



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

October 2008

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

### Outreach Report

Since the last newsletter, our industrious AU outreach volunteers Andy Allen, Robert Bernstein, Chad Caprio, Bill Clausen, Tim & Jason Crawford, Joe Doyle, Mike Farris, John Gomm, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Ron Nixon, Edgar Ocampo, Erin O'Connor & SBCC student helpers, Helen Osenga, Ken Pfeiffer, Bob Richards, Javier Rivera & Quasars, Nancy Rohrer, Tom Whittemore, Tim Wittenburg, and VAAS member Vince Tobin showed cool astro stuff to 887 customers.

### October AU Outreach

Here are the outreach events scheduled so far for the month of October. Join us if you can! Just help out at 6 outreach events in a calendar year, and your AU membership gets extended for a year.

Events are subject to change and cancellation, so contact Chuck at [macpuzl@west.net](mailto:macpuzl@west.net) or 964-8201 for the latest information.

### Friday, October 3, 7 PM

Start with a short planetarium show, then our monthly meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Paul Norton, a local retired scientist, will give a talk on detector arrays.

### Saturday, October 4, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes at the Bacara Resort. Check with Chuck if you're interested in helping out, as space is limited for scopes.

### Tuesday, October 7, setup 6:30 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta. We set up in the plaza between Borders and the movie theater. Maybe we'll see some Draconid Shower meteors!

### Wednesday, October 8, scope setup 6:30 PM

Slide show and telescopes for Franklin Elementary School, at 1111 East Mason Street in Santa Barbara.

### Thursday, October 9, scope setup 6 PM

Telescopes for Peabody Charter Elementary School, at 3018 Calle Noguera in Santa Barbara.

### Friday, October 10, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes at the Bacara Resort. Check with Chuck if you're interested in helping out, as space is limited for scopes.

### Saturday, October 11, 5 PM

AU planning meeting in the classroom outside Javier's office at SBMNH. All members welcome! Have some pizza and help to plan your club's future activities.

### Saturday, October 11, 7 PM

Monthly Public Star Party outside Palmer Observatory at SBMNH. Always a fun gathering.

### Friday, October 17, setup 6:30 PM

The monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, outside Carroll Observatory near the Van Kampen Dormitory. Peek through the BIG SCOPE.

### Saturday, October 18, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes at the Bacara Resort. Check with Chuck if you're interested in helping out, as space is limited for scopes.

### Thursday, October 23, setup 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Kellogg Elementary School, 475 Cambridge Drive in Goleta.

### Friday, October 24, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes at the Bacara Resort. Check with Chuck if you're interested in helping out, as space is limited for scopes.

### Saturday, October 25, sunset 6:12 PM

Fall Messier Marathon at the Shotgun Range of the Gun Club, at the end of West Camino Cielo. **This will occur only if the Gun Club reopens from its current closure for Gap Fire hydromulching operations. Contact Chad for updates.**

## **Friday, October 31**

Halloween! Show the sky to trick-or-treaters wherever you are. Astronomical eye candy won't hurt your teeth!



"I'VE DISCOVERED A MASSIVE DUST AND GAS CLOUD WHICH IS EITHER THE BEGINNING OF A NEW STAR OR JUST A HELL OF A LOT OF DUST AND GAS."

## **Outreach Award**

SBAU is in the forefront "nationally" when it comes to community outreach. In an effort to encourage continued participation, and help out with the astronomically high gas prices, there will be a monthly \$50 gas card given to the member who drives to the outreach sites the most. For the month of September you are asked to keep a tally of the outreach events you drove to and then email it to Club Treasurer Ruben Gutierrez at [rubenalvag@aol.com](mailto:rubenalvag@aol.com) prior to the end of the month. If you're the one who drove to the most events, you'll win 50 bucks in gas!



*Chuck McPartlin gets ready for the night at the Cachuma Campout. Photo credit: Ruben Gutierrez*

## **Annual AU Campout**

*Ruben Gutierrez*

Beautiful clear weather, crystal blue lake, soaring Bald Eagles, premium lakeside campsite, great

camaraderie, excellent array of telescopes, along with a delicious tri-tip barbeque, capped off with a fly over by the International Space Station and a fantastic panoramic view of the Milky Way, are just some of the descriptions that can best portray the Annual AU Campout at Cachuma Lake, Mohawk Shores camp site. This year's three-day campout was certainly a wonderful get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and a time to simply enjoy life with its many terrestrial and astronomical wonders. Kudos to the AU members who took the time to organize and implement this incredible weekend adventure!

## **Star Party at Griffith Observatory**

The AU is planning a late afternoon/evening bus trip to the Griffith Observatory to enjoy a Star Party with the Los Angeles Astronomical Society. The trek to view the cosmos and commingle with this historic astronomy club will take place in early 2009. Stay Tuned!

## **2009 Calendars Are Here!**

Enjoy stunning views such as Saturn blocking the Sun as observed by the Cassini spacecraft 1.3 million miles from Earth, the Tarantula Nebula, Mars Victoria Crater and the Opportunity Rover, along with nine other incredible cosmic vistas in this year's Astronomy Magazine 2009 Calendar. Only \$10.00 (3 bucks off the newsstand price) will get you this year around astronomical guide and pictorial parade of galactic treasures. Contact Ruben Gutierrez at [rubenalvag@aol.com](mailto:rubenalvag@aol.com), or (805) 450-7451, or at the next general meeting and buy your calendar today!



*Group Photo at the Cachuma Campout. Photo credit: Ruben Gutierrez*

### **Reminder from AU VP Chad Caprio**

AU Elections are coming soon, and as the chairman of the AU Elections Committee, Chad oversees the nominations for AU Officers. Please take a look at the AU Website: <http://www.sbau.org/> for the descriptions of AU officer duties, which include the 4 positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These are the 4 positions that get elected by the AU membership later this year. The website also has the descriptions of the 5 "appointed" positions, which are selected as needed by the President upon recommendation of the Elections Committee.

*For the 2009 calendar year, the AU needs folks to apply for officer positions and for the appointed position of Refreshments Coordinator.*

*You can nominate others or self-nominate. Please let Chad know by October 31. Remember, the AU is your club, so join in the fun!*

*A limited supply of paper copies of the descriptions will be available at the October 3rd AU meeting.*



### **AU Information Box**

**President:** Tim Wittenburg 969-6945  
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**Vice President:** Chad Caprio 570-506-5378  
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**Treasurer:** Ruben Gutierrez 450-7451  
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### **AU Astronomy Information Pager**

(Leave a short message) 564-9002

### **SBMNH Astronomy Programs Manager**

Javier Rivera 682-4711x173

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### **SBMNH Astronomy Program Tape**

Updated monthly 682-4711x405

**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 20<sup>th</sup> of the current month!

### **AU annual membership rates:**





**Single = \$15                      Family = \$25**

### **AU mailing address:**

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c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
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Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998

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

## October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 AU General Meeting 7PM	4 Bacara Resort 7:30PM
5	6	7 Camino Real Marketplace 6:30PM 	8 Franklin Elementary 6:30PM	9 Peabody Charter 6PM	10 Bacara Resort 7:30PM	11 AU Planning Meeting 5PM SBMNH Star Party 7PM
12	13	14 	15	16	17 Westmont College 6:30PM	18 Bacara Resort 7:30PM
19	20	21 	22	23 Kellogg Elementary 5:30PM	24 Bacara Resort 7:30PM	25 Fall Messier Marathon Winchester Gun Club
26	27	28 	29	30	31 Halloween!	

### The Astronomical Unit

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