



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

June 2008

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Outreach Summary

We had a busy month for outreach, especially with Astronomy Day, which had record attendance. A **BIG THANK YOU** to AU volunteers Andy Allen, Jim Billig, John Boyd, Bob Brown, Joe Brown, Timma Buck, Chad Caprio, Bill Clausen, Steve Collett (from the Kern Astronomical Society in Bakersfield), Krissie Cook (and her Quasars), Jason & Tim Crawford, Mike Farris, John Gomm, Ruben Gutierrez, Laurence Harms, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Mike Jogoleff, Janie & Marv Johnson, Chris Larson, Dale Lowdermilk, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, David Mullins (from LCOGT) & Joy, Susan Musgrove, Max Neufeldt, Ron Nixon, Edgar Ocampo, Erin O'Connor (and SBCC helpers), Barb O'Grady, Helen Osenga, Kathy & Ken Pfeiffer, Jiri Polivka, Javier Rivera, Nancy Rohrer, David Salvia, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Jerry Wilson, Tim Wittenburg, and Paul Winn showed astronomical goodies to 1108 customers.

Outreach for June

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for June. 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

The Bacara Resort wants us to come with telescopes every Sunday evening from 8:30 to 10:30 PM (setup at 8). Contact Chuck for details if you're thinking of participating. The first event will be June 1.

Thursday, June 5, 5 - 7 PM

Family Science night at Harding Elementary School.

Friday, June 6, 6 PM

*Annual AU potluck picnic in the Broder Building of the Museum (as usual). Note that we're **NOT** moved to the front courtyard, as we thought!!*

Saturday, June 7, 8 PM

Telescopes for Los Padres National Forest Family Camp, at Paradise Campground along Paradise Road.

Tuesday, June 10, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for the Camino Real Marketplace (Big Box) in Goleta. Set up in the courtyard between the theater and Borders.

Wednesday, June 11, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for a group from Peabody School in the El Capitan Canyon Resort, at the Safari Village function area on the hill to the northeast.

Friday, June 13, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Campground, in the day use parking lot, southwest corner.

Saturday, June 14, 8:30 PM

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

Friday, June 20, setup 8 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, just outside Carroll Observatory. The Summer Solstice is at 5 PM PDT.

Saturday, June 21, setup 8 PM

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

Sunday/Monday, June 22/23, 2348-0057 PDT

The Moon occults Neptune from our vantage point.

Friday, June 27, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Campground, in the day use parking lot, southwest corner.

Upcoming Events

- Potluck - Friday, June 6th - The Broder Building (across the creek, as usual) at the Museum- starting at 6pm.
- Star-B-Que - Saturday, July 26th - Gun Club, West Camino Cielo- 6pm till? Bring a dish, a place setting and a scope or just come up and enjoy.
- AU Campout- To be announced
- Holiday Dinner - Thursday evening, December 11th - Beachside Cafe, Goleta Beach - 6pm gather and no host cocktails - dinner around 6:30-7pm.

From the Riverside Snowmakers Convention...



Pat McPartlin readies herself for some upcoming nighttime observations at RTMC 2008...

My experience so far...

William (Chad) Caprio

As some of you may know, I moved here to California to attend law school in August 2006. For some months, I was pondering buying a mount for my 8-inch Schmidt Cassegrain tube assembly. I was about to buy it one night and then I did a Google search for astronomy clubs in Santa Barbara. This search led me to the Astronomical

Unit's website. In February or March of 2007, I cannot remember which I joined the club. Let us say that it would be a wonderful ride from then until now.

After my first observing session with other club members, which was the Messier marathon, I was pleased that I had joined the club. Outreaches are another thing I was interested in and after many of those, I had come to realize that showing others the night sky is one of my favorite things to do in this world. However, my involvement was not what I wanted it to be. For years, I had wanted a larger telescope and in June of 2007, I bought a 12.5-inch mirror blank and joined the mirror making class our club offers on Wednesday nights at the museum in the Broder building. Club members Tom Whittemore and Tim Crawford lead the class. I have learned so much from them, and they, in my opinion, are two of the nicest people in Santa Barbara. Still I yearned for more.

Our club has planning meetings each month where we invite any and all members to participate in the planning of our club's events and the direction that the club is going. These meetings are what caused me to consider running for the office of Vice-President. Helping to plan the events is by far one of the best parts of the club because it gives one the feeling of control over the fun that members and the public will have. To me that control is one of the things that makes me happy because I like to make others happy. Yes, as noted above, I ran for and became Vice-President of the club. My duties are simple. I enlist people to speak at our monthly meetings which only occur nine months of the year. So far, I have had tons of success thanks to the speakers and to Chuck McPartlin (who has helped me more than I can ever thank him for).

As you can see, my experience so far has been wonderful and I encourage all members to involve themselves more if they can. My involvement has been rewarding in many ways. Some of which include, meeting new people, seeing excitement in people when they look upon God's creation and the satisfaction of knowing that what I helped to plan was a success. Thus, if my experience over the next year is as great as the previous year, I will consider myself a very blessed man.

From National Astronomy Day at the SBMNH...

photos courtesy of Ken and Kathy Pfeiffer



Javier Rivera entertains and fascinates...



Tim Crawford instructs and mesmerizes...



Chuck McPartlin shares and teaches...

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June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 ●	4	5 Harding Elementary 5-7PM	6 AU Potluck 6PM	7 Los Padres Nat'l Forest Family Camp 8PM
8	9	10 ☾ Telescopes at the Big Box 8PM	11 El Capitan Canyon Resort 8PM	12	13 Refugio Beach SP 8PM	14 Monthly Star Party SBMNH 8:30PM
15	16	17	18 ○	19	20 Westmont College 8PM	21 Cachuma Lake 8PM
22 Moon vs. Neptune!	23 Moon vs. Neptune!	24	25	26 ☾	27 Refugio Beach SP 8PM	28
29	30					

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