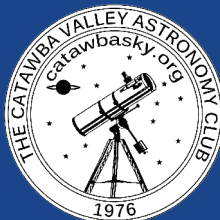


BOBFEST 2024

REGIONAL GATHERING OF
AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH

Brought to you by:



Welcome to the 32nd Annual Regional Gathering of Amateur Astronomers, AKA: **BoBfest 2024!**

When Bob Eskridge became president of the Cleveland County Astronomical Society in 1992 the club staged the first installment of its annual Regional Meeting of Amateur Astronomers, affectionately known as “BoBfest” the following year. Cleveland County Astronomical Society hosted BoBfest for more than a decade at Gardner Webb University until it was decided to move the location to Hickory, NC.

In 2017 the Catawba Valley Astronomy Club hosted the 25th annual BoBfest for the first time at Catawba Science Center. Since its inception, BoBfest has been free and open to any and all who have an interest in astronomy. For 30 years now, BoBfest has been a place for regional astronomers to gather and share in their mutual love for the stars and beyond.

We hope that you enjoy your time here, and leave feeling inspired and enlightened to further your pursuit into amateur astronomy.

Thank you for visiting!



Schedule of Events

8:30 am Doors Open

9:30 am Welcome Announcements

9:45 am Keynote Presentation #1 — Joe Heafner

10:30 am Club Announcements

10:45 am Keynote Presentation #2 — Johnny Horne

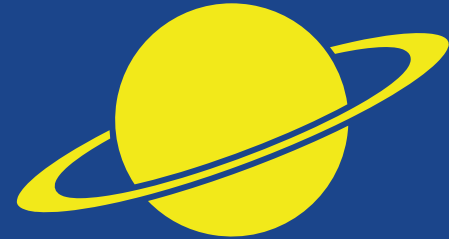
11:30 am Lunchbreak Shuttle Van Available
Solar Observing — John O'Neal, NC Stargazer

1:00 – 2:00 pm Table Top Talks Round #1
Starscape Photography with iPhone
Virtual Tour of Charlotte Observatory
Meteorites Vs. Meterwrongs

2:15 – 3:15 pm Table Top Talks Round #2
Digital Astrophotography
Hercules: A Star Story
Solar Imaging

3:30 – 4:00 pm Barre Spencer Memorial Astrophotography Contest

4:00 – 4:30 pm Door Prizes/Closing Remarks



Food Truck Vendors:

JB's Bistro

Big Daddy's Kountry Cookin'

Dipperz Mini Donuts

Additional Activities

Family Activities in Room #1

From 10:00 – 1:00 pm, join CSC Staff & Volunteers and Patrick Beaver Memorial Library for family friendly activities all about space!

Food Trucks on Campus

Your choice of JB's Bistro, Big Daddy's Kountry Cookin', and Dipperz Mini Donuts will be parked in the bus parking lot near Patrick Beaver Libray. A shuttle van will also be available for attendees.



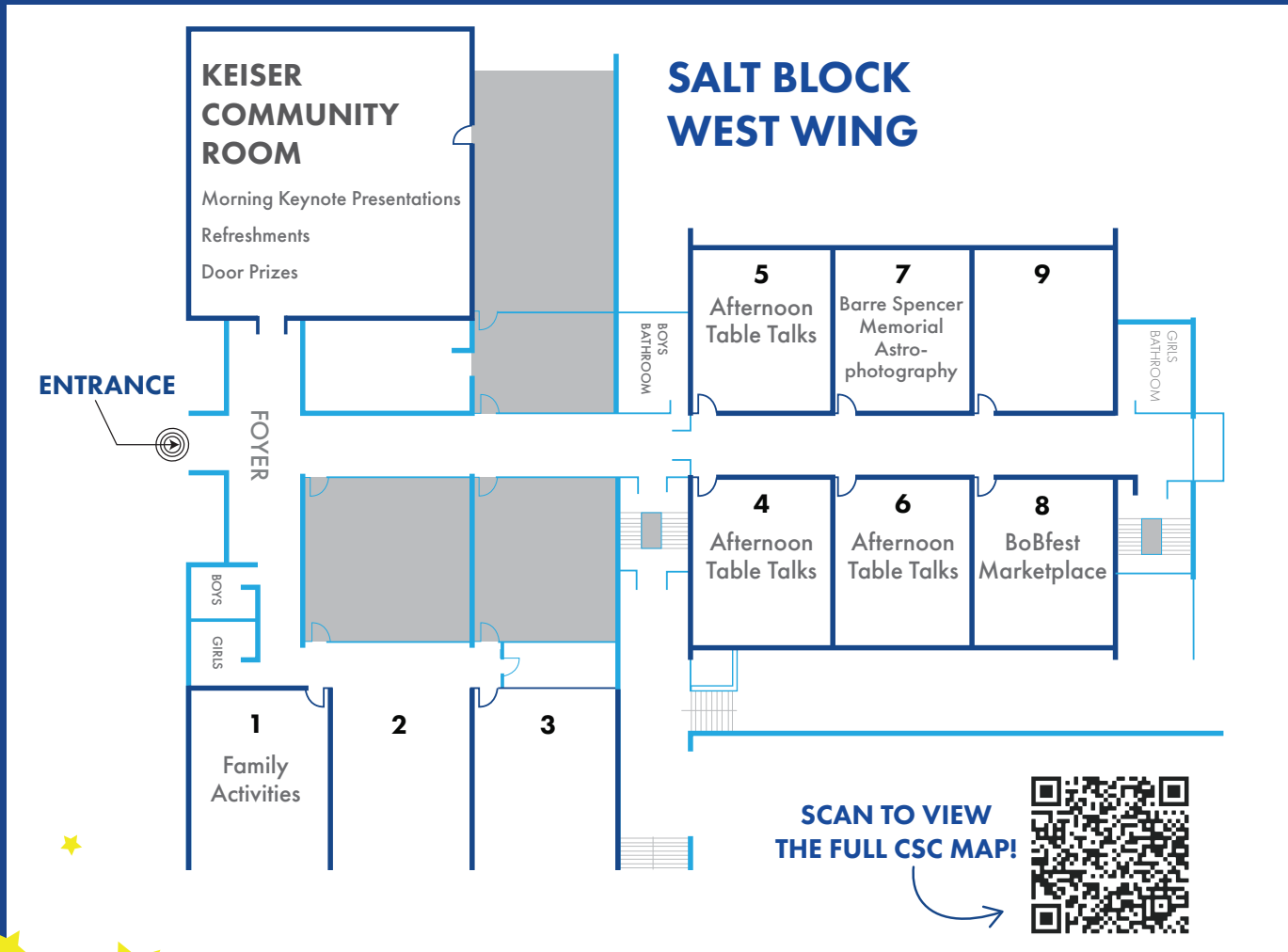
Barre Spencer Memorial Astrophotography in Room #7

BoBfest Marketplace in Room #8

Are you looking for some extra astronomy items? Do you have too many 25mm Plossls? Check out the swap tables and explore the vast universe of astronomy doo-dads, thing-a-majigs, and what-nots!



Map of West Wing Building



Keynote Speaker #1

Joe Heafner

Unistellar Telescope for Public Outreach

9:45 am Keiser Community Room

Live demonstration of two Unistellar telescopes, an eVscope 2 and an eQuinox 2, in real time and learn how they are used for public outreach at Lucile Miller Observatory. Attendees are encouraged to bring a fully charged iOS or Android phone and an iPad or Android tablet. Both telescopes will be available for use at LMO Saturday evening.

BIO: Joe Heafner, AAPT Fellow, began providing learning environments for astronomy and physics in 1992. His approach emphasizes the model of critical thinking developed by Richard Paul and Linda Elder, and the reasoning behind science. He was the first physics instructor in North Carolina to adopt Matter & Interactions, a reformed introductory calculus-based physics curriculum incorporating computer modeling. His introductory astronomy course has a flavor unlike that at any other institution. His fourth book is an inquiry-based introductory astronomy textbook. Joe left the Community College System in 2021 due to changes by administrators that made carrying out the classroom mission untenable, and now identifies as an Independent Scholar. He is heavily involved with grant work at the national level with AAPT and advocates for community college faculty rights and autonomy, both of which are under attack. When not advocating for community college faculty, Joe studies ways to modernize the introductory physics curriculum.



Keynote Speaker #2

Johnny Horne

The Eclipse! & Other Astrophoto Stories

10:45 am Keiser Community Room

With the April 8 eclipse just weeks away, Johnny Horne is hoping to see his 6th total eclipse under cloudless Texas skies. Whatever happens that day weatherwise, he knows it will be memorable. Johnny will talk about past eclipses and how he photographed them...unless it was cloudy. Heck, he'll talk about being clouded out too. Besides, solar eclipses, he'll cover some other recent astrophotos he's lost sleep over and some roads he's gone down with some amazing imaging equipment (mostly other people's stuff.)

BIO: Johnny Horne retired in 2016 after 44 years as a staff photographer and photo editor for The Fayetteville Observer. An amateur astronomer since age 10 and driven by the early days of the US space program, he ground and polished a 6-inch telescope mirror at age 14. Johnny is a contributing editor for Sky and Telescope and has written and illustrated S&T Test Reports since 1988. He photographed Halley's Comet from the Australian Outback and has served as a photography resource person for S&T solar eclipse expeditions to Mexico, Africa, the Caribbean and Iceland. Since 1989 Johnny has written the monthly astronomy column "Backyard Universe" for The Fayetteville Observer. He taught photography classes at Fayetteville Technical Community College from 2009-2021. In 2004 The International Astronomical Union named asteroid 11132Horne in Johnny's honor for his years of public outreach in astronomy. Most clear nights he's in his backyard observatory he built in 1978 and still uses, especially since retirement.

Lunchbreak Solar Observing

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Solar Viewing in Multiple Wavelengths

Presented by John O'Neal, NC Stargazer

Location: North Lawn weather permitting

Beginner

John will setup his solar gear outside the Science Center and demonstrate it's use during the lunchbreak. Drop in to see his visual scopes in multiple wavelengths, his solar radio telescope and other eclipse tools he (and you) can use during the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse of April 8th, 2024. Some can even be used if it's cloudy!

Food Trucks



Table Top Talks Round #1

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Starscape Photography with iPhone

Presented by Brian Hissom

Location: Room #4

Beginner

Learn very basic photography and photo editing techniques using an iPhone. We will discuss and share ways we can use this powerful astrophotography tool that we have in our pockets to enhance our enjoyment of this hobby.

Virtual Tour of the CAAC Observatory

Presented by Charlotte Amateur Astronomy Club

Location: Room #5

Beginner or Advanced

Join the Charlotte Astronomy Club for a virtual tour of their observatory!

Meteorites Vs. Meterwrongs

Presented by Anthony Love

Location: Room #5

Beginner

Learn how to describe differentiate meteorites from terrestrial rock. Participants can gain practical knowledge on clues to look for in making the distinction between these samples.



Table Top Talks Round #2

2:00 – 3:15 pm

Digital Astrophotography

Presented by Bill Griswold

Location: Room #6

Advanced

A look at how Digital Astrophotography has changed since the early 2000s. Technology changes have greatly improved the ability of amateurs to produce very nice images. Virtually every phase of the process has changed. This was accentuated by a 8-10 year hiatus that was a bit shocking on my return at just how different things were. This is evident in my pictures before and after the hiatus.

Hercules: A Star Story

Presented by Becca Brehm

Location: Room #4

Beginner

The mythological story of Hercules, and information about the constellation Hercules.

Solar Imaging

Presented by Joe Heafner

Location: North Lawn or Room #6 in case of inclement weather

Beginner

 A presentation on the basics of Unistellar operation!



Millholland Planetarium Schedule

Located next door in the Planetarium & Aquarium Building!

**Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis; you pay CSC admission for entry.*

10:45 amOasis in Space

11:45 am.....Incoming!

1:00 pmFrom Earth to the Universe

2:00 pmLegends of the Night Sky: Orion

3:00 pmStars: The Powerhouse of the Universe

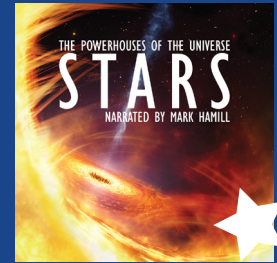
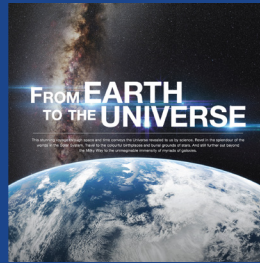
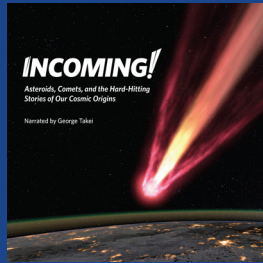


Table Talk Speaker Bios

Brian Hissom

Brian became interested in astronomy after watching a lunar eclipse with his father at age six and continued learning about being an amateur from his Dad, Scoutmasters, and friends eventually joining the Catawba Valley Astronomy Club in 1989. He enjoyed public outreach, visual observing and when Sky & Telescope magazine arrives at his home all other reading stops until that month's issue is devoured!

Charlotte Amateur Astronomy Club

To share our passion for amateur astronomy with the community through education and public outreach while providing the highest value astronomy club experience for our members. It is through this sharing process that we will work to build a greater appreciation of the dark night sky that will help protect its natural beauty from the encroachment of artificial lighting.

Anthony Love

Anthony is the Research Operations Manager for the Dept of Geological and Environmental Sciences. Anthony's passion is the study of meteorites and classifying unknown meteorites from around the world!



Table Talk Speaker Bios

Bill Griswold

Bill recently retired after working over 42 years in the medical imaging industry and 4 years in the US Air Force. He and his wife Debby have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. They've been living in the Carolinas since 1995. They now live a few miles south of Newton and have been there since 2010.

Becca Brehm

Becca is a 9th grade student at North Lincoln High School. She has had an interest in mythology since she was 8 years old and has been a part of the Lucille Miller Observatory for even longer. She specializes in Greek, Roman, and Norse myths. She also has an interest in astronomy, specifically identifying the constellations, and the stories behind them. Explore the myth behind everyone's favorite wonder boy, Hercules!



Table Talk Speaker Bios

John O'Neal

John O'Neal has been an avid AMATEUR ASTRONOMER and astrophotographer for over 45 years. He has been a NASA Solar System Ambassador for several years. John belongs to several Amateur Astronomy Clubs/Associations around his home in Statesville, NC. He is also Co-Founder of the facebook group, SOLARACTIVITY which boasts a 25,000 strong membership worldwide. He has authored numerous tutorials on solar imaging as well as equipment reviews and is a Contributing Editor of Astronomy Technology Today and an Associate Editor for Amateur Astronomy Magazine, where he writes recurring articles on Solar Activity.

Since retiring, John and his lovely wife, Dorothy have taken to traveling and he has given countless presentations to the general public and to amateur and pro astronomers across the U.S.A: including the Terrestrial Earth Sciences Seminar in Indiana, at SOLARFEST in Missouri, at The Regional Gathering of Amateur Astronomers, in NC, at The North East Astro Imaging Conference or NEAIC, in NY, at The Okie-Tex Star Party, the Peach State Star Gaze in Georgia, at The Winter Star Party in the Florida Keys and at the Charlotte Amateur Astronomy Club, The Piedmont Astronomers, The Asheville Astronomers and the Greensboro Astronomy Clubs in North Carolina. You can visit John's website at www.ncstargazer.com



Directions to LMO

Join us for observing at LMO after BoBfest!
Meet back at LMO at 7:00 pm

From North, Via U.S. 321

Travel south, and leave US 321 at the Startown Road exit.

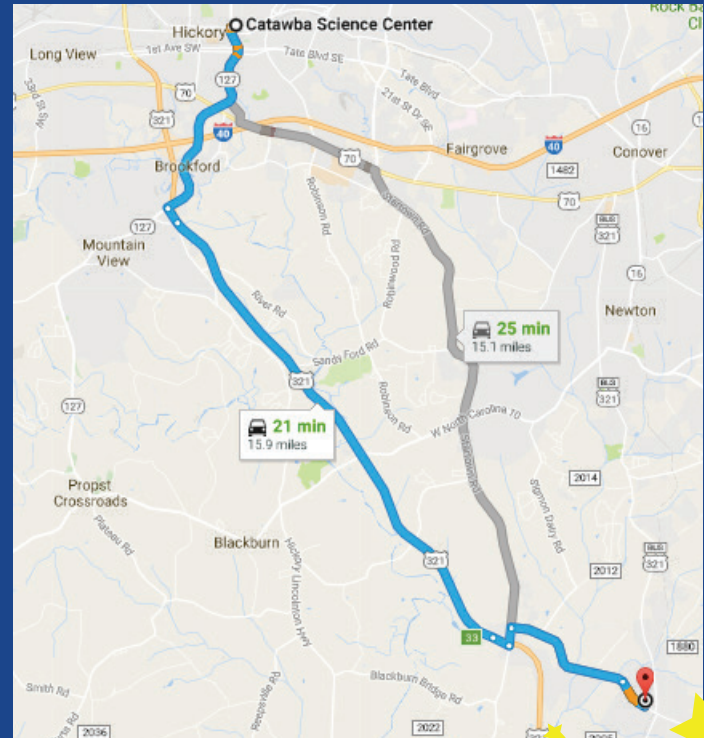
Turn left at the top of the exit ramp on to Startown Road.

Go to the stoplight and turn right on to West Maiden Road.

Travel several miles toward Maiden. Turn left at the first traffic light on to North C Avenue.

Travel one block. The observatory will be on your left. It is a small brick building inside a fenced in area.

The gate is just ahead on your left. Please park inside the fence.



*Lucille Miller Observatory
North C Avenue, Maiden, NC 28650*



 UNISTELLAR - Horsehead Nebula - 67min. - 36°N 81°W - DEC 11 2023

On the SALT Block

342 Third Ave. NE
Hickory, NC 28601

828.322.8169
CatawbaScience.org