

August 2012



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, August 17, 2012
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

45 Years in the Dark: The James H. Lynn Planetarium



Presented by Jim Craig
(Director of the James H.
Lynn Planetarium)

Jim Craig has been the director of the James H. Lynn Planetarium since November 1997. He more or less stumbled across the job following a visit to his father in Gastonia.

Over his working life, Jim has had a wide variety of jobs including computer salesman, restaurant manager, cowboy,

cab driver and morgue attendant. After working part time at a planetarium in Eugene, Oregon, he realized that this was really what he wanted to do so he decided to go back to college. He received his degree in physics from Southern Oregon State College in 1993.

When he's not working, he enjoys numerous hobbies including ham radio, robotics, drawing, writing and building telescopes. His wife, Charie' (sha-REE) and his two college-age children, Devin and Kina, tolerate his obsessions and clutter.

<http://www.schielemuseum.org/planetarium.php>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cosmic Camporee 2012, September 7-9

With the conclusion of the GHRO Strategic Plan on the horizon, the CAAC is hosting the Cosmic Camporee at the Gayle H Riggsbee Observatory over the weekend of September 7-9. On Saturday, Sept 8th, there will be a club picnic with hog roast, games/activities for kids, and solar viewing, follow by a star party that evening. Members and guests who choose to camp (tent and RV) will benefit from the restroom/shower facilities in the newly dedicated support building.



Campers are encouraged to visits 'Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve', for hiking, birding, and spectacular views: https://www.dnr.sc.gov/mlands/managedland?p_id=42

The CAAC is looking for a member(s) interested in sponsoring the hog. Typical cost is between \$200-\$220. Contact Ken Steiner (ken@steiner4.com) for details.

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties:

Saturday, August 18

Saturday, September 15

Monthly 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.

Fisher Farms Star Party - Davidson, NC

Please join us on Friday, October 5th at 7pm for a night under the stars. The Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club is pairing with the Davidson Lands Conservancy and the Town of Davidson to host the second annual get together. We still need many volunteers for the event. Please contact Rob at rcaul@carolina.rr.com to volunteer yourself, your time and your telescopes. He can also email you directions as well. We will hold this Star Party at Fisher Farms as we did last year. Thanks!!

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Telescopes

The CAAC has a loaner telescope program. If you'd like to borrow one of the clubs telescopes, contact the CAAC Observatory Directory, Ken Steiner (ken@steiner4.com).

Private Observing Pad

If you are interested in a private observing pad at GHRO, contact the CAAC Observatory Directory, Ken Steiner (ken@steiner4.com).

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Annual Dues and Fees

CAAC membership year begins October 1st, and ends on September 30th. Dues for members joining after January 1st are prorated:

- **\$35.00** - Individual and Family
- **\$6.00** - Students, up to 18 years of age
- **\$10.00** - Observatory Access: Allows members unlimited access to and use of the club's observatory facilities and equipment following observatory training/familiarization by the Observatory Director
- **\$25.00** - Private Observatory Pad: Assessed to members that have a private observing pad on CAAC property

Discounted magazine subscriptions can be obtained through the CAAC:

- Sky & Telescope - \$32.95 per year (**savings of \$5**)
- Astronomy - \$34.00 per year (**savings of \$8.95**), or \$60.00 for two years (**savings of \$19.95**)

Make checks payable to CAAC. Jim Gaiser, CAAC Treasurer, will accept them at monthly meetings, or they can be mailed to:

CAAC
c/o Jim Gaiser
8624 Lenten Rose Court #203
Charlotte, NC 28277

FROM THE SECRETARY

New Members: Patti & Bruce Hutchinson

CAAC is now on Facebook

Find the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club on Facebook. Navigate to www.facebook.com/CharlotteAstronomers, or use the search feature for “charlotteastronomers”. Be sure to ‘Like’ the page, and you’ll receive updates on your wall when new content is shared.

Register with the Night Sky Network

The Night Sky Network (NSN) is a nationwide coalition of amateur astronomy clubs bringing the science, technology, and inspiration of NASA's missions to the general public. As a member club of the NSN, the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club has access to a number of resources designed to support our public outreach programs. This includes an interactive calendar, which manages calls for volunteers, RSVP's, and can track volunteer hours. The volunteer hours earn ‘Outreach Toolkits’, which can be used for future programs, either at our club observatory (GHRO), schools, and other public events that the CAAC hosts. Use the link below to register:

http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-apply.cfm?Club_ID=1468&ApplicantType=Member

The CAAC is using the NSN calendar now!

<http://charlotteastronomers.org/calendar.htm>

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.

Pre-Monthly Meeting Gathering

Several CAAC members gather at Panera Bread (601 Providence Road, just a few blocks from our meeting place) at 5:30 prior to the monthly meeting. Anyone interested in sharing a meal with them is welcome. If you're new to the club, and would like an introduction to some of the folks that attend, contact Steve Rogish by email (s_rogish@yahoo.com), or see me at the monthly meeting.

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

FOR SALE ITEMS

- Orion Q70 2" Eyepiece 26mm (Like New) - \$45
- TeleVue Nagler 1.25" Eyepiece 4.8 mm (Like New) - \$175

Jeff Powley
japowley@carolina.rr.com
704-351-9953

5" Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain - \$350

- Dual 120VAC motor drive
- 2 axis slow motor controls
- Dual arm equatorial mount
- Super H.D. tripod
- 3 eyepieces
- Custom foam lined carrying case

Mac Wood
w4pvt@aol.com
704-541-7929

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) Ads will run for up to three months.

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Mark Hoecker	mhoecker@bellsouth.net
Vice President	Robert Carl	rcarl@carolina.rr.com
Secretary	Steve Rogish	s_rogish@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Observatory Director	Ken Steiner	ken@steiner4.com
Web Master	Ralph Oleski	ralph@planetcd.com
Public Outreach Coordinator	Robert Carl	rcarl@carolina.rr.com