



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, Jan 16, 2015
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

NASA'S ORION PROJECT – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Presented by: Hap Griffin

Hap Griffin has been interested in astronomy and particularly astrophotography his entire life. He retired in 2012 after 34 years at South Carolina Educational Television, the last 16 as its Vice-President and Chief Engineer. He is a founding member of the MAC-Hunter Observatory site in South Carolina with five amateur observatories. He has had astrophotos printed in *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines as well as several books on the subject. He owns and operates Imaging Infinity, where he makes specialized accessories for astrophotography and modifies Canon DSLR cameras for astro and IR work.

He grew up with the NASA space program (NASA being formed the year he was born) and was highly influenced by it with a deep interest in space exploration. In 2012, he obtained a security clearance for Kennedy Space Center and began shooting events and launches there for *Sky & Telescope* magazine. He sets up automated pad mounted remote cameras for rocket launches and also photographs many behind the scenes events and locations. He has been inside of two space shuttles (Endeavour and Atlantis) and visited the MAVEN spacecraft (currently in orbit around Mars) in its clean room before launch.

His talk at CAAC will document the development of NASA's newest manned spacecraft, Orion, as well as its first test flight last December.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, January 10
Saturday, February 14
Saturday, March 21

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 OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Loaner scopes are available, contact observatory director if you want to pick up at the meeting.

Dates for 2015 GHRO star parties are on the club's calendar.

Training on club's scope is usually on the star party dates, contact Observatory Director if you need a different time for training.

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 Apparel & Gear

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

FROM THE TREASURER

The 2015 CAAC membership year began on October 1.

Astronomical Calendars: just eight (8) remaining. If you ordered one please pick up at Jan meeting - or email Phil Foust to hold for you.

2015 RASC Observers Handbook: just ten (10) remaining. If you ordered one please pick up at Jan meeting or email Phil Foust to hold for you.

CAAC Dues + Observatory Support Fee

Club Year: Oct-2015 to Sep-2016

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

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
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