



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

August 2024

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



*Martin Meza explains how the sun works to a customer at an Astronomy Day outreach.
Photo: T. Totton.*

OUTREACH SUMMARY

SBAU volunteers must have undergone the SBMNH background check, and conform with the SBMNH policies for dealing with the public, to participate in outreach activities. To get vetted, contact SBMNH Volunteer Manager Rebecca Coulter <rcoulter@sbnature2.org>. It's quick and painless.

Since the last newsletter, certified SBAU/SBMNH volunteers Brandy Ackerman, Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, David Feinberg, Tessa Flanagan, Rosina Garcia & Quasars, Brian Green, Art Harris, Ron Herron, David Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Bonnie & Bruce Murdock, Edgar Ocampo, Javier Rivera, Charles Schueler, Cez & Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, Lee Wilkerson, and Andre Yew showed the sky to **970** guests. Karen Dorfman, Judy, Matt Hall, Dr. Jen Ito, and Dr. Ken Kihlstrom helped out.

OUTREACH EVENTS FOR AUGUST

If Refugio State Beach opens up, our events at El Capitan State Beach will be held at Refugio. Watch your email.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 7 PM

Monthly meeting in Fleischmann Auditorium at SBMNH. This will be a hybrid meeting, also on Zoom. Watch your email or find the link on the SBAU web page. Our speaker will be Dr. Nikolaus Volgenau of Las Cumbres Observatory, on how simple molecules, including alcohol, form inside dark interstellar clouds, and how astronomers detect them.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, SETUP 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake. We set up in the field at Dakota Plains.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at El Capitan State Beach, setup in the day use parking lot.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 4:30 PM

AU monthly planning meeting on Zoom. Watch your email for the link.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, SETUP 7:30 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH, next to Palmer Observatory, 8:30 to 10 PM.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, SETUP 7 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace, in the plaza by the theater.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Carpinteria State Beach. We set up on the sidewalk towards the beach from the entry kiosk.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, SETUP 7 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont, at their Keck Observatory, next to the athletic fields.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, SETUP 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake. We set up in the field at Dakota Plains.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at El Capitan State Beach, setup in the day use parking lot.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, SETUP 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake. We set up in the field at Dakota Plains.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, SETUP 7:30 PM

Star Party at Los Flores Ranch Park, 6245 Dominion Road in Santa Maria. We enter via a dirt road to the north past the main entrance - look for the sign.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, SETUP 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake. We set up in the field at Dakota Plains.

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

This year's Perseids will be best on the mornings of August 11 to 13, with the Moon near first quarter phase, so it sets around midnight, leaving prime time on the leading edge of the Earth dark for viewing.

A TASTY ADVENTURE

Diane Welcenbach – SBAU Event Coordinator

SBAU held a summer potluck event for club members and their guests on the beautiful grounds of SB Museum of Natural History July 5th. It was well attended by about 50 people. Beautiful sunny

weather with light winds and comfortable temperature made the event even more enjoyable.

Signature foods and secret recipe dishes were brought by members to share. A wide variety of foods made it quite a tasty adventure. Appetizers included deviled eggs, chips, green grapes, crackers, salami and cheese – Some Main dishes – enchiladas, lasagna, chicken, curried tuna, tri-tip, and turkey. Side dishes – pesto pasta salad, potato salad, rice salad, bourbon baked beans, slaw salad, rolls and tomatoes/cheese salad and fresh cherries. Save room for dessert! Selections included the famous Jello (I think this could also be a side dish too) cherry pie with whip cream, lemon tart, brownies, chocolate cake with filling, and numerous delicious cookies.

The winner of “Guess How Many Orbs are in the jar” was Tessa Flanagan. She guessed the closet number without going over. Second place was Carolyn Adams and third place was Cezanne Totton. They each won an official SBAU coffee mug. In addition, Tessa took home the jar containing 654 orbs (M&Ms).

Everyone had a great time. It was nice to meet new people, talk to old friends and socialize. There is star in all of us and thanks to everyone that attended.



Diane Welcenbach

Photo:

2025 CALENDARS!

Back by popular demand are the Astronomy Calendars! Pat McPartlin, SBAU Merch Manager, will have them at the SBAU meeting on Friday, August 2, 2024, and thereafter until sold out. Each costs a bargain price of \$10. That's lower than you'll find anywhere in town for such beautiful astronomical photos. So buy several! Christmas is coming! Pat will take cash (exact change is most appreciated), or you can make your check payable to "SBMNH" with a note of: "for SBAU". Happy New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Vice President, Ron Herron

These are the speakers and topics for upcoming SBAU Monthly Meetings.

1. Friday, September 6: Dr. Joseph Masiero of NeoWise describes Searching for Dangerous Asteroids Using Infrared.
2. Friday, October. 4: UCSB Grad Student Liam Brennan, will update our club on the latest Dark Matter discoveries.
3. Friday, November 1: Dr. Jen Ito, Professor of Astrophysics at Westmont College, will pick a subject in Cutting-edge Cosmology.
4. Friday., December 6: Our regular yearly potpourri of AU member presentations (three talks, each to last 20 minutes) will feature Neil Malone, Civil Air Patrol pilot and Captain, Farshad Barman and Bruce Murdock together, and SBCC Astronomy Professor Sean Kelly. Should be an interesting rest-of-the-year, gang!

	AU Information Box	
President:	Jerry Wilson	252-2206 jerryawilsonphd@gmail.com
Vice President:	Ron Herron	vicepresident@sbau.org
Secretary:	Andy Allen	secretary@sbau.org
Treasurer:	Pat McPartlin	964-8201 treasurer@sbau.org
Equipment:	Tom Totton	562-8795 equipment@sbau.org
Outreach:	Chuck McPartlin	964-8201 outreach@sbau.org
Newsletter:	Tom Whitemore	687-2025 kometes@aol.com
Webmaster:	Tom Totton	562-8795 webmaster@sbau.org
Events:	Diane Welcenbach	Events@SBAU.org
Merch Manager:	Pat McPartlin	964-8201 Merchmgr@sbau.org
	SBMNH Astronomy Programs Manager CURRENTLY VACANT	
	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 rate: \$20	
	AU mailing address: Astronomical Unit c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta Del Sol Road Santa Barbara, CA 93105	
	On the Web: http://www.sbau.org/	

The Astronomical Unit

c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
 2559 Puesta Del Sol Road
 Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998

AUGUST 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 SBAU HYBRID GENERAL MEETING 7PM	3 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM
4 NEW MOON	5	6	7	8	9 EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH 8PM	10 PLANNING MEETING 4:30PM SBMNH STAR PARTY 7:30PM
11 FQ MOON PERSEIDS	12 PERSEIDS	13 PERSEIDS CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	14	15 CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 8PM	16 WESTMONT PUBLIC STAR PARTY 7PM	17 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM
18	19 FULL MOON	20	21	22	23 EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH 8PM	24 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM
25	26 LQ MOON	27	28	29	30 LOS FLORES RANCH PARK 7:30PM	31 CACHUMA LAKE 8PM