

November 2013



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

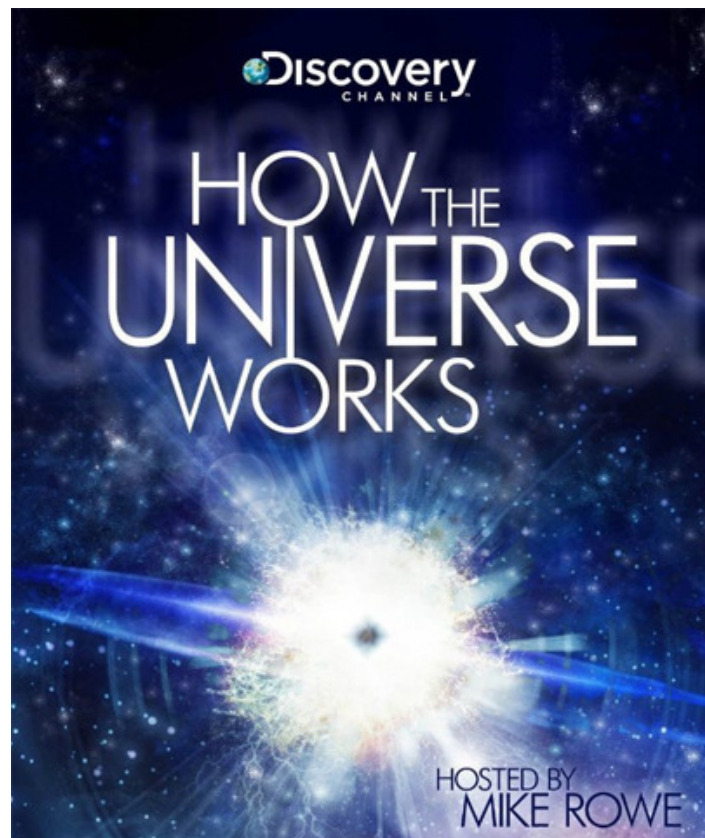
Next Meeting: Friday, November 15, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Postponed from the October meeting...

It's movie night!

Join us this month as we will be screening an episode of the TV series "**How The Universe Works**", entitled Solar Systems. This program will explore the discovery of planets orbiting other Stars. We now have evidence of several hundred of these systems so far which have been discovered and identified recently. By studying these other worlds, we gain new understanding how remarkable our own solar system is and the uniqueness of the Universe. The series is narrated by one of the best in the business: Mike Rowe, who also narrates programs such as Deadliest Catch and Dirty Jobs on the Discovery Channel. Bring a guest!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Comet ISON – will it be a McNaught (C/2006P1) or Kohoutek (C/1973 D1)??

Those of a certain age remember both outstanding comets (think Comet West in 1976) and real duds (Kohoutek in 1973). Which one will Comet ISON be? By the time we meet again, we may know the answer. ISON is brightening and was at an estimated magnitude of 8.8 on November 4. As it heads toward rendezvous with the Sun on November 28, try to find it with binoculars and (hopefully) naked eye. Try to find it in the morning sky between now and perihelion using the map below. Note how close it is to Spica on the Nov. 17-18.



Clear skies...
Jim

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC 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 7th at 6:30 pm**. The Clayton's address is 306 Riverton Road, Matthews, NC 28104. It is extremely important to RSVP if you plan attending with number of guests and which covered dish you will be bringing. Please RSVP to 704-821-9891 or email your intentions to: charlieclayton@windstream.net. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year!

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties

Saturday, November 30

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 OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Combination at the GHRO has been changed. You should receive the new combination when you pay your dues and Observatory Fee.

The club has loaner scopes available; see the Observatory Director for details.

Observatory Director's Wish List:

- Desktop Computer

FROM THE SECRETARY



Register with the Night Sky Network

It is imperative that all members of the CAAC join the Night Sky Network (NSN). In the very near future, all of the clubs outreach activities will be managed by the NSN, as well as club communications (newsletters, event notifications, general email). The NSN is a wonderful tool specifically designed for amateur astronomy clubs like ours.

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

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.

Newsletter questions, announcements, astronomy related items for sale, change of address - contact Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com).

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
Public Outreach Coordinator	Neil Easden	neileasden@me.com