

February 2012



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

<http://www.charlotteastronomers.org>

Next Meeting: Friday February 17, 2012

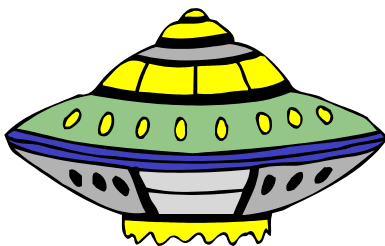
Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Myers Park Baptist Church

Address: 1900 Queens Road

UFO: Isn't It Time We Did Some Real Science?

Bob Cantu, a member of CAAC since the 1990s, has developed a compelling and well-researched presentation for the February meeting of the CAAC. His focus is not a recounting of the hype and noise prevalent in popular media around this subject area for decades. Instead, he looks at the small subset of aerial phenomena where an inquiry process may (or may not) be warranted.



Bob is an excellent speaker with over 12 presentations to the CAAC and talks at Southern Star 1998, Discovery Place 2007, Roper Mountain Astronomy Club 2011, and BobFest 2010 & 2012.

Please join us for this presentation.

Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

Remember – New Meeting Place!

Myers Park Baptist Church, 1900 Queens Rd – (Next to Queens College)

Room:

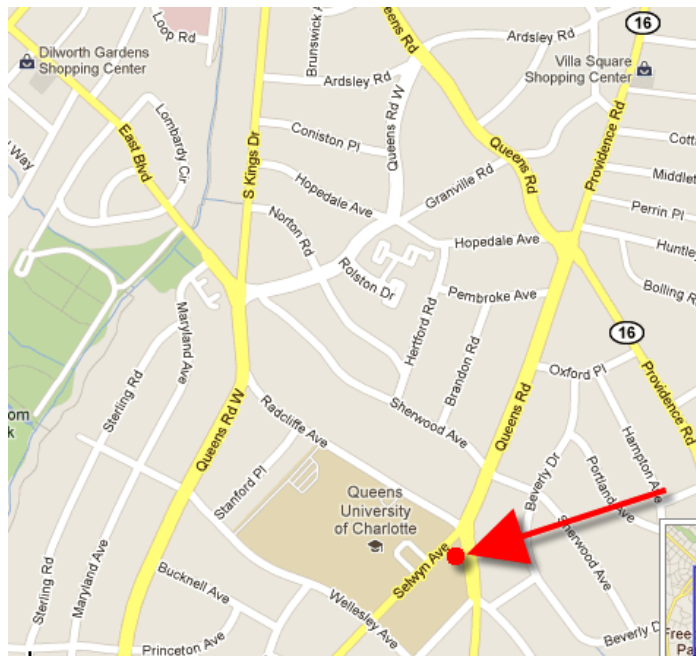
- In the Education Center immediately behind the church sanctuary (see map below)
- Meeting room on lower level with staircase, ramp, and handicap access via elevator
- Large room with round tables with chairs at the tables plus additional chairs, if needed.
- Stage with pull down screen and built-in sound system
- Nice restrooms available down the hallway

Parking:

- On street and off street parking – see map below

Storage

- Will have storage to meet our needs



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH
CAMPUS**



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you were able to join us in January at our new meeting location, Myers Park Baptist Church (1900 Queens Rd., Charlotte – across from Queens University). It's a very nice facility. Our vice-president, Phil Foust gathered a fine group of our members to share what is special about several different star parties around the country and encouraging us to "look up" from a different, dark sky location. Larger organized star parties provide not only great locations and frequently, special speakers or programs -- but also a chance to meet with others who share in amateur astronomy. These are great opportunities!

If you missed January's meeting, try to come to the February meeting and "check out" our new meeting place. We look forward to seeing you there!

Clear, dark skies....
....Mark

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties:

Saturday February 18, 2012
Saturday March 17, 2012

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.

