



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

May 2008

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Outreach Summary

Since the last newsletter, AU volunteers Andy Allen, Warren Bitters, Chad Caprio, Bill Clausen, Krissie Cook, Jason & Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Helen Osenga, Javier Rivera, Nancy Rohrer, Matthew Rowley, David Salvia, Tom Whittemore, Jerry Wilson, and Tim Wittenburg showed neat stuff in the sky to 523 customers.

May Events

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for May. Astronomy Day is our big event of the year, so come out and help if you can. To get the latest information on schedules, or directions, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net

Thursday, May 1, 8 PM

Telescopes at Westmont for a group of Cate School students who want to view Messier galaxies.

Friday, May 2, 7 PM

Monthly meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Start with a quick planetarium show by Krissie, then hear a talk by Dr. Stuart Taylor about extrasolar planets.

Saturday, May 3, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio Beach State Park. We set up in the day-use parking lot, at the west end.

Saturday, May 10, setup 9 AM

It's Astronomy Day, all day. We'll set up with solar scopes and various astronomical displays during the day, have a scope clinic by Palmer Observatory 7 to 8:30 PM, and then a Star Party from 8:30 to 10.

Friday, May 16, 8 PM

Telescopes for the monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, at Carroll Observatory, next to the Van Kampen dormitory.

Saturday, May 17, setup 7:30 PM

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

Monday, May 19, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for a group from Carpinteria Family School, camping out at El Capitan State Beach, in the Portola group site.

Thursday, May 22, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for the galaxy lecture at SBMNH, outside the Museum's front entrance (see following story on page 2). Many of us will be at RTMC in Big Bear, so if you can make this event, please call Krissie at 682-4711, x173 or email kcook@SBNATURE2.ORG

Friday, May 23 - Monday, May 26

Annual RTMC Astronomy Expo at Big Bear Lake. Hang out with 2000 or so of your favorite amateur astronomers at 7000 feet.

Wednesday, May 28, setup 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Adams School, off Las Positas by Earl Warren Showgrounds.

Thursday, May 29, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for a group from Open Alternative School, at Sage Hill campground across the river from the ranger headquarters on Paradise Road.

Saturday, May 31, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio Beach State Park. We set up in the day-use parking lot, at the west end.

Upcoming Events

- Astronomy Day - Saturday, May 10th at the Museum - 10am to 10pm - (we will break from 5-7pm) also, lunch will be provided.
- Potluck - Friday, June 6th - The courtyard (by the gift shop) 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
- Christmas Dinner - Thursday evening, December 11th - Beachside Cafe, Goleta Beach - 6pm gather and no host cocktails - dinner around 6:30-7pm.

Dr. Andrea Ghez to speak on May 22

Dr. Andrea Ghez will speak on “Unveiling a Supermassive Black Hole at the Center of Our Galaxy” at 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 22, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Her lecture is sponsored by the Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope Network. Tickets for this event cost \$8 for students and museum members; for non-members the cost is \$10. Pre-sale tickets will be available at the museum’s admissions office beginning May 15. For more information, call 805-682-4711, ext. 173 or send an e-mail to Astro@sbnature2.org.

Astronomy Day!

Spring has sprung. This means it’s time for Astronomy Day. Fellow club members who attend this event show the public things of interest at the museum and at the AU's demonstration tables. Two tables will be used to hold offerings of donated items which the club will not be using for its own ends. I have accepted the task of selling these items to club members and to the public who may be interested to take these things away. These sales provide the club with funds which are used to purchase things such as the recently acquired camera and monitor, and many other items. Remember, without funds, we do not get to enjoy items like these. I am not asking for your money. On the contrary, I am asking you for your old and no longer valuable astronomy equipment. These may be telescopes, tripods, lenses, mirrors - anything which can be of use to an astronomer - the sort of stuff you have been tripping over in your garage or work room. You know, the things you just don't need anymore. Please call me and let me know what you can donate. I'll take care of the rest.

Thanks,
Arthur Harris, AU Equipment Manager, (805) 968-4017

For Sale

3 Tele Vue Eyepieces: 35 mm Panoptic w original box, great shape, \$300; 7 mm classic Nagler, perfect shape, \$150; 4.8 mm classic Nagler, perfect shape, with original box \$125. Contact: 683-6178 or jdoyle@mrl.ucsb.edu.



I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journeywork of the stars...

-Walt Whitman (from “Song of Myself,” 1855)

*Coma was once a tuft on the
Lion’s tail; flattering priests then
pretended it was Queen
Berenice’s hair.*

*Coma is a cluster of stars, and far
beyond it a cluster of galaxies.
The richest area in the sky for
galaxies extends from Ursa
Major down through Coma into
Virgo.*

*Virgo: a somewhat shapeless Maiden.
Spica is an “ear of wheat” she is
holding in her left hand.*

*Hydra continues, under the little
constellations of the Sextant, the
Cup (Crater), and the Crow
(Corvus).*

-Astronomical Calendar 2008, Guy Ottewell

After dinner on their first evening in the Beach Hotel with the old professor talking about cosmology, and his daughter chatting about art, Mr. Tompkins finally got to his room, collapsed on to the bed, and pulled the blanket over his head. Botticelli and Bondi, Salvador Dali and Fred Hoyle, Lemaitre and La Fontaine got all mixed up in his tired brain, and finally he fell into a deep sleep.

- George Gamov, Mr. Tompkins in Paperback

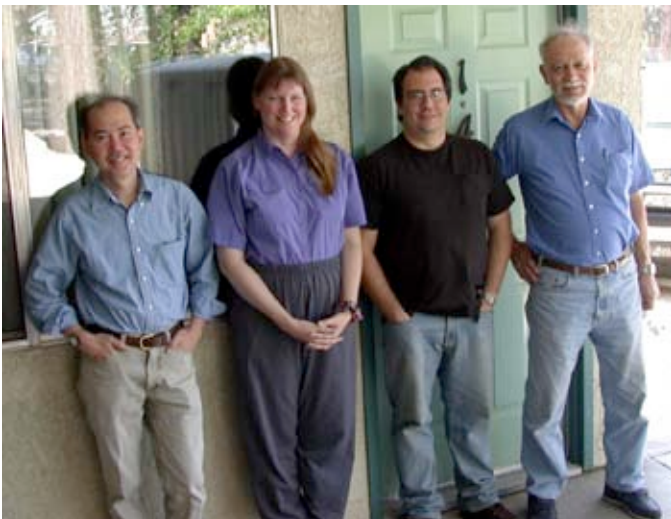
I was a hidden treasure and desired to be known: therefore I created the creation in order to be known.

- Sufi creation myth

*How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon the bank!
Here we will sit, and let the sounds of music
Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night
Become the touches of sweet harmony.*

*Sit, Jessica: look how the floors of heaven
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold;
There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st
But in his motion like an angel sings,
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubins.
Such harmony is in immortal souls;
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.*

- William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice



Edgar, Pat, Tim and Art before the 2005 RTMC

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

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May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Westmont Cate Students	2 AU Meeting 7PM	3 Refugio State Beach 7:30PM
4	5 ●	6	7	8	9	10 Astronomy Day! All Day at the SBMNH
11	12 ◐	13	14	15	16 Westmont College 8PM	17 Los Padres Nat'l Forest Family Camp 7:30PM
18	19 El Capitan State Beach 8PM	20 ○	21	22 SBMNH Lecture 7:30PM	23 RTMC	24 RTMC
25 RTMC	26 RTMC	27	28 Adams School 5:30PM	29 Sage Hill Outreach 8PM	30	31 Refugio Beach State Park 8PM

The Astronomical Unit

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