



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

September 2011

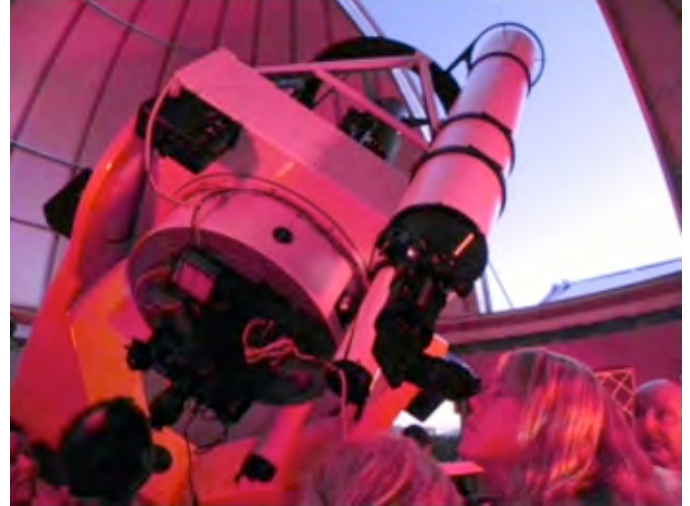
Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our speaker for this month's general meeting is Dr. Lars Bildsten, who will speak about exploding stars. Dr. Bildsten is a Permanent Member of the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Lars' theoretical research spans the fields of stellar astrophysics, gravitational wave phenomena, and stellar explosions. His current efforts are focused on the physics of accreting white dwarfs, with a special focus on the thermonuclear instabilities that lead to explosions, both the remarkably bright Type Ia supernovae and newly discovered faint explosions. He maintains a strong interest in the prospects for detection of accreting neutron stars in our Galaxy and merging neutron stars at cosmological distances with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Even though August was a quiet month, we had an impressive turnout of both AU volunteers and the stargazing public. Since the last newsletter, volunteers Evelyn Alfago, Bill Clausen, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jackson Kwiatkowski, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera, Nancy Rohrer, David Salvia, Cez & Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenburg showed sky goodies to **1381** customers.



The public takes in an "early peek" at the night skies during August's "Third Friday" outreach at Westmont's observatory. Photo: Robert Bernstein.

OUTREACH FOR SEPTEMBER

AU monthly meetings start up again in September after the summer break. Here are the events scheduled so far for the month. Outreach events are subject to change, so to get the latest information on schedules, or directions, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort, on their Miró Lawn. Contact Chuck for instructions if you haven't come before.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. See a quick planetarium show, then hear a talk by astrophysicist Dr. Lars Bildsten on exploding stars.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake Campground. We set up on the grassy field at Dakota Plains.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach, just to the right before the main entrance, across from the ranger station.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Senior Summer School, with setup in the parking lot of Tropicana Del Norte at 6525 El Colegio Road in Isla Vista.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for Starry Nights at the Biltmore, on their Monte Vista Lawn. Contact Chuck for details if you haven't come before.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for Santa Barbara Community Academy third graders, at 850 Portesuello Avenue (La Cumbre Junior High) in Santa Barbara.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio State Beach. We set up in the day use parking lot at the southwest corner of the park.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 6 PM

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 7:30 PM

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, SETUP 7 PM

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, SETUP 7 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, at their new observatory adjacent to the baseball field.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio State Beach. We set up in the day use parking lot at the southwest corner of the park.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for students from Adams School at the Sedgwick Reserve, at the end of Brinkerhoff in the Santa Ynez Valley. Dark Skies!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 0205 PDT

Autumnal Equinox - It's Fall!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 (AFTERNOON) THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 (MORNING)

Annual AU campout at the Mohawk Shores group campsite at Cachuma Lake. The Saturday dinner will be a catered event at 5:30 PM. The number of cars we are permitted to have with the site is limited, so carpool or come early if you can. If we run out of car permits, and you have to pay at the entrance gate, keep your receipt for reimbursement from the AU.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for students from Adams School at the Sedgwick Reserve, at the end of Brinkerhoff in the Santa Ynez Valley. Dark Skies!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio State Beach. We set up in the day use parking lot at the southwest corner of the park.

