



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

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

Jack Howard – Jupiter and Juno: What Are We Looking For This Time?

Serious study of Jupiter began over 400 years ago, when two astronomers pointed early telescopes at the giant planet. Less than 50 years ago, we began sending robotic spacecraft in that direction, but we have not yet been there very often. A handful of fly-by missions and one orbiter are the closest we've come to learning more about the largest planet in our solar system. On July 4, NASA succeeded in getting a second space probe into orbit around Jupiter. Jupiter and Juno looks at what our current questions are and how we hope to answer some of them.

Jack Howard retired June 30 as a fulltime instructor at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, where he led one of the largest community college astronomy programs in North Carolina. His interest in astronomy dates back to the days of Sputnik and first human ventures into space. He is a member of the Rowan County and Charlotte astronomy clubs. Jack earned a master's degree in astronomy from James Cook University. He was recently featured in the July 2 edition of the Salisbury Post in an interview about his transition from fulltime educator to part-time instructor and serving as a 2016 Solar System Ambassador in the educational outreach program supported by NASA and JPL.

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Additional links ...

Salisbury Post article on Jupiter and the Juno mission ...
<http://www.salisburypost.com/2016/07/02/jack-howard-column-nasa-juno-mission-reaches-jupiter-on-july-4/>

Salisbury Post article on Solar System Ambassador program ...
<http://www.salisburypost.com/2016/07/02/208958/>

Solar System Ambassador website ... <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/ssa/home.cfm>

FROM THE SECRETARY:

Are you interested in serving on a committee with the CAAC? There are some open spots for welcoming and mentoring new members. We are receiving a lot of interest and need more members to help answer questions/emails/etc for prospective and new members. Please email luvspaper@gmail.com and let Ruth know you would like to help out! The club usually gets 1-2 emails per week that we could use help with!

The calendar on the CAAC website has been down due to a change by Night Sky Network, but it should be up and running again. Thanks to Steve Rogish for getting that fixed for us!

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>

Updates from GHRO

Saturday, July 30th, 8" Telescope Training

For those interested, we'll have training Saturday July 30th, 7pm on our club's 8" refractor. This is a great first-time telescope for planets, double stars, and clusters. The telescope operator's manual are available at <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUn>. You'll also find a "Visitor Information" sheet with directions to the observatory. Print, read, and bring these with you to the observatory. You will not become an expert in a 2 hour training session, both patience and practice are needed to learn telescope operations. The rewards are worth the effort and in no time you'll be showing others wonders of the night sky.

If weather looks cloudy in Charlotte, it may still be clear the observatory. You can call to confirm evening events or check your email as we'll notify via club Yahoo Group email any cancellations. You can also call the observatory at 704-909-0604 for a recording of current event information.

Saturday, August 7th, CAAC Star Party

CAAC members and their guests are invited to CAAC's owned and operated Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory (GHRO) near Taxahaw, SC on August 7th. Bring your own telescope, use a club backyard telescopes, or one of the permanently housed telescopes. Come down early to view the sun through our H-Alpha Solar scope then stay and observe the night sky. For dinner, pack a picnic or stop at JoJo's Backyard BBQ on way to GHRO.

Scope Mentors: Our club has welcomed many new member over the last few months, many new to amateur astronomy. Some have a telescope, but never had chance to set it up or member looking to build confidence on our club scopes. If you can give little time at next Star Party to help a new member or are you a new member looking for someone to help you get started, contact me at ChrisSkor@hotmail.com

GHRO Information (see <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUn>)

Visitor Information: On same link above you'll find "Visitor Information" sheet with directions to the observatory. If bringing guests, share rules such as back into parking with lights facing away from the observatory.

Alarm System: For directions on the building alarm system watch the "How UNLOCK" and "How LOCK" training videos.

Telescope Guide: For members comfortable with telescope operations, the link above also includes instruction booklets on GHRO 8", 16", and 24" telescopes. The booklets cover startup, scope alignment, and shutdown procedures. Booklets and alignments stars are located at each telescope.

Maintenance: Come down before class and help with light maintenance. As a member maintained facility, there are always odd jobs to keep our wonderful facility in top shape. Buildings need to be swept out, scopes wiped down, grass to cut, or even paint here or there.

Chris Skorlinski, Director Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory (GHRO)
[704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215)
ChrisSkor@Hotmail.com

For Sale :



Orion Skyview Pro EQ 8" Newtonian Reflector, including the following:

- Orion 8" OTA with 2" eyepiece mount
- Orion equatorial mount
- Orion heavy duty tripod
- Orion Intelliscope computerized object locator with RA and Dec mount sensors
- Orion TrueTrack Single Axis RA motorized drive and controller
- Crayford type 2" eyepiece focuser
- 1-1/4" helical focusing accessory
- OTA mounting rings
- Removable non-slip mounting ring modification (call to discuss)
- (2) 10 lb. counterweights
- Orion OTA padded carrying bag
- After-market tripod carrying bag with padding
- After-market mount carrying bag with padding

Asking \$450, pick-up near Matthews



Call or email Bob Meunier at 704-877-5608, chezmeunier.bob@gmail.com

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 6th

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

245 Timber Lane Matthews, NC 28104

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Ken Steiner	Ksteiner30@gmail.com
Vice President	To Be Filled; Temporarily by Jim Geisier	jegeiser@carolina.rr.com
Treasurer	Phil Foust	philfoust@gmail.com
Secretary	Ruth Rupert	luvspaper@gmail.com
Observatory Director	Chris Skor	chrisskor@hotmail.com
Public Outreach Coordinator	To Be Filled	