

It's May, 2016, and this is Wow! Signal Burst 17 - The Where's the Flux Kickstarter

This is just a short note about today's development in the ongoing campaign to understand just what is going on with Tabby's Star. Yes, I know we've covered that a lot lately, but this is important, because you can help.

This afternoon, the 18th of May, Tabetha Boyajian and team posted a kickstarter to buy telescope time to monitor KIC 8462852 photometrically around the world, 24 x7 using a network of telescopes, hoping to see events akin to those that the Kepler Space telescope observed. I would like to refer you to episode 4 of Season 3 for an interview with Dr. Boyajian, and to Burst 13, where I explain the basics.

When a definite dip in brightness is detected, then hopefully the astronomical world will respond by swinging their more sensitive spectrographs and other detectors onto the star, allowing us some hope of really understanding what is going on around this very weird system. In the best case, the entire electromagnetic spectrum would be covered, from radio to gamma rays. It seems that most important would be optical and infrared spectral measurements, but we should be ready for surprises.

The kickstarter is looking for what is really a modest \$100,000. So far, they only have about \$7000 from 80 people. I am willing to bet there are at least 10,000 people worldwide that care enough to put in at least 10 dollars.

This would compliment, not replace, the photometric work that AAVSO volunteers are doing. Did you know you can "adopt" Tabby's Star - or any other variable star at aavso.org for only \$20/year?

I would hope you can see your way clear to donating to both efforts. Every little bit helps. If enough people show that this matters to them, it will happen, and maybe, just maybe, a new door will open and we'll see for the first time what is on the other side.

(start music)

There will be links to the kickstarter and related information in the show notes of course.

(pause)

This has been Wow! Signal Burst 17. For more information, please visit Wowsignalpodcast.com.
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