

October 2015



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, October 16, 2015
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

BLAST!

Balloon-Borne Large-Aperture Submillimeter Telescope

What happens when astronomers send a fragile telescopic mirror to the edge of space—not aboard a rocket or satellite, but dangling from a huge balloon? This documentary provides the answers in a riveting story of cutting-edge physics, subfreezing launch sites, disastrous balloon trajectories, and scientists who refuse to give up. Dr. Mark Devlin of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Barth Netterfield of the University of Toronto, and their support team pursue the elusive goal of studying distant star formations by detecting submillimeter light emissions. Following the experiment from arctic Sweden to Canada's polar bear country to the desolate landscape of Antarctica, the film includes fascinating discussions of the theoretical concepts involved as well as NASA-created animation sequences to illustrate the objectives, operation, and findings of BLAST.

FROM THE TREASURER :

We've just begun a new club year October 1st, membership renewals are due, and can be paid at the upcoming meeting.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties 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.

October 2015

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)

Bays Mountain StarFest – October 23rd – 25th, 2015 –

Location: Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium in Kingsport, TN

The theme is “What does Human Space Exploration Mean?” There will be 4 great keynote speakers that focus on human space exploration in some fashion. It is also at the peak of fall colors in the heart of the Appalachia. This even does require pre-payment in order to attend. The deadline to register is October 2nd. StarFest registration includes all activities, access to all keynote presentations, 5 fabulous meals, a T-shirt with unique artwork, observing, the choice to camp at no extra cost and much more! The 3-day even has one low cost for everything and is \$105 per person. If you are a full-time student 21 or under, the cost is discounted to \$90. The event is non-profit and costs are far below its value. All the details can be found on their website: <http://www.baysmountain.com/astronomy/astronomy-club/?GTTabs=4> If you have any questions, please contact Adam Thanz at AdamThanz@kingsporttn.gov

2016 Southern Star 30th Year: Save-the-Dates: April 7-8-9-10, 2016 : More information will be coming in future months!

FROM THE SECRETARY

Some interesting internet finds of the month:

<http://www.kidsastronomy.com/> looks to be a fun site for kids! I've had a lot of inquiries lately from interested individuals regarding astronomy for their children. Check it and let me know what you think!

Curiosity Rover Confirms Ancient Lake Filled Gale Crater, Boosting Chance of Life by Ken Kremer on October 11, 2015 can be found at:

<http://www.universetoday.com/122672/curiosity-rover-confirms-ancient-lake-filled-gale-crater/>

NASA Webb Telescope Construction Leaps Forward with Delivery of Mirror Holding Backbone Flight Structure by Ken Kremer on October 8, 2015 and can be found at:

<http://www.universetoday.com/122500/nasa-webb-telescope-construction-leaps-forward-with-delivery-of-mirror-holding-backbone-flight-structure/>

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Earth's Gravitational Pull Cracks Open the Moon by Charles Q. Choi, Space.com Contributor
October 12, 2015 08:00am ET and can be found at: <http://www.space.com/30795-earth-gravitational-pull-cracks-moon.html>

Register with the Night Sky Network

It is imperative that all members of the CAAC join the Night Sky Network (NSN). Many of the clubs outreach activities are 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>

Happenings at GHRO -- Chris Skor, [704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215), ChrisSkor@hotmail.com

COSMIC CAMPOREE: October is a busy time for area events including our own CAAC Cosmic Camporee schedule for Saturday October 17th-18th. We'll have setup on Friday with Camporee starting Saturday noon. We'll have kids games, area hikes, overnight camping, campfire ring, rocket launch, and Ken Steiner's famous BBQ pig roast with potluck dinner Saturday night. Bring a dish to share. On Sunday we'll wrap up with a pancake breakfast Sunday. Got a drone you want to fly, bring it along, we'd love to see GHRO video from above.

VOLUNTEER EVENT: On Friday, November 6th we'll have a private Star Party for Myers Park Church group. Similar to Sun City event we need volunteers to attend the scopes and point out constellations. Email me if you're available to attend. We have more events still in the works.

FIRE ANTS: An unwelcomed guest, Fire Ants, have returned to GHRO. Please use extra care around member pads. If you see a mound, we have fire ant killer in the workshop room behind the classroom. Just a tablespoon followed by quart of water all is needed to kill the queen.

Donations through GoFundMe: Like to help maintain GHRO buildings and scopes, but unable to volunteer, please consider a donation to help with maintenance cost at <http://www.gofundme.com/caacghro>

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CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Neil Easden	neileasden@me.com
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