



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

October 2012

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



*Chuck McPartlin enjoys a quiet moment with other members at the AU's annual Cachuma Lake campout. Photo: Mike Farris.*

### OUR OCTOBER MEETING

***Please note the date change! We will meet on THURSDAY, October 4<sup>th</sup>!*** Our speaker this evening will be Jordan Evans, who is the Engineering Development and Operations Manager for the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) "Curiosity" rover project at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Since 2006, in both his current role and prior role as the Deputy Flight System Manager, Mr. Evans has led the MSL team through the challenges of Curiosity's design, development, testing, and operations on the surface of Mars. He will tell us about the Curiosity rover project. This should be a very exciting talk!

### 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 Edkins, 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.

### AU OUTREACH

Here are the outreach events scheduled so far for October. Events are subject to change and cancellation, so contact Chuck at [macpuzl@west.net](mailto:macpuzl@west.net) or 964-8201 for the latest information.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 7 PM

Note change in meeting date for our Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Hear a talk by Jordan Evans of the NASA/JPL Curiosity rover team, direct from Mars to you!

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 10 AM TO 10 PM

Telescopes on Linden Lawn in Carpinteria for the Avocado Festival. Parking for AU volunteers in the State Beach lot.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 7 PM

Peak of the Draconid meteor shower.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for students at UCSB, at the SW end of the lagoon, which has access restrictions, so contact Chuck for details and parking arrangements.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 7 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, October 13, 5 PM

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

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7 PM**

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

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, SETUP 5 PM**

Telescopes for Science Night at Mountain View School, 5465 Queen Ann Lane, from 6 PM to 8 PM. Food for AU volunteers from 5 to 6 PM.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, SETUP 6:30 PM**

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

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, SETUP 7 PM**

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach, just to the right before the main entrance, across from the ranger station. Orionid meteor shower peaks at 9 PM.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 7 PM**

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, SETUP 5 PM**

Telescopes for Science Night at Kellogg School, 475 Cambridge Drive in Goleta, 6 to 8 PM. Food for AU volunteers from 5 to 6 PM.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, SETUP 5 PM**

Night Under the Stars (NUTS) at Santa Ynez Elementary School, at the corner of Pine Street and Calzada Avenue in Santa Ynez. Food for AU volunteers from 5 to 6 PM.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, SETUP 6:30 PM**

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on their Miró Lawn. Contact Chuck for access if you haven't come before.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31**

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

From the President's Pen...

*Ruben Gutierrez*

***Month of September – All Sorts of Fun Activities***

The Fall Season started off with (thanks to Michael Farris) a great speaker at our September general meeting who talked about “Things that go bump in

the night,” which ended with one of the fanciest after-meeting snacks (more like dinner thanks to Martin and Janet Meza) I've had the pleasure of tasting. This was followed by the SBAU's annual campout, and then, topped off by a simply great field trip to the world-famous Griffith Observatory! A special thanks to Javier Rivera and Tim Crawford for arranging the delicious Bar-B-Q Tri-tip and Chicken dinner for the campout, and to Chuck McPartlin for working so hard year around at Cachuma Lake star parties, which earns the AU a free weekend at a choice lakeside camping area. Another thank you to Javier Rivera for arranging the exclusive SBAU viewing at the Griffith Observatory, and to Pat McPartlin for making sure all the bus reservations and payments were made. It's so great that we all work together and have earned our Club the special world status that it has. Great job, everybody!!!

***Date Change for October Meeting: Thursday, October 4, 2012***

The October General Meeting has been changed to Thursday, October 4th due to a special event taking place at the museum on the first Friday. We will meet at the same time and place as always, 7pm at Farrand Hall; however, we won't have a planetarium show due to SBCC's having a class that night. I hope you don't miss the October meeting, because our guest speaker will be a JPL scientist who is actually working with Curiosity, the current Mars Rover. See you there.

***Avocado Festival – bring your interest in astronomy on Saturday, October 6, 2012***

The Carpinteria Avocado Festival Star Party will take place on Saturday, October 6th, from 10 AM to 10 PM. This event has always been a fun-filled day, with guests dropping by all day along. The crowds have always been large and very interested in taking a look through our telescopes. The AU comes fully prepared with our bright blue Quick Shades, telescopes (including the unique UC2), free parking for members, and lunch/dinner for the workers. If you can help out that day, please contact Chuck McPartlin.

***SBAU Members Night sign-up***

Looking ahead, keep an eye out for the December Members Night sign up sheet, which is when AU members can make a presentation of some special project or interest they may have, which will include the simply fantastic AU Video Production by Michael Farris (I wonder what he's up to this

year?). The Members Night takes place on Friday, December 7, 2012. Please hold your presentations to 15 minutes or less, so we can end the meeting at 9pm, as usual, and enjoy the after-meeting snacks.

***SBAU Elections: need new President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and Refreshments***

The evening will also include election of SBAU Officers. I'm termed out as the Club President so I would like you to put on your thinking caps and nominate someone to take over the helm. It's a most interesting, exciting, and fun-filled position. Being President of a World Class club like the SBAU very much has its rewards. Please contact Vice President Mike Farris with your nomination.

***SBAU Holiday Dinner, Friday, December 14, 2012***

Also in December is the annual AU Holiday Dinner, which will take place on Friday, December 14th, at the Goleta Beachside Restaurant, starting at 6 PM. The cost to a member is just \$30, as the AU pays a portion of the meal price.

Please bring cash or a check (made out to SBMNH/SBAU), and give to AU Treasurer Pat McPartlin to have your name on the RSVP list. Look for flyers with more information available at the meetings. ***Remember, the first 40 folks have a place there. Please give your money to Pat no later than the December meeting, Friday, 12/7/12.***

***Thank you to New and Renewing Members***

I would like to conclude by giving a thunderous welcome to new members Angela Bates, David Brehl, and the Pappas Family - Sydney, Alex, Hawkins, Leilani, and Corbeau, and renewing members Zanna Lucy, Gary Peterson, Ken Pierskalla, Van Webster, and the Galvan Family - Joan and Tony. It's truly a pleasure to work with, and be a part of a club that's filled with so many interesting and community-minded people, and also enjoys the wonderful sponsorship of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

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**AU annual membership rates:**

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

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## October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 AU MONTHLY MEETING 7 PM	5	6 AVOCADO FESTIVAL 10AM-10PM
7 DRACONID METEOR SHOWER PEAK! 7PM	8 	9 UCSB 6PM	10	11	12 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 7PM	13 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
14	15 	16 MOUNTAIN VIEW SCHOOL 5PM	17	18	19 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30 PM	20 CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 7PM
21 	22	23 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	24	25 KELLOGG SCHOOL 5PM	26 SANTA YNEZ SCHOOL 5PM	27 BACARA RESORT 6:30PM
28	29 	30	31 HALLOWEEN! DO YOUR OWN STARPARTY!			

### The Astronomical Unit

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