



Physics Seminar

Friday, 3:30 pm Feb. 17th, 2012

Aurora Borealis

Connor Saller

At high latitude regions in the Arctic, an amazing spectacle can be seen in the night sky that displays vivid colors and formations. The Aurora Borealis occurs in the Northern hemisphere from September to March due to high energetic collisions of charged particles in the thermosphere. The energetic charged particles originate from the magnetosphere where solar wind interacts with the earth's magnetic field. The charged particles are then directed into the thermosphere where they react with atoms creating a vast glow of different colors that follow magnetic field lines on earth. When seen in full, the Aurora Borealis is one of the most amazing visual occurrences on the planet, and it can be explained by the physics and chemistry of our planet and sun. This seminar will introduce the concepts and interactions that are associated with the Aurora Borealis.

Location: Ross 0220 (Ground level of Ross Hall)

(Refreshments will be served at 3:20pm.)

Physics/EPS/NHS/UNC

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