, Chuck/PatM, SeanK(SBCC), and David Salvia looked on.

Turns out the Lunt 60mm Solar telescope that we bought, as another donation beyond the 42" HDTV, for the observatory, will not be needed as Wayne Rosing is donating a 100mm unit! We will resell that and buy a computer system for the observatory. Look for Paul Winn's sale of the Lunt, and if you are a member in good standing for over a year, there should be a discount. Also, I think you avoid paying 8% sales tax on the resale. Of course, if you want to pay more than retail to the club to make a donation, extra funds will be put to good use and you can list that with your other tax write-offs!

We can always use more folks at our outreaches with or without telescopes, to share your knowledge of astronomy with the public. If you are not up for that, please consider just coming out to keep the rest of us company. Once you start doing outreaches, you see the public's desire to learn more and the need for more science understanding in the world.

You were looking for some religion to be a part of, so why not try astronomy outreaches for a fix of the natural power of the scientific method? Tim Crawford and I had a beautiful daytime outreach at Marymount school on October 18th (find the photo album here: <http://tinyurl.com/q7kls7c> ). Also, please volunteer to help us take care of the club running details...see you at the next planning meeting.

Please do not forget that we are having the Tuesday evening Telescope Workshops, normally with at least one of our experts Tom Whittemore and Jerry Wilson, and other members who will try to help you with just about any equipment or even astronomy theories! The current mirror polishers, TimC, MikeC, and MikeD, are having fun correcting "turned down edges" using exotic strokes and pitch lap sizes. I think this will become a new exercise craze across the nation if it catches on!

Do not forget the Astronomy Show on KZSB radio 1290AM <http://tinyurl.com/plfbqsr> . Next dates are October 26, November 9, and November 23. Call our new member DJ Baron Ron Herron up if you have a burning question. I put a copy of the last show at the SBAU Forum after editing out commercials and compressing the size to fit. Put this on your calendar! Shows repeat the following Sunday at 3pm.

Coming up we have the SBAU 2015 Campout, Friday through Sunday, November 6-8 with dark skies. There is a club supported chicken/tri-tip/bread/beans dinner and member salad/sides/dessert/wine-luck on Saturday evening, 5pm (please RSVP to the Refreshments Coordinators, Martin & Janet or me). The general meeting will be put off until the "2nd Friday, the 13th," and it should be fascinating, with UCSB Professor Ruth Murray-Clay presenting Brown Dwarf stars. See you soon!

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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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## November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>DST ENDS!</b>	2 <b>COASTLINE CHRISTIAN 5:30PM</b>	3 <b>MIDLAND SCHOOL 6PM</b>	4	5 <b>PEABODY CHARTER 5PM FOOTHILL SCHOOL 5PM</b>	6 <b>ANNUAL AU CAMPOUT</b>	7 <b>ANNUAL AU CAMPOUT</b>
8 <b>ANNUAL AU CAMPOUT</b>	9 <b>SANTA CRUZ HALL UCSB 7PM</b>	10	11	12	13 <b>SBAU GENERAL MEETING 7PM</b>	14 <b>PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH</b>
15	16	17	18	19	20 <b>WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30PM</b>	21 <b>BACARA RESORT 6PM</b>
22	23	24 <b>CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM</b>	25	26	27	28 <b>BACARA RESORT 6PM</b>
29	30					

### The Astronomical Unit

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