CACHUMA LAKE WILDLIFE CRUISES

Be sure to reserve a place if you want to take the cruise on Saturday (10 AM to Noon and 3 PM to 5 PM) or Sunday (10 AM to Noon)(meet at the marina 30 minutes before)! Climb aboard the "Osprey" for a 2-hour lake tour with a Santa Barbara County Park Naturalist. The cruise takes a look at area wildlife, wildflowers, and resident birds along the shore. Reservations: (805) 686-5050 weekdays, (805) 686-5055 weekends. \$15/adults; \$7/child 4-12 years old; *PLEASE, NO CHILDREN UNDER 4.*

SUMMER STAR PARTY - A REAL TREAT...

Tim Crawford

Thanks to everyone that made this year's Star Party a huge success. A special thank you goes to Timma Buck for supplying us with a delicious tray of cookies. We had around 35 people and about twelve scopes this year. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. We will probably go over some of the night's "goods and bads" in an upcoming meeting (maybe Ruben?) It was nice to see many of the faces we see all the time and some we don't get to see very often. We had many good surprises, including an asteroid and comet. Several galaxies, globular and open clusters – the list goes on and on.

For me, the view of the "Van Gogh's Ear" in Joe Doyle's 18" was fabulous. Another great view was that of the Swan Nebula, M17, through Ed Edwards' 16" scope. He used a UHC filter and brought out some detailing I had never seen before. Jürgen Hilmer had a really nice wide-field view of the Eagle and Swan Nebulas! Andy Allen took a great photo of the southern sky which was featured in the August issue of the AstroNews. All in all - a great night with no rain, fog, or wind.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...

Ruben Gutierrez

Back in Business...

The AU has had a nice Summer and is now looking toward the the Fall and Winter seasons. After a couple of months off it sure will be great to have the membership reunite at our home base at the grounds of the beautiful Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. There's a lot to talk about, so I'll just dive in! *Our first meeting of the second half of 2011 will take place on Sept. 2nd, at 7:00 PM.* As has been our tradition, we'll first enjoy a short planetarium show exclusively for AU members, have an update of club business from all of the officers, and then sit back and listen to our September speaker. At the meeting we'll also have several sign up sheets (we didn't get to be the number one club in the nation for nothing). As you may know, the Pacific Astronomy and Telescope Show (PATS) will take place on the weekend of September 17-18 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Tickets for this event are normally \$20. However, thanks to Vice President Michael Farris, we can purchase tickets in advance for only 5 bucks! But don't forget - the AU meeting will be just about the final day to do this. What's the hitch, you ask? Well, you'll need to provide your own transportation, but I'm sure those going can form a car pool. Contact Mike at the meeting with 5 dollars in hand and you're in!

Looking ahead...

The next sign up sheet will be for the AU's annual campout at Cachuma Lake, from Sept. 23 to the 25th. This is one of my favorite events. In addition to enjoying the prime Mohawk Shores camp site right on the lake front, which is donated to the AU by Cachuma Lake staff in gratitude for the many star parties the AU hold there throughout the year, the membership will also be treated to a delightful Bar-B-Q tri-tip and chicken dinner, with all the

fixins, of course. Add this to a ticket you can purchase that day to have a guided nature cruise on the lake, and have the opportunity to take a peek at our universe through a battery of telescopes that are taken up there, and all I can say is - don't miss it! And the cost? How's FREE sound to you? Just bring a side salad or dessert to share with your AU buddies, and enjoy the day.

And there's more...

Next on the sign up lists is the first ever Fall Astronomy Day on October 1 (which will take the place of our October monthly star party at the museum, but we'll still have the General meeting on 10/7). Although on a smaller scale, the Fall Astronomy Day will feature nearly everything we have during the main International Astronomy Day in spring each year. But, as always, we need your help. So, let's show that "Out of This World" award winning spirit and sign up. Finally, and although the Avocado Festival star party is not until October 8, we need those of you who can bring a scope and set up on Carpinteria's Linden Lawn to sign up early. This has always been one of our most well attended events, so track down that sign up list and jot your name down to help celebrate International Observe the Moon Night at the Carpinteria Avocado Festival.

Coming in December...

It's not too early to start talking about a couple of key events in December. The first is the general meeting on Dec. 2. Two unique things happen at the time. The first is the election of AU Officers for 2012. If you have someone in mind, or simply want to nominate yourself, make sure you contact AU Vice President Mike Farris and provide him with the name (just make sure the person you're nominating will accept it). Second on the agenda that night is where the title "Members Night" comes from. This is the time you can share just about any astronomical/AU related presentation you want. This has always been a fun night, so keep it in the back of your mind. The second event is when the AU breaks out the fancy stuff and holds our Holiday Dinner on December 8 at the Beachside Bar and Grill. Talk about great food - this is the place to be! As President I have the pleasure of talking on behalf of the Astronomical Unit through newspapers, magazines, radio shows, and other media outlets. But, I never forget that I'm just one of over 120 members that truly enjoy the science of

astronomy, and the satisfaction of sharing our expertise, equipment, and friendship with the communities of Santa Barbara County through our many AU outreach events. Your new and continued membership is what makes this astronomy club of ours so special. On this note I want to welcome aboard new members Van Webster and Mary & Monty Mason, and renewing members Barbara & John Ahlman, Lorraine Cass, Sylvelin Edgerton, Colin Taylor, and Paul Winn for your support of the award winning Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit. **THANK YOU!**

SPECIAL SALE FOR SEPTEMBER

Your AU shirts, hats, and sweatshirts have had a hard summer. Pat McPartlin (AU Treasurer) offers that at the September meeting on 9/2/11, bring your tired AU clothes and/or hats and receive \$5 off on replacements! This is only for the 9/2/11 meeting, and does not include AU and/or SBAC patches. No exceptions, since Pat will have the entire inventory that night. Remember, if you have used AU clothing and don't see your size that night, you can order it and take the \$5 off! With the money you save, buy a tote bag: for everyone, the tote bags will be priced at special sale prices of \$20 each, or 2 for \$35. This is for 9/2/11 only!

2012 CALENDARS

Yep, it's that time of year to look forward to the New Year. Buy your beautiful 2012 Astronomy calendar for only \$10 each. That's \$2.95 (and sales tax) off the prices in the stores. Pat McPartlin (AU Treasurer) will have calendars to sell – only 19 left, so get 'em while they're here.



"Resistance is futile." Photo: Mike Farris



"I give up! How many astronomers does it take to screw in a light bulb?"

ASTRONNEWS ARTS CORNER...

Auguries of Innocence

-William Blake (1709-1784)

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
 And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
 Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
 And Eternity in an hour.

From Burnham's Celestial Handbook, by Robert Burnham Jr., 1978:

Midnight...
 There is no sound in the forest -
 only the phantom murmur
 of the far wind
 and the wind's shadow drifting
 as smoke
 through ebon branches; there a single star
 glistens in the heart of night....
 A star!
 Look skyward now...
 and see above...INFINITY
 Vast and dark and deep
 and endless....your heritage:
 Silent clouds of stars,



Other worlds uncountable and other suns
beyond numbering
and realms of fire-mist and star-cities
as grains of sand....
drifting...
Across the void....
Across the gulf of night....
Across the endless rain of years....
Across the ages.
Listen!
Were you the star-born you should hear
That silent music of which the ancient sages spoke
Though in silent words...
Here then is our quest
and our world
and our Home.
Come with me now, Pilgrim of the stars,
For our time is upon us and our eyes
shall see the far country
and the shining cities of Infinity
which the wise men knew
in ages past, and shall know again
in the ages yet to be.
Look to the east....there shines
the Morning Star...soon shall the sunrise come...
We await the Dawn,
Rise, oh eternal light;
Awaken the World!
With trumpets and cymbals and harp and the sound
of glad song!
And now...
The clouds of night are rolled away;
Sing welcome to the Dawn
Of the bright new day!

AU Information Box

President: Ruben Gutierrez 450-7451
rubenalvag@aol.com
Vice President: Mike Farris 637-3300
mike@mikewfarris.com
Secretary: Jim Williams 588-8823
j_alison_w@hotmail.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

SBMNH Astronomy Programs Manager

Javier Rivera 682-4711x173
jrivera@sbnature2.org

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!

AU annual membership rates:

Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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>

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 BACARA RESORT 6:30PM	2 GENERAL MEETING 7PM	3 CACHUMA LAKE 7PM
4 ● CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 7PM	5 SENIOR SUMMER SCHOOL 7PM	6 BILTMORE HOTEL 6:30PM	7	8 SB COMMUNITY ACADEMY 6:30PM	9 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 6:30PM	10 PLANNING MEETING 6PM SBMNH STAR PARTY 7:30PM
11	12 ○	13 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	14	15	16 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	17 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 6:30PM
18	19	20 ●	21	22 ADAMS SCHOOL AT SEDGWICK 7PM	23 AU CAMPOUT	24 AU CAMPOUT
25 AU CAMPOUT	26	27 ●	28	29 ADAMS SCHOOL AT SEDGWICK 7PM	30 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 6:30PM	

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