



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, September 16th, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Myers Park Baptist Church

Address: 1900 Queens Road

The Formation of the Charlotte Astronomer's Club and Its' History:

As the club seeks your input for planning purposes, we have a very timely program for our September 16th meeting. When thinking about the future, it is good to remember and reflect on events that led to the formation of the club and how it has evolved.

Mark Hoecker, along with some great help from Gayle Riggsbee and others, has put together The Origins and History of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club video. This project has been over two years in the making and has the best available information about our club. What college was an important element that led to the club's beginnings? Where did the club first meet? What world renowned astronomer came to Charlotte for the CAAC in the early days of the club? How many observatories has the club built? What member had a photo of a nearly total eclipse on the cover of a national magazine? Mark discovered some things that even Gayle didn't know about! Come and learn about where the CAAC came from and help it fuel your thoughts about the future!

After Mark's 1st astronomy experience as a youngster with a Tasco telescope, he was able to take a 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 nuclear, gas-fired, and coal-fired electrical generation. He has served as president of the CAAC two different times for a total of five years. Many members may remember his earlier video on the club's Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory. Both Mark and Marge have been part of the club's Southern Star astronomical convention support team over the years.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I am looking forward to our program this month which has been 2 years in the making. Mark Hoecker's skills on putting together a presentation was demonstrated with the DVD of the GHRO. I look forward to this important record of the club's formation and evolution through the years.

I will be presenting a resolution granting Honorary Lifetime membership to an outstanding club member for your approval on Friday evening. You will also be asked to affirm the VP for this year. I look forward to seeing you Friday evening.

- Ken Steiner

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 info@charlotteastronomers.org 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!

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

Below are upcoming events for the Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory (GHRO)

Saturday, September 24th, Dark Skies at GHRO.

While not a designated Star Party, Saturday September 24th will be a great night for viewing the Fall night sky with cooler, low humidity skies. Bring your own scope or spend time learning on one of our club's telescopes. For instruction booklet on 8", 16" and 24" telescopes go to <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUn>. You'll also find a "Visitor Information" sheet with directions to the observatory.

Saturday, October 1st through Sunday October 2nd, Cosmic Camporee

Time for annual Cosmic Camporee. This is fun fill, family oriented day of yard games, hiking, rockets, solar viewing, campfire, coloring contest, and pot luck BBQ dinner Saturday night at 4pm. Come down Friday and camp the entire weekend. We have 4 RV spots and plenty of tent camping space. Camping not your thing, then come down for Saturday early afternoon and enjoy BBQ and evening stars. We'll have pot luck sign-up and more details at our September meeting.

Saturday, October 8th International Moon Night at Sun City Carolina Lakes

On Saturday, October 8th all club members and their family are invited to Sun City Carolina Lakes for "International Observe the Moon Night". We're expecting +200 visitors to this event. See Mr. Riggsbee if you'd like to bring a telescope or help out during this event. Sun City is located off Hwy-521 near Indian Land. After entering through main entrance continue straight until the road Ts. Directly in front is conference center, scopes will be setup on left. Look for the signs and crowds of people looking up.

Saturday, October 22nd VISITOR to GHRO

GHRO will be hosting visitors from Katawba Valley Land Trust and Belmont Astronomy Society.

Members are needed to show Fall night sky using one of the club scopes or on their own telescope. Come down early to view 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.

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 down guests, share rules such as back into parking space with lights facing away from the observatory.

Alarm System: For direction on building alarm system watch "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.

For last minute changes call GHRO message line [704-909-0604](tel:704-909-0604)

Chris Skorlinski, Director Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory (GHRO)

[704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215)

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CAAC CONTACTS

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