



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

October 2017

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



“So, this is the end I look down!” Photo credit: Tom Totton.

THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Our October meeting will feature Erin O'Connor, a professor at the earth and planetary sciences department at Santa Barbara City College. He will talk about some astronomically significant historical sites he explored in Europe during his sabbatical.

OUTREACH REPORT

Between the eclipse and Astrovaganza, avid AU outreach volunteers John Boyd, Mike Chibnik, Zondra Cholmondeley, Adrian Conrad, Krissie Cook, Tim Crawford, Zak Dafaallah, Dora Drake, John Edkins, Kazue & Mike Farris, Tony Galván, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Baron Ron Heron, Rick Hibbs, Jürgen Hilmer, Sean Kelly, Adrian Lopez, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Carol Moore, Bonnie & Bruce Murdock, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Erin O'Connor, Peggy O'Rork, Ros Perry, Celeste & Gustavo Ritterstein, Javier Rivera & Quasars, Dianne & Russell Ruiz, David Salvia, Gary Schneider, Colin Taylor, Tom Totton, Chris Ulivo, Matthew Walton, Bob Whiteman, Maureen O'Rourke & Tom Whitemore, and Patricia & Jerry Wilson showed cool astro stuff to 2915 interested people.

The annual AU campout will take place at the Mohawk Shores group campsite at Cachuma Lake

from Friday, October 20 (afternoon) through Sunday, October 22 (morning). The Saturday dinner will be a catered event at 5 PM, with the AU supplying Chicken, Tri-tip, Beans, Garlic Bread, Beverages, Plates, Cups, Napkins, and Cutlery. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. If you have not signed up for the dinner, please RSVP to Tom Totton (Totton@cox.net), so that the Tottons order enough meat and beans. The number of cars we are permitted to have with the site is limited, so carpool or come early if you can. If we run out of car permits, and you have to pay at the entrance gate, keep your receipt for reimbursement from the AU.

Information on the Cachuma Lake Wildlife Cruises: Be sure to reserve a place if you want to take the cruise on Friday (3 PM to 5 PM), Saturday (10 AM to Noon and 3 PM to 5 PM), or Sunday (10 AM to Noon), and meet at the marina 30 minutes before! Climb aboard the "Osprey" for a 2-hour lake tour with a Santa Barbara County Park Naturalist. The cruise takes a look at area wildlife, wildflowers, and resident birds along the shore. Reservations: (805) 568-2460 weekdays 9 AM to 3 PM, (805) 686 5055 weekends and after 3 PM. \$15/adults; \$10/child 5-12 years old; please no children under 5.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Thanks to everyone who helped out at the Astrovaganza event at SBMNH!

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

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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, SETUP 7 PM

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, SETUP 5 PM

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 5 PM

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 7 PM

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, SETUP 6:30 PM

Telescopes for fifth graders at Hope School, 3970
La Colina Road. We'll set up on their blacktop
playground out back.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, SETUP 6:30 PM, FOR NON- CAMPERS

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 TO SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Annual AU Campout at the Mohawk Shores group
site at Cachuma Lake.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

08/21/17 AU Eclipse Quotes

Pat McPartlin

Some quotes that I collected at the SBMNH
Astrovaganza! on Sat. Sept. 9, 2017, about the
8/21/17 eclipse. (I apologize to anyone whose
quotes I didn't gather.) If you see any of these
folks, pull them aside and listen to their full stories.
Also, find the ones I didn't quote, and listen to their
stories, too! I think all of us agreed: whether at
70% or 100%, we're glad to have seen it.

Santa Barbara downtown (through clouds) -- 70% -- believe
totality is best ☺ --Max Neufeldt

Driggs, Idaho -- 100% -- spectacular, awesome, breath-
taking. --Krisie Cook and Family (2nd total eclipse)

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History -- 70% --
fantastic and thankful at cloud-clearing for the 1200+
visitors. --Tim Crawford

Greenville, South Carolina - 100% -- moving, especially
because of sense of sharing. -- Tom Whittemore (1st total
eclipse)

John Day, Oregon -- 100% -- awesome, suddenness of
darkness. -- Mike Chibnik (2nd total eclipse)

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History -- 70% --
enjoyable and awe-inspiring, while also the understanding of
the orbital mechanics, and still being in awe, watching this
happen. -- Zak Dafaallah

East Camino Cielo, Santa Barbara --70% -- fun to share
knowledge of eclipses and being with so many other people.
-- Tony Galván

Casper, Wyoming -- 100% -- awesome, fantastic, out-of-this-
world: black hole in the sky. -- Edgar Ocampo, Chuck and
Pat McPartlin (1st total eclipse for all three)

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History -- 70% --
gorgeous view and fantastic for clouds to clear for everyone.
-- Javier Rivera

East Camino Cielo, Santa Barbara -- 70% -- brought 2
telescopes, and enjoyed seeing sunspots and sharing eclipse
with over fifty visitors. -- Bruce Murdock

East Camino Cielo, Santa Barbara -- 70% -- it was great,
and enjoyed creativity and ingenuity of visitors, especially
with pin-hole views and eclipsing fingers. -- Tom Totton

Silverton, Oregon -- 100% -- great, fantastic, spectacular,
best thing ever seen. -- John Boyd and Family (2nd total
eclipse)

West Camino Cielo, Santa Barbara -- 70% -- incredible, and
must see next totality. -- Adrian Lopez

In addition, former AU member Jiri Polivka observed totality
through cloudy skies in Missouri – with his radio telescope!

From the President...

Jerry Wilson

Our plans for the great American eclipse were
hatched when my wife, Pat, and I got together with
my old observing buddy, Gary Peterson and his
wife Jane, for a barbecue in their back yard in
Nipomo, three years ago. We decided we all
wanted to see the 2017 total eclipse and it would be
nice to take our families along. That would be a
total of 16 people. We started to look around for
where to go. Pat's from Kansas City, but it was too

far, as was Jackson Hole. We settled on Oregon. Madras looked great weather wise but for rentals there was no there there! Finally Jane located a large rental place called Fern Hill on a forty-acre woodland west of Salem outside of the small town of Monmouth. We rented it for six nights around August 21 with two years to go.

A year later we got a call from the landlord that she wanted to move our reservation forward a week because there was a group of astronomers who wanted to rent it for the eclipse. We informed her that she had already rented it to a group of astronomers for the eclipse.

Well, the big event finally came around and we packed up the van with my outreach NP-127 scope for evenings and my 80mm Lunt hydrogen alpha scope for solar viewing. We also packed two ice chests with lots of food and water. We left at 6AM Wednesday for the Bridge House B&B in Redding. Early the next day we headed to Fern Hill. We arrived about 4 PM.

The mix of people had changed from the original plan. Many had other commitments, and one set of four were really not interested, so we invited friends and more distant relatives to keep the place full. We ended up with 25 people on eclipse day. The weather was beautiful, with occasional forest fire smoke smudging the horizon. At night I showed Saturn and many faint fuzzies including M13, M57, and M8, and outlined and described constellations and the Milky Way. In the day we looked at the sun in the Lunt, viewing one of the largest prominences I'd ever seen.

The eclipse itself was spectacular, and this time I enjoyed it by naked eye. The last one I'd seen in Queensland in 2012, I spent all my time paying attention to my camera and never really saw the event itself. This time was different. So, despite being stung twice by Oregon wasps, it was a very enjoyable event. Immediately when the first diamond ring transitioned into totality, the corona became visible along with several prominences. Way to the west of the sun, Venus was brilliant and impossible to miss. Jupiter was on the other side,

with Mars and Mercury visible nearer the sun. I took a quick hand held image of totality and spotted Regulus just outside the corona on the southeast. Then the diamond ring effect again as totality ended.

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AU annual membership rates:

Single = \$20 Family = \$25

AU mailing address:

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On the Web: <http://www.sbau.org>

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	4	5	6 GENERAL MEETING 7PM	7
8	9 TECH TALK KZSB (AM 1290) 9-10AM	10	11	12 KELOGG SCHOOL 5PM	13	14 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
15	16	17	18	19 HOPE SCHOOL 6:30PM	20 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6:30PM (NON-CAMPERS) AU CAMPOUT	21 AU CAMPOUT
22 AU CAMPOUT	23 TECH TALK KZSB (AM 1290) 9-10AM	24	25	26	27	28 OBSERVE THE MOON NIGHT!
29	30	31 HALLOWEEN!				

The Astronomical Unit

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