

September 2011



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

<http://www.charlotteastronomers.org>

Next Meeting: Friday September 16, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Masonic Temple

Address: 500 N. Sharon Amity Rd.

Meteors & Meteorites

The presentation for September's meeting of Charlotte Amateur Astronomer's Club will be on meteors ("Shooting Stars") and meteorites. This area of study is of interest to beginning and experienced observers.

Meteors can be observed on any dark night, but are especially interesting during "Meteor Showers," times of known heavy activity. Meteorites found on Earth have come from both the earliest history of our Solar System's formation to relatively recent events that caused small pieces of the Moon or Mars to land on our planet.

Our presenter, Mr. Jim Lamm, is a three-term past President of the CAAC, an active club leader, and an avid meteorite collector.

Jim is a member of the Southeast Planetarium Association, The Planetary Society, the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, and the Astronomical League. In addition to his active service with the CAAC, Jim has held leadership positions with The Calumet Astronomical Society, the South Florida Museum/Bishop Planetarium, and The Local Group, an astronomy club in the Sarasota-Bradenton area.

Jim observes regularly from world-class dark skies in the Chirachaua Mountains of southeast Arizona with a special emphasis on planetary observing and astrophotography.

Please join us for an in-depth look at Meteors and Meteorites.

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 August Meeting: Sam List, Thomas Grogan, Steven Wolfe, Ciaron Traynor

New Members: None

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 September 24, 2011

Saturday October 29, 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 has been cancelled for this year due to all the ongoing work at the GHRO. Expect it to return next year bigger and better than ever.

Strategic Plan Update

Work on Phase 1 of the strategic plan is nearly completed. Once the plumbing and electrical hookups are complete we will then be in position to finish the workshop and general-purpose room in the rear of the building.

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

As of September 9, 2011

Operating Income	\$163.63	
Operating Expenses	\$615.70	
Operating Funds Balance		\$19,390.18
Total Strategic Plan Funds	\$62,588.74	
Total Strategic Plan Expenditures	\$45,627.04	
Strategic Plan Balance		<u>\$16,961.70</u>
Total Cash Balance (Bank & CD)		\$36,351.88

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

President:	Mark Hoecker	mhoecker@bellsouth.net
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