



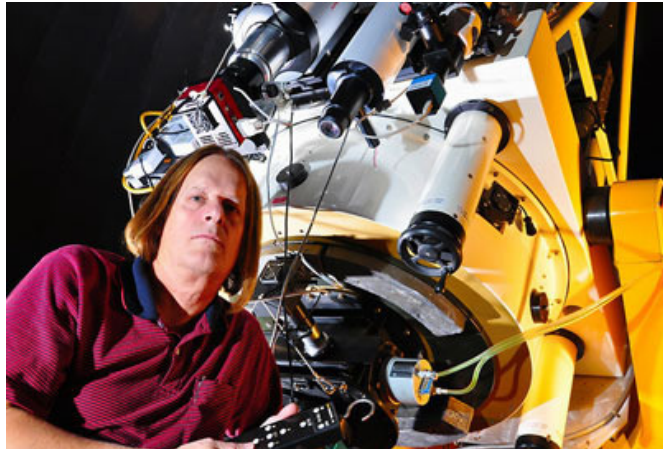
Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastronomers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, October 19, 2012
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Astronomer Who Came in from the Cold: The evolution of remote observing and the targets we observe at ASU's Dark Sky Observatory

Presented by: Dan Caton



As technology has improved, astronomers at the Dark Sky Observatory have moved from the cold eyepiece to the warm control room's computers. From there we moved to remote control from home, with many observation runs done unattended, with the observer asleep! Other telescopes run automatically under the Skynet system developed at UNC-CH. I will discuss these developments and show how we use off-the-shelf hardware and software to control our observatory. Along the way we will see the public program at our Cline Visitor Center as well as new telescopes under development. Some of the science we do as well as "pretty pictures" we take will be described and shown. Finally, weather and Wi-Fi willing, we will connect to the observatory online and start an observing run.

Dan Caton (Caton rhymes with "Dayton"), grew up in Tampa, Florida and attended the University of South Florida, graduating in 1973 with B.A.'s in astronomy and physics. He stayed on to get a Masters in astronomy, and married Susan Hatcher in 1976. They moved to Gainesville where he got his Ph.D. in astronomy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

It is time to renew your Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club Membership!

Dues will be collected at the October Meeting (10/19); however you are encouraged to send payment directly to the clubs Treasurer (Jim Gaiser - jegaiser@carolina.rr.com) in advance, to minimize the queue and meeting disruption. Please find the fee schedule below:

Annual individual/family member dues - \$35.00
or Students up to 18 years old - \$6.00

Observatory Operator fee - additional \$10.00
Private Observing Pads - additional \$25.00

Make checks payable to "Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club"

CAAC
c/o Jim Gaiser
8624 Lenten Rose Ct. UNIT 203
Charlotte, NC 28277

Christmas Party

Well folks it's almost that time of year again! Charlie and Gwen Clayton are once again kindly offering their beautiful home and generous hospitality to us for our annual Christmas dinner event. This year's festivity is Saturday, December 1st at 6:30 pm. The Clayton's address is 306 Riverton Road, Matthews, NC 28104, please use Google maps for directions or call Charlie directly for questions. It is extremely important to RSVP so Charlie & Gwen will know how many guests will be attending. Also, please ask the Clayton's what type of food they need as they try and coordinate the yummy dishes everyone brings. Please RSVP to 704-821-9891 or email your intentions to charlieclayton@windstream.net We are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year!

Charlie and Gwen

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties:

Saturday, October 13
Saturday, November 10

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.

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Strategic Plan update:

Piers for the picnic pavilion were installed Oct 6. The picnic pavilion is scheduled to be delivered and erected on Oct 19 (the day of our meeting). We will then schedule a time to build the picnic tables.

Observing forecast:

We have had very limited good seeing this summer; be advised that we are approaching the fall and winter season which is usually the prime time for observing. The lower humidity and better weather conditions make for much better seeing at the GHRO. We look forward to seeing you there.

Idea for Christmas:

The club has two telescopes which were donated the past year; they are for sale and would make great Christmas gifts for that special astronomy friend, or for you! One is a Celestron 8" GoTo, the other a Meade EXT125 also GoTo. Both scopes are a few years old but are virtually "new" since they have not been used. I hope to have them at the meeting pending the picnic pavilion delivery.

Loaner Telescopes:

The club has loaner telescopes for members; contact the Observatory Director to borrow these items.

FROM THE SECRETARY

New/Returning Members: Jeff Bassett, Judy Ghonem, Ray and Collette Spears

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

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).

FROM THE TREASURER

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

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) Ads will run for up to three months.

CAAC CONTACTS

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| 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 |
| Public Outreach Coordinator | Robert Carl | rcarl@carolina.rr.com |