



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club  
[www.charlotteastromers.org](http://www.charlotteastromers.org)

*Celebrating 60 years*  
*1954 - 2014*

Next Meeting: Friday, Oct 17, 2014  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### **SOLAR SYSTEM PHOTOGRAPHY IN SIDEREAL TIME, AN ENCORE PRESENTATION FROM JULY 2010**

**Presented by: Dr. Jim Gaiser**

Sidereal time is a time scale that is based on the Earth's rate of rotation measured relative to the fixed stars.

#### **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

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The last lunar eclipse of 2014 is behind us, I hope everyone got a glimpse of totality before the clouds and dawn got in the way. I know I had about a 5 minute window of good viewing. The partial solar eclipse on October 23 will be a near sunset event for us in Charlotte, the sun only 6 degrees above the horizon at first contact. As you can imagine, the club is not planning an event for this.

Eclipses occur all the time, an occultation is just an eclipse with a much more distant body. An asteroid occultation is when an asteroid passes in front of a distant star. These occur with great regularity and are a lot of fun to watch, as well as helping determining the shape of some of the smaller asteroids. An excellent place to find an occultation near you is <http://www.astroidoccultation.com>.

Since I have a solar system theme going this month, let's not forget the smallest sun orbiting particles...meteoroids. In space they pose a potential threat only to orbiting astronauts, on earth we're protect by a nice thick air layer. But when meteoroids burn up in the atmosphere, we see the flash of light, a meteor. It's not too early to plan for the Geminid shower around December 13-14. While the Leonids occur next month around the 18th, the Geminids are the best of the year, in my opinion. What's yours?

Clear skies...

Jim

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties**

Saturday, October 18 (see below for more details)

Saturday, November 15

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.

## FROM THE TREASURER

The 2015 CAAC membership year began on October 1. Please bring your dues to the upcoming meeting, or mail your check to the CAAC Treasurer this week (address below).

## CAAC Dues + Observatory Support Fee

Club Year: Oct-2014 to Sep-2015

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 <sup>st</sup> Quarter: Oct-Dec	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Jan-Mar	\$27	+	\$18	\$45	75%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Apr-Jun	\$18	+	\$12	\$30	50%
4 <sup>th</sup> 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 OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

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- **Cosmic Camporee was a great success. Thank you to all who made it possible.**
- **The access code has changed along with the addition of the alarm system. Contact the Observatory Director with any questions.**

**Star Party/Operator Training at the GHRO October 18**

Long Range Weather Forecast is looking good!

Newbies and Veterans Star Party Weather permitting.

3:30 pm - Operator Training on the GHRO Telescopes for members who have paid the Observatory Fee. Please let the Observatory Director know if you plan on participating in the Operator Training.

Solar Observing until 5:30pm

5:00 to 6:00 pm - Feel free to bring your picnic dinner. The club has a gas grill for your hot dogs, hamburgers, steaks or whatever pleases your fancy. Drinks are available for 50 cents.

6:30 pm - Presentation in the Outreach Center: What's up in the sky tonight? This is especially for our members new to astronomy. We will have seasoned members to be mentors for the evening.

Sunset is 6:46 pm

Please call the observatory director if you have any doubt concerning weather; I hate for you to drive the distance if it is canceled due to weather. Run 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

## FROM THE SECRETARY

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### **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](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 Apparel & Gear**

Visit our Lands' End Store – Follow the navigation bar link on our club website:  
<http://www.charlotteastronomers.org>

CAAC branded ball caps have arrived and will be available for \$10. There are 24 available, and will be offered first come/first served.

## CAAC CONTACTS

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President	Jim Gaiser	<a href="mailto:jegaiser@carolina.rr.com">jegaiser@carolina.rr.com</a>
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