

August 2011



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

<http://www.charlotteastronomers.org>

Next Meeting: Friday August 19, 2011

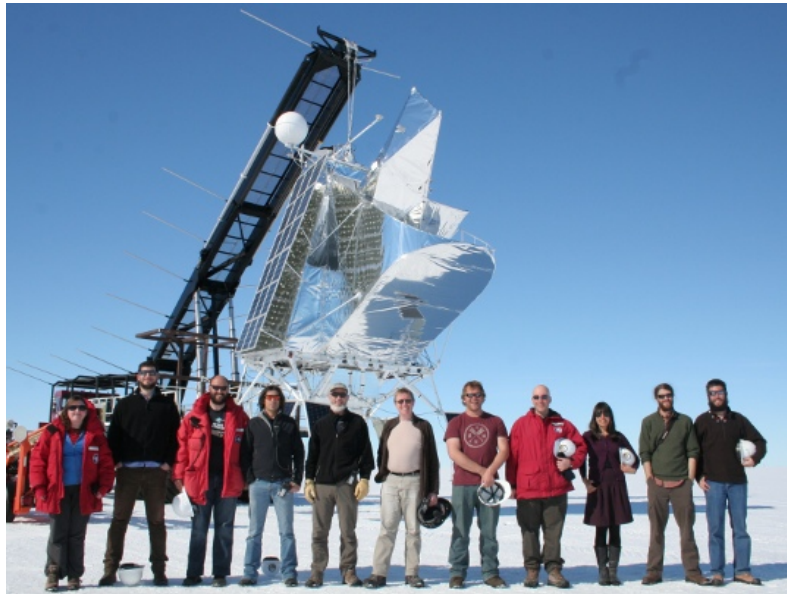
Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Masonic Temple

Address: 500 N. Sharon Amity Rd.

BLAST! - Astronomy on Ice

This summer's June 2011 issue of Sky & Telescope magazine featured a review of the BLAST Mission on its cover page and as its lead article for the month. BLAST stands for "Balloon-borne Large-Aperture Sub-millimeter Telescope". As part of the mission, the BLAST team worked with five-time Emmy Award winner, Paul Devlin, to produce a documentary movie in high definition that is world class in its presentation, graphics, and storyline. The result of this collaboration is BLAST! The Movie. At 53 minutes, the documentary follows the mission from its early stages, to its flights, and its crashes, along with its scientific accomplishments and the people who made it all happen. It's a fascinating look at balloon-borne astronomy and how Science is done today---and a little ice is a welcome break from the heat we've been experiencing this August. Learn more ahead of meeting. See the movie trailer and get some mission background at these links:



BLAST! The Movie - See the trailer via this link: <http://www.devlinpix.com/film/blast>
BLAST, The Mission - <http://blastexperiment.info/index.php>

Please join us for a great video presentation of an unusual scientific mission.

COME EAT WITH US: Several members will gather at the International House of Pancakes at Cotswold Friday evening at 5:30 PM before the meeting. We would love to have you come and join us.

Visitors at the July Meeting: None

New Members: None this month

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

President's Corner....

THANK YOU for being a member of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club. I sincerely hope that you are receiving the benefits of learning about astronomy, the night sky, and exploring the many diverse elements that together are this hobby called "amateur astronomy."

We also need YOU ! At the July club meeting, our Southern Star committee chair, Jim Lamm, outlined some critical opportunities for folks that are needed to help Southern Star 2012. Those roles include:

- Door Prize Coordination (2) – soliciting and organizing door prizes for Southern Star
- Registration Assistance – help welcome and "check-in" attendees
- Wine & Cheese Reception – planning and coordinating the reception

If you are a relatively new member, this is a great way to help the club on its biggest event of the year and meet a wonderful team!

If you have been a member for a number of years (I won't say "ole-timer") and you haven't had a chance to help on any activities lately, maybe this is a good time to get "re-charged".

Like any volunteer organization, the emphasis is on VOLUNTEER. Please consider these Southern Star opportunities to support its continued success. Just contact Jim Lamm or myself. If you want to volunteer for something else – helping with audio-visual for CAAC meetings, assisting with our library materials, helping room set-up or clean-up at meetings, loaner telescope program, observatory construction, or even interested in a club officer position next year..... just let me know.

Your VOLUNTEERING helps make our club a great organization. Thank you.

Clear, dark skies....
...Mark Hoecker

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

The club has several loaner telescopes for use by members. Contact the Observatory Director, Ken Steiner for details on the telescopes and how to check out one of them.

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties:

Saturday August 27, 2011

Saturday September 24, 2011

These 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.

Cosmic Camporee

The COSMIC CAMPOREE will NOT take place over Labor Day weekend as originally planned. A new date has not been established but we are currently considering having the event on a weekend in October.

CAAC Yahoo Group

Consider signing on to the Charlotte Astronomers Yahoo Group site:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/charlotteastronomers>

This site is used to share information about local astronomical events, star parties, informal gatherings, and general information related to club activities among members. The group is open to all CAAC members.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Newsletter questions or announcements? Please contact Skip Copp via email at gcopp@carolina.rr.com or at (704) 568-3732 about newsletter-related matters. Also, if your email address changes, please notify Skip.

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Annual Dues and Fees

\$35.00 - Family or Individual membership. Dues are pro-rated for new members joining in the middle of the year. Membership renewals are due each year on October 1st.

\$6.00 - Students up to 18 years of age.

\$10.00 - Observatory Fee. Payment of this fee allows the member unlimited access to and use of the club's observatory facilities and equipment after being checked out by the Observatory Director.

\$25.00 - Observatory Pad Fee. This fee is assessed to members that have a private observing pad or observatory on the club's property. Any member wanting to build a private pad or observatory should contact the Observatory Director.

Sky & Telescope and Astronomy Magazine Subscriptions

Discounted magazine subscriptions can be obtained through the club for the following price:

Sky & Telescope: \$32.95 per year

Astronomy: \$34.00 per year or \$60.00 for two years

Please make checks payable to CAAC and give them to Jim Gaiser, Treasurer, at a monthly meeting or mail to:

Jim Gaiser
2164 Vardall Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

Club members are now able to renew their own subscriptions to S&T magazine via mail or phone. Members may mail in the renewal notices with payment or renew via phone using a credit card. Indicate on the renewal notice that you are a member of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club. This is only for renewals! The club treasurer must still process new subscriptions and must annually validate a subscriber's membership in the CAAC. This revised process only applies to S&T magazine. The club rate for S&T subscriptions is still \$32.95 per year. Subscriptions to Astronomy Magazine, both new and renewals, must still go through the club treasurer to obtain the discounted club rate.

FOR SALE ITEMS

Bring your items for sale to regular club meetings and display them if you wish. To include sale items in the newsletter, please contact Skip Copp at gcopp@carolina.rr.com

or call (704) 568-3732 no later than the second Friday of each month. Ads will run for three months or until the item(s) is sold and may be renewed as desired.

CLUB CONTACTS

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