



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

Next Meeting: Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Myers Park Baptist Church

Address: 1900 Queens Road

**Judith Beck “Gravity: from Newton to Planet Nine”**

Gravity, one of the four fundamental forces in the universe, is intricately threaded throughout the study of astronomy. This talk will explore some of “gravity’s greatest hits,” from the insights of Galileo and Newton, to the prediction and discovery of black holes, to the recent observational evidence for gravitational waves. We all experience gravity every day, and yet it can still amaze and intrigue us!

Judy Beck is a Lecturer in the Department of Physics at UNC Asheville, where she teaches physics for majors and non-majors, astronomy, and special topics courses. She is active in science outreach for schools, teachers, and the general public, and she co-directs the Science Olympiad tournament hosted by UNC Asheville each year. In 2008 she spent the year living and working in La Serena, Chile, where she taught classes in the physics department at the university and collaborated with colleagues on astronomy outreach, teacher professional development workshops, and inquiry-based science curriculum development for schools. Judy is an active member of the Astronomy Club of Asheville, and is on the advisory group of Lookout Observatory, a collaboration between the club and the university which opened in the fall of 2014.

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## FROM THE SECRETARY:

Nicholas Rose has provided some information/weblinks regarding Sun Cycles for those wanting more information after the last meeting:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/communities/space-weather-enthusiasts>

If you scroll 2/3 of the way down the page above, you will find the current Solar Cycle plots, which are updates monthly, usually around the 4th or 5th of each month.

To go straight to the graphs you can also go to:

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>

There is a similar page at:

<https://www.spaceweatherlive.com/en/solar-activity/solar-cycle-progression>

There is also some commentary at:

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/15/solar-cycle-24-update-for-february-2015/>

One that shows a more historical context is published by the Australian Government at:

<http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/Educational/2/3/1> and then select "All solar cycles" from the drop down menu.

### 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>

For Sale :



8" F/20 classic cassegrain optical tube assembly made by the Cave Optical Co. A rare high power planetary scope once owned by the telescope collector Robert Ariail. Superb optics mounted in a Parks fiberglass tube. Additional items include an Orion 50mm right angled finder scope and a quality rack & pinion focuser. A special cast counter weight is mounted on the top side of the tube opposite the finder to improve the tubes balance point. A layout plan is provided to show that the primary & secondary baffles are correctly placed. A flat adaptor mounting plate is also furnished for attaching to your mount. Price \$750 Call Gayle Riggsbee at 704-846-3136 if interested.



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## Updates from GHRO

We had over 20 guests and CAAC members at GHRO June 11th enjoying moon and planets. Thanks to Gayle Riggsbee, David Friday, Nicholas and Joanna Rose for driving our club telescopes.

Visitor comment: *"Seeing the beautiful NASA pics on the computer is one thing. Connecting with our sky in real time is quite another thing when the stars come out. What a gorgeous evening it was. Viva Galileo!"*

On Saturday July 2nd is our monthly CAAC member-only event at GHRO. If you're new to astronomy, come out at 6pm for introduction to club telescope then stay and look for night sky objects on the 8" refractor or one of the club's "backyard" telescope. This is also be perfect time for those already comfortable with telescopes but would like more hands-on time on 16" or 24".

On Thursday, July 7th, 7pm, I'll be presenting "Galactic Recycling" at Belmont Astronomy Society meeting. Check out event posted at <https://www.facebook.com/events/929517507157236/>. For information on Belmont Astronomy club check out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/belmontastronomy/>

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>

Chris Skorlinski, GHRO, [704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215), [ChrisSkor@hotmail.com](mailto:ChrisSkor@hotmail.com)

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## OTHER EVENTS:

Join in the **Wildacres Fall Star Party** in the Blue Ridge Mountains from October 3 to October 6, 2016. Don't miss this opportunity to kick back with your scope and astronomy friends under the dark, crisp skies of the Blue Ridge Mountains! This is not an officially sponsored event of the CAAC, but we thought some might be interested!

**When?** Monday afternoon, October 3rd through Thursday morning, October 6<sup>th</sup>

**Cost:** \$198.00 per person

What do you get?

Three nights lodging at Wildacres Retreat

Eight great meals

Cool Clear nights for great observing

Informal programs and presentations

Reserve your spot NOW – Pay later

Contact Gayle Riggsbee by September 16th

Ph. 704-846-3136 email: [riggsbee@gmail.com](mailto:riggsbee@gmail.com)

245 Timber Lane Matthews, NC 28104

## CAAC CONTACTS

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