



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, August 16, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Astronomy Show And Tell

Join us for an evening of members sharing their passions and hard work on many different hobbies, projects and information technology. Speakers will display and discuss the latest in equipment, software and accessories relating to various Astronomy fields and topics. Computer and Smart Phone Software, telescope/binocular modifications as well as Internet related tools are just a few of the things which will be shown and demonstrated. Discover what some of your fellow club members have been working on! Don't forget to bring your own curiosity and questions also.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The “Dog Days” of summer are upon us...a tribute to Sirius, the Dog Star. While originally the Dog Days coincided (more or less) with Sirius rising at the same time as the sun, precession has rendered this no longer true. But we still refer to late July through August as the Dog Days.

Around here, an interesting observing trick is to see Canopus as Sirius transits, that is, when Sirius is highest in the south. It is possible to observe the brightest star in the sky (Sirius) and the second brightest star (Canopus) at the same time. You need a clear view of the southern horizon, and a little patience. While the dog days are not the time to try this, it is the time to start planning. I'm not sure it is possible to view Canopus from GHRO, I know it is possible from 40 Acre Rock, about 2 miles from GHRO as the crow flies. If nothing else, it's worth the trip to 40 Acre Rock under only the light of the stars, in the fall...perhaps we should make it a club outing, is anyone interested? We'll make a sign-up sheet this fall and hope the clouds cooperate.

Clear skies...
Jim

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Star Party at the GHRO, August 31 - Newbies and Veterans, Star Party, weather permitting.

4:00 pm - Operator Training on the GHRO Telescopes for members who have paid the \$10.00 Observatory Operator Fee.

6:00 to 8:00 pm - Feel free to bring your picnic dinner. The club has a gas grill for your hot dogs, hamburgers, steaks, etc. Drinks are available for 50 cents.

8:00pm - Presentation in the Outreach Center: What's in the sky tonight? This is especially for our members new to astronomy. We will have seasoned members mentoring for the evening.

Dusk into the night - Observing with the club telescopes and/or member owned scopes with mentoring for the newbies.

Please call the observatory director if you have any doubt concerning weather; I'd hate for you to drive the distance if it is canceled due to weather. Rule of thumb, if the weather report does not show “clear”, call before proceeding to the GHRO.

If you need directions, please contact Observatory Director, Ken Steiner
704.953.3902
ksteiner30@gmail.com

Loaner Telescopes (available at monthly meetings)

The CAAC has several loaner telescopes for use by members; borrow at one meeting and return the following meeting. The club has two Dobsonian scopes (6" & 8"). Both are very basic and easy to use.

Clear skies,
Ken Steiner

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cosmic Camporee is scheduled for weekend of September 27. This will include hog roast Saturday evening, observing, camping, and activities for kids.

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties

Saturday, August 31

Saturday, September 7

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 TREASURER

CAAC **membership year begins October 1, and ends on September 30.** 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. Phil Foust, CAAC Treasurer, will accept them at monthly meetings, or they can be mailed to:

CAAC
c/o Phil Foust
449 Roselawn Place
Charlotte, NC 28211

FROM THE SECRETARY



Register with the Night Sky Network

Membership allows you to **contact other members via email**, and **receive last minute updates for outreach events** via text message:

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, 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).

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	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Robert Carl	rcarl@carolina.rr.com
Treasurer	Phil Foust	philfoust@gmail.com
Secretary	Steve Rogish	s_rogish@yahoo.com
Observatory Director	Ken Steiner	ksteiner30@gmail.com
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