



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, March 21, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

OUR MAGNETIC SUN

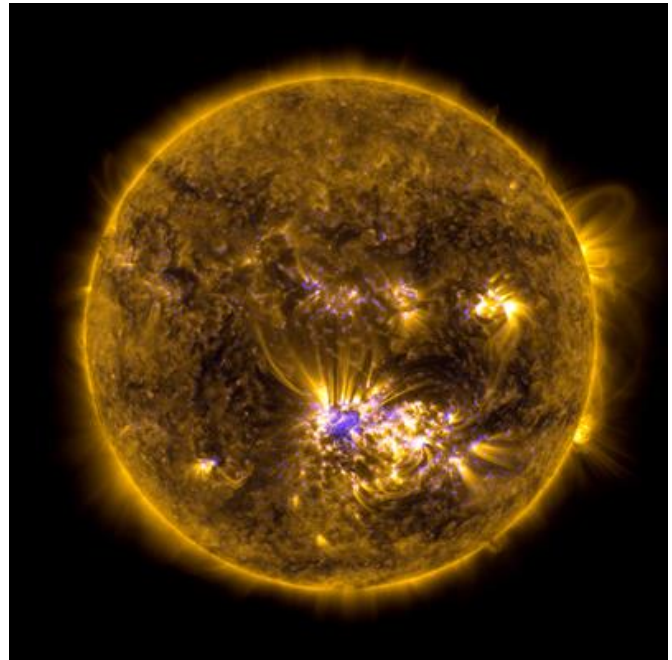
Presented by: Dr. Jim Gaiser

We will explore the Sun and its powerful magnetic fields, how these fields generate the features we observe, and how the Sun's magnetic activity affects our way of life and technologies here on Earth.

About the presenter:

Dr. Gaiser earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics in 1976 and followed that with a Masters and PhD in Atomic physics from Auburn in 1981. After a stint as an Assistant Professor at East Carolina University in the 80's, he transitioned into Medical Physics. He is currently the Southeast Vice-President for Landauer Medical Physics.

His lifelong interest in Astronomy began when he looked up to see Echo I in 1961. His first telescope (and his current telescope) was a 75mm, f15 Unitron refractor. His astronomical interests include asteroid occultations and astrophotography using webcams.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the days lengthen, the amateur astronomer could be sad...as those long dark winter nights with all the celestial glory they bring are being usher out by Leo and the rest of the spring gang. By the same token, the amateur could embrace the warm nights ahead...in anticipation of looking through the heart of the Leo and Virgo clusters. With daylight savings time upon us, it's just a later start to the observing evening, but spectacular in its own way.

Either way you want to look at it, we're entering the best observing season...in my book. Crisp, but not cold, air greets you at the eyepiece, Messier objects abound and Milky Way starts its return to summer glory. The club sponsored Messier Marathon at the end of March should be a lot of fun. Whether you finish a complete marathon or just do a 5k, there are a lot of beautiful object to see this time of year.

I'm hoping to give a firsthand account of the Regulus occultation at our meeting on Friday, the 21st. I'm watching the weather and may make a lightning trip to NYC on Wednesday afternoon after work. Having observed several asteroid occultations of dimmer stars, this one will be one for the record book. I view this as just another eclipse chase, just a shorter duration and a more distant star than Sol. Wish me luck.

Clear skies...

Jim

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, March 1 (Observatory Operator Training)

Saturday, March 22

Saturday, March 29 (Messier Marathon)

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.

Southern Star Astronomical Convention - April 24-27, 2014

As most of you know, Southern Star is our club's number one annual fund raiser. It certainly gives our club funds that help keep the CAAC on solid financial footing; especially with support for the fabulous, newly developed and growing observatory facility that we have in Taxahaw, SC.

Register here: www.charlotteastronomers.org/southernstar

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Dues + Observatory Fee Schedule

Club Year: Oct-2013 to Sep-2014

	Annual Dues	+	Observatory	Total	Factor
Full Year Membership / Renewals Individual or Families	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
Student Rate Up To Age 18	\$9	+	\$6	\$15	25%

New Memberships Prorated At Time Of Joining	Annual Dues	+	Observatory	Total	Factor
1 st Quarter: Oct-Dec	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
2 nd Quarter: Jan-Mar	\$27	+	\$18	\$45	75%
3 rd Quarter: Apl-Jun	\$18	+	\$12	\$30	50%
4 th Quarter: Jul-Sept	\$9	+	\$6	\$15	25%

Observing Pads At GHRO:

--General Members Pad, Open To All: No Charge

--Fee For Members With A Private Pad: \$25/Year

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.

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

Special Announcement

At the March meeting, there will be a special announcement related to new equipment at the club's observatory (GHRO). We anticipate the benefactor to be in attendance at the meeting.

Moon/Star Party and Observatory Training at the GHRO, March 22, 2014.

- Operator Training – 4:30pm
- BYO Picnic Dinner – 6:30pm
- Presentation (In the sky tonight) – 7:30pm
- Sunset – 7:30pm

Please contact the Observatory Director Ken Steiner if you have any doubt regarding the weather, or if you need directions

Messier Marathon March 29, 2014

The GHRO will sponsor a Messier Marathon at the GHRO on Saturday, March 29. We will have separate categories for locating the Messier Objects:

1. Star Hoping
2. Push To
3. Go To

Please inform the Observatory Director if you plan on participating in this marathon. Other members are welcome to be a part of this unique star party.

Ken Steiner, Observatory Director
ksteiner30@gmail.com
704.953.3902

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