



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

October 2015

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



*Chuck Hubble and Pat Leavitt pose at the AstroVaganza.
Photo: T. Whittemore.*

OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER

Our own Paul Winn will be the speaker this month. The title of Paul's talk is "How to take and process a single wide-field image." Paul will walk us through how to set up and process a single image taken with a DSLR Camera using Photoshop. His presentation will go into depth in camera settings, frame and focusing, and the workflow in Photoshop explaining how to get the most out of your image.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, avid AU outreach volunteers Chatt Aiton, Abigail & Angela Bates, John Boyd, Sabine & Marciano Chan, Bill Clausen, Adrian Conrad, Krissie Cook, Tim Crawford, Zak Dafaallah, Michael Dilley, Joe Doyle, Dora Drake, Koko & Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Howard & Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Adrian Lopez, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Bonnie & Bruce Murdock, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Javier Rivera & Quasar Victoria, Mike Sommermann, Colin Taylor, Cez & Tom Totton, Chris Ulivo, Tom Whittemore, and Jerry Wilson showed cool astro stuff to **1845** interested people.

OUTREACH FOR OCTOBER

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 outreach events scheduled so far for October. Events are subject to change and cancellation, so contact Chuck at macpuzl@west.net or 964-8201 for the latest information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Hear a talk about landscape astrophotography by our own Paul Winn!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7 PM TO 10 PM

Telescopes at Carpinteria State Beach for the Avocado Festival. Evening event only this year. We'll set up on the sidewalk toward the beach from the entry kiosk.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 5 PM

Monthly AU planning meeting at SBMNH, in the classroom next to Javier's office.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 7 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH, next to Palmer Observatory.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, SETUP 5 PM

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the bluff lawn overlooking the ocean.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Mountain View School, 5465 Queen Ann Lane, from 6 PM to 8 PM. *Food for AU volunteers from 5 to 6 PM.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, SETUP 6 PM

Telescope night at Goleta Public Library, 500 North Fairview Avenue. We set up and park in the lot behind the Christian Science Reading Room just south of the library.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the bluff lawn overlooking the ocean.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, SETUP 7 PM

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for a Family School campout at the Sedgwick Reserve, in the dark skies at the end of Brinkerhoff in the Santa Ynez Valley.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

Sir Arthur C. Clarke as I knew him... Part III

Jim Williams

Editor's note: Jim Williams visited the prestigious astronomer and writer three times: in 1997, 2001, and 2003. This last installment is Jim's remembrance of his 2003 visit.

Arthur wasn't well; there had just been a death in the family, and the effects of post-polio syndrome

were ever more encroaching on his time for the work he loved.

I had been riding all around Sri Lanka visiting with astronomy clubs in schools with the retired Sri Lanka Planetarium Director, T.C, Samaranayake ("Sam"), doing simple presentations and talking with the school kids. I had remarked to Arthur that we were getting a lot of questions like "Is there life on other planets?" Arthur remarked that these were in fact very GOOD questions, and that I should keep encouraging those.

We were able, despite Arthur's health, to sit down and chat for a while. We spent about 2 hours, with Arthur showing me highlights of "The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction." He showed me an old little known Jules Verne story about a golden comet. Arthur had just finished writing a short story about some crooks plotting to hollow out from below the great 9-foot high solid gold seated Buddha image in Bangkok, Thailand (Wat Traimit if you want to look it up). The story's working name was "Fools Gold." A discovery of a solid gold asteroid by a NASA probe caused the price of gold to crash, and the crooks' efforts were wasted! Wayne and I had both visited Wat Traimit, and Arthur probably got the idea from Wayne's photos. Arthur told me later that the BBC picked up the story but changed the location to a fictional location in the American Southwest, so as not to endanger the real shrine.

I think Arthur's short stories were his biggest strength. A couple of the most famous are "The Star" and "The Nine Billion names of God." But one of my favorites is "The Wall of Darkness," a mind and physics exercise in exploring another very small universe - astoundingly written back in 1949.

Arthur wrote in his 2008 annual "Egogram" (his last) that he would best like to be remembered as a writer, and quoted Rudyard Kipling:

*"If I have given you delight
by aught that I have done.
Let me lie quiet in that night
which shall be yours anon;*

*And for the little, little span
the dead are borne in mind,*

*seek not to question other than,
the books I leave behind."*

I had emailed the Sci Fi Author Dr. Jerry Pournelle before one of the trips to ask if he had anything I could take to Arthur. He responded, saying, "No, but Arthur is probably the nicest man he ever met".

When I stopped by on that 2003 trip to say goodbye, he gave his usual farewell in return, "See you on your next perihelion." Sadly, it was not to be. Time slipped away, and on 19 March 2008 I read the news on CNN online of the passing of [Sri Lankabhimanya](#) (Pride of Sri Lanka) Dr. Sir Arthur C. Clarke. Wayne had gotten a call from Valerie Ekanayake a couple of hours before. I had to stop what I was doing for awhile as my eyes were full of tears.

Time Travel

Tom Totton

SBAU has been offered a regular 1-hour radio program on KZSB with the Baron Ron Herron as the interviewer. Starting every two weeks, on Monday, September 14, Chuck McPartlin, in particular, and your current President have been and will be shooting stars back and forth across the console at 1290AM. We have room for a third person as well to add the scientific or color commentary over the "airwaves," so we may be asking for your extroverted, yet controlled, self to help us out. The show, "Tech Talk" on the current KZSB program listing also repeats on Sundays at 3am and 3pm in case you missed your dose. Here is the internet link for those so inclined:

<http://morenews.newspress.com/kzsb/radio.html>

Our voices will next appear, September 28, then October 12, and so on. Can you think of topics that we should be covering for the public? Let us know. We need some exciting issues to keep the public staying through the commercials!

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October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 SBAU GENERAL MEETING 7PM	3 CARPINTERIA AVOCADO FESTIVAL 7PM-10PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
11	12	13	14	15 KELLOGG SCHOOL 5PM	16 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30PM	17 BACARA RESORT 7PM
18	19 LUNAR X 7:30PM TO 10PM	20 MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL 5PM	21	22 GOLETA PUBLIC LIBRARY 6PM	23	24 BACARA RESORT 7PM
25	26	27 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	28 FAMILY SCHOOL AT SEDGWICK RESERVE 7PM	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN!

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