



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

October 2019

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Club members relax and display the SBAU's new banner at the RTMC Astronomy Expo. Photo credit: Edgar Ocampo.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Our October speaker will be UCLA Ph.D. candidate Briley Lewis. Briley's talk is titled "Finding Life in the Universe (in Our Lifetimes)." Her research interests are understanding planets both inside and out of our solar system, and developing techniques to image fainter exoplanets.

OUTREACH REPORT

End of summer AU outreach volunteers Brandy Ackerman, Farshad Barman, Winslow Barnwood, Tim Crawford, John Edkins, Tessa Flanagan & Duff Kennedy, Art Harris, Baron Ron Herron, Jürgen Hilmer, Sean Kelly, Chris Larson, Alyssa Lindsey, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Bonnie & Bruce Murdock, Edgar Ocampo, Erin O'Connor, Ray Ogella, Peggy O'Rork, Diane & Russell Ruiz, David Salvia, Srikanth Saripalli, Cez & Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, Patricia Forgey & Jerry Wilson, and Andre Yew showed cool astro stuff to 1342 visitors.

OCTOBER OUTREACH EVENTS

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for October. 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 Telescope Workshop meets most Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM at the Broder Building at SBMNH. Contact Tim Crawford at tcrawf3@cox.net for information. Listen to the AU on the radio at KZSB 1290 AM at 9 AM on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Here are the events scheduled so far for the month.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Hear a talk on hunting for life on exoplanets by Dr. Briley Lewis of UCLA.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for the Ritz-Carlton Bacara. We set up on the bluff lawn next to the Angel Oak restaurant. International Observe the Moon Night.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, SETUP 7 PM

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Kellogg School, 475 Cambridge Drive in Goleta. Pizza for volunteers at 5.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for the Ritz-Carlton Bacara. We will set up on the Ocean Lawn next to the Bistro restaurant. Carts will be available to transport equipment from the parking lot.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5 PM

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 7 PM

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, SETUP 6:30 PM

The monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont Observatory, next to the baseball field.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, SETUP 5:30 PM

Telescopes for an Astronomy Night at Peabody Charter School, at 3018 Calle Noguera in Santa Barbara. We set up on their blacktop, with entry at the SW corner of the campus.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for the Ritz-Carlton Bacara. We set up on the bluff lawn next to the Angel Oak restaurant.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Halloween! Show the sky to trick-or-treaters wherever you are. Astronomical eye candy won't hurt your teeth!

NOMINATIONS AND 2020 ELECTIONS

V.P. Ron Herron is putting the word out that club elections will be held during our 1st Friday, December 6th, general meeting. Anyone wishing to run for an office on the SBAU Board or who wishes to nominate a fellow member for such offices as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, or volunteer for an appointed position such as Refreshment Coordinator, come prepared to be heard. The duties and responsibilities of each of the elected and appointed positions may be found on the SBAU web page. The election involves a simple show of hands among members attending the general meeting. If no new candidates are forthcoming, then a voluntary show of hands will quickly determine whether or not we keep the existing board for another year. The job of Refreshment Coordinator is open, since Tom and Cezanne Totton are stepping down from the post. It involves conscripting members to provide goodies for the general meetings and coordinating food or restaurant bookings for SBAU's yearly dining events: the June potluck, September campout meal, and December holiday party.

MEMBERS' NIGHT

The December general meeting is traditionally Members' Night. We need at least three of our

members to deliver an approximately 20-minute presentation on Astronomy. Contact SBAU Vice President Ron Herron.



Tim Crawford shows off his unique design for his 8" telescope at a Tuesday Mirror Maker's workshop. Photo credit: Tom Totton.

"TRANSIT ASTRONOMY"

Tom Whittemore

When cleaning out a closet the other day I discovered a telescope that I had entirely forgotten: an 8" f/3.6 which I made during a time when I was busy crafting and building short-focus, sky-survey-type scopes. There it lay, covered by an old pillowcase in a crowded closet. I never built a mount for it. It was originally placed on a German Equatorial that I had sold long ago. How could I now use it? How might I resurrect this beautiful little "star cannon?"

I thought about reviving the scope with a Dobsonian mount, but I am trying to reduce the number of telescopes I currently have. What about pointing it to the top of the sky on a fixed platform? In this way I could watch the heavens slowly pass through the scope's large field-of-view as I sit. And, since the late-night summer skies feature a concentration of stars in Cygnus and other zenith-passing constellations, I could just sit and scoop up a ton of twinklers as time passed.

There is a change in some philosophy here, too. We routinely target objects as we enjoy the night sky: the night sky is - in a way - at our mercy. What about turning this perspective around? What about letting the "top of the sky" dictate what you witness? There could be surprises! As open clusters pass through - if you are curious - you will have to

look up their names and learn the sky from an entirely different perspective. What do you say? How about pointing your telescope toward the top of the sky?



Author's "Transit Astronomy" setup. Photo credit: Tom Whittemore.



"That's right. The center of our galaxy is located just above the movie theater." Photo credit: Tom Totton.

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Single = \$20 Family = \$25

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The Astronomical Unit

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October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 GENERAL MEETING 7PM	5 RITZ-CARLTON BACARA 6PM
6	7	8 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	9	10 KELLOGG SCHOOL 5PM	11 RITZ-CARLTON BACARA 6PM	12 PLANNING MEETING 5PM SBMNH STAR PARTY 7PM
13	14 TECH TALK KZSB (AM 1290) 9-10 AM	15	16	17	18 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30PM	19
20	21	22	23	24 PEABODY CHARTER SCHOOL 5:30PM	25 RITZ-CARLTON BACARA 6PM	26
27	28 TECH TALK KZSB (AM 1290) 9-10 AM	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN!		