



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

October 2007

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

OUTREACH TOTALS

September was a really quiet month for outreach, but we still managed to show the sky to 435 people. AU volunteers were Andy Allen, Warren Bitters, Chad Caprio, Bill Clausen, Jason & Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, John Gomm, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, John Martinez, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Dennis Nord, Edgar Ocampo, Helen Osenga, Javier Rivera, Nancy Rohrer, Tom Whittemore, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenburg.

OCTOBER AU OUTREACH

School outreaches are picking up, with a big community event at Canalino School in Carpinteria. Come join us and have some fun! Events are subject to change and cancellation, so contact Chuck at macpuzl@west.net or 964-8201 for the latest information. Here's what we have scheduled so far:

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3, SETUP 7 PM

Slide show and telescopes for counselors at the Outdoor School, at Rancho Alegre on 154 near Cachuma Lake. Join them for dinner if you can get there by 6 PM. Call Chuck if you need directions.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 7:30 PM

AU monthly meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Kicking off the October general meeting will be a showing of Tim Ferris' latest documentary, "**Seeing in the Dark.**" Recently shown around the country on PBS stations, "Seeing in the Dark" focuses on the connection between amateur and professional astronomy. Please join us. This is a must-see!

SATURDAY, OCT. 6, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Los Padres National Forest Family Camp at the Paradise Campground along Paradise Road.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER. 11 TO SUNDAY OCTOBER. 14

Annual Calstar star party at Lake San Antonio, up by Paso Robles.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 5:30 PM

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:30 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH. Bring a scope and have fun sharing the sky outside Palmer Observatory.

MONDAY, OCT. 15, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for a community star party at Canalino School in Carpinteria. We're expecting *hundreds* of folks to attend, so bring a scope if you can!

THURSDAY, OCT. 18, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for Peabody School.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:30 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, at the Carroll Observatory, next to Van Kampen Dormitory. *Note: There will be a special speaker preceding the public observing. Please see the following article.*

THURSDAY, OCT. 25, SETUP 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Kellogg School in Goleta.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Set up some telescopes and show celestial eye candy to trick-or-treaters this Halloween!

The Great World Wide Star Count

Join us this coming October for an exciting new citizen science campaign - the Great World Wide Star Count (<http://www.starcount.org>). This

international event encourages everyone to go outside, look skywards after dark, count the stars they see in certain constellations, and report what they see online. This inaugural Windows After Dark event is designed to raise awareness about light pollution and the night sky as well as encourage learning in astronomy. All the information needed to participate is available on the Star Count Web site. The Star Count uses a simple protocol and an easy data entry form. At the conclusion of the event, the submitted data will be analyzed and a map will be generated highlighting the results of this new citizen science campaign. Mark your calendars and plan on joining thousands of other students, families, and citizen scientists counting stars this October! The Great World Wide Star Count will be held from October 1st through October 15, 2007. For more information visit <http://www.starcount.org> or contact starcount_info@ucar.edu.

Visiting astronomer to speak before the Westmont Public Viewing, Friday, October 19

Visiting astronomer, Martin George, will give a *public lecture* about “*Astronomy in Australia*” at 7 *PM* in the classroom adjacent to the Carroll Observatory at Westmont College. Martin is Past President of the International Planetarium Society (IPS), and Chair of the IPS's International Relations Committee. He served as President in 2005-2006, and during that time worked in particular with planetariums in China and Brazil to strengthen international ties among the planetarium community. This year, he is also working closely with planetariums in Russia. Heavily involved in communicating astronomy to the public for many years, Martin is well known for achieving this through Australian radio and television. He also writes for the U.S.-based ASTRONOMY Magazine and has regular columns in newspapers in Tasmania, his home state in Australia. Well – traveled, Martin has visited over 50 countries and takes delight in visiting observatories and planetariums. He was very pleased recently to learn of the observatory in Santa Barbara, and also visited Santa Barbara's planetarium during a visit a few years ago. He is also an experienced tour guide; he has run several astronomy-based tours, including three to total solar eclipses.

Club member, Joe Doyle, to speak at the November general meeting!

At the November second meeting Joe Doyle, one of a cadre of telescope makers in the AU, will show the club how design and build a telescope. The talk will be oriented for people with little woodworking experience, and for people who have never built a telescope before. While many telescope designs are within reach of the amateur telescope maker, Joe's talk will focus on the simplest, most robust, easiest-to-build, and easiest-to-use scope. The talk will start with design fundamentals and then progress to the nuts and bolts of putting a scope together. A few woodworking tricks will be presented that will enable most of the scope parts to be created with a skill saw, a router, and a hand held drill. During the talk we will try to actually build a 10" f/6.7 telescope!

2008 Calendars Have Arrived!

For only \$10, yes you read right, for just 10 bucks, you can have vistas of a Jupiter-Mass planet orbiting Epsilon Eridiani, the Starburst Galaxy M82, the Celestial Mandrill, the Hercules Galaxy Cluster, or even the star-forming region LH95 in the large Magellanic Cloud, and a whole lot more! These beautiful high-resolution images will grace your home or work place year-round with additional monthly information on viewing numerous celestial events, a detailed description for each months image and even directions on what to look for when buying your next telescope. So, don't delay as the Astronomical Unit got a great deal from Kalmbach Publishing that will allow us to sell these fantastically illustrated calendars for \$3.00 less than just about anywhere else in the visible universe. But, we only have 30 and they promise to sell hotter than a supernova! They will be available at the next AU meeting on Oct 5th, or you can call Ruben at (805)450-7451 and get yours Today!

Astronomical Unit T-Shirts!

Ok all you AU'ers out there, and those just itching to join, you'll finally be able to proudly wear the official Astronomical Unit T-Shirt. These first-edition T-Shirts will sparkle in a beautiful blue, and have a full color AU logo on the front. And, get this, the cost to members will be less than 10 bucks. Wow, what a deal! Purchase information will be available at the next AU meeting on Oct. 5th and in next month's newsletter.

Revisiting August's Total Lunar Eclipse...



Astronomical Arts Corner...

Is Now Time the Real Time?

Faraway star you strike my mind:
Light-years take time, but not my mind!
I am still here, but are you?

by Jürgen Hilmer

For Fate with jealous eye does see
Two perfect loves, nor lets them close:
Their union would her ruin be,
And her tyrannic pow'r depose.
And therefore her decrees of steel
Us at the distant poles have plac'd,
(Though Love's whole world on us does wheel)
Not by themselves to be embrac'd
Unless the giddy heaven fall
And earth some new convulsion tear,
And, us to join, the world should all
Be cramp'd into a planisphere.
As lines so loves oblique may well
Themselves in every angle greet;
But ours so truly parallel,
Though infinite can never meet.
Therefore the love which doth us bind,
But Fate so enviously debars,
Is the conjunction of the mind,
And opposition of the stars.

Andrew Marvell (1621 – 1678)

"The Definition of Love"

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

October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Rancho Alegre 7PM ◐	4	5 AU Meeting 7:30PM	6 Paradise Campground 7PM
7	8	9	10	11 CalStar ●	12 CalStar	13 Planning Meeting 5:30PM SBMNH Star Party 7:30PM CalStar
14 CalStar	15 Canalino School 6:30PM	16	17	18 Peabody School 6:30PM	19 Westmont College 7:30PM ◑	20
21	22	23	24	25 Kellogg School 5:30PM	26 ○	27
28	29	30	31 Boo! Set up YOUR scope for the public!			

The Astronomical Unit

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