

Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, February 19, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Myers Park Baptist Church Address: 1900 Queens Road



ground? What happens when they do?

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

John Sinclair - NC Meteorites

← *Not* a NC Meteorite Impact Crater

The Geminids in winter, the Perseids in the summer & the Leonids in fall. When the skies stay clear and the moon stays away, these yearly meteor showers rarely fail to amaze.

But as spectacular as they can be, most of what we see is caused by rocks which are smaller than a grain of sand, burning up miles above us, never getting anywhere near the ground. So where do these rocks come from? What about the ones that do hit the

John Sinclair will explore these questions and more, including some of North Carolinas known impacts and recovered meteorites, in his presentation, NC Meteorites.

John Sinclair is Curator of Meteorites at PARI (Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute). He is also the owner of Meteorites USA, a regular vendor at Southern Star.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Southern Star Planning Team is happy to announce the

30th gathering of Southern Star!

We're really excited to invite you to yet another terrific weekend of astronomy related activities that many of you have experienced for 30 years!

The registration form is <u>now on-line</u>, on <u>our CAAC web site at the following link</u>: www.charlotteastronomers.org/southernstar

- We're going to resurrect our "Astro Imaging" sharing this year:
- We've designed a SPECIAL "30th Anniversary Southern Star T-Shirt" for this year's celebration!
- We have four GREAT speakers headlining our event this year!
 - o Dr. Richard Greenberg: Professor of Planetary Sciences at the University of Arizona
 - Dr. David DeVorkin: Senior Curator of the National Air and Space Museum,
 Smithsonian Institution
 - o Jordan Evans: JPL Aerospace Engineer and space telescope designer
 - o Dr. Chris Richardson: Professor of Physics at Elon University
- We've got you covered on a wide variety of astronomy topics:
 - o Solar System science and exploration -- from asteroids to Europa
 - Space telescope design and performance -- from the HST to Far Ultraviolet Telescopes
 - Planetary companions of stars...searching for and finding them in our Universe
 - o For you engineers -- Tales from the Rocket Science Cleanroom
 - Star forming galaxies and Exoplanets
 - A Buzz Session that will undoubtedly focus on your favorite night sky objects and the "love of observing"
 - o An opportunity to share some of your favorite astrophotos
- Camaraderie with your favorite astronomy friends!
- The fabulous Wildacres Retreat awaits your visit!

Don't delay...sign up TODAY!

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:

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, ChrisSkor@hotmail.com

Rain or snow, not had much luck finding a clear weekend for viewing. With luck, skies will be clear February 27th for telescope training. Well start at 5pm, but come earlier to enjoy solar scope or lend hand at light maintenance.

We'll repeat training following Saturday on March 5th. Attend one of both, telescopes are great instruments, but do take time to learn how they work. Contact me to sign up on either day for scope training.

March 5th is also CAAC member/guest night, should be great time for all.

Then on March 11-13th we'll have Boy Scout troop 405 from St. Martins Episcopal church camping for weekend. We'll need volunteers to help on Saturday with their Astronomy Merit badges, come and enjoy sharing night sky. I'll send out more details in coming weeks.

Chris Skorlinski, GHRO

Upcoming 2016 CAAC Star Parties at GHRO (held Saturdays)

- 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 Skorlinski, GHRO, <u>704-996-4215</u>

CAAC CONTACTS

Jim Gaiser jegaiser@carolina.rr.com President Vice President Neil Easden neileasden@me.com Treasurer Phil Foust philfoust@gmail.com Ruth Rupert luvspaper@gmail.com Secretary **Observatory Director** Chris Skor chrisskor@hotmail.com Public Outreach Coordinator Neil Easden neileasden@me.com