



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastronomers.org

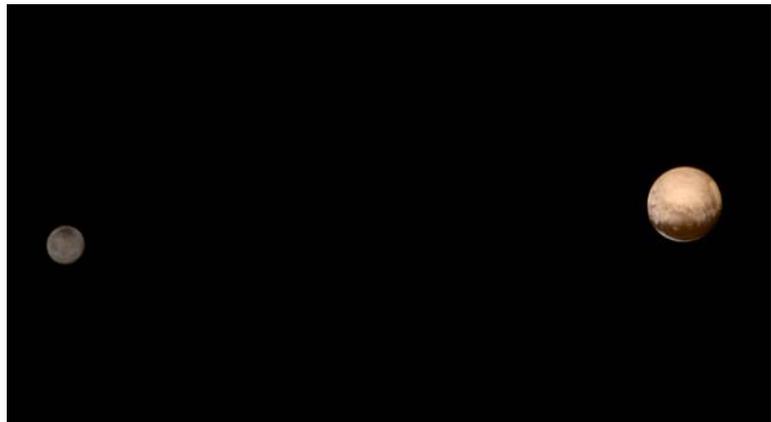
Next Meeting: Friday, July 17, 2015
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Pluto- A History of Discovery

Presented by: Jack Howard

In 1930, Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto, by accident. In 1978, Jim Christy discovered the large moon Charon, by accident. On July 14, the New Horizons spacecraft will give us our first close up look at the planet and its system of five moons. But the history of discovery surrounding Pluto goes back much farther. In this program, we'll look at how the hunt for more planets in solar system got started. We'll see how we learned about Pluto over the years and what we might learn from the New Horizons mission.



Jack Howard is the senior astronomy instructor at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, which has the second largest astronomy enrollment in the NC community college system. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from King College and a master's degree in astronomy from James Cook University. Back in a previous century, he was credited (with Dr. Ed Burke) with the discovery of the variable star CQ Ursa Majoris (a star which no one else has heard of, either).

FROM THE TREASURER

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

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

As GHRO Directory I would like to thank everyone involved in project to validate and refine the Argo Navis\ServoCat computer control for 24" Big Al Reflector telescope. Many member volunteer hours were given for designing, testing, installing and, tuning the entire system. Special thanks to CAAC members Gayle Riggsbee, Skipp Copp, Charlie Starks, Phil Foust, Jim Gaiser, Chris Skor, and for Gary Myers from ServoCat for coming to GHRO lending his expertise one day this past week.

Alignment, even using just laser finder, is accomplished using vertical alignment and 2-star alignment like done on many personal scopes.

1. Using "**MODE FIX ALT REF - 90°**" perform vertical alignment point scope straight up against stop.
2. Perform "**MODE ALIGN STAR**" on "**ALIGN POLARIS**". (using laser or eyepieces)

3. Perform “**MODE ALIGN STAR**” on “**ALIGN SPICA**” (or other 2nd star)
4. From “**MODE CATALOG**” select favorite sky object from sky catalogs like **MESSIER M13**, then press green “**GOTO**” button on the ServoCAT and watch Big Al pirouette to selected object.



The collection of telescopes at GHRO are a wonderful asset now made easier to use and enjoy by amateur astronomers of all skill levels. Contact me, Chris Skor, 704-996-4215 to arrange some 1-1 time building your comfort level with these great resources.

Last night's Star Party demonstrated we can now quickly align the telescope, find and track your favorite night sky objects quickly and easily with Argo Navis

which allows many new visitors opportunity to explore wonders of our universe.

Speaking of Star Parties, the July 11th Star Party was great success with almost 20 members and 10 visitors enjoying clear skies at GHRO. No bugs but a few clouds rolling in around midnight completed an evening of fellowship and exploration.

The next monthly Star Party is August 15th, but no need to wait that long, Saturday July 18th looks to be another great night for viewing at GHRO. Come early and we'll check you out on the new ZeroTurn riding mower.

--Chris Skor, Directory GHRO

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, August 8th

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 17th and Sunday, October 18th

Mark your calendar for CAAC\GHRO tradition Cosmic Camporee held this year Saturday, October 17th – Sunday, October 18th. We'll have great food, old and new friends, daytime activities and cool evenings followed by clear dark skies. Because our regular scheduled meeting is on Friday evening, October 16th in Charlotte at Myers Park Baptist Church, our Cosmic Camporee will officially start on Saturday.

If you're interested in helping, contact Chris Skor (Observatory Director)

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>

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Neil Easden	neileasden@me.com
Treasurer	Phil Foust	philfoust@gmail.com
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