



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

Next Meeting: Friday, Feb 20, 2015  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### **CHARLOTTE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS CLUB ONLINE**

As most of you know, over the past 2-3 years, Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club has changed at quite a pace, with some fantastic upgrades as well as some brand new facilities. What many members may not know, is that our online presence has also been changing at a similar rate. Between our website, Night Sky Network and newer social media outlets, there have been a number of additions and most importantly, new capabilities added.

This month, a smattering of CAAC officers will showcase the clubs current online presence. Taking a look at what can now be seen and done, through or via, <http://www.charlotteastronomers.org>, along with a fresh look at Night Sky Network (<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>), both in terms of how we use it as a club, as well as how it can be utilized by individual users for their own observational and/or outreach purposes.

Finally, we will have an overview of our fledgling social media presence and explain how you, our members, might be able to help us with that, particularly if you are astrophotographers looking to share!

**Night Sky Network**

Astronomy Clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

### **Providence Day School Star Party Cancelled**

Unforeseen circumstances have caused a knock on effect that ultimately made the 2/28 date untenable. If we were to go ahead, we would, by default, be excluding most of the female students of PDS itself. Considering the involvement of Project Scientist, coupled with the overall philosophy that was behind this event, this would be the exact opposite of what we were trying to achieve. Keep an eye out for the fall reschedule!

### **Fisher Farms Bi-Annual Star Party**

Friday, 3/27/2015, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Fisher Farm Park, 21215 Shearer Road, Davidson, NC 28036

Please join us on Friday, March 27th at 8pm for a fun night under the stars at our bi-annual Star Party in Davidson, NC. Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club is partnering with Davidson College and the Davidson Lands Conservancy for a Star Party at Fisher Farm Park in Davidson, NC. We still need MANY volunteers with their telescopes for this event as more than 500 guests are expected! Hope to see you there!

### **International Sidewalk Astronomy Night 8**

Saturday, 3/28/2015, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Charlotte Country Day School, 1440 Carmel Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226

Saturday March 28th, as part of worldwide International Sidewalk Astronomy 8, Charlotte Country Day School is inviting CAAC to join in the fun by participating in their on campus star party! Physics teacher extraordinaire Mr. Tuttle will be breaking out many of the schools telescopes, which admirably, include a 12" reflector.

This event will be open to all friends and students of Charlotte Country Day School and via CAAC, we will be extending some invites to local school classes who have reached out to us lately.

Under a beautiful 2/3 waxing gibbous moon, we will have Venus setting in the early evening along with Jupiter high above for the for duration, of course Orion will still be gracing the early evening skies as well. A great night for a star party!

Volunteers & telescopes required for both of these upcoming events. If you would like to assist please advise Neil Easden via [neileasden@me.com](mailto:neileasden@me.com), or RSVP to the events via NSN.

## FROM THE TREASURER

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

Training on the **Astro Imaging Observatory** is tentatively scheduled for February 21. Details at the next CAAC meeting.

General Observatory Training will be conducted in the afternoon of the next GHRO star party, March 21.

## SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION DRIVE

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### **The Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Scholarship Auction Drive**

In an effort to raise money toward a scholarship to be awarded to a deserving UNCC student majoring in Physics or Astronomy, the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club (CAAC) will conduct an auction during its April, 2015 meeting.

CAAC members are encouraged to donate any of the following articles or services that can be used in the April meeting auction. Please bring the donated auction items and your recommended minimum bids to the up-coming meetings. Bob Cantu or Tom Blevins, your CAAC auctioneers, will gladly accept them at the meetings.

#### Potential Auction Items:

- Astronomy or science related books – old or new.
- Astronomy accessories – eyepieces, tripods, filters, laser pointers, cameras, collimators, etc.
- Telescopes – any size from 50 mm to 200 mm or larger with tripods if possible.
- Services – e.g., someone may want to donate their service such as a 30-minute binocular training session of the night sky or a 30-minute Astrophotography session.
- Framed Astro-photos of planets, stars, constellations, clusters, the moon that someone may want to buy.

## 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>

FOR SALE

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**For Sale or Trade:** Meade 12" LX200 classic with dew shell, power supply, super wedge and tripod. Very good condition. Was polar mounted in my observatory. Sold house, buyer not astronomy buff, must now downsize. Will trade for 8 or 10" LX200 or 9.25" Celestron or possibly 8-12" dob; +/- \$\$\$\$. Can bring to star party or meet, your choosing, I live in Lancaster. E-mail me for particulars. Tom Ifft - sctom1@yahoo.com

CAAC CONTACTS

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President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
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