

July 2012



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

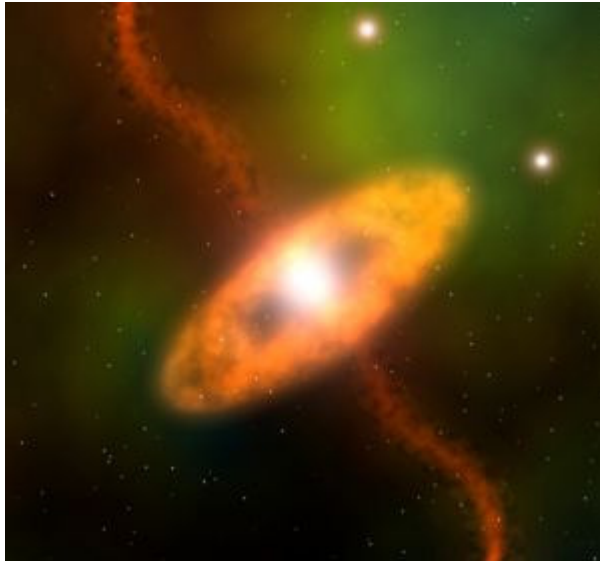
www.charlotteastronomers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, July 20, 2012
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Role of Water Masers in the study of Stellar Evolution

Re-commissioning of the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) 12 meter radio telescope for Scientific Research



Artist's conception of the aging star, W43A, surrounded by a disk of material and a water maser - a precessing, twisted jet of molecules streaming away from it in two directions.

Credit: Kirk Woellert/National Science Foundation

Presented by Ken Steiner (CAAC Observatory Director)

A discussion on the life cycle of stars and the role of water masers as indicators of stellar formation, how we study the universe by the detection of the electromagnetic spectrum, and a project to upgrade a radio telescope for the scientific survey of water masers. The water maser survey will be a partnership between PARI and the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, and will take approximately 8 years to complete.

<http://www.pari.edu>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

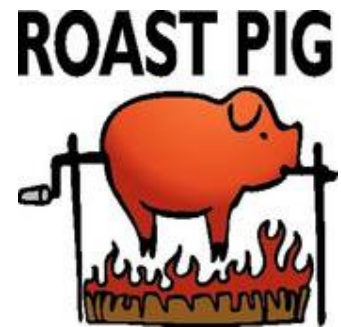
Wheew! We are in the “dog days” of summer... and I don’t mean Canis Major. Sunset is still extremely late. True darkness for observing is very, very late. The summer evenings tend to be hot and very humid. The night sky tends to be a murky mess. The only hope is a late afternoon thunderstorm to sweep the atmosphere clean. This is why Kitt Peak closes up shop in the summer months (lovingly called the “monsoon months”) and performs maintenance instead. Maybe there is a lesson here for us, too. If you find yourself unable to get out observing, perhaps it’s time to check your observing equipment and optical surfaces to be ready when that next observing opportunity comes along. Perhaps even at our **Cosmic Camporee!!** Check for details in this newsletter.

Clear, dark skies.....

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cosmic Camporee 2012, September 7-9

With the conclusion of the GHRO Strategic Plan on the horizon, the CAAC is hosting the Cosmic Camporee at the Gayle H Riggsbee Observatory over the weekend of September 7-9. On Saturday, Sept 8th, there will be a club picnic with hog roast, games/activities for kids, and solar viewing, follow by a star party that evening. Members and guests who choose to camp (tent and RV) will benefit from the restroom/shower facilities in the newly dedicated support building.



Campers are encouraged to visits ‘Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve’, for hiking, birding, and spectacular views: https://www.dnr.sc.gov/mlands/managedland?p_id=42

The CAAC is looking for a member(s) interested in sponsoring the hog. Typical cost is between \$200-\$220. Contact Ken Steiner (ken@steiner4.com) for details.

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties:

Saturday, July 21, 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.

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Private Observing Pads

Attention! Club members interested in a private observing pad at GHRO, don't miss this opportunity. As part of the GHRO Strategic Plan, concrete work will be done for pavilion footings, as well as relocating an existing member pad in **August** of this year. By arranging to pour your pad in conjunction with the other concrete work, you could benefit from a bulk concrete rate, the experience of other members assisting in this work, and perhaps a helping hand. Keep in mind, if you wish to have your own observing pad, you will be responsible for installing the forms, screeding, and any finishing work. Concrete will only be delivered Monday-Friday, and you must be at the observatory (ready to work) when the truck arrives.

- Approximate concrete cost per yard: \$120
- CAAC annual private observing pad fee: \$25
- Members are permitted to share private pads

Questions can be forwarded to the CAAC Observatory Directory, Ken Steiner (ken@steiner4.com).

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Annual Dues and Fees

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

- **\$35.00** - Individual and Family
- **\$6.00** - Students, up to 18 years of age
- **\$10.00** - 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. Jim Gaiser, CAAC Treasurer, will accept them at monthly meetings, or they can be mailed to:

CAAC
c/o Jim Gaiser
8624 Lenten Rose Court #203
Charlotte, NC 28277

FROM THE SECRETARY

New Members: Gail Chauncey, Mike Fairchild, Stefan Gleason, Jonah Gleason, Jim Grant, Stephanie Grant, Marc Henderson, Joe Hill, Linda Hill, Dorothea Lieberman, & Chris Skor

Visitors at last Meeting: Karen Anchor, Gail Chauncey, Mike Fairchild, Jeff Gaura, Alex Gaura, Jim Grant, Stephanie Grant, Marc Henderson, Joe Hill, Linda Hill, Dorothea Lieberman, Colette Spears, & Ray Spears

CAAC is now on Facebook

Find the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club on Facebook. Navigate to www.facebook.com/CharlotteAstronomers, or use the search feature for "charlotteastronomers". Be sure to 'Like' the page, and you'll receive updates on your wall when new content is shared.

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.

Newsletter questions, announcements, change of address - contact Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com).

FOR SALE ITEMS

- Orion Q70 2" Eyepiece 26mm (Like New) - \$45
- TeleVue Nagler 1.25" Eyepiece 4.8 mm (Like New) - \$175

Jeff Powley
japowley@carolina.rr.com
704-351-9953

5" Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain - \$350

- Dual 120VAC motor drive
- 2 axis slow motor controls
- Dual arm equatorial mount
- Super H.D. tripod
- 3 eyepieces
- Custom foam lined carrying case

Mac Wood
w4pvt@aol.com
704-541-7929

Bring your items for sale to regular club meetings and display them if you wish. To include sale items in the newsletter, please contact Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com) Ads will run for up to three months.

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Mark Hoecker	mhoecker@bellsouth.net
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