



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, January 20th, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Myers Park Baptist Church

Address: 1900 Queens Road

Total Solar Eclipse Adventures: China in 2008 and the U.S. in 2017

At our February talk, we'll hear about the amazing science and the incredible sensory experience of a Total Solar Eclipse. Jim Lamm, former president of the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club and local astronomy aficionado, will give a presentation on his travels to China in 2008 to see a Total Solar Eclipse and what we can all expect for the upcoming TSE viewable across a large swath of the United States on August 21, 2017.

Total Solar Eclipses are one of nature's most incredible experiences one can have -- from the gradual (yet dramatic) change in the surrounding environment to the most spectacular views of the Sun as the Moon crosses precisely in front of it. In addition to the China eclipse story, Jim will also share bit of his travel adventures to the Asian continent that included much of China, Tibet and Hong Kong.

Jim Lamm is an independent newspaper consultant by trade, having served in the newspaper business for over 43 years. He is an avid amateur astronomer who enjoys solar observing (DUH! Solar Eclipse?) and lunar observing. He was the 2 time president of the Charlotte astronomy club and Chairperson for the last eight years for the CAAC's "Southern Star Astronomy Conference" -- held for the last 31 years in the mountains of North Carolina. He and his wife also own an astronomy home in Arizona Sky Village, a dark sky community of like-minded amateur and professional astronomers in Portal Arizona -- some of the darkest skies in the continental US.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I want to give a big **Thank You** to the membership for the completion of the Survey conducted last month. There are a lot of really good suggestions. The Officers will be meeting this month for the purpose of planning future direction and priorities of the CAAC. The Survey is the key document for our discussions.

Part of that survey is attached to this mailing: "CAAC 2016 Membership Survey Overview". This along with the many written responses provide an insight on what you as members hold important about the CAAC and future emphasis.

I also want to call your attention to the availability to an Observing Pad and/or pier at the GHRO. Information regarding that process is further back in the Newsletter.

FROM THE SECRETARY:

Available to CAAC Members via Bidding Process Personal GHRO Observing Pad and/or Custom Pier

CAAC member Steve Harris has generously donated both his personal observing pad and a custom pier to the CAAC.

1. Observing Pad: Available to any eligible club member via bidding process as required in Section 7 of the Club's Bylaws, 'Personal Observing Facilities'.
2. Custom Pier: Removable from the pad and available to any club member via separate bid.

Bidding Process:

- Minimum fair market value has been determined by Club Officers as:
 1. Observing Pad: \$500
 2. Customer Pier: \$500
- Bid announcement to be published in two consecutive Newsletter issues: January & February 2017, and in one email notification to all club members during same period.
- Bid separately by item, at or above minimum fair market value, via email to Ruth Rupert, CAAC Secretary, at info@charlotteastronomers.org.
- If more than one member bids for each item, an open auction for that item will be conducted at a regular club meeting beginning at fair market value with winner determined by highest bid.

Eligibility:

- Observing Pad: Any current club member with GHRO fee paid, who is not already a Registered User of a GHRO Personal Observing Facility.
 - Winning bidder becomes the new Registered User of the Personal Observing Facility upon:
 - signing a CAAC Personal Observing Facility Use Agreement, and
 - paying within 30 days, the winning bid amount + Personal Observing Facility private use fee of \$25 for this year.
- Pier: Any current club member is eligible to bid.
 - Payment of winning bid due within 30 days.
 - Winning bidder must coordinate with the Observatory Director to arrange safe removal of the pier from the pad at bidder's expense.

Description:

- Observing Pad: Concrete, approximately 13' long x 13' wide = ~169 square feet in area. Centrally located near the 24" telescope building.
- Observing Pier:
 - Heavy-duty, galvanized steel, approximately 8" wide x 8 "deep x 52" long.
 - Vibration damping via sand filling.
 - Power routing though center of pier with receptacle on pier for easy access.
 - Removable, custom pier-to-mount adapter machined to fit some Astro-Physics mounts.

Photos of the Pad and Pier available for Auction:



Questions: Please send via email to Ruth Rupert, CAAC Secretary, at info@charlotteastronomers.org

SAVE THE DATE:

The 31st annual Southern Star Astronomical Convention will be April 27-30, 2016 at beautiful Wild Acres Retreat. More information will be coming at a later date!

Please see the attachments regarding the results from the CAAC Survey!

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

Saturday, January 28th, First Light 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 January 28th. Bring your own telescope or one of the permanently housed telescopes. Come down 2 hours before sunset 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 Backyard BBQ on way to GHRO.

Remember your first scope?

We'll have new members, some opening their scopes for the first time. Walk around the grounds, look for new members struggling with their first scope. Step outside your comfort zone, introduce yourself and offer lend a hand, M42 will be a great target for First Light!

Queens University of Charlotte

Fred DeAngelis, Assistant Professor of Physics, is bringing 3 students. Help us welcome them to night sky. Invite them to look through your scope or binoculars and point out your favorite Winter targets, have I mentioned Orion Nebula?

GHRO Information (see <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUu>)

GHRO is located at 1427 Bloomwood Drive, Lancaster, SC. (some GPS show city as Pageland). Gravel road leading to the observatory is located 5.22 miles east of the "522 Grill" on Taxahaw, Rd.

Visitor Information: On same link above you'll find "Visitor Information" sheet with directions to the observatory. If bringing guests, share rules such as backing into parking 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 alignment stars are located at each telescope. Never use a telescope before, no worries, come on down, we'll have members available willing to drive, just come for the viewing.

Check out <http://skymaps.com/downloads.html> for downloadable list of objects and map for the night sky.

If weather looks cloudy in Charlotte, it may still be clear the observatory. You can also call the observatory at [704-909-0604](tel:704-909-0604) for a recording of current event information.

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

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Ken Steiner	Ksteiner30@gmail.com
Vice President	Mark Hoecker	mhoecker@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Phil Foust	philfoust@gmail.com
Secretary	Ruth Rupert	info@charlotteastronomers.org
Observatory Director	Chris Skor	chrisskor@hotmail.com
Public Outreach Coordinator	To Be Filled	