



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, January 15th, 2016
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Mark Hoecker - The Search for Aurora Borealis

In March 2015, Mark and his wife Marge, both long-time members of the CAAC, traveled to northern Canada to see the Aurora Borealis (a.k.a. the Northern Lights). He will share what they found during this journey in the cold weather of Churchill, Manitoba and help you experience a bit of what it is like to view the beautiful aurora.

After Mark's 1st astronomy experience as a youngster with a Tasco telescope, he was able to take two courses in astronomy in a high school equipped with a planetarium. In college, Mark helped lead the on-campus astronomical society and co-taught outreach adult observational astronomy at the campus observatory. Mark is retired from Duke Energy where he worked in business and financial management for both nuclear and coal-fired electrical generation. He has served as president of CAAC two different times for a total of five years. Both Mark and Marge have been part of the Southern Star support team over the years.

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.

2016 Southern Star 30th Year: Save-the-Dates: April 7-8-9-10:

Come join the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club for the 30th Annual Gathering of Southern Star. Keep your eyes on our web site for more details in the coming months.

www.charlotteastronomers.org/southernstar. Southern Star 2016 will officially launch in February 2016. We hope to see you there!

Date: Thursday, 1/14/2016
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Location: Morehead STEM Academy
7810 Neal Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262

STEM Fair is Morehead STEM Academy's annual celebration and competition of student work in the areas of math, science, technology and engineering. Every year many important community and company representatives help make our STEM Fair a success.

Once again Charlotte Amateur Astronomy Club has been invited to showcase ourselves at this years Morehead STEM Academy's Annual STEM Fair Night. We will have a small table inside one of the primary thoroughfares and if the weather warrants hope to have a few telescopes set up along with friendly operators to allow the students, parents and visitors to take in a beautiful 5 day old quarter moon. Should be a receptive audience! Hope to see you out there.

Volunteers & telescopes required as always Volunteers please contact neileasden@me.com

Date: Monday, 2/1/2016
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: All Saints Episcopal Church,
525 Lake Concord Road, Concord, NC 28025

On Monday night February 1, 2016 All Saints Episcopal Church in Concord, NC will be hosting a Star Gazing event from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm. This event is part of the After Dark At All Saints series. **The After Dark at All Saints Program** is a series of classes during the month of February hosted by All Saints. Admission is open to the general public and attendees will be charged for the event (but is free for us to participate). All proceeds will be donated to local charities, including CCM (Cooperative Christian Ministry), and CVAN (Cabarrus Victim's Assistance Program or as it is popularly known, the Women's Shelter).

This is a new program for All Saints Episcopal, and depending on its success, they will attempt to expand the program to other churches and faith-based organizations in the future, all to raise funds for local charities.

We will need at least three to four astronomers with telescopes to set up and run the event. There will be a nearly third quarter moon, so no problem with an interfering moon. The event will be held in the All Saints Parking Lot. There will be streetlights around, but we will attempt to get them turned off. Please volunteer if you possibly can for this important outreach event!!!

Volunteers please contact neileasden@me.com or David.Friday@cpcc.edu

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)

FROM THE SECRETARY:

Special Thanks to **Charlie Clayton** for hosting the Annual CAAC Christmas Party. A great time was had by all in attendance!

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

On Saturday, January 30th, members from Myers Park Baptist Church will be visiting GRHO for an evening program and night sky viewing. Starting at 5pm, we're asking for volunteers to show 2 preselected objects on either 8", 16", or 24" club telescopes. We'd also like 2 or 3 members to bring along their own scopes for sharing. Please email me if you can volunteer Saturday, January 30th.

We have a bad motor drive on the solar scope. It will be down until drive motor is replaced.

On Saturday volunteers cleaned the 24" primary mirror and installed a new secondary. Scope is seeing better than ever. All we need is clear sky for evening scope training.

2016 CAAC Star Parties at GHRO (held Saturdays)

- January 9th
- January 20th (Myers Park visitor 5pm)
- February 6th
- March 5th
- March 12th (guests and special interest groups)
- April 2nd
- April 9th (guests and special interest groups)
- April 30th (guests and special interest groups)
- May 7th
- May 28th (guests and special interest groups)
- June 4th
- July 2nd
- July 30th (best Saturday in August)
- August 6th (guests and special interest groups)
- September 3rd (Annual Cosmic Camporee)
- September 10th (guests and special interest groups)
- October 1st
- October 29th
- November 26th

Chris Skorkinski, GHRO, [704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215)

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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Observatory Director	Chris Skor	chrisskor@hotmail.com
Public Outreach Coordinator	Neil Easden	neileasden@me.com