

June 2012



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday June 15, 2012

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Myers Park Baptist Church

Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Astronomy Down Under

A Report from the Feb 2012 OzSky Star Safari – by Robert White



The Three Rivers Foundation is an educational outreach organization specializing in science oriented activities. Each year it hosts the OzSky Star Safari near Coonabarabran, Australia. Robert and his wife Elaine attended the Feb 2012 event, and he will share the sights and experiences of his trip.

Robert joined the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club in 1962, and has been a CAAC officer many times. He has traveled extensively, visiting major observatories in the

US, Europe, and now Australia, as well as viewing total solar eclipses and other astronomical phenomena. Most recently, he observed the Annular Solar Eclipse from Majestic Skies Ranch, NM (May 20, 2012).

Robert is an Information Security Engineer at Bank of America and holds a CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional). He is the owner of a 20" Star Master with GO-TO, and was an instructor of Astronomy Labs at UNCC, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics.

www.OzSky.org - OzSky Star Safari Info

www.3rf.com.au - Three Rivers Foundation

UPCOMING EVENTS

INVITATION

The Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club invites you to attend the
Dedication of the Support Building at the Gayle H Riggsbee Observatory
Saturday June 9, 2012 at 4:00 pm
Hog Roast
Dedication
Tethered Hot Air Balloon Rides (Weather permitting)
Star Party to Follow

Bring a covered dish for the hog roast and lawn chairs for sitting. The meal will begin at 4:00 pm. Please RSVP to Ken Steiner, Observatory Director, if you plan to attend and for a map to the observatory if you need one.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Exciting Times for CAAC

Early June has been a busy time for the club. I hope everyone had a chance to see the Venus transit. We had some nice publicity for our public event at McAlpine Park. The Charlotte Observer had a couple nice announcement items for us. Then Ken Steiner appeared on Channel 36 bright and early at 6:45 AM on Tuesday June 5th (transit day) talking about the transit. At 9:30 AM I joined Ken along with Dr. Dan Caton from Appalachian State University, to discuss the transit and other astronomy topics on the WDAV radio program, "Charlotte Talks", hosted by radio personality, Mike Collins.

By the time you read this, hopefully you made plans to join in the fun at the dedication of our new building on Saturday June 9th at the Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory – which is now complete. I think you will be pleased with the result of everyone's contributions of money, time and labor to reach this milestone in our Strategic Plan.

If you were not able to join in for the building dedication, make a goal of getting to the Observatory in the near future. See you at the meeting!!

Clear, dark skies....

...Mark

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties:

Saturday, June 16, 2012

Saturday, July 21, 2012

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.

CAAC Yahoo Group

Consider signing on to the Charlotte Astronomers Yahoo Group site:

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

The Yahoo website 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

New Members

Sergio Davis, Aurora Cain, Doug Neal, Joe Cartner, and Clayton Cartner

Visitors at the May Meeting

Sergio Davis, Marsha Steel, Aurora Cain, Doug Neal, Joe Cartner, Clayton Cartner, and Alexis Brosius-Easden

Newsletter questions, announcements, change of address - contact Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com / (704) 841-7143).

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 Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com / (704) 841-7143) Ads will run for up to three months.

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. Note that starting January 1st dues are prorated for new members for the balance of the year, which ends September 30th. So if you are interested in joining, please see me for the proper amount to pay.

\$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

8624 Lenten Rose Court #203

Charlotte, NC 28277

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 renewal must still go through the club treasurer to obtain the discounted club rate.

Telescope & Accessories For Sale

This telescope has been used very little, maybe less than 10 times under the stars. It has been stored inside in a climate controlled environment. Everything is in pretty much mint condition and is priced less than 1/2 price paid. Contact Mike 704-451-1071.

Celestron NS11GPS+ tripod	\$2,545
JMI Case	\$360
JMI Tri-Pod Carrying Case	\$80
Celestron "Super" Heavy Duty Tripod	\$475
TeleVue Star Beam	\$195
Starizona Landing Pad	\$45
No-Tools Tripod Mounting Bolts	\$25
Starizona Counter Weight Rail + 3 Weights	\$179
Collimation Thumb Screw	\$14
Scope Stuff Fine focus Knobs	\$28
Tele Vue 31mm Nagler	\$500
TV 2" Short Everbright Diag. DPS 2004	\$275
TV 35mm Pan Optic	\$365
TV 17mm Nagler 4	\$385
TV 11mm Nagler Type 6 EN6-11	\$280
TV Short SCT Adapter ACS-0004	\$45
TV 2" – 1.25" Flat Top Adapt. ACF2125	\$40
TV 2" UHC Filter BFH-0200	\$215
The Right Stuff "Eyelight" Lighted Eyepiece Holder	\$155
Pelican 1600 Case	\$145
AstroZap Grey Metallic Aluminum	\$175
AstroZap Gray Metallic Cap	\$38
AstroZap Astro Cloth Bag	\$33
Kendrick 3" Heater	\$46
Kendrick 2" Heater	\$43
Kendrick 1.25" Heater	\$41
Kendrick Controller	\$83
Kendrick 12V 18AH Battery	\$195
Kendrick NexStar Coiled Power Cord	\$37
DewBuster Precision Dew-Heater Temp Controller	\$170
Celestron Battery Adapter CE-18769	\$18
StarDust Chair	\$186
Celestron Aluminum EP Case	\$50
Total	\$7,466
Sale Price	\$3,700

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Mark Hoecker	mhoecker@bellsouth.net
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