



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club  
[www.charlotteastronomers.org](http://www.charlotteastronomers.org)

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

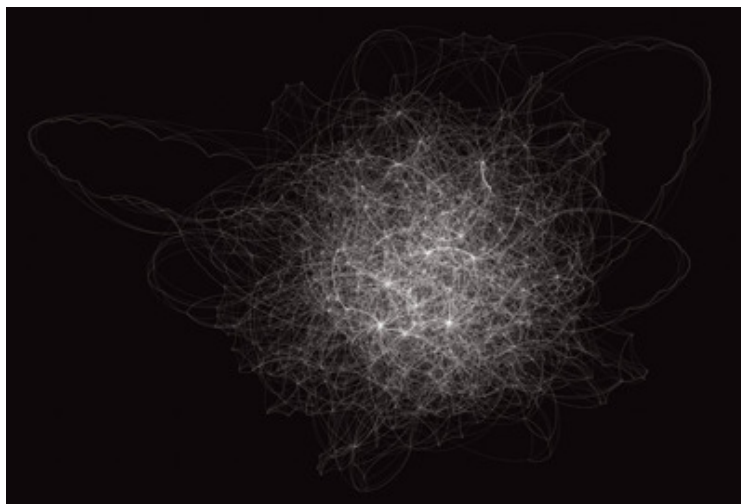
## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### **ENTROPY - IT IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE!**

**Presented by: Dr. Fred DeAngelis**

Most people would agree that finding evidence of extra-terrestrial life – intelligent or otherwise – would be a historical discovery. But what do we look for? Where should we look? Where have we looked, and what have we found? This talk will review the scientific search for life beyond Earth, what we have found, and what we still don't know.



### **About the presenter:**

Dr. DeAngelis gained his B.S in engineering Physics from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. He later obtained his M.S, M.Ph. and PhD. in Physics from Rutgers University in New Jersey with his Master's Thesis on the formation of Large Stars. His Ph.D. thesis covered theoretical Nuclear Physics. He also conducted his Postdoctoral research in Nuclear Physics at the University of Orsay outside of Paris, France as well as at the Hahn-Meitner Institute in Berlin which covered 3 years. Dr. DeAngelis became a research physicist at Miliken and Company in Spartanburg, SC for 16 years before moving to Charlotte where he is currently an Assistant Professor of Physics at Queens University. He has been a member of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club since January 2014.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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In 1954, Jupiter was in Taurus and Saturn was in Scorpio as the year began. In the intervening 60 years, Jupiter has gone around the Sun 5 times and now appears in Gemini. Saturn, with a leisurely 29.5 year orbit has only revolved around the Sun a little more than 2 times and now appears in constellation Libra, right next door to Scorpio. Uranus hasn't made it back to where it was in 1954, its 84 year orbital period has taken it about 70% of the way around the Sun. Neptune...suffice it to say it's not completed an orbit in the intervening 60 years either.

Why all of this interest in 1954? For openers, it's my birth year...so I'm a little biased. But more importantly, 1954 was the year Charlotte Kelly founded the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club. **On Saturday, April 26th, CAAC celebrates its 60th birthday.** I venture to guess that there are precious few volunteer organizations that can boast a 60 year history. We will celebrate with a cake at Southern Star and a special event next month, be ready for details in the May newsletter.

Finally, let me ask the Club to thank Rob Carl for the tremendous job he has done as Vice President for the past two years. Rob has asked to step down, so the position is open. The rest of the officer team has agreed to stay on, if you'll have us. Please contact me at [jegaiser@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jegaiser@carolina.rr.com) if you have an interest in being part of the leadership team.

Clear skies...  
Jim

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties** Saturday, May 3

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.

### **Southern Star Astronomical Convention - April 24-27, 2014**

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.

## 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 <sup>st</sup> Quarter: Oct-Dec	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Jan-Mar	\$27	+	\$18	\$45	75%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Apr-Jun	\$18	+	\$12	\$30	50%
4 <sup>th</sup> 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

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

**Solar Observatory**

Equipment has arrived for the Solar Observatory; installation is now in progress.

## FROM THE SECRETARY

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### **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](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).

## FOR SALE

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### **Meade ETX125mm**

At Southern Star, Bob Cantu plans to sell a Meade ETX125mm EC Astro telescope. It is a 5 inch Maksutov-cassegrain in pristine condition with a robust tripod. Telescope is housed in a hard case containing several excellent eyepieces for high resolution viewing. If you would like to see it and consider it for purchase before Southern Star, you can contact him at 704-333-2765.

## CAAC CONTACTS

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President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
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