



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

November 2017

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



“This is the last time I invite Saint Francis to one of our mirror-making workshops!” Photo credit: Tom Totton.

THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Our speaker for the November meeting will be Chris Vynhal, the science department chair of The Thacher School in Ojai. He will be discussing the newly renovated campus observatory, as well as the school's emerging astronomy program and research that has made recent news headlines.

OUTREACH REPORT

Since the last newsletter, AU outreachies Peter Angeloff, Dave Brehl, Mike Chibnik, Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, Art Harris, Baron Ron Herron, Jürgen Hilmer, Sean Kelly, Ken Kihlstrom, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Bruce Murdock, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Peggy O'Rork, Javier Rivera, Dianne & Russell Ruiz, David Salvia, Tom Totton, Susan & John West, Tom Whittemore, Patricia & Jerry Wilson, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenberg showed the night sky to 828 astronomy tourists.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for November. Remember, 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 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, NOVEMBER 2, SETUP 5:30 PM

Telescopes for a Science Night at Foothill School, 711 Ribera Drive in Goleta. We set up on their blacktop, with entry at the NW corner of the campus.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Hear about the new scope at Thatcher.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, SETUP 7 PM

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 4 PM

AU Planning Meeting in the classroom outside Javier's office at SBMNH. Come help plan your club's activities.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 6 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH. Bring a scope and have fun showing goodies in the sky outside Palmer Observatory, or just show up and enjoy looking at them.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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.

From the President...

Jerry Wilson

CalStar is a four-night campout star party dedicated to observation and imaging. Sponsored by the San Jose Astronomical Association, it has traditionally been held at Lake San Antonio, about 40 minutes west of Paso Robles. But with the lake empty over the last three years, the event has moved to the soccer field of the Whisper Canyon Campgrounds, another 20 minutes west. Now that Lake San Antonio is refilling, the campgrounds are reopening and CalStar is likely to move back to its larger traditional site.

The event runs from Wednesday night through Saturday night and is scheduled for near the new moon in late September or early October. To accommodate imagers, it is an enforced dark site, in that the only light that can be used after dark must be red and dim. Absolutely no green lasers. The skies are usually clear, steady, and dark. The Milky Way is dramatic, in fact, breath-taking.

At either site the days are generally warmish to down right hot, and the countryside abounds with wild turkeys, quail, deer, and an assortment of interesting birds including camp robbers. So don't leave food out.

One year the daytime temperature was well over 100. Gary (Peterson) and I set up our tent and telescopes when we arrived around noon. I think it's the closest I ever came to heat stroke. We had some lemonade and electrolytes (salted nuts) to relax, but it was too hot. We drove back to Paso Robles and hung out in the down town, refrigerated movie theatre. We saw "Lawless," starring Gary Oldman. A little violent for my taste - but cool. After dinner in town we got back to camp around 6:30, with the car thermometer showing 105 degrees. We called it quits about 2:30 AM, still in t-shirts and shorts. The skies were worth it. I had a view of Uranus in my 12.5 inch f/6 Newtonian that was rock steady.

On the other end of the spectrum, one year the skies were half full of cumulus clouds when we arrived, so it was very pleasant. A bad omen at CalStar. By sundown it was totally overcast and began raining. At 11:00 the rain quit, the skies cleared and everyone was out of their tent and had their equipment operating. By midnight the clouds came

back and the rain started again. I got a good night's sleep that night. In fact, most of that year's event was a washout.

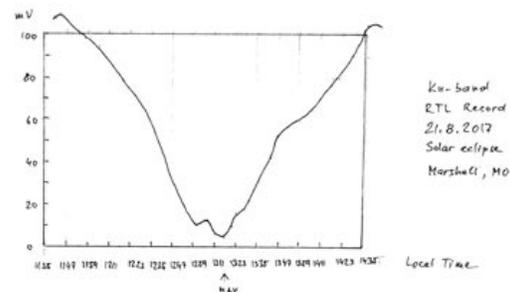
I'm writing this out of nostalgia since 2017 is the first CalStar this century I have missed. I hear it was very good - not too hot, but with very good skies. I'll definitely be back next year.



"You know, Sam. I was your age when I started working on this mirror." Photo credit: Tom Totton.

More Eclipse News

Former AU member Jiri Polivka sends his regards to all from the cloudy state of Missouri. That didn't stop him from observing the total eclipse, however. It just meant he had to use a radio telescope! Here are his results:



Arts Corner...

Night Sky

Nancy Rohrer, 11-6-04

Walking up a hill at night looking down on city lights seeing them reflect way up high in the dark and rounded sky.

Looking up I see many friends
they seem to go without end
there's Orion doing good deeds
Warrior, Hunter, keep us free.

Many more friends there to see
going far into eternity
glad to see Leo, the Twins and Bull
looking up will never be dull.

Enjoyed the walk and friendly chat
time to return and feed the cat
Keep star gazing on the menu
I will be back to continue.

Fleeting Mercury
Nancy Rohrer, 1-17-06

Known to the Romans of old
as messenger of the Gods
for he dashed about so bold
hiding from view except
a few evenings and dawns.

Nearest planet to the Sun
has a year of 88 days
as he travels different ways
He is just a little one
being one third size of Earth.

Galileo found Mercury in 1610
Surveyor flew around in 1968
Mariner 10 landed in 1975
a land of many impact craters
We'll learn more,
Messenger returns in 2011.

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AU AstroNews, the monthly publication of the **Astronomical Unit (AU)**, is mailed to the AU membership. For publishing consideration for the next month, submit astronomical items by the 20th of the current month!

AU annual membership rates:

Single = \$20 Family = \$25

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November 2017

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

The Astronomical Unit

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