



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Celebrating 60 years
1954 - 2014

Next Meeting: Friday, Aug 15, 2014
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

SOFTWARE FOR ASTRONOMERS FROM KNIGHTWARE

Software is used in many ways by today's amateur astronomers. From specialist utilities to the commonplace planetarium, there is much to choose from, and some of that software is produced here in North Carolina.

Phyllis Lang's company, Knightware, produces both commercial and free software that help astronomers enjoy the night sky. She will talk about how she came to be a developer of astronomical software and will demonstrate some of her current products: Deep-Sky Planner (observation planning and logging), SQM Reader Pro (dark sky monitoring) and KnightVision (a red screen utility).

Presented by: Phyllis Lang

Phyllis Lang is a fellow amateur astronomer and native North Carolinian. She has been observing with telescopes since the mid-1980s, doing primarily deep-sky observing with Dobsonian reflectors. She and husband Mark have enjoyed many trips to Southern Stars.

Phyllis has combined her career as a software developer with her interest in astronomy to form her company, Knightware, which makes software for astronomers. Her flagship product, Deep-Sky Planner, has been in publication for over 20 years and is in use worldwide by both amateur and professional astronomers. It won awards from both 'Astronomy' and 'Sky & Telescope' magazines over the last year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, August 23

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. All members and their guests are welcome.

September Monthly Meeting

The club will be presenting our annual show-n-tell. If you'd like to give a short 5-7 min presentation on a piece of equipment, or a project you're working on, please contact the club's Vice President, Neil Easden (neileasden@me.com) to schedule.

Cosmic Camporee

The 2014 Cosmic Camporee is schedule for the weekend of Sept 26-28.

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

24 Inch GO TO upgrade nearly complete

2014 Cosmic Camporee Tentative Schedule:

Friday, September 26

- 7:30pm Picnic Dinner - club to provide hamburgers, hot dogs, & veggie burgers
- 8:00pm Movies for Kids (space related) in Outreach Center
- 9:00pm Cheese and Crackers
- Observing

Saturday, September 27

- Solar Observing-all day
- Yard games-all day
- 10:00am Forty Acre Rock Hike
- 3:00pm Organized Kids Activities
- 4:00pm Model Rockets Launch
- 5:30pm Hog Roast & Potluck Dinner - BYO lawn chairs - drinks provided
- 7:00pm What's Up tonight
- 8:00pm Observing
- 8:00pm SMORES, fire circle

Sunday, September 28

- 7:30 to 9:00am Free Pancake Breakfast - pancakes, eggs, sausage
- 10:00am Forty Acre Rock Hike

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Dues + Observatory Support Fee

Club Year: Oct-2013 to Sep-2014

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

New Memberships Prorated At Time Of Joining	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: Apr-Jun	\$18	+	\$12	\$30	50%
4 th Quarter: Jul-Sep	\$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 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.

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Neil Easden	neileasden@me.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