Please note that during the winter months the ground at the GHRO is not as solid as in the summer. Several vehicles in the last month have been driven on the grass leaving ruts. Please refrain from driving vehicles on the observatory grounds during soft ground conditions.

We will plan on a training session for observatory operators on Saturday, February 18, starting at 4:00 pm. Please let Ken Steiner know if you plan on attending the training session.

[CAAC Yahoo Group](#)

Consider signing on to the Charlotte Astronomers Yahoo Group site:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/charlotteastronomers>

The Yahoo website is used to share information about local astronomical events, star parties, informal gatherings, and general information related to club activities among members. The group is open to all CAAC members.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Newsletter questions or announcements? Please contact Skip Copp via email at gcopp@carolina.rr.com or at (704) 568-3732 about newsletter-related matters. Also, if your email address changes, please notify Skip.

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Annual Dues and Fees

\$35.00 - Family or Individual membership. Dues are pro-rated for new members joining in the middle of the year. Membership renewals are due each year on October 1st.

\$6.00 - Students up to 18 years of age.

\$10.00 - Observatory Fee. Payment of this fee allows the member unlimited access to and use of the club's observatory facilities and equipment after being checked out by the Observatory Director.

\$25.00 - Observatory Pad Fee. This fee is assessed to members that have a private observing pad or observatory on the club's property. Any member wanting to build a private pad or observatory should contact the Observatory Director.

Sky & Telescope and Astronomy Magazine Subscriptions

Discounted magazine subscriptions can be obtained through the club for the following price:

Sky & Telescope: \$32.95 per year

Astronomy: \$34.00 per year or \$60.00 for two years

Please make checks payable to CAAC and give them to Jim Gaiser, Treasurer, at a monthly meeting or mail to:

Jim Gaiser
8624 Lenten Rose Court #203
Charlotte, NC 28277

Club members are now able to renew their own subscriptions to S&T magazine via mail or phone. Members may mail in the renewal notices with payment or renew via phone using a credit card. Indicate on the renewal notice that you are a member of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club. This is only for renewals! The club treasurer must still process new subscriptions and must annually validate a subscriber's membership in the CAAC. This revised process only applies to S&T magazine. The club rate for S&T subscriptions is still \$32.95 per year. Subscriptions to Astronomy Magazine, both new and renewal, must still go through the club treasurer to obtain the discounted club rate.

COMING UP IN MARCH

CAAC Scholarship Auction Drive

Please remember our upcoming Astronomy auction slated for the March 2012 meeting. We need items to raise money to establish another CAAC scholarship fund. Please look through your storage cases, kits and science libraries for any unused equipment, books and related items to donate for the auction. Without your items there cannot be a successful auction. Don't limit yourselves to just equipment. We will accept a donation of services, books, cameras, etc. Keep in mind that one person's trash might be another person's treasure. We also accept financial donations made out to CAAC Scholarship, if you absolutely cannot part with any item you own.

Our plan as it was in 2010 is to offer the items donated to the highest bidder attending the March meeting. This can be a lot of fun.

Please email Bob Cantu bobcan2@att.net or Tom Blevins @ gtblevins@att.net with items you would be willing to donate for the auction. Please bring those items to the February meeting and/or the March meeting. We'd prefer to have them before the March meeting though to allow us to decide whether to proceed with the auction or postpone the auction until a later date.

We look forward to a great participation and turnout from members. Please let Bob or Tom know what you plan to donate. We already have some nice items, but they are not enough for the auction yet.

Triad Starfest

The Triad Starfest, *Tri*Star* for short, is a gathering of astronomers of all types, from novice to professional, for a full day of presentations, displays, and observing. The event allows astronomy enthusiasts to share ideas, learn about a range of astronomical topics, get together with old friends, and make new ones. The event draws astronomers from North Carolina and surrounding states. The event will be held on Saturday, March 3rd at Guilford Technical College in Jamestown, NC. For more information, go to the *Tri*Star* website at:

<http://www.gtcc.edu/observatory/tristar.aspx>

CLUB CONTACTS

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