



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club  
[www.charlotteastromers.org](http://www.charlotteastromers.org)

Next Meeting: Friday, April 19, 2013  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### **Astrophotography on the Cheap: How to Make the Most of Your Equipment**

Presented by: Mario Belloni, Ph.D

Over the past dozen years, the field of digital astrophotography has changed by leaps and bounds. With new computerized tracking and autoguiding mounts and digital still and video photography it has become easier and cheaper to take high-quality astrophotographs. While it is easy to spend \$15,000 or more on a single astrophotography set up or even a single device

(telescope, camera, and mount), taking simple, short exposure photos can cost anywhere from \$50 to a few hundred dollars depending on how much equipment you already have. In this talk we outline the techniques that can be used to take astrophotographs with as little (additional) money as possible focusing on using iPhones, DSLRs and inexpensive web cams.



Mario Belloni is currently a professor of physics at Davidson College. He received his B.A. in physics and economics from the University of California at Berkeley and his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Connecticut. His research interests are in theoretical physics and interactive curricular material development. For the past 4 years he has taught astronomy at Davidson College and has incorporated astrophotography into his introductory astronomy courses.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Whew! April is a busy month. If you were able to attend Southern Star 2013, I think you'd agree that it was a fine line-up of speakers. Great topics and content. If you missed this one, make a mental note to find time in your schedule for next year. In other events – look over other outreach events for this month, including Astronomy Day at Discovery place on Saturday, April 20th. There are many folks in Charlotte who are not aware that there is an astronomy club in the community. This is a wonderful chance to meet people interested in astronomy and participate in the designated “Astronomy Day” across the country.

Don't forget, at the April 19th CAAC meeting, we will be voting on the proposed officer slate for the next 2013-2014 club year:

Jim Gaiser – President  
Rob Carl – Vice-president  
Steve Rogish – Secretary  
Phil Foust – Treasurer  
Ken Steiner – Observatory Director

See you Friday!

....Mark

## FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

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### **Observatory Operator Training**

Observatory Operator Training will be held on Sunday, **April 21st**, 2013 at 6:00 pm. If it is threatening rain, contact the Observatory Director (Ken Steiner) before proceeding to the GHRO; phone number 704.953.3902. This is for members who have paid their \$10.00 Operator fee.

### **Loaner Telescopes**

The CAAC has several loaner telescopes for use by members; borrow at one meeting and return the following meeting. We have had two Dobsonian scopes donated and they are now available. One is a 6 inch and the other is an 8 inch to which I have added a Telrad finder and a zoom eyepiece. Both scopes are very basic but very easy to use.

Clear skies,  
Ken Steiner

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties**

Saturday, May 11

Saturday, June 8

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.

### **Discovery Place Partnership/Astronomy Day:**

CAAC is partnering with Discovery Place on Wednesday, **April 17th** for a fun family evening including night sky observing atop their parking deck. These events always draw a crowd and are a lot of fun for folks to take a peek through our telescopes.

Astronomy Day is Saturday, **April 20th** at Discovery Place and CAAC will be there, too. We'll be needing volunteers for helping:

- staffing a table with information about the club and amateur astronomy
- sidewalk solar observing
- have a couple telescopes setup inside Discovery Place to explain the basics

Please consider volunteering for these family friendly, public outreach events. More details will follow.

### **CAAC Outreach**

#### **Mt. Pleasant Middle School:**

Club member Gary Hahn and the Town of Mt. Pleasant, NC are sponsoring a Star Party at Mt. Pleasant Middle School on Thursday, **April 18th**, 2013. The evening will begin at 8pm. You may begin setup at 6:30. Many volunteers are needed as this event as more than 150 visitors are expected. The address is 8325 NC Hwy 49N, Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124. If you can help out, please email Rob C at [rcarl@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rcarl@carolina.rr.com). Thanks and we are looking forward to seeing you at this Family Friendly event!

#### **Sharon Elementary School:**

Dr. Susan Trammell of UNCC and The Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club is sponsoring a Star Party at Sharon Elementary School on Friday, **April 26th** beginning at 8pm. Guest should start arriving around 7:30. Setup can begin at 6:30pm and power will be available. Volunteers may unload at the site and park close by. The event is in need of several Volunteers. The address is 4330 Foxcroft Road, Charlotte, NC 28211. 200+ visitors are expected. Please email Rob C at [rcarl@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rcarl@carolina.rr.com) or Dr. Trammell at [srtramme@uncc.edu](mailto:srtramme@uncc.edu) if you can help out.

## FROM THE TREASURER

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CAAC membership year begins October 1<sup>st</sup>, and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Dues for members joining after January 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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### **New/Returning Members**

Kristen Davis & Thomas Kitrick



### **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. Click the banner above, or use the link below to register:

[http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-apply.cfm?Club\\_ID=1468&ApplicantType=Member](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-apply.cfm?Club_ID=1468&ApplicantType=Member)

### CAAC on Facebook

Find the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club on Facebook. Navigate to [www.facebook.com/CharlotteAstronomers](http://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](mailto:s_rogish@yahoo.com)), or see me at the monthly meeting.

Newsletter questions, announcements, change of address - contact Steve Rogish ([s\\_rogish@yahoo.com](mailto:s_rogish@yahoo.com)).

### FOR SALE ITEMS

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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](mailto:s_rogish@yahoo.com)). Ads will run for up to three months.

### CAAC CONTACTS

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President	Mark Hoecker	<a href="mailto:mhoecker@bellsouth.net">mhoecker@bellsouth.net</a>
Vice President	Robert Carl	<a href="mailto:rcarl@carolina.rr.com">rcarl@carolina.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Rogish	<a href="mailto:s_rogish@yahoo.com">s_rogish@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Jim Gaiser	<a href="mailto:jegaiser@carolina.rr.com">jegaiser@carolina.rr.com</a>
Observatory Director	Ken Steiner	<a href="mailto:ken@steiner4.com">ken@steiner4.com</a>
Public Outreach Coordinator	Robert Carl	<a href="mailto:rcarl@carolina.rr.com">rcarl@carolina.rr.com</a>