

September 2015



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club  
[www.charlotteastromers.org](http://www.charlotteastromers.org)

Next Meeting: Friday, Sept 18, 2015  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church  
Address: 1900 Queens Road

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

---

Robots in Space  
Presented by Jim Craig:

Voyager, Viking, the Spirit, Opportunity and Curiosity rovers, Cassini, Galileo and most recently New Horizons, just a few examples of robots being our eyes and ears in space. Showing us what we have never seen before, going for us, where we cannot yet go ourselves. For over 50 years, humanity has used machines to help explore the solar system and beyond. In this program, we'll look at the history of robots and how they've helped us unveil the universe in new ways.

Jim Craig has been the director of the James H. Lynn Planetarium since November 1997. He more or less stumbled across the job following a visit to his father in Gastonia.

Over his working life, Jim has had a wide variety of jobs including computer salesman, restaurant manager, cowboy, cab driver and morgue attendant. After working part time at a planetarium in Eugene, Oregon, he realized that this was really what he wanted to do so he decided to go back to college. He received his degree in physics from Southern Oregon State College in 1993.

When he's not working, he enjoys numerous hobbies including ham radio, robotics, drawing, writing and building telescopes. His wife, Charie' (sha-REE) and his two college-age children, Devin and Kina, tolerate his obsessions and clutter.

---

## FROM THE TREASURER :

We begin a new club year October 1st, membership renewals are due, and can be paid at the upcoming meeting.

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 <sup>st</sup> Quarter: Oct-Dec	\$35	+	\$25	\$60	100%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Jan-Mar	\$27	+	\$18	\$45	75%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Apr-Jun	\$18	+	\$12	\$30	50%
4 <sup>th</sup> 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

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**September 27<sup>th</sup> : Lunar Eclipse:** It's official... we managed to avoid some last minute concerns and conflicts and have confirmed what was always our first choice location for this month's Lunar Eclipse, Discovery Place. As we have done in the past with Lunar Eclipses as well as Star/Moon Parties we will be viewing from atop the Discovery Place parking lot on W.6th Street. The main viewing event will begin at 8.30pm, 37 minutes before the partial eclipse begins at 9.07pm. Sixty four minutes after that, at 10.11pm, we will hit the total eclipse and although the total eclipse will continue until 11.23pm, we will be ending our viewing at 11pm. It's a Sunday night after all!

As a naked eye event we will have a unique opportunity to interact and socialize with the attendees in a different way to the average star party. However, volunteers, telescopes and binoculars are needed as always. But please, even if you don't feel comfortable, or would just prefer not to bring your scope, then come out as a spectator or to be an "ambassador" for the club.

September 2015

**CAAC Upcoming GHRO Star Parties** Monthly star parties are held at the club's Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory near Taxahaw, SC, weather permitting. Our next scheduled Star Party is **October 10<sup>th</sup>**. Contact the Observatory Director for directions. All members and their guests are welcome.

**Cosmic Camporee, Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendar for CAAC\GHRO tradition Cosmic Camporee held this year Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll have great food, old and new friends, daytime activities and cool evenings followed by clear dark skies. Because our regular scheduled meeting is on Friday evening, October 16<sup>th</sup> in Charlotte at Myers Park Baptist Church, our Cosmic Camporee will officially start on Saturday. If you're interested in helping, contact Chris Skor (Observatory Director)

**Bays Mountain StarFest – October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 –**

Location: Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium in Kingsport, TN

The theme is "What does Human Space Exploration Mean?" There will be 4 great keynote speakers that focus on human space exploration in some fashion. It is also at the peak of fall colors in the heart of the Appalachia. This even does require pre-payment in order to attend. The deadline to register is October 2<sup>nd</sup>. StarFest registration includes all activities, access to all keynote presentations, 5 fabulous meals, a T-shirt with unique artwork, observing, the choice to camp at no extra cost and much more! The 3-day even has one low cost for everything and is \$105 per person. If you are a full-time student 21 or under, the cost is discounted to \$90. The event is non-profit and costs are far below its value. All the details can be found on their website: <http://www.baysmountain.com/astronomy/astronomy-club/?GTTabs=4> If you have any questions, please contact Adam Thanz at [AdamThanz@kingsporttn.gov](mailto:AdamThanz@kingsporttn.gov)

**2016 Southern Star 30<sup>th</sup> Year: Save-the-Dates:** April 7-8-9-10, 2016 : More information will be coming in future months!

## FROM THE SECRETARY

---

### **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](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>

---

## Happenings at GHRO -- Chris Skor, [704-996-4215](tel:704-996-4215), [ChrisSkor@hotmail.com](mailto:ChrisSkor@hotmail.com)

**STAR PARTIES:** Much needed Carolina rain has washed out two events. Both rescheduled Sun City Carolina Lakes visitor and CAAC Star Party were washed out by cloudy skies. Our next CAAC Star Party is **Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>**. We'll invite Sun City back for another try. Have a new scope, want a hand getting it setup, bring it along to the **October 10<sup>th</sup> Star Party**. All are welcome to invite friends and family

September 2015

to come down on the 10th joining club members for what we hope is a clear, cool evening of star gazing.

SCOPE TRAINING: We'll have training on the CAAC\GHRO scopes before the October 10th Star Party. Come down about 2 hours before sunset. Email me if you want to sign up for training.

FIRE ANTS: An unwelcomed guest, Fire Ants, have returned to GHRO. Please use extra care around member pads. If you see a mound, we have fire ant killer in the workshop room behind the classroom. Just a tablespoon followed by quart of water all is needed to kill the queen.

HAMMER TIME: Do you have carpentry skills? We need a member with power tools and skill to use them. Email me if you can come down early October 10th before Star Party for some much needed maintenance on the 24" building. We have to replace walls and framing.

COSMIC CAMPOREE: October is a busy time for area events including our own CAAC Cosmic Camporee schedule for Saturday October 17th-18th. We'll have setup on Friday with Camporee starting Saturday noon. We'll have kids games, area hikes, overnight camping, campfire ring, rocket launch, and Ken Steiner's famous BBQ pig roast with potluck dinner Saturday night. Bring a dish to share. On Sunday we'll wrap up with a pancake breakfast Sunday. Got a drone you want to fly, bring it along, we'd love to see GHRO video from above.

VOLUNTEER EVENT: On Friday, November 6th we'll have a private Star Party for Myers Park Church group. Similar to Sun City event we need volunteers to attend the scopes and point out constellations. Email me if you're available to attend. We have more events still in the works.

Donations through GoFundMe: Like to help maintain GHRO buildings and scopes, but unable to volunteer, please consider a donation to help with maintenance cost at <http://www.gofundme.com/caacghro>

---

How to know you are a true Astronomer--

1. You chase eclipses
2. You use London time
3. You go to "Star Parties" and talk to people they never see in daylight.
4. You ask "how's the seeing?" even on an obviously clear night
5. You use binoculars before and after using the telescope
6. You plan years in advance – (see ya 8/21/2017 & 2024)
7. You use a dim red flashlight – usually has teeth marks
8. You often travel to "middle of nowhere" for the darkest sky
9. You always know your Latitude and Longitude
10. You don't even go outside near Full Moon
11. You cool off your telescopes – then put on dew heaters.
12. You are always focused on Infinity
13. You will wait a long time for one (bleepin') cloud to move
14. You have disabled your car interior light bulbs
15. You need "spousal permission units" to buy another eyepiece
16. You think Hollywood "space movies" are 3 Stooges/fantasy/comedies
17. You value meteorites more than diamonds
18. You have "happy hour" during 5 minutes of totality
19. You want a deluxe lawn shed and to (somehow) make the roof roll off.
20. You celebrate a big solar flare
21. You can tell if a Moon picture is sideways, backwards, or fake.

September 2015

CAAC CONTACTS

---

President	Jim Gaiser	<a href="mailto:jegaiser@carolina.rr.com">jegaiser@carolina.rr.com</a>
Vice President	Neil Easden	<a href="mailto:neileasden@me.com">neileasden@me.com</a>
Treasurer	Phil Foust	<a href="mailto:philfoust@gmail.com">philfoust@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Ruth Rupert	<a href="mailto:luvspaper@gmail.com">luvspaper@gmail.com</a>
Observatory Director	Chris Skor	<a href="mailto:chrisskor@hotmail.com">chrisskor@hotmail.com</a>
Public Outreach Coordinator	Neil Easden	<a href="mailto:neileasden@me.com">neileasden@me.com</a>