



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

September 2008

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Outreach Report

We had lots of events since the last newsletter, and the total shows it. Hard working AU outreach volunteers Joy, Rus Belikov, Bill Clausen, Krissie Cook & her Quasars, Tim & Jason Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Wen Gu, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Lee McCoy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Helen Osenga, Jiri Polivka, Javier Rivera, Nancy Rohrer, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Tim Wittenburg, and VCAS visitors Terry & Hal Jandorf, and Jean & Bill Ruecker showed the sky to 1100 customers. I had to add that up twice before I believed it.

September AU Outreach

Here are the outreach events scheduled so far for September. Join us if you can! Events are subject to change and cancellation, so contact Chuck at macpuzl@west.net or 964-8201 for the latest information.

Friday, September 5, 7:30 PM

Monthly meetings start again in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Hear about solar observing from AU member John Boyd.

Saturday, September 6, setup 7 PM

Show the sky to campers at Refugio Beach State Park, in the day use parking area at the southwest corner.

Tuesday, September 9, setup 7 PM

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

Saturday, September 13, 5:30 PM

AU planning meeting in the classroom outside Javier's office at SBMNH. All members welcome!

Saturday, September 13, 7:30 PM

Monthly Public Star Party outside Palmer Observatory at SBMNH.

Friday - Sunday, September 19 - 21

Annual AU campout at Mohawk Shores group site at Cachuma Lake. Observing Friday and Saturday nights, with a potluck on Saturday evening at 5 PM. Reserve early for the excellent Nature Cruises!

Friday, September 19, 7 PM

If you're not at the campout, help out at the monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, outside Carroll Observatory near the Van Kampen Dormitory.

Monday, September 22, 8:45 AM

The Autumnal Equinox for Santa Barbara. Summer's officially over.

Thursday - Sunday, September 25 - 28

CalStar at the overflow camping area at Lake San Antonio.

Saturday, September 27, setup 7 PM

Telescopes for the kids at Los Padres National Forest Family Camp, at Paradise Campground along the Santa Ynez River.



"One advantage of living near a binary star would be a sun tan in half the time."

Annual Campout

This year we will be doing our campout at Cachuma Lake from Friday, September 19th, through Sunday, the 21st. Since we have the best outreach volunteers in the business, our campsite will be free! ***We will be limited to 22 cars or 88 individuals.*** The campground will require a fee for people/cars beyond that total to come either as a one-day visitor or an overnight guest. Don't worry, though. Save your receipt for Ruben and the AU will gladly refund your money.

On the evening of Saturday, the 20th, there will be a Pot Luck dinner. This potluck replaces the Star-B-Cue potluck, which was canceled this past July because of the Gap Fire. Please bring a dish to share with at least four others, and bring your own service (plate, utensils, napkin, serving utensils and what you like to drink.) ***We will gather around 5PM and start serving dinner around 6 PM.***

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who religiously do outreach at Cachuma Lake for the public. You made this venue available to us not only this year but in past years - Thank you all so much! You carry the water for all of us - we realize this and want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you are not a camper, you may want to come up for the Pot Luck and maybe stay for a little viewing afterwards. Bring a scope if you wish. I'll touch base with you all at the next meeting - so until then...

Clear Skies!
Tim C. (The Food Dude)



"Recently I've had a lot of trouble conceptualizing any number larger than a million trillion billion."

Stolen Telescope Alert

Please take note that the scope detailed below was stolen from the CCTS display tent at RTMC at this year's show. If you come across this item please inform Jeffrey Norwood as listed below.

The scope is a brand new William Optics FLT110 Doublet Apo in the aluminum case. The thief did not manage to take the mounting rings so he only has the OTA. It is white with gold trim and the serial number is etched on the scope: #060296.

Jeffrey Norwood
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<http://www.cameraconcepts.com>

Pacific Telescope and Astronomy Show

September 13, 14
Doors open at 9:00 AM
Pasadena Convention Center
300 E. Green Street, Pasadena, CA
Adult - \$21 per day
Under 16, with adult - Free
Early purchase/weekend pass discounts
Ticketmaster.com (searchbox = PATS)
Pasadena Convention Center Box Office

PBS Show Coming Up

There's a PBS show called "Journey To Palomar", based on the book "The Perfect Machine", about the creation of the 200-inch Hale Telescope at Palomar, coming up in November. Get the details here: <http://palomarskies.blogspot.com/2008/08/journey-to-palomar.html>

You Can Help Reduce Light Pollution (from an IDA announcement)

There are specifications calling for the full shielding of solid state lighting (LED) luminaire street lights in the proposed criteria for the federal efficiency program called Energy Star. If passed, the pending requirements, released August 20, 2008 by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will have a major impact on the design and marketability of all future LED street lights.

In the category of outdoor outdoor street and public lighting, the guidelines propose that the "Luminaire shall deliver 100% of total lumens within the 0°-90° zone, with a maximum of 10% of total lumens delivered within the 80°- 90° zone (bilaterally symmetrical)", meeting the International Dark-sky Association's standards for total dark sky compliance. Energy Star's consideration of this standard for LED street lights signals official recognition of the environmentally positive characteristics of fully shielded light fixtures and helps to ensure that future public LED fixtures will be both energy efficient and dark sky friendly. The proposed efficiency measure is an important victory for dark skies everywhere.

These criteria have not been formalized. In accordance with government policy, the proposed standards will undergo a 60-day public review before they are officially adopted as 2009 Energy Star criteria. Please help save both energy and starscapes by encouraging the DOE to confirm this breakthrough efficiency requirement by sending your comments to Energy Star.

Address emails to ssl@energystar.gov, and inform Energy Star that requirements on how to direct the light are as important as the typical efficiency calculation of lumens per watt. All comments received will be posted on the Energy Star Web site unless specifically requested otherwise.

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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!

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

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

September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 AU General Meeting 7:30PM	6 Refugio Beach State Park 7PM
7 ☾	8	9 Camino Real Marketplace 7PM	10	11	12	13 AU Planning Meeting 5:30PM SBMNH Star Party 7:30PM
14	15 ○	16	17	18	19 Westmont College 7PM AU Campout	20 AU Campout AU Potluck
21 AU Campout	22 Autumnal Equinox ☾	23	24	25 CalStar	26 CalStar	27 Paradise Campground 7PM Calstar
28 CalStar	29 ●	30				

The Astronomical Unit

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