



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, Mar 20, 2015
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Dawn Spacecraft, Small Bodies and the Early History of the Solar System

Presented by: John Adams Hodge, NASA Solar System Ambassador

John Adams Hodge became interested in astronomy in the 1960's when he found Saturn in a telescope while in third grade making him a lifelong amateur astronomer. In the 1970's he was a staff member at Camp Uraniborg, an astronomy camp in California that was run by Joe Patterson, who later became a well-known astronomer at Columbia University. Camp Uraniborg inspired a number of well-known professional astronomers.

A member of the Midlands Astronomy Club and a partner in the Bethune Observers Group Observatory, John's interests include deep sky and planetary imaging, cataclysmic variable stars, and planetary geology.

John is a NASA Solar System Ambassador and is a frequent speaker on space science, astronomy, and environmental topics.

His presentation will feature the ongoing Dawn mission and highlight its importance in understanding the history of the early Solar System. As well as a larger discussion of the significance of small bodies in unlocking our Solar Systems origin & evolution. We will also be introduced to emerging models such as the Nice Model and the Grand Tack that provide an explanation of the distribution of objects in the Solar System, these models suggest that the giant planets were not originally in the position that we find them today!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Is the winter finally behind us? The (sometimes) clear skies with Orion riding high are quickly becoming the realm of Leo and the rest of the spring constellations. One spring highlight for me is looking at galaxies in Leo at Southern Star. I had the pleasure of looking through a HUGE dob at Southern Star a couple of years ago and was overwhelmed how the Leo triplet (as I call them) jumped out at me.

From galaxies far, far away we can come a little closer to home and look high in the East for Jupiter and all of its glory. Every six year, the orbit of the earth passes through the plane of the orbit of Jupiter's moon, giving us the opportunity to watch occultations and eclipses of the moons with each other. On the day of our upcoming meeting, Europa will partially eclipse Io. The whole event lasts 5 minutes, but you should take the opportunity to watch some of these cosmic delights.

Finally, even closer to home, our own Moon passes between Earth and Sol...giving us a solar eclipse in the North Atlantic, also on our meeting day. I assume few from the club will witness that event, but the entire club should see a great solar eclipse in 2017...weather permitting and cooperating. Stay tuned for further details. Clear skies...

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties

Saturday, March 21 (Includes General Observatory Training, starting at 5pm)

Saturday, April 18

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. All members and their guests are welcome.

Fisher Farms Bi-Annual Star Party

Friday, 3/27/2015, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Fisher Farm Park, 21215 Shearer Road, Davidson, NC 28036

Please join us on Friday, March 27th at 8pm for a fun night under the stars at our bi-annual Star Party in Davidson, NC. Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club is partnering with Davidson College and the Davidson Lands Conservancy for a Star Party at Fisher Farm Park in Davidson, NC. We still need MANY volunteers with their telescopes for this event as more than 500 guests are expected! Hope to see you there!

<http://www.ci.davidson.nc.us/index.aspx?nid=143>

International Sidewalk Astronomy Night 8

Saturday, 3/28/2015, 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Charlotte Country Day School, 1440 Carmel Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226

Saturday March 28th, as part of worldwide International Sidewalk Astronomy 8, Charlotte Country Day School is inviting CAAC to join in the fun by participating in their on campus star party! Physics teacher extraordinaire Mr. Tuttle will be breaking out many of the schools telescopes, which admirably, include a 12" reflector.

This event will be open to all friends and students of Charlotte Country Day School and via CAAC, we will be extending some invites to local school classes who have reached out to us lately.

Under a beautiful 2/3 waxing gibbous moon, we will have Venus setting in the early evening along with Jupiter high above for the for duration, of course Orion will still be gracing the early evening skies as well. A great night for a star party!

Volunteers & telescopes required for both of these upcoming events. If you would like to assist please advise Neil Easden via neileasden@me.com, or RSVP to the events via NSN.

SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION DRIVE

The Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Scholarship Auction Drive

In an effort to raise money toward a scholarship to be awarded to a deserving UNCC student majoring in Physics or Astronomy, the Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club (CAAC) will conduct an auction during its April, 2015 meeting.

CAAC members are encouraged to donate any of the following articles or services that can be used in the April meeting auction. Please bring the donated auction items and your recommended minimum bids to the up-coming meetings. Bob Cantu or Tom Blevins, your CAAC auctioneers, will gladly accept them at the meetings.

Potential Auction Items:

- Astronomy or science related books – old or new.
- Astronomy accessories – eyepieces, tripods, filters, laser pointers, cameras, collimators, etc.
- Telescopes – any size from 50 mm to 200 mm or larger with tripods if possible.
- Services – e.g., someone may want to donate their service such as a 30-minute binocular training session of the night sky or a 30-minute Astrophotography session.
- Framed Astro-photos of planets, stars, constellations, clusters, the moon that someone may want to buy.

FROM THE TREASURER

CAAC Dues + Observatory Support Fee

Club Year: Oct-2015 to Sep-2016

Full Year Membership / Renewals	Dues	+	Observatory	Total	Factor
Individual or Family	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
Student To Age 18	\$9	+	\$6	\$15	25%

New Memberships Prorated At Time Of Joining	Dues	+	Observatory	Total	Factor
1 st Quarter: Oct-Dec	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
2 nd Quarter: Jan-Mar	\$27	+	\$18	\$45	75%
3 rd Quarter: Apr-Jun	\$18	+	\$12	\$30	50%
4 th Quarter: Jul-Sep	\$9	+	\$6	\$15	25%

Observing Pads At GHRO:

--General Members Pad, Open To All: No Charge

--Fee For Members With A Private Pad: \$25/Year

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 OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR

Loaner scopes are available, contact observatory director if you want to pick up at the meeting.

Astro Imaging Observatory Training is scheduled for March 28, 7pm.

General Observatory Training is scheduled for March 21, 5pm on the afternoon of the next GHRO star party.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Register with the Night Sky Network

It is imperative that all members of the CAAC join the Night Sky Network (NSN). In the very near future, all of the clubs outreach activities will be 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>

FOR SALE

For Sale or Trade: Meade 12" LX200 classic with dew shell, power supply, super wedge and tripod. Very good condition. Was polar mounted in my observatory. Sold house, buyer not astronomy buff, must now downsize. Will trade for 8 or 10" LX200 or 9.25" Celestron or possibly 8-12" dob; +/- \$\$\$\$. Can bring to star party or meet, your choosing, I live in Lancaster. E-mail me for particulars. Tom Ifft - sctom1@yahoo.com

CAAC CONTACTS

President	Jim Gaiser	jegaiser@carolina.rr.com
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