



Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club
www.charlotteastromers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, August 19th, 2016
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Myers Park Baptist Church
Address: 1900 Queens Road

Steve Conard: The New Horizons LORRI Instrument at Pluto: Approach and Encounter Image Series.

As lead engineer of the team that built and tested the Long-Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) aboard New Horizons, Steve Conard knows the ins and outs of the instrument that provided the captivating visions we most associate with the remote ice world and its diminutive moon. In this talk, Steve will present—from his unique perspective as an amateur astronomer—images captured by LORRI during the craft's Pluto system approach and encounter. As well as offering general background information on the New Horizons mission, the LORRI instrument, and a preview of the January 2019 encounter with the Kuiper Belt Object KBO MU69.

Steve Conard is an optical systems engineer for the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. Building upon undergraduate studies at the University of Arizona, Steve came to Johns Hopkins University and found a home for the last 34 years.

In 2002, Steve fully transitioned to JHU's APL, the nation's largest university-affiliated research center. After building instruments for NASA's CONTOUR mission, he began work on the likely culmination of his career, *New Horizons*.

Today, he works on a variety of projects, including planning for New Horizon's travels to and eventually through the Kuiper Belt. An avid amateur astronomer, Steve has a focus on occultation timings, is a member of JHU/APL's astronomy club, APL Astronomy, and the Westminster Astronomical Society, Inc. as well as serving as director of its Blaine Roelke Observatory.

FROM THE SECRETARY:

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!

From Bill Nigg: **Attention Solar Eclipse Observers!** The next Total Solar Eclipse is a WHOLE year away. If you don't have a solar telescope filter now you may have delays when lots of people order them soon. DO IT NOW. If you plan on going to a place with public visitors; you may be very popular by handing out the cardboard solar eclipse viewers. Many clubs order hundreds for fundraisers. That may also suffer from last minute ordering delays. Maybe WalMart will order 2 million! See latest websites:

www.eclipsewise.com

eclipsophile.com

www.rainbowsymphonystore.com/products/eclipse-glasses-2017

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, September 3rd, 16" Telescope Training

Interested in learning how a telescope works, we'll have training Saturday September 3rd, starting 7pm on our club's 16" telescope. For the instruction booklet on 16" telescope go to <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUn>. You'll also find a "Visitor Information" sheet with directions to the observatory. Print, read, and bring these with you to the observatory. You will not become an expert in a 2 hour training session, both patience and practice are needed to learn telescope operations. The rewards are worth the effort and in no time you'll be showing others wonders of the night sky. If weather looks cloudy in Charlotte, it may still be clear the observatory. You can call to confirm evening events or check your email as we'll notify via club Yahoo Group email any cancellations. You can **also call the observatory at [704-909-0604](tel:704-909-0604) for a recording of current event information.**

Saturday, September 3rd, 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 **September 3rd**, yes same day as telescope training. Bring your own telescope, use a club backyard telescopes, or one of the permanently housed telescopes. Come down early 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's Backyard BBQ on way to GHRO.

Saturday, October 1st through Sunday October 2nd, Cosmic Camporee

Yes, that time of year to start thinking about our annual Cosmic Camporee. This is fun fill, family oriented day of yard games, hiking, rockets, solar viewing, campfire, and pot luck BBQ dinner Saturday night. Camping overnight not your thing, then come down for day, enjoy BBQ and evening stars. We'll have pot luck sign-up and more details at our September meeting.

Scope Mentors

Our club has welcomed many new member over the last few months, many new to amateur astronomy. Some have a telescope, but never had chance to set it up or member looking to build confidence on our club scopes. If you can give little time at next Star Party to help a new member or are you a new member looking for someone to help you get started, contact me at ChrisSkor@hotmail.com

GHRO Information (see <http://1drv.ms/1m2wPUn>)

Visitor Information: On same link above you'll find "Visitor Information" sheet with directions to the observatory. If binging guests, share rules such as back 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 alignments stars are located at each telescope.

Maintenance: Come down before star parties and help with light maintenance. As member maintained, there are always odd jobs to keep our wonderful facility in top shape. Buildings need to be swept out, scopes wiped down, grass to cut, or even paint here or there.

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

OTHER EVENTS:

Join in the **Wildacres Fall Star Party** in the Blue Ridge Mountains from October 3 to October 6, 2016. Don't miss this opportunity to kick back with your scope and astronomy friends under the dark, crisp skies of the Blue Ridge Mountains! This is not an officially sponsored event of the CAAC, but we thought some might be interested!

When? Monday afternoon, October 3rd through Thursday morning, October 6th

Cost: \$198.00 per person

What do you get?

Three nights lodging at Wildacres Retreat

Eight great meals

Cool Clear nights for great observing

Informal programs and presentations

Reserve your spot NOW – Pay later

Contact Gayle Riggsbee by September 16th

Ph. 704-846-3136 email: riggsbee@gmail.com

245 Timber Lane Matthews, NC 28104

CAAC CONTACTS

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