



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastronomers.org

Celebrating 60 years
1954 - 2014

Next Meeting: Friday, July 18, 2014
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

LONG AGO IN GALAXIES FAR AWAY

Presented by: Professor Varsha Kulkarni, Ph.D.

The study of extragalactic Astronomy and Cosmology with special attention to intergalactic and Circumgalactic matter using primarily optical, infrared and ultraviolet instruments on many state of the art telescopes on ground and in space will be discussed. The measurements have been taken using the Keck, Subaru and Gemini telescopes in Hawaii, the VLT and Magellan in Chile, and the Hubble, Spitzer and Herschel telescopes in space. The goal is to better understand the structural and chemical evolution of galaxies, including the cosmic evolution of elements, the evolution of stars, gas and dust in galaxies and the cosmological implications.

Dr. Kulkarni received her PhD in Astronomy & Astrophysics at the University of Chicago and did some of his doctoral work at NASA's Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore. After that, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Arizona as a member of the Science Team for the Hubble Space Telescope's infrared camera (NICMOS). Following this, she joined the faculty at Clemson University. Dr. Kulkarni moved to USC in Fall 2000, and is now a Professor. Her main research interests are in the areas of distant galaxies, quasars, intergalactic matter, and their evolution with time. Her work involves primarily observations at optical, infrared, and ultraviolet wavelengths using ground-based telescopes in Arizona, Hawaii and Chile, and space-based telescopes such as Hubble, Spitzer, and Herschel.

More details can be found at her web site <http://boson.physics.sc.edu/~kulkarni>

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, July 19

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. All members and their guests are welcome.

August Monthly Meeting

The club will be presenting our annual show-n-tell. If you'd like to give a short 5-7 min presentation on a piece of equipment, or a project you're working on, please contact the club's Vice President, Neil Easden (neileasden@me.com) to schedule.

Cosmic Camporee

The 2014 Cosmic Camporee is schedule for the weekend of Sept 26-28.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I journeyed out to GHRO a few weeks ago on a Saturday to use the new solar observatory. It was a hot, sun drenched afternoon and I figured I'd have the place to myself...WRONG!! I was third in line!! This marvelous new facility is allowing all of us in the amateur astronomy community to pursue our passion day and night! What more could we ask for. We are currently working to add HDTV to the solar observatory, to facilitate larger groups. Stay tuned for updates...

There is a new link on the CAAC web site, "CAAC Apparel/Gear". Follow this to our Lands' End based, CAAC branded line of clothing and accessories. We'll show everyone how to order at our July meeting.

Finally, if you could bring some of your Sky and Telescope/Astronomy Magazine past editions to our club meeting, we like to have them available for new members to take home. I ask that you bring in no more than 6 issues.

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Dues + Observatory Support Fee

Club Year: Oct-2013 to Sep-2014

Full Year Membership / Renewals	Dues	+	Observatory	Total	Factor
Individual or Family	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
Student To Age 18	\$9	+	\$6	\$15	25%

New Memberships Prorated At Time Of Joining	Dues	+	Observatory	Total	Factor
1 st Quarter: Oct-Dec	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
2 nd Quarter: Jan-Mar	\$27	+	\$18	\$45	75%
3 rd Quarter: Apr-Jun	\$18	+	\$12	\$30	50%
4 th Quarter: Jul-Sep	\$9	+	\$6	\$15	25%

Observing Pads At GHRO:

--General Members Pad, Open To All: No Charge

--Fee For Members With A Private Pad: \$25/Year

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 OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Star Party/Operator Training at the GHRO July 19

Newbies and Veterans Star Party Weather permitting.

5:00 to 7:00 pm. Feel free to bring your picnic dinner. The club has a gas grill for your hot dogs, hamburgers, steaks or whatever pleases your fancy. Drinks are available for 50 cents. A picnic pavilion and tables are available for your use.

6:00 pm Observatory Operator Training. We will have training on the club's telescopes after which time members are free to use these instruments whenever they please. Veteran operators who want to be checked out on the new Solar Observatory are welcome to join us for that segment which will be the first item at 6:00 pm. Please advise the Observatory Director if you plan on taking part in the training session. (ksteiner30@gmail.com)

Remember we have camper hook ups if you want to bring your camper and spend the night.

If you need directions please contact Observatory Director Ken Steiner
704.953.3902
ksteiner30@gmail.com

Loaner Telescopes for members

The club has available to members, loaner telescopes. You may borrow one of these scopes and then return the following CAAC meeting. See the Observatory Director to check out one of these scopes.

Astro-Imaging Project Update

The Astro-Imaging Observatory Project, as announced at the last meeting, is an opportunity for the club to have an excellent imaging observatory for member use. This is a means for members to take part in astro-imaging without expending thousands of dollars for equipment.

The Budget for this project is approximately \$10,000.00. To date we have donations/pledges in the amount of \$6,885.00. Persons who want to take part in this opportunity can contribute their tax deductible donation to the CAAC. So far the donations/pledges have ranged from \$100.00 to \$3,000.00. Any amount is helpful and appreciated. Please advise the Observatory Director if you plan to take part in this project.

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.

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Neil Easden	neileasden@me.com
Treasurer	Phil Foust	philfoust@gmail.com
Secretary	Steve Rogish	s_rogish@yahoo.com
Observatory Director	Ken Steiner	ksteiner30@gmail.com
Public Outreach Coordinator	Neil Easden	neileasden@me.com