



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

Next Meeting: Friday, May 20th, 2016  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

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## May 2015 – CAAC Town Hall Meeting

Sorry for the delay in the newsletter everyone!



Due to a late in the day speaker issue, we're going to try something a little bit different this month.

Instead of our usual presentation, we want to open things up for audience participation, "Town Hall" style.

Many of us have been with the club for a number of years; whereas some of us are still somewhere between brand new and still feeling new. All of us have stories. How we found the club, the first meeting attended, what it is that has kept us around, friends made and much, much more I'm sure. Well ... let's hear it!!

Plus, with the onset of a new board, it's a perfect time to let it be known what you might like to see in the future.

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### FROM THE OFFICERS:

Voting for the 2016-2017 Slate of Club Officers will occur at this meeting. Here is the slate as presented:

President – Ken Steiner

Vice President – vacant, to be named. (Jim Gaiser will perform duties until filled)

Secretary – Ruth Rupert

Treasurer – Phil Foust

Observatory Director – Chris Skrolinski

Transition to the new officers will take place after the vote at the May meeting and the terms will start in June.

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**FROM THE TREASURER:**

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Treasurer's Report - 2016 Southern Star

Thanks to Jim Lamm, the Southern Star Team, and all club attendees for a successful 2016 Southern Star Astronomical Convention, the club's premier educational program. Financial results:

Southern Star Revenues	\$24,370.00
Less Expenses	(\$22,904.66)
Total 2016 Funds Raised	\$1,465.34

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**FROM THE SECRETARY:**

Here is another great site <http://www.stellarium.org/> recommended by CAAC club member Dave Bush for planning night sky viewing. Software can be install on a wide variety of platforms. More than just star charts, it includes a look at constellations from +20 different cultures.

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](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>

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

[Saturday, May 28th](#) (rain date June 4th) will be a busy day at GHRO. We'll start around 3pm with building and yard maintenance. The 24" building is in need of a new paint, grass to mow, fire ants to kill. Stick around as we have over 30 visitors from 3 group coming for dinner and evening program to enjoy wonderful dark skies. There will be a sign-up sheet at CAAC meeting for volunteers to show constellations, provide binocular tours, operate club 8", 16", and 24" scopes. This would be a great time for bring and show your personal scopes for our visitors, oh, and yes, BBQ for all those who stay and help with our visitors.

If you're a new member and new to astronomy, come join our visitors and learn about GHRO.

Please let me know how you can help. Only through great volunteer turnout can we continue to share our wonderful night sky.

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June 4th - CAAC Start Party at GHRO

On Saturday June 4th we'll enjoy dark skies once again at GHRO. If weather holds we'll setup some of the club back-yard scopes for those new to astronomy. We often have 10-20 club members with their own scopes. Just remember, park facing the road and red-lights only after dark.

If you're already familiar with telescopes but want to learn about club's permanent scopes, let me know and we'll arrange training session.

Other Upcoming 2016 CAAC Star Parties at GHRO (held Saturdays)

- July 2nd
- July 30th (best Saturday in August)
- September 3rd (Annual Cosmic Camporee)
- October 1st
- October 29th
- November 26<sup>th</sup>

Loaner telescopes at GHRO

For those new to astronomy, we have 3 small backyard telescopes to loan, low tech, good for viewing the moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and double stars.

See me if you'd like to checkout one of these scopes during our next Star Party.

Already familiar with telescopes, we can check you out during next Star Party on our club's 8", 16", or 24" telescopes, just give me a shout.

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

#### 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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