



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

Next Meeting: Friday, May 15, 2015  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### **How to get eclipsed - Totally**

Bill Nigg recently moved here from Kalamazoo Michigan where he was granted Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. He now lives out in the country south of Monroe where he is building a small observatory. Bill has degrees in Physics and Engineering from Western Michigan University. His career for 32 years was a service engineer for analytical instruments in the physics lab at Upjohn Pharmaceuticals while teaching Astronomy evenings at Kalamazoo Valley Community College for 13 years. Since retiring 6 years ago, Bill volunteers at national and state parks doing telescope observing and astronomy presentations for the campers. He only picks parks with dark skies and good weather. It's a fun job but somebody has to do it. He learned a lot in his 20 years in the national camping program of the Boy Scouts of America like standing out in the dark with a telescope is just like winter camping. Bill has successfully observed 10 solar eclipses in places like Zambia, Aruba, Winnipeg, and Baja Mexico. The key word here is "Successfully" and that is the topic of his presentation at the CAAC meeting. Other eclipse observers may offer beginner guidance also.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, May 16

Saturday, June 13

Monthly star parties are held at the club's **Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory** near Taxahaw, SC, weather permitting. Contact the Observatory Director for directions.

### Solar Observing Event

CAAC will be hosting solar observing with the Charlotte Civic Orchestra on Sunday June 7, 2015 at 3:30pm. For more details, visit [www.charlottecivicorchestra.org](http://www.charlottecivicorchestra.org)

## 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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We have loaner telescopes available, please contact the observatory director to make arrangements to borrow one.

The next Star party at the GHRO is May 16. Those of you desiring training on the club's telescopes should contact Chris Skor (chrisskor@hotmail.com), the new Observatory Director who will take the reins following the Friday evening meeting.

I will be stepping down as your Observatory Director after 8 years. I want to thank each and every one of you who have made contributions of labor and funds to make the GHRO what it is today. It has been a great ride and I thank you all. Please continue your great support to my successor Chris Skor as he leads the GHRO into what I am sure will be another exciting phase. - Ken Steiner

## 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

**For Sale:**

Celstron Sky Scout, excellent condition and includes the case and CD - \$90. Jim Sorrow can be contacted by phone 803-230-6989, or email [jimsorrow@windstream.net](mailto:jimsorrow@windstream.net).

**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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