



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

Next Meeting: Friday, June 19, 2015  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### **Models in Astronomy**

**Presented by: Dennis Hands**

Models can really aid the understanding of complex concepts, but it's important to remember that models can also be misleading. Most of us have seen models of the planets and solar system, and it's easy to overlook the ways models do not accurately represent reality.

Dennis Hands taught astronomy at Grimsley High School in Greensboro and is currently teaching astronomy at High Point University. His June presentation to the CAAC will include entertaining and educational parts of some of his classroom presentations of astronomical models.



Dennis is a member of the Greensboro Astronomy Club. He is also a proud alumni of Space Camp in Huntsville Alabama and served as the First Officer on crew 42 of the Mars Analog Research Station. Dennis has both helped to construct, and served as Chair, of Guilford Technical Community Colleges Cline Observatory.

## FROM THE TREASURER

**Treasurer's Report - Final 2015 Southern Star**

Thanks to Jim Lamm, the Southern Star Team, and all club attendees for a successful 2015. Southern Star is the club's premier educational program. Next year will be the 30th anniversary of Southern Star! We look forward to this special event.

Southern Star Revenues: \$29,905.00  
 Less Expenses: (\$24,985.18)  
 Total 2015 Southern Star Fundraising: **\$4,919.82**

**Treasurer's Report - Final 2015 Scholarship Fund**

Thanks to Tom Blevins and Bob Cantu for their vision in creating and managing the CAAC Scholarship Fund Awards Program. Thanks to all Scholarship Fund donors, equipment donors, and auction participants. At the June meeting, Tom will share plans for scholarship awards over the next two years.

Scholarship Fund Donations: \$783.00  
 Scholarship Auction Receipts: \$2,004.00  
 Less Expenses: (\$0.00)  
 Total 2015 Scholarship Fund: **\$2,787.00**

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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### Alarm System How-To videos

Check out short videos on GHRO alarm system at <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUn>. Key to remember, no special symbols are required, the same building code toggles the alarm system on and off.

### Alvan and BigBoy

We finished the Startup\Shutdown procedures for Alvan and BigBoy. Print these handouts double-sided, landscape then fold in half. We have copies at GHRO next to each scope.

### Mow Speed Ahead

Thanks to a generous donation from club member Steve Morgan CAAC\GHRO now has our own 24" Zero-Turn mower. Over the life of the mower we'll have saved over \$17,500 from Steve's donation compared to grass cutting expenses.

Only members who complete the 30 minute training and certification processes will be allowed to handle this beast. If you're up for the challenge, see me to schedule time to become certified.

I haven't come up with a name yet, but leaning towards "Mr. Red".



### Refreshing

Also check out new equipment tables on the member's pad! These should keep those lens caps from dropping on the ground. Let me know other ways together we can improve GHRO.



What do bats love but and astronomers hate? Answer, mosquitos! We found a family of bats hanging around. We're going to encourage them to stay at Ken's place and eat the mosquitos they can. Eventually we'll relocate Ken's house to the edge of our field, perhaps build bat condo village. We're also planning to make mosquito traps using empty 2-liter plastic soda bottles. Bring an empty along to the next Star Party.

Are you replacing backyard patio furniture? Consider donating old to GHRO for setup near the picnic area. Good condition but not so good that we need to chain it down.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, July 11

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

### **Cosmic Camporee, Saturday, October 10th**

Mark your calendar for CAAC\GHRO tradition Cosmic Camporee held this year Saturday, October 10th. We'll have great food, old and new friends, daytime activities, cool evenings followed by clear dark skies - more to follow... If you're interested in helping, contact Chris Skor (Observatory Director)

## 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 CONTACTS

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