



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

September 2012

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Chuck McPartlin accepts the 2012 Las Cumbres Award from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in Tucson, Arizona, this past August. Not granted every year, this prestigious award honors Chuck's unique talent for bringing the night skies to the general public. Photo: Dave Kary.

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our speaker this month will be UCSB graduate student Kevin Moore who currently works with Lars Bildsten on aspects of how stars explode, among other issues in astrophysics. He mainly works on the impact of novae on their stellar environments, detonations in helium layers, and probing the interiors of stars with asteroseismology. Much of this work involves computer simulations of stars, which leads to interesting visualizations of how they behave. After he graduates, he hopes to teach at a 4-year college and help reform science education to be more interactive and reflective of what real scientists do. In his free time, Kevin can be found biking, brewing beer, and trying not to forget his Japanese.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

With the Astrovaganza event, we had an impressive turnout of both AU volunteers and the stargazing public. Since the last newsletter, volunteers Angela Bates, John Boyd, Joe Brown, Justin Canty, Ed Carlisle, Luis & Anthony Castrejon, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Kate & Jim Doordan, Susan & Matt Jackson & John Ekins,

Nancy Emerson, Mike Farris, Rod Fritz & SBARC, Tony Galván, Daniel Godinez, Bill Gourley, Ruben Gutierrez, Mike Hardwick, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Mike Jogoleff, Zanna Lucy, John Martinez, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Kim Miller, Steve Morse, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Ray Ogella, Sydney & Hawkins Pappas, Duncan Payne, Ros Perry, Ken Pfeiffer, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera & his Quasars, Nancy Rohrer, Rachel Ross, David Salvia, Tom Totton, John West, Barry White, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Pat & Jerry Wilson, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenburg showed sky goodies to 1997 customers.

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, SETUP 7 PM

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, SETUP 6:15 PM

Telescopes for students at UCSB, at the SW end of the lagoon. Meet at 6:15 in the San Rafael dorm lot to get parking permits

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. See a quick planetarium show, then hear a talk on exploding stars by UCSB graduate student Kevin Moore.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 6 PM

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 7:30 PM

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 (AFTERNOON) THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 (MORNING)

Annual AU campout at the Mohawk Shores group campsite at Cachuma Lake. The Saturday dinner will be a catered event at 6PM. 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. *Information on the 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.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, NOON TO 10 PM

Griffith Observatory tour. See this month's President's Pen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, SETUP 7 PM

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 7:49 AM

Autumnal Equinox - Summer's over!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Pacific Astronomy and Telescope Show (PATS) in Pasadena. The PATS tickets have dwindled to only 7 left. These are just \$5 each versus \$20 at the door! See:

<http://www.rtmcastronomyexpo.org/pats/index.php> for more information. See Pat McPartlin, SBAU Treasurer, to buy your \$5 ticket before they're all gone!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 4:05 TO 6:35 PM

The Lunar X is visible along the terminator. International Observe the Moon Night.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, SETUP 7 PM

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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 29, SETUP 7 PM

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...

R. Gutierrez

2012 ASTRO-VAGANZA!

What a fabulous name for a fabulous day, Saturday, August 11, 2012. All the months of preparation, planning, and hard work paid off. Upon entering the gates to the enchanting grounds of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, astronomy enthusiasts were given a "Mission Log," which took them on a tour of the solar system, assuming they could make it past Samson, the moving and roaring T-Rex, who wouldn't let anyone near *his* telescope. During the Mission Log voyage, enthusiasts were able to learn interesting facts about our neighboring planets, and at the same time, earn an extra raffle ticket to win one of many prizes, including a large and beautifully-framed astronomical photograph taken by SBAU Webmaster Paul Winn, and a fully equipped 8-inch Dobsonian telescope.

This year's telescope winner was Jenna Monteleone of Santa Barbara who couldn't wait to take it home and start exploring the universe with it.

Congratulations, Jenna! And congratulations to Museum Astronomy Programs Manager Javier Rivera, who at the end of the day, learned that Astro-Vaganza! was one of the busiest days of the

summer. There were many people that helped in making this day a huge success, including the museum's youth volunteer group known as the Quasars and the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club. However, I just have to give a big THUMBS UP to the SBAU membership for staffing the numerous booths and sharing their knowledge and telescopes at the star party that wrapped up this memorable day. Great Job, everybody! Enjoy the photos, within this newsletter, from 2012 Astro-Vaganza!



This year's telescope winner, Jenna Monteleone, poses with her newly-won 8" Dob at the Astro-Vaganza. Photo: R. Gutierrez.

Special Limited SBAU Lapel Pin only \$3 for members!

Speaking of congratulating someone for a great job, as I mentioned last month, SBAU Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin received the International Las Cumbres Award for Outstanding Outreach to the community from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. In honor of this award, a special limited-edition SBAU lapel pin has been created and it is quite a collector's item. They were first put on sale during Astro-Vaganza and have been quite a hit. Members can purchase one at the next general meeting for the special membership price of just \$3.00. Buy one, or two, while they last and show the Universe that SBAU pride!!

Griffith Trip Details

A good time to wear an AU lapel pin will be when those lucky 40 people will be going in this year's club field trip to the Griffith Observatory on Wednesday, Sept. 19th. This is going to be a fun packed day where our members will be catered, chauffeured, and treated to one of the most famous observatories in the world. The day will be topped off by a rare, guided tour arranged exclusively for AU members. ***Please keep in mind that our bus***

driver will be on a strict time schedule. The bus will leave the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History parking lot at 12 noon "sharp." You can park your car in the lot, but make sure you give yourself plenty of time to arrive, get checked in, and find your favorite seat. The tour will take place at 6:00 PM, so you'll have plenty of time to explore the grounds yourself, have a nice meal at the "Edge of the Universe Cafe", do a little bit of shopping at the gift shop, or maybe even take in a planetarium show. The bus will start its return trip at 8:00 PM and arrive in Santa Barbara by 10:00 PM.

SBAU Campout, Fri-Sun, Sept 14-16, 2012 – great food & great fun!

If you're not going to make it to the Griffith Observatory, fear not. The annual SBAU Campout at Mohawk Shores in the beautiful Cachuma Lake campgrounds will take place on the weekend of September 14th, 15th, and 16th. It's very important that you sign up ahead of time, as the AU will be providing delicious Bar-B-Q of Tri-Tip and chicken, along with beans and all the fixin's for dinner on the 15th. All you need to do is bring a favorite dish of yours to share with 3-4 other people. We'll even have free parking passes ready at the main gate. The sign up list will be passed around during the September General Meeting. Dinner on the 15th will start at 6 PM.



Samson sez: "Wanna take a peek through my telescope?" Photo: R. Gutierrez

September General Meeting, Friday, Sept. 7, 2012

Did I say the September General Meeting? Wow, where did the summer go? After a couple of months off it sure will be nice to see the AU members back all together again. Our first meeting of the Fall Season will take place on Friday, September 7th, at 7:00 PM at SBMNH, starting with a free planetarium show.

Contact Ruben before the General Meeting with any agenda items

Should you have an agenda item you wish to add, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'll make sure to bring it up at the general meeting.

2013 Calendars Are Here!

For only \$10, the beautiful 2013 Astronomy Calendars will be available at the September General Meeting. Save at least \$3 off store prices. See SBAU Treasurer Pat McPartlin to buy one of these great calendars while they last!



*The crowd gathers at this past August's Astro-Vaganza.
Photo: R. Gutierrez.*

Thank you, New and Renewing Members!

Finally, I wish to give a "Samson the T-Rex" roaring welcome aboard to new members Onder, Gunes, and Erendiz Tarakci and an equally ear-captivating thank you to renewing members Rod Fritz and Duncan Payne.

Through the membership efforts, the SBAU not only has achieved the top astronomy club international ranking, but now has the top International Outreach Astronomer in the world. Imagine That!!!

SPECIAL THANKS

The SBAU wishes to thank Ethan Saxton, the Kary Family, and Ros Perry for their donations in memory of club member June Kelley, who passed away earlier this summer.

ARTS CORNER...



Tim Crawford captured this image of Venus and the Moon just before occultation.



Andy Allen offered this misty view of the Sun over Morro Bay.

My Star

Robert Browning

All that I know
Of a certain star
Is, it can throw
(like an angled spar)
Now a dart of red,
Now a dart of blue;
Till my friends have said
They would fain see, too,
My star that dartles the red and the blue!
Then it stops like a bird; like a flower, hangs furl'd:
They must solace themselves with Saturn above it,
What matter to me if their star is a world?
Mine has opened its soul to me; therefore I love it.

An Epistemology of Planets

Annie Dillard

Mercury

A brook runs on all night;
a book, shut,
still tells itself a story.
So you, out of thought,
you, forgotten Mercury,
still spin and spend the circles of your fury.

Venus

Evenings, after I've eaten
dessert, you rise, you wear
your barest, shining skin.
Later, mornings, you up
and do it again.
Do you think I've forgotten so soon?

Earth

Planets, alone, and grieving,
look who you're running with :
look at our baby-blue planet the earth
and all of the people, waving.

Mars

Mars keeps its dignity,
its networks of cool.
Certain photographs reveal
an air of longing, still.

Jupiter

Swings, spattered
by shadows of Jovial moons :
Io, Europa, Callisto,
the giant, Ganymede.
Companionable, each
nonetheless keeps
the perfected arc of his distance.

Saturn

It is to you I come in my dream,
you, dancing alone in the dark, light heart,
asleep inside your spinning hat!

Uranus

Uranus, cold face,
old rock and ice,
remembers a song
and sings it once
round the dark, twice.

Neptune

Banished, Neptune,
luminous, green,
sleeps, and dreams of the sun.
Awake, he holds her round
as tight as he can.

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AU annual membership rates:





Single = \$15 Family = \$25

AU mailing address:

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

September 2012 ACTIVITIES and OUTREACH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 CACHUMA LAKE 7 PM
2 BACARA 6:30 PM	3	4	5 UCSB 6:15 PM	6	7 AU MONTHLY MEETING 7 PM	8  PLANNING MEETING 6PM STAR PARTY 7:30 PM SBMNH
9	10	11	12	13	14 AU CAMPOUT CACHUMA LAKE	15  CAMPOUT -POTLUCK! CACHUMA LAKE
16 AU CAMPOUT CACHUMA LAKE	17	18	19 GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY NOON	20	21 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7 PM	22  PATS THEN, HELP AT BACARA 6:30 PM
23 PATS	24	25 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	26	27	28 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 6:30 PM	29  CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 7 PM
30						

The Astronomical Unit

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