

November 2015



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, November 20, 2015
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Bob Cantu: Is Science Fiction Becoming Fact?

Using the ideas of Science Fiction, focused mostly around astronomy, Bob will discuss those areas that have crossed over from fiction to have a positive, very real effect on science. Specifically looking at areas such as invisibility, meta-materials (meeting with Dr. David Smith), space stations, Star Trek, force fields, artificial intelligence, and wormholes. The overall progress of each will be analyzed, plus a review of how soon they might be useful to us.

Bob Cantu's career in the Chemical Industry spanned 44 + years and took him from Canada, through Mexico, Central America, South America, Europe and the U.S. While working and travelling, he kept abreast of astronomy, maintaining correspondence with and being influenced by, numerous prominent astrophysicists in the U.S. such as Dr. Alan Boss, Dr. Lawrence Krauss, Dr. Richard Greenberg, Dr. Michio Kaku, Dr. David Smith and others.

Bob has specialized in the growing field of Exoplanets (looking for Earth-like planets) having given over a dozen presentations to science clubs and organizations such as: CAAC, Discovery Place (Charlotte), Roper Mountain Observatory, and BobFest (Garner-Webb University). He looks forward to making several more presentations next year to the Torch Club in Boone, NC, and Blowing Rock Country Club. Bob is also the naturalist for the Blue Ridge Hiking Club and Grandfather Mountain Parks and Recreation, as well as being the author of the book "Flipped" and over two-dozen other short stories.

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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.

CAAC Christmas Party: Save the Date: December 5th at Charlie Claytons. More details to follow.

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

FROM THE TREASURER :

Our new CAAC club year began October 1st. If you have not already done so, please pay dues for the new year:

---Club Dues + Observatory = \$60.

Bring cash or a check payable to "**CAAC**" to the upcoming November meeting or mail your check to:

CAAC
c/o Phil Foust
449 Roselawn Place
Charlotte, NC 28211

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)
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FROM THE SECRETARY

Our club has won one of the JPL Night Sky Network Quarterly prizes, a **model of the James Webb Space Telescope** from MESATech! Our event, Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club Monthly Meeting, was randomly selected out of 1,000 qualified events from July -September 2015. We should receive the model by March 2016 and will have it on display at the GHRO.

Thanks to Pablo Saez, here are a few more **great astronomy websites**:

<http://earthsky.org>

<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

If you have internet find, please share it with me and others through our newsletter!

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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). 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

GHRO Work Day : Following 2 months of rainy weekends finally saw Carolina skies clear on Saturday November 15th for our GHRO Workday. We started early in the morning replacing north movable wall on observatory for the 24" telescope. As volunteers arrived we started on scraping and painting other sides giving walls a nice tan color.

Both plastic dome observatories were power washed. We also learned the dome observatories can leak as equipment got wet, oops. We replaced lock on the Imaging Observatory with combination reset to match all door locks.

With many small projects like mowing, cleaning, organizing complete, we ran out of daylight before others could be completed. If weather stays warm, we'll do brick molding repair work and other maintenance on December 12th starting at 1pm before the evening CAAC star party.

We finished the evening with BBQ sandwiches from JoJo's, telescope training, and a wonderful evening of viewing until deep cold and moisture called it a night. Check out pictures on our <https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteAstronomers/> site. Thanks again to all the great volunteers!

Star Party : Next CAAC Star Party at GHRO is scheduled for December 12th. We'll start telescope training around 5pm. Come down for a refresher course on the 24" and check out Orion Nebula https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orion_Nebula, a sight you will never forget.

Solar Telescope : We had to repair the 90 degree mirror for the solar telescope. The manufacturer recommends we keep the 90 mirror assembly and eyepiece inside building when not being used. You'll find it in a medium gray box on the bookshelf in break room. When you are done with solar scope, please return eyepiece assembly back for others to use.

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Cooler Weather at GHRO: Here are some tips for cooler weather observing at GHRO.

- 1) Keep bathroom doors closed, each has its own personal heater.
- 2) If you are not using the classroom, keep that heater turned off to save electricity
- 3) If heating just break room, keep door closed, it will warm you in no time flat.
- 4) We have coffee, tea, and cocoa to keep you warm. Come in and warm up before you get too chilled.

Keep my phone number handy and give a call if you have any questions,

Chris Skrolinski, Director Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory

[704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215)

CAAC CONTACTS

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