



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, July 19, 2013
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Stewart Observatory Mirror Lab: A new way of making large mirrors

Presented by: Harold Melvin

Harold is a native of Cabarrus County, attended UNCC and has an Applied Science Degree in Horticulture Technology from CPCC. He worked in Research and Development for the Celanese Corporation and Lab and Production Management for Small Pak Chemical Company for the past 38 years. He is a current member of The Antique Telescope Society. He joined CAAC in 1982 and has served as club President, Vice President and Southern Star Coordinator. He was active in the building of the Observatory complex in Taxahaw. He became interested in Astronomy when he was about 6 years old when his father would hold him on his shoulders and point out the stars to him.



Russell Porter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Clear, dark skies...that's how Mark Hoecker, my predecessor, always concluded his column in our newsletter. It's also something we haven't seen a lot of these days...and nights. This is one reason I've asked the leadership to offer multiple dates for our monthly star parties. Beginning in August, we will begin scheduling our monthly star party around BOTH third quarter moon and new moon, when possible. With two available dates we'll double the chances of those clear, dark skies we all would love to see. Until then, keep looking up.

Jim

FROM THE OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Star Party at the GHRO, July 27

Newbies and Veterans, Star Party, weather permitting.

4:00 pm - Operator Training on the GHRO Telescopes for members who have paid the \$10.00 Observatory Operator Fee.

6:00 to 8:00 pm - Feel free to bring your picnic dinner. The club has a gas grill for your hot dogs, hamburgers, steaks or whatever pleases your fancy. Drinks are available for 50 cents.

8:00pm - Presentation in the Outreach Center: What's in the sky tonight? This is especially for our members new to astronomy. We will have seasoned members mentoring for the evening.

Dusk into the night - Observing with the club telescopes and/or member owned scopes with mentoring for the newbies.

Remember we have camper hook ups if you want to bring your camper and spend the night.

Please call the observatory director if you have any doubt concerning weather; I'd hate for you to drive the distance if it is canceled due to weather. Run of thumb, if the weather report does not show "clear", call before proceeding to the GHRO.

If you need directions, please contact Observatory Director, Ken Steiner
704.953.3902
ksteiner30@gmail.com

Loaner Telescopes

The CAAC has several loaner telescopes for use by members; borrow at one meeting and return the following meeting. We have had two Dobsonian scopes donated and they are now available. One is a 6 inch and the other is an 8 inch to which I have added a Telrad finder and a zoom eyepiece. Both scopes are very basic but very easy to use.

Clear skies,
Ken Steiner

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming Monthly Star Parties

Saturday, July 6

Saturday, August 3

Monthly star parties are held at the club's **Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory** in Taxahaw, SC, weather permitting. Contact the Observatory Director, Ken Steiner, for directions to the observatory. All members and their guests are welcome.

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC membership year begins October 1st, and ends on September 30th. Dues for members joining after January 1st are prorated:

- **\$35.00** - Individual and Family
- **\$6.00** - Students, up to 18 years of age
- **\$10.00** - Observatory Access: Allows members unlimited access to and use of the club's observatory facilities and equipment following observatory training/familiarization by the Observatory Director
- **\$25.00** - Private Observatory Pad: Assessed to members that have a private observing pad on CAAC property

Discounted magazine subscriptions can be obtained through the CAAC:

- Sky & Telescope - \$32.95 per year (**savings of \$5**)
- Astronomy - \$34.00 per year (**savings of \$8.95**), or \$60.00 for two years (**savings of \$19.95**)

Make checks payable to CAAC. Phil Foust, CAAC Treasurer, will accept them at monthly meetings, or they can be mailed to:

CAAC
c/o Phil Foust
449 Roselawn Place
Charlotte, NC 28211

FROM THE SECRETARY



Register with the Night Sky Network

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

CAAC on Facebook

Find the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club on Facebook. Navigate to www.facebook.com/CharlotteAstronomers, or use the search feature for "charlotteastronomers". Be sure to 'Like' the page, and you'll receive updates on your wall when new content is shared.



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. If you're new to the club, and would like an introduction to some of the folks that attend, contact Steve Rogish by email (s_rogish@yahoo.com), or see me at the monthly meeting.

Newsletter questions, announcements, change of address - contact Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com).

FOR SALE ITEMS

Bring your items for sale to regular club meetings and display them if you wish. To include sale items in the newsletter, please contact Steve Rogish (s_rogish@yahoo.com). Ads will run for up to three months.

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Robert Carl	rcarl@carolina.rr.com
Treasurer	Phil Foust	philfoust@gmail.com
Secretary	Steve Rogish	s_rogish@yahoo.com
Observatory Director	Ken Steiner	ksteiner30@gmail.com
Public Outreach Coordinator	Robert Carl	rcarl@carolina.rr.com