



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit



October 2009

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

October Talk

Our very own Outreach Czar, Chuck McPartlin, will give the October talk at our general meeting based on presentations he gives at schools and campgrounds. His talk is titled "Solar Systems, Here and There."

Outreach Report

Since the last newsletter, indefatigable AU outreach volunteers Andy Allen, Chad Caprio, Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Tom Farr (from JPL), Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Chris & Eric Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Helen Osenga, Bob Richard, Javier Rivera, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, and Tim Wittenburg showed cool astro stuff to 867 customers.



Although clouded-out at September's SBMNH outreach, AU outreachies are all smiles! Photo: R.Gutierrez.

IYA 2009 Great World-Wide Star Count

Join in the third annual star count, October 9 to 23. Get details at their website:
www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/starcount/

October AU Outreach

Here are the outreach events scheduled so far for October. Join us if you can! Just help out at **six** 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 or 964-8201 for the latest information. **AU volunteers who help out at the October Star Party at the Museum will be rewarded with free admission to the talk by Dr. Mike Brown of Cal Tech in Fleischmann Auditorium at SBMNH on November 14: "How I Killed Pluto, And Why It Deserved It."**

Friday, October 2, 7 PM

Start with a short planetarium show, then our monthly meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH.

Saturday, October 3, Noon to 10 PM

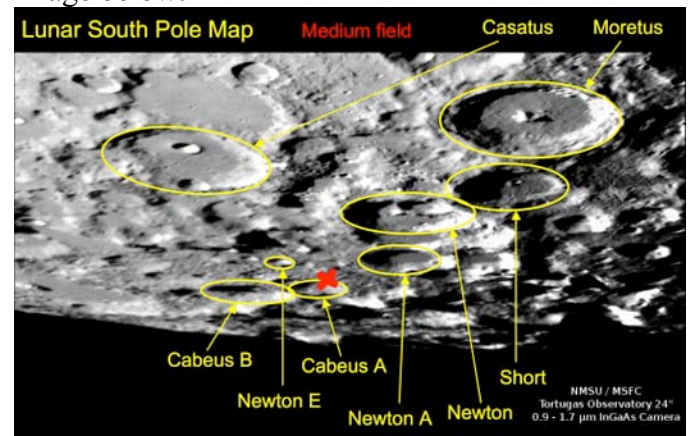
Guacamoon and Jupiter Too in conjunction with the Avocado Festival, on Linden Lawn in Carpinteria.

Tuesday, October 6, setup 7 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta. We set up in the plaza between Borders and the movie theater.

Friday, October 9, around 4:30 AM

Watch the southern limb of the Moon for the LCROSS impact on the crater Cabeus A1. See the image below.



Saturday, October 10, 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 10, 7 PM

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

Tuesday, October 13, 9 to 10 PM

Telescopes at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 1500 State Street in Santa Barbara (corner with Micheltorena).

Wednesday, October 14, setup 6:30 PM

Telescopes for the Biltmore, on their back lawn. Contact Chuck for details.

Friday, October 16, setup 6:30 PM

The monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, at their new observatory next to the baseball field, downhill below the gym from the old observatory. Just follow the road from the new entrance off Cold Springs Road until you see the dome.

Saturday, October 17, setup 6:30 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Campground, in the day use parking lot, at the southwest corner of the park. Last one for the year!

Wednesday, October 21, scope setup 6 PM

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

Thursday, October 22, setup 5:30 PM

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

Thursday, October 22, setup 6 PM

Telescopes for students attending the Cousteau Ocean Futures program at El Capitan Canyon Resort. We set up on the Lower Loop lawn.

Wednesday, October 28, setup 6:30 PM

Telescopes for the Biltmore, on their back lawn. Contact Chuck for details. Look at the Moon.

Thursday, October 29, setup 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at La Patera Elementary School, 555 N La Patera Lane in Goleta (adjacent to Stow Grove Park).

Saturday, October 31

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

From the President's Pen....

Ruben Gutierrez

Much was discussed at the September Planning meeting, including the final details of the "Guacamoon and Jupiter Too" Star Party, which will be one of the AU's big public events during the International Year of Astronomy 2009. It will take place in conjunction with the annual Carpinteria Avocado Festival on Saturday, October 3rd, from noon to 10 PM. The AU will be out in full force on the Linden Lawn by Carpinteria State Beach, at the end of Linen Avenue. This promises to be a fun-packed day, that will not only include a great assortment of telescopes, but also very interesting displays, hands-on events, and a free a raffle of a number of GalileoScopes offered by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Come one, come all!

On another note, the final design for an AU baseball cap was voted on, and Pat McPartlin has submitted the order. The cap will be dark blue with SBAU in bright white letters, which will color-coordinate magnificently with the official AU T-shirt. And, it will only cost AU members \$10! Stay tuned for information on how to get your official AU Cap.

For several months the AU has been looking into setting up a telescope that is more easily accessible for folks with disabilities. It appears we may have found a mount that will work for us, made by Universal Astronomics. Jim Williams is spearheading this project. We hope to have a working setup by the year's end.

Speaking of which, have you made your reservation for the AU's end of the year Holiday Banquet on Thursday, December 10th at 6 PM at the Beachside Bar and Grill at Goleta Beach? This event has always been a very fun-packed evening, with delicious cuisine. This year the AU is paying part

of the cost, so your ticket price has been reduced to \$30. But, only the first 40 will get this special price - the rest will need to order off the menu and be in a separate room. Contact Pat McPartlin right away to make your reservation, and while you're at it, purchase a 2010 Astronomy Calendar.

It's always a pleasure to work, study, explore and just have plain fun with the fine folks of the Astronomical Unit. Our club supports the local community with regard to the science of astronomy. We are currently trying to extend this reach as we look toward donating a telescope to an astronomy club in Mexico. The many members of the AU who donate their time and talent have made this club a true treasure of the Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, and Santa Ynez areas. Renewing your membership, as well as new members signing up, helps us achieve the club's goals. This month I wish to thank Warren Bitters for renewing his membership, and give new member Ken Owen an enthusiastic **WELCOME ABOARD!**



Joe Doyle breaks down his 18" scope after three spectacular nights at this year's CalStar. Photo: T. Whittemore

For Sale

Meade ETX d=90mm F=1250mm f/13.8 with built-in AA battery drive, mini tripod, spotting scope, covers, 2 eyepieces, and 3x Barlow. Asking \$390. Contact Paul at (805) 698-2501 or paul@svacina.com.

Binoculars for sale: 11x80, Limer by Mirador, 4.5° field of viw. Asking \$250. Questions? (805) 450-6683

AU Information Box		
President:	Ruben Gutierrez	450-7451 rubenalvag@aol.com
Vice President:	Mike Farris	637-3300 mike@mikewfarris.com
Secretary:	Tim Wittenburg	969-6945 black10@aol.com
Treasurer:	Pat McPartlin	964-8201 parsnip7@yahoo.com
Outreach:	Chuck McPartlin	964-8201 macpuzl@west.net
Webmaster:	Paul Winn	886-2319 paul@sbau.org
Newsletter:	Tom Whittemore	687-2025 kometes@aol.com
Equipment:	Art Harris	968-4017 n6is@cox.net
AU Astronomy Information Pager		
(Leave a short message)		564-9002
SBMNH Astronomy Program Coordinator		
Javier Rivera		682-4711x173 jrivera@sbnature2.org
SBMNH Astronomy Program Tape		
Updated monthly		682-4711x405
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AU mailing address:		
Astronomical Unit c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta Del Sol Road Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998		
On the Web: http://www.sbau.org		

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 AU General Meeting 7PM	3 Guacamoon and Jupiter, Too!
4 	5 Mercury's best morning apparition	6 Camino Real Marketplace 7PM	7	8	9 LCROSS impact! 4:30 AM	10 Planning Meeting 5PM SBMNH Star Party 7PM
11 	12	13 Trinity Episcopal 9-10PM	14 Biltmore 6:30PM	15	16 Westmont College 6:30PM	17 Refugio State Beach 6:30PM
18 	19	20	21 Peabody Charter 6PM	22 Kellogg 5:30PM Ocean Futures 6PM	23	24
25 	26	27	28 Biltmore 6:30PM	29 La Patera 5PM	30	31 Boo!

The Astronomical Unit

c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta Del Sol Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998