



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

Next Meeting: Friday, Aug 21, 2015  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### **Living with a Star**

We live within the extended atmosphere of a star. While sunlight sustains life, the Sun's variability produces streams of high energy particles and radiation that can harm life too. NASA's Heliophysics Directorate is charged with finding the answer to the question: How and why does the Sun vary and affect Earth and the rest of the solar system? By understanding the connections between the Sun and its planets, we can predict the impacts of solar variability both on life and on technological systems. Carole Holmberg will discuss how the Sun affects us here on Earth and how various missions, including the recently launched MMS, are analyzing the connections between the Sun, the solar wind, and the planets.

Carole Holmberg has been the planetarium manager at the Museum of York County in Rock Hill, SC since November 2013. Before arriving in Rock Hill, she managed planetariums in Macon, Georgia and Fort Myers, Florida. She is a JPL/NASA Solar System Ambassador, a member of the NASA Museum Alliance, a NASA Informal Heliophysics Educator Ambassador, an honorary life member of the Southwest Florida Astronomical Society, and a Fellow of the International Planetarium Society. She holds a BS in Physics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and attended grad school at the University of Minnesota. When not learning about astronomy, she likes to quilt and spend time with her husband, their three cats, and their hedgehog Theodore.

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**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

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**FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR**


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We've had a great couple of weeks at GRHO. Last Saturday, we hosted 26 people from Sun City Carolina Lakes. It was a wonderful event with everyone getting a chance to see constellations with Rachel Brooks and Frank MacMullan; double-stars with David Friday; clusters and galaxies with Tom Blevins; Nebulas with Rebekah LaCount and Gayle Riggsbee; and Bradley Craig on Astro-Imaging. Of course Saturn was bright and majestic for all to see, it was the hit of the party. Check out CAAC Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteAstronomers> for all the photos.

We learned a few thing along the way, made some adjustments and hosted another 30 visitors from Sun City Friday, August 14th with more opportunities to volunteer later this Fall. If you know of other groups that may like to visit GRHO, just give a shout, we'll check schedules and see what we can arrange.

GHRO can always use light maintenance, it is all up to us, no one else is mowing, or cleaning bathroom, or repairing buildings, just you and I. Let' work to keep this

wonderful facility up and running. We're creating a list of more major maintenance projects for cooler weather. Wall repair work needs to be performed on the 24" building. We're also looking to repair or build tables for all pads. If you're skilled with a hammer, I'm not, let me know, we'll need your expertise. Keep an eye out for future announcements.

Our own Verizon Wireless cellphone tower is a recent upgrade to GHRO. The tower is located inside the Ken Steiner Education Center, yup that's right, inside. Inside the building you should have great cellular coverage, outside, well that's a different story.

--Chris Skor, Directory GHRO

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>

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 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendar for CAAC\GHRO tradition Cosmic Camporee held this year Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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

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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 BY OWNER:

- Meade ETX90 goto scope with AutoStar, Meade #1244 electric focuser, Meade field tripod, Orion EZ Finder II, Meade 26mm Super Plossl. \$330
  - Meade LX90 8" goto mount with AudioStar and AC power adapter (no OTA). \$450
  - Meade standard field tripod for 8"-12" LX90 or LX200 scopes. \$200
- If you are interested, please email: [bradleybcraig@gmail.com](mailto:bradleybcraig@gmail.com) directly

#### 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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