



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, February 21, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Dark Matter: Why do we think it's out there, what do we think it is, and how can we detect it directly?

Presented by: Dr. Richard Creswick

Discuss the observations that lead us to believe that dark matter pervades the universe, starting with the observations of Fritz Zwicky in 1933 up to current measurements of the Cosmic Background Radiation. Various candidates for dark matter will be reviewed and he will argue that the most likely candidate is that dark matter is composed of one (or more) new elementary particles. Finally the professor will discuss the types of experiments trying to detect dark matter directly.

About the presenter:

Dr. Creswick received his PhD in Physics from UC Berkeley in 1981 and completed a postdoctoral Fellowship at Twente University in the Netherlands in 1983. In 1984, Dr. Creswick became a Visiting Professor at the University of South Carolina where he completed a NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in 1987. While teaching at USC, he became interested in Computational Physics. Currently, he is a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy as well as a part of the Particle Astrophysics Group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, March 1 (Observatory Operator Training)

Saturday, March 22

Saturday, March 29 (Messier Marathon)

Monthly star parties are held at the club's **Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory** in Taxahaw, SC, weather permitting. Contact the Observatory Director, Ken Steiner, for directions to the observatory. All members and their guests are welcome.

Field Trip to Appalachian State Dark Sky Observatory

Saturday, February 22

Car Pool from Myers Park Baptist church at 1:00pm; return by 11:00pm

Special session for CAAC hosted by Dan Caton, Observatory Director at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. Day includes:

- Tour of the undergrad astronomy lab, one of the most extensive in the nation
- Dinner in Boone
- Dark Skies Observatory on Blue Ridge Parkway. We will tour their visitor's center and look through their 32" telescope. This is also a remotely controlled facility with App State Astronomers observing from their living rooms.

Be advised that this trip is weather dependent so keep in close contact as the date approaches.

Please let Observatory Director Ken Steiner know if you plan on participating in this event. Please include your e-mail and phone in your response in the event we need to make last minute contact concerning this event.

Ken Steiner, Observatory Director
ksteiner30@gmail.com
704.953.3902

Southern Star Astronomical Convention - April 24-27, 2014 Registration is officially open!

As most of you know, Southern Star is our club's number one annual fund raiser. It certainly gives our club funds that help keep the CAAC on solid financial footing; especially with support for the fabulous, newly developed and growing observatory facility that we have in Taxahaw, SC.

Register here: www.charlotteastronomers.org/southernstar

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC membership year begins October 1, and ends on September 30. Dues for members joining after January 1st are prorated:

- **\$35.00** - Individual and Family
- **\$6.00** - Students, up to 18 years of age
- **\$25.00** - Observatory Access: Allows members unlimited access to and use of the club's observatory facilities and equipment following observatory training/familiarization by the Observatory Director
- **\$25.00** - Private Observatory Pad: Assessed to members that have a private observing pad on CAAC property

Discounted magazine subscriptions can be obtained through the CAAC:

- Sky & Telescope - \$32.95 per year (savings of \$5)
- Astronomy - \$34.00 per year (savings of \$8.95), or \$60.00 for two years (savings of \$19.95)

Make checks payable to CAAC. Phil Foust, CAAC Treasurer, will accept them at monthly meetings, or they can be mailed to:

CAAC
c/o Phil Foust
449 Roselawn Place
Charlotte, NC 28211

FROM THE SECRETARY

Register with the Night Sky Network

It is imperative that all members of the CAAC join the Night Sky Network (NSN). In the very near future, all of the clubs outreach activities will be managed by the NSN, as well as club communications (newsletters, event notifications, general email). The NSN is a wonderful tool specifically designed for amateur astronomy clubs like ours.

Membership allows you to contact other members via email, and receive last minute updates for outreach events via text message:

http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-apply.cfm?Club_ID=1468&ApplicantType=Member

Pre-Monthly Meeting Gathering

Several CAAC members gather at Panera Bread (601 Providence Road, just a few blocks from our meeting place) at 5:30 prior to the monthly meeting. Anyone interested in sharing a meal with them is welcome.

Newsletter questions, announcements, astronomy related items for sale, change of address - contact Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com).

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Combination at the GHRO has been changed. You should receive the new combination when you pay your dues and Observatory Fee.

Telescope loaner program. Members may borrow one of the club's telescopes between meetings.

Next Star Party and Observatory Training at the GHRO is scheduled for March 1, 2014.

- Operator Training – 3:30pm
- BYO Picnic Dinner – 5:30pm
- Presentation (In the sky tonight) – 6:30pm
- Sunset – 7pm

Please contact the Observatory Director Ken Steiner if you have any doubt regarding the weather, or if you need directions

Ken Steiner, Observatory Director
ksteiner30@gmail.com
704.953.3902



Supernova in M82, by CAAC member
Joe Cartner in Concord, NC

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaizer@carolina.rr.com
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