



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

October 2011

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

OUR OCTOBER MEETING

Our speaker for this month's general meeting is Scott Roberts of Explore Scientific. Scott will explain the craftsmanship behind designing fine eyepieces and telescopes.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, avid AU outreach volunteers Tim Crawford, Dora Drake, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris (with a new knee!), Jürgen Hilmer, Tom King, Jackson Kwiatkowski, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Steve Morse, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera, Tom Totton, John West, Tom Whittemore, Jerry Wilson, and Paul Winn showed cool astro stuff to 1550 customers.



A sizzling campout! Ken Pfeiffer took this amazing photo of the night sky and lightning at this year's AU Campout at Cachuma Lake.

OUTREACH FOR OCTOBER

Here are the outreach events scheduled so far for October. Notice the change in the normal second Saturday schedule at the Museum! Events are subject to change and cancellation, so contact Chuck at macpuzl@west.net or 964-8201 for the latest information.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, SETUP AT NOON

Fall Astronomy Day at SBMNH, with solar viewing and activities out by the observatory from 1 PM to 4 PM, then a break until the Scope Clinic and Star Party from 7 PM to 10 PM.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7:30 PM

Talk in Fleischmann Auditorium at SBMNH by Dr. Lloyd Knox of UC Davis, "We Are Amplified Quantum Fluctuations". \$6 for Museum members; \$8 for non-members.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Our speaker will be Scott Roberts of Explore Scientific.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, SETUP 9 AM

Telescopes and activities on Linden Lawn in Carpinteria, from 10 AM to 10 PM, in conjunction with the Avocado Festival and International Observe the Moon Night.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 6:30 PM

Slide show and telescopes for International Observe the Moon Night at the Goleta Public Library, 500 N. Fairview Avenue. If you're not at the Avocado Festival, drop in at the Library!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, SETUP 7 PM

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for Westmont alumni at Westmont Observatory, next to the baseball field.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Mountain View School, 5465 Queen Ann Lane, from 6 PM to 8 PM.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, SETUP 6:30 PM

The monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont Observatory, next to the baseball field.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, SETUP TBD

Telescopes for a Light Pollution awareness event in Ojai, at Meditation Mount, 10340 Reeves Road in Ojai. There will also be a screening of the movie "The City Dark".

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Kellogg School, 475 Cambridge Drive in Goleta. Pat & Chuck will be at a Science Night at Laguna Blanca School, so please bring a scope to Kellogg if you can!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31 HALLOWEEN!

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



This photographic "laser painting" of our club's moniker comes from Mike Farris.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...

Ruben Gutierrez

Cachuma Kudos...

The AU is off to a great start for the final part of 2011! I wish to thank all those involved in the annual campout at Cachuma Lake. It takes a considerable amount of coordination and work to make an AU event a success, and the AU crew came through once again. Great work, everybody!

Special Astronomy Day in October...

Looking forward, our club will for the first time be putting on a Fall Astronomy Day on the beautiful grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on October 1st, from 12 noon (setup) until 10:00 PM. It will be a more compact version of International Astronomy Day, but it will pack just as big a punch. There will be exhibits, hands-on activities, astrophotography, and of course, a full array of telescopes. And if this were not enough, thanks to the Museum's Astronomy Programs Manager Javier Rivera, the Museum has graciously purchased a deluxe 8-inch Dobsonian telescope that will be given away as the grand prize of a raffle. And guess what? Entrance to the astronomy exhibits and use of the telescopes will not only be FREE, the raffle will be too! The drawing will take place at 3 PM, and the free tickets will be handed out all day. But remember, you have to be present to win. Make sure you keep your tickets close to you and your fingers crossed (*sorry AU members, this drawing is for our guests only*).

The Moon and more...

Living up to Astronomy Magazine's Out-Of-This-World Award for outreach, the following week will find the AU participating in "International Observe The Moon Night" on October 8th. In order to provide lots of chances for the public to enjoy observing the moon through our telescopes, the AU will set up star parties in two locations; one in Carpinteria during the very well-attended annual Avocado Festival (at the end of Linden Avenue by the beach), and the other at the Goleta Public Library at 500 North Fairview Avenue. So, grab your friends, head on out to one of these sites, and have a fun-packed experience!

SBMNH Observatory Remodel...

Sometime - in the not too distant future - the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will start work on remodeling its observatory. This sure has been a long time coming, but now that it's just around the corner, the AU is sure excited. For the most part, the observatory in its present condition has served as a storage room for Museum, AU, and SBCC astronomy equipment. With the remodel, the Museum and the club will share a custom-built storage unit. This is such an appreciated and needed capital improvement, that the AU has decided to help pay for it. To this end, during the last Planning

Meeting, it was decided to donate \$3,000.00 to help build this storage unit. A big Thank You to our wonderful sponsor, and to Javier Rivera, for their support and providing our club with such a magnificent home base of operations.

Finally, A Warm Welcome...

The AU is certainly living up to the title of being the number one astronomy club in the nation. It's clear to me that it holds this prestigious title because of its community involvement and passionate membership. With this in mind, I wish to thank new members Cynthia Bermudez and Lou Smitheram & Gus Pravia, and renewing member David Larson, for their support of this community-involved, science-teaching, telescope-sharing, and fun-loving club of ours!



Two outreaches are on tap this month at Westmont's Observatory. Staff Photo: Westmont College.



Happy campers, Edgar and Chuck, set up shop at this year's Cachuma Campout. Photo: Mike Farris.

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AU annual membership rates:

Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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October 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|-------------------------|--|----------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 FALL ASTRONOMY DAY SBMNH |
| 2 | 3 ☾ | 4 | 5 | 6 LECTURE FLEISCHMANN AUDITORIUM SBMNH 7:30PM | 7 GENERAL MEETING 7PM | 8 AVOCADO FESTIVAL 9AM GOLETA LIBRARY 6:30PM |
| 9 | 10 | 11 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM ☉ | 12 | 13 | 14 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30PM | 15 BACARA RESORT 6:30PM |
| 16 | 17 | 18 MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL 5PM | 19 ☾ | 20 | 21 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30PM | 22 MEDITATION MOUNT, OJAI TIME TBD |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 ● | 27 KELLOGG SCHOOL 5PM | 28 | 29 BACARA RESORT 6:30PM |
| 30 | 31 HALLOWEEN! | | | | | |

The Astronomical Unit

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