



San Mateo County Astronomical Society



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SMCAS General Meeting and Presentation on Friday October 6, 2023

Carl Crum - Astro photographer and Spectroscopist

Getting Started with Astronomical Spectroscopy

Friday, October 6, 2023, [College of San Mateo, Building 36](#)

SMCAS Pizza Social at 7:00 p.m. in the ISC Room, room 110

Presentation at 8:00 p.m. in the nearby lecture room 109

Free and open to the public, free parking (recommend lots S (staff lot) or Q (student lot)).

Astronomical spectroscopy is the study of the electromagnetic spectrum of stars and other celestial objects through a spectroscope. Spectroscopy is one of the best tools we have for deciphering the chemical and physical properties of the universe, and is the backbone of modern astrophysical research. In fact, about 75% of all data collected by the James Webb Space Telescope is spectra!

In this presentation/workshop, Carl will give us an introduction to astronomical spectroscopy and why we should be interested in it, describe and show the typical equipment and software available to amateur astronomers to perform spectrographic analysis, and show examples of his research, giving you the information you need to get you started in astronomical spectroscopy. He'll bring his equipment so you can see and understand the set-up, and offer a