



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastronomers.org

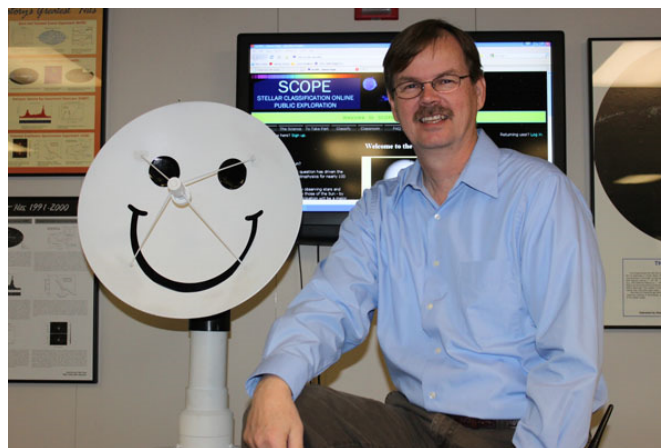
Next Meeting: Friday, September 20, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI)

Presented by: Michael Castelaz

PARI offers educational programs at all levels, from K-12 through post-graduate research. PARI is also a member of the NC Grassroots Science Museums Collaborative, PARI's Exhibit Gallery displays a collection of rare meteorites and has been designated by NASA to receive Space Shuttle artifacts. The presentation will highlight PARI's major research, education, and public outreach programs, and instrumentation.



I earned my Ph.D. in Astrophysics in 1984 from the University of Wyoming where I discovered newly forming stars just after gravitational collapse. From 1984-1986 I was awarded a National Academy of Sciences Research Associateship in Infrared Astrophysics at NASA Ames Research Center where I studied interstellar matter – the material from which stars form. In 1986, I joined the astronomy staff at the Allegheny Observatory of the University of Pittsburgh as a Research Associate where I was a part of an effort to search for planets around other stars. While there I also taught astronomy at Carnegie Mellon University. After Allegheny Observatory, I joined the faculty in the Physics and Astronomy Department at East Tennessee State University (1991-2001) where I was also Director of the Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy Observatory located at Kitt Peak near Tucson, Arizona. In 2001 I accepted the position of Science Director at Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute to develop and manage new education and science research programs.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It seems the rain gods have finally thrown us a bone and as a result our Star Party on September 7 was an outstanding success. 20 club members and visitors descended on GHRO to enjoy clear skies and moderate temperatures. I think it is safe to say that a good time was had by all.

The previous Thursday, a group of teachers and staff members from Discovery Place visited GHRO for lectures and viewing under reasonable skies. It is this sort of outreach activity that was envisioned by the officers of CAAC when the Strategic Plan was initiated.

With the fall observing season fast approaching, let's continue the outreach activities at GHRO, enjoy the Cosmic Camporee and prepare for Comet Ison, which could go either way.

Clear skies...
Jim

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
- **\$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. 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

COSMIC CAMPOREE 2013

Cosmic Camporee at the Gayle H Riggsbee observatory will take place September 27-29. Members and Guests are invited to take part in all or part of the weekend activities. There will be activities for individuals, kids, and families.

The main event is the Hog Roast which will take place on Saturday at 5:30 pm. This is a potluck dinner with the Hog and Drinks provided; members are asked to bring a covered dish of your choice along with your lawn chairs. We will have hot dogs for those who prefer.

ROAST PIG



Five RV sites are available with electric and water hook ups; we ask that you reserve a site for your RV since we are limited to 5 sites. Tent camping is also encouraged. Please note that we have two bathrooms along with a shower in the Outreach Building.

Among the children's activities we are planning is Tie Dying of T-shirts. Please let the Observatory Director know how many and sizes of T shirts for your children.

It is helpful for our planning to let us know the activities that you plan to attend and the number of persons.

The tentative schedule for the weekend is as follows:

Friday, Sept 27

Set up
Evening Observing

Saturday, Sept 28

Solar Observing
Yard activities for all ages all day (Badminton, Frisbee, Corn Hole, Etc.)
4:30 Model Rockets Launch
5:30 Hog Roast and Potluck Dinner
7:15 Sunset, Observing the night sky

Sunday, Sept 29

8:00-9:00am Pancake Breakfast
10:00am 40 Acre Rock Hike

Best regards,
Ken Steiner, Observatory Director
ksteiner30@gmail.com
704.953.3902

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties
Saturday, September 28 (Cosmic Camporee)
Saturday, October 5

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.

FROM THE SECRETARY



Register with the Night Sky Network

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).

Observatory Director's Wish List:

- Desktop Computer

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Robert Carl	rcarl@carolina.rr.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