



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, October 21st, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Myers Park Baptist Church

Address: 1900 Queens Road

Through Different Eyes

For most of human history, human beings have been limited by their senses when it comes to exploring the world around them. For more than 400 years, we have been able to enhance these senses and go beyond them to get a better understanding of the universe we inhabit.

Jim Craig has worked for more than 20 years teaching astronomy in planetariums although his interest in astronomy and space exploration goes back much farther. He is especially interested in planetary astronomy with a keen focus on Mars. His college research dealt with remote imaging of planetary features and solar magnetohydrodynamics (a subject far less impressive than the name makes it sound). In "Through Different Eyes", Jim will talk about the development of the telescope and other instruments we use to detect the universe around us.

When not teaching astronomy, he enjoys astrophotography, 3D animation and building various devices including two 3D printers. His very patient wife, Charié, has tolerated his hobbies for more than 28 years. Jim is also a member of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club.

FROM THE TREASURER:

It is time once again to pay your annual dues. We are accepting Cash and Checks at the October meeting for our new club year that began October 1st.

If you would like to pay by credit or debit card, click on Membership Info on our website, then click "here" to go to our online store or go directly there through: <https://mkt.com/charlotte-amateur-astronomers-club>

FROM THE SECRETARY:

Thanks Deb Steiner for Acting as Secretary for the September meeting!

Actions taken during the CAAC Meeting on September 16, 2016:

1. Mark Hoecker was affirmed as Vice President
2. Al Busedu was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership
3. Skip Copp delivered his Auditor's report.

From one of our visitors -- "I just want to thank all of you, Mr. and Mrs. Riggsbee, Phil, Neil, Chris, Jim, Ken and Deb Steiner, and so many others, for a wonderful night of star gazing!! Looking at Saturn with its rings and moons was so phenomenal and will definitely be one of the biggest highlights of my entire life. The service that you ladies and gentlemen provide for the community is astounding. I am looking forward to your upcoming meetings and events. Again, Thank you so much for everything you do!! Sincerely, NR"

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



We had a great turnout for our annual Cosmic Camporee. Almost 100 members and guests showed up for a BBQ potluck, solar viewing, rocket launches, campfire, night time viewing and overnight camping. Special thanks to our sponsors whose financial contributions covered event expenses and to our observatory director for his masterful organization skills. Event was a pleasure to coordinate with all our members helping days before to get place ready and during the event preparing dinner, making a fire, and showing the stars to our members and guests. Check out the Cosmic Camporee photo album on our Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/CharlotteAstronomers>

If you missed Camporee, we'll have a mini-version this Saturday, October 22nd when we host Belmont Astronomy Society members and Katawba Valley Land Trust. We'll have informal potluck at 5pm followed by night-time viewing. Some of the Belmont members are camping for the night. All are welcome to bring their scopes down and join in the event.

Saturday October 29th when most people will be trick-or-treating we'll have dark skies at the observatory. No formal event or training is planned, however the facility is available for the use of members. If you're new to astronomy wait until November 26th, our next Star Party, as we can't guarantee how many members plan to be there on Oct 29th.

During November take opportunity to revisit the moon as it will dominate the night sky for most of the month. Next opportunity for deep sky viewing is our November 26th Star Party at GHRO. Yes it will be cold late November, good thing we have a warm up room. Check out the Moon and Apollo landing posters we created for the Sun City Moon event.

Speaking of Sun City, the Sun City Carolina Lake community would like to thank Mr. Riggsbee and all the members who brought down telescopes for 1st annual Moon over Sun City. In the middle of crazy chaos I lost track of all the club scopes and volunteers. Check out Sun City Facebook album for pictures of the event.

For last minute schedule updates, contact me or our observatory information line at [704-909-0604](tel:704-909-0604).

GHRO Information (see <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUUn>)

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.

Chris Skorlinski, Director Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory (GHRO) [704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215)
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CAAC CONTACTS

President	Ken Steiner	Ksteiner30@gmail.com
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