

Brief Bio for Speaking Engagements

Joe Heafner

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Please use this bio for publicity purposes for events at which I have been invited to speak. If you need a photograph of me, just let me know and I can produce one.

Joe Heafner began teaching astronomy and physics at Catawba Valley Community College in 1992. His approach to teaching science emphasizes the “why” and “how” of science and not just “plugging into equations”, sometimes to the chagrin of his students. He was the first instructor in North Carolina to adopt a radical approach to teaching introductory calculus-based physics that incorporates computer modeling, among other things. His introductory astronomy course has a flavor unlike that at any other institution. Joe authored a book entitled *Fundamental Ephemeris Computations* which was published in 2000 by Willmann-Bell, Inc. He is also a contributing editor to *Sky & Telescope*, writing software and book reviews. In early 2006, Joe began a three year term on the American Association of Physics Teachers Committee on Space Science and Astronomy and is active in the North Carolina Section of AAPT. Joe is an active member of the Catawba Valley Astronomy Club, helping coordinate the club’s efforts in the NASA Night Sky Network program, and is on the staff of Lucile Miller Observatory at Maiden High School in Maiden, NC and volunteers at the Catawba Science Center’s Millholland Planetarium. He is currently writing his second book, which will be an inquiry-based introductory astronomy textbook.