



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, January 17, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

WE'RE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL!



Join us this evening as we will all be attending one of THE GREAT COURSES video presentation! In particular, we will be taking two classes from the COSMOLOGY: HISTORY AND NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE module. The lecturer will be Professor Mark Whittle of the University of West Virginia. First we will dive into GIANT BLACK HOLES and discover the enormity and power of these monsters, secondly we will learn about the GALAXY WEB with its intricate structure and primordial sound. Both lectures are 25 minutes each and are complete with stunning graphics and step by step immersive learning in a clear, concise and easy to comprehend manner. Pad and paper not necessary. See you there!!

ABOUT THE PROFESSOR

Dr. Mark Whittle is Professor of Astronomy at the University of Virginia, where he has been teaching since 1986. He teaches on the solar system, stars, galaxies, cosmology, and observing techniques. He also gives frequent public lectures, and he is committed to community outreach on all areas of astronomy, particularly cosmology. Professor Whittle was a Mackinnon Scholar at Magdalen College, University of Oxford, where he obtained his B.A. Honors in Physics, First Class. He earned his M.A. in Physics at Oxford and his Ph.D. in Astronomy at the University of Cambridge.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, ISON is the dust trail that many anticipated, not the comet of the century a lot of us hoped for. A new year has dawned and 2014 promises to be another outstanding year for CAAC. Our annual Southern Star astronomy convention, now in its 28th year, will be a blockbuster. This is the 60th anniversary of the founding of CAAC, and it will be commemorated with fanfare and a public event to be announced later in the year. The officer team is working to make this the best year ever for CAAC and we look forward to clear skies and transparent seeing.

Clear skies...

Jim

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties

Saturday, February 1

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.

Field Trip to Appalachian State Dark Sky Observatory

Saturday, February 22

Upcoming Outreach

Happy New Year! 2014 promises to be full of outreach. Volunteers are currently needed for these upcoming events. Please e-mail me at neileasden@me.com or neil.easden@yahoo.com if you would like to assist. See you out there.

Morehead STEM Academy's 14th Annual STEM Fair Night

Time: Thursday January 16th 2014

Set up: 5pm start

Main Event: 6pm-7pm

Location: Morehead STEM Academy, 7810 Neal Rd, Charlotte, NC, 28262

Fairview Elementary School Fundraiser

Time: Thursday January 23rd 2014

Set Up: 5pm start

Main Event: 6pm-8pm

Location: Fairview Elementary, 110 Clontz Rd, Monroe, NC, 28110

Discovery Place/CAAC "Moon Party"

Time: Tuesday February 4th 2014

Set Up: 5pm start

Main Event: 6pm-10pm

Location: Top Deck Discovery Place, W. 6th Street, Charlotte, NC, 28202

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

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.

Telescope loaner program. Members may borrow one of the club's telescopes between meetings.

Astroimaging School for January 18 is full at 16 participants. Let the Observatory Directory know if you wish to be placed on a standby list.

Next Star Party and Observatory Training at the GHRO is scheduled for February 1, 2014. The training will begin at 3:00 pm.

Dark Sky Observatory Field Trip. Mark you calendar for February 22 (March 1 Alt if clouds/snow prevents Feb 22). We will car pool to App State in Boone, NC to visit the Astronomy Lab on Campus, enjoy dinner in Boone and then travel to the Dark Sky Observatory (<http://dso.appstate.edu/>) to look through their 32 inch telescope. Since it gets dark early and we will still be on Standard time the return to Charlotte should not be too late.

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).