



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

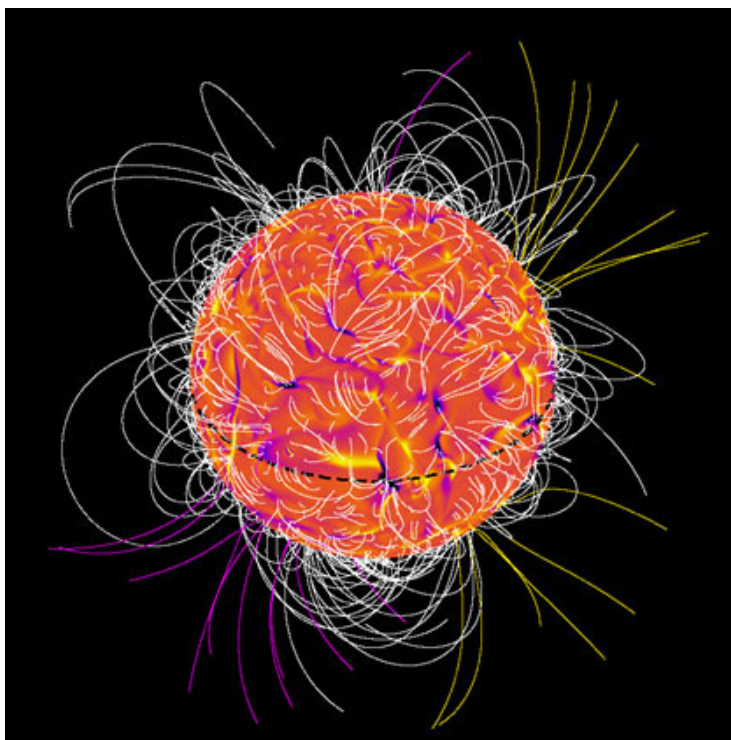
Next Meeting: Friday, November 16, 2012
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **L**earning **C**ritical Thinking
Through **A**stronomy Project

Presented by: Professor Joe Heafner

The Learning Critical Thinking Through Astronomy Project (LCTTA for short) is a complete repackaging of introductory astronomy from the ground up, built upon the critical thinking framework of Richard Paul and Linda Elder, both of the Foundation for Critical Thinking. LCTTA consists of numerous inquiry based activities rather than lectures, and each activity builds upon the previous ones to construct an internally consistent theme and story line leading from human thought to our Solar System and, eventually, to the Universe as a whole.



Joe Heafner began teaching astronomy and physics at Catawba Valley Community College in 1992. He has authored a book entitled *Fundamental Ephemeris Computations*, which was published in 2000. He is also a contributing editor to *Sky & Telescope*, writing software and book reviews. In early 2006, Joe began a three year term on the American Association of Physics Teachers Committee on Space Science and Astronomy and will assume chairmanship of this committee in January 2013. Joe is an active member of the Catawba Valley Astronomy Club and is on the staff of Lucile Miller Observatory at Maiden Middle School in Maiden, NC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Dues will again, be collected at the November Meeting (11/16); 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, November 10
Saturday, December 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.

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

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.

Loaner Telescopes:

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

Strategic Plan Update:

We have completed the picnic pavilion, picnic tables, circular drive, and RV camp sites. The WiFi is presently working; we anticipate 4G service sometime next quarter. The next phase of the project involves equipment upgrades which will take place by the end of this year, along with a security system. We have recently learned that a used weather station has been donated to the club; although we may need to do some upgrades for our use.





FROM THE SECRETARY

New/Returning Members: Keith Arrington, Neerat Ashri, Ralph and Andrea Bloom, Larry Bohlayer, Jim Craig, Jeffry and Alex Gaura, and Michael Kolczynski

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

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.

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

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