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Bring Your Scopes and Astro Stuff March 25-26

Prelude to A Busy SP Season: CSC's "Spaced-Out Astronomy Weekend"



One of the AAAP's best opportunities to interact with the public is the Carnegie Science Center's annual "Spaced-Out Astronomy Weekend". This year's installment is set for the weekend of **March 25 and 26, 2017**. As in previous years, we will be setting up indoor displays in the main lobby, near the gift shop. However, because of the massive remodeling project going on at the CSC, we will set-up telescopes in front of the window looking out over the submarine in the "H2O" area, or outside in front of the building on the "Brain Maze" or over by the Sportworks building. (The grassy areas on the downtown side of the CSC are closed off because of the construction.) The club's Astro-imagers are invited to display their work as well (we have lots of display room), either with prints or laptops. Of course, this is a great opportunity to sign up new members to the AAAP.
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March 10 @ CSC

March Guest Speaker Discusses Explosive Topics: Supernovae, Pulsars, Magnetars and More

Some may say that we live in a boring part of the Milky Way Galaxy or a boring part of the Universe in general. Maybe that's a good thing because the "exciting" places (near pulsars, magnetars, gamma-ray burst sources, etc.) may be dangerous or just plain lethal. Of course, life on Earth could not exist near these objects in the first place!



Our guest speaker for the club's **March 10, 2017** meeting, **Harsha Blumer**, Ph.D. discusses the latest findings therein with her lecture "High-Energy Astrophysics: the Fascinating World of Supernova Explosions and Pulsars". The meeting starts at **7:30 pm** in the Bayer Science Stage at the Carnegie Science Center.
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Nominating Committee Formed at March 10 Meeting

Help AAAP Live Long and Prosper by Running for Club Officer

Given that the AAAP's demographic center is located in cloud-prone Western Pennsylvania, it's amazing how large and active a club we have. The AAAP's ongoing success is driven by its many active members, as shown by the 2016 volunteer listing in the Jan. **Guide Star**.



To sustain this success, we need people to step up as club officers and bring fresh ideas to the club's operations. At the March 10 meeting we will be forming the Nominating Committee for the 2017 elections in May. If you are interested in serving as an officer, you can contact the Nominating Committee early on at this meeting and make their job of selecting candidates much easier. The AAAP has lived long and prospered for almost 90 years....you can help us keep us keep the AAAP success story going through a full century. Thanks in advance for your help.

Be At Wagman March 31 and April 1

Wagman Star Parties Kick-Off 2017

Get ready for one of the busiest star party seasons in many years as the club hosts public star parties at Wagman Observatory on **March 31 and April 1**, starting around **Sunset**. As noted in the January **Guide Star**, we are staging 31 separate SPs throughout the year at Wagman and Mingo, all but one on alternating dates. Of course, the Spring months afford a last chance to show off Orion & Company to the public, arguably the finest collection of constellations, asterisms, bright stars and deep-sky objects in the entire Northern hemisphere.



To add to the drama, Jupiter also dominates the skies at the end of the month, thus no shortage of objects with which to impress your guests. As always, AAAP members are urged to help with the practical details of running a star party (parking cars, directing guests in/out of the observatory, etc.). Spring weather can be feisty at times, so let's hope for clear skies and slow winds at the end of the month. PS: See article on page 2 about road construction near Wagman.

Want to read more about the AAAP? Become a member!

Thank you for your interest in “The Guide Star”, the journal of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh. The full issue is available to members. Why not become a member today? Membership information is available from 3ap.org.

If you are already a member, you should be receiving The Guide Star via e-mail (or postal mail if so ordered). If not, please contact the MembershipSecretary@3ap.org and mention that you would like to receive the newsletter via email. Be sure to include your full name.

The current issue and past issues are also available from the members-only section of our website, 3ap.org. If you need the password, please contact the Treasurer@3ap.org or MembershipSecretary@3ap.org. Be sure to include your full name.

