



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

March 2018

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



"That's right. That's what the moon looks like at 10,000x."

THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING

At press time our speaker and topic for the March General Meeting are still in the works.

OUTREACH REPORT

AU volunteers Farshad Barman, Mike Chibnik, Tim Crawford, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Ken Kihlstrom, Chris Larson, Adrian Lopez, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Bruce Murdock, Max Neufeldt, Peggy O'Rork, Javier Rivera, Tom Totton, Dick Tracey, Tom Whittemore, and Jerry Wilson showed the sky to 1031 viewers.

MARCH OUTREACH

Here are the AU events scheduled for March. To get the latest information on schedules, or directions, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net. Remember, events are subject to cancellations and changes.

The Telescope Workshop meets on 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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, SETUP 4:30 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at El Camino School, 5020 San Simeon Drive in Goleta.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for UCSB students on the lawn next to the Anacapa Residence Hall along Lagoon road. Let Chuck know if you're coming so we can arrange parking permits.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for an Astronomy Night at La Colina Junior High School, 4025 Foothill Road. We set up to the east of the buildings.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, SETUP 4:30 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Monroe School, 431 Flora Vista Drive, on the Mesa.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 4 PM

AU planning meeting in the classroom outside Javier's office at SBMNH. All members are welcome to help plan your club's activities.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 6 PM

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2AM

Set your clocks ahead one hour to PDT.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for NUTS (Night Under The Stars) at Santa Ynez Elementary School, 3525 Pine Street. This is the school on the west side of the parcel, adjoining Calzada Avenue. We set up in their central courtyard.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 7 PM

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, ALL NIGHT

Messier Marathon at the Winchester Canyon Gun Club Shotgun Range. Do not arrive to set up before 8 PM, as the range is in use.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 9:15 AM PDT

Vernal Equinox - It's Spring!

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 7 PM

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Fifth Graders at Hope School, 3970 La Colina Road.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, SETUP 7 PM

Star party at Westmont Observatory for the Santa Barbara Power Squadron.

IN MEMORIAM: JAMES DOORDAN

James Brian Doordan, 1954-2018

James Brian Doordan died on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, Calif. By the time he was 10 years old, he had discovered the night sky. It would be a source of wonder and reward throughout his life beginning with his first childhood identification of a constellation (Orion). He was especially fond of camping and enjoyed traveling with his friends. In his early 30s, Jim was both paralyzed and blinded by multiple sclerosis. However, his fascination with the stars continued. He was a member of the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit and was a faithful student in star-gazing classes at Santa Barbara Community College where he was well known. From his wheelchair in the back of the Natural History Museum's planetarium, he would listen and remember.

Jim also was a regular at the Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital, the local Multiple Sclerosis Society Open Gym, as well as meetings of The Triumph Foundation and the local MS Support Group. Jim belonged to the parish of San Roque Catholic Church in Santa Barbara. His enduring good nature and the grace and fortitude he displayed left a lasting impression on everyone he met. Jim was born Sept. 5, 1954, in Delaware to John Edward and Nancy Hammond Doordan. He attended grade

school in South Bend, Ind., and Daytona Beach, Fla.

Jim graduated in 1972 from De La Salle High School in Concord, Calif., and went on to the University of California at Berkeley on a National Merit Scholarship. His illness ended a promising professional career in credit management and human resources. He leaves a grieving family including his older brothers John M. Doordan, of Santa Barbara, and Dennis P. Doordan, of South Bend, Ind.; and his sister Kate Doordan Klavan, who took loving care of Jim for a decade. He also leaves sisters-in-law Tracie Doordan and Marcia Rickard, nephew Ryan Doordan, niece Kelly Doordan (Luke Jones), great-nephews Xayden and Kiran Jones. He also leaves many friends, among them Miguel Toscano who gave Jim years of caring friendship and Dr. Perie Longo. A memorial service is pending.

(taken from Daily Noozhawk, by John Doordan)



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Jerry Wilson

In recent years, NASA has set its focus on returning to the Moon, capturing an asteroid in a bag, going to Mars, and now on an asteroid made primarily of iron and other "precious" metals, to quote CBS news. The asteroid is 16 Psyche. It is presumed to be the core of a small (dwarf?) planet that had gotten far enough along in its formation process to differentiate and form a metallic core. Then a collision knocked the crust off.

16 Psyche is both a scientific target and now a potential commercial target because of the raw materials it offers. These raw materials would not be mined and returned to Earth. Coming from an asteroid as they do, they solve the problem of getting construction materials off Earth and into space. They're already in space. The commercial value of this is not lost on several startup companies. The value of 16 Psyche is estimated at ten thousand quadrillion dollars. That's a one followed by 19 zeros.

The material could be mined using solar energy and delivered to other solar system destinations, and the cavities left behind could be sealed over to form airtight living spaces; or even a city. Sort of like the Opal mining town of Coober Pedy in Australia, except with air locks. There's a lot of potential here. It may be easier to colonize 16 Psyche than Mars. The iron is a natural radiation shield and water could be harvested from other asteroids and used to support life. It just needs some form of air traffic control to warn of potential collisions with other asteroids. It is fairly crowded out there.



“Wow. Now I know what Jonah felt like!”

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The Astronomical Unit

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March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 EL CAMINO SCHOOL 4:30PM	2 GENERAL MEETING 7 PM	3 ANACAPA RESIDENCE UCSB 7PM
4	5	6 LA COLINA JUNIOR HIGH 6PM	7 MONROE SCHOOL 4:30PM	8	9	10 PLANNING MEETING 4 PM STAR PARTY 6 PM SBMNH
11 SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR	12 TECH TALK KZSB (AM 1290) 9-10 AM	13 SANTA YNEZ ELEMENTARY 5 PM	14	15	16 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM (3 RD FRIDAY)	17 MESSIER MARATHON ALL NIGHT
18	19	20 VERNAL EQUINOX 9:15AM CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7 PM	21	22 HOPE SCHOOL 5 TH GRADE 7PM	23 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM (SB POWER SQUADRON)	24
25	26 TECH TALK KZSB (AM 1290) 9-10 AM	27	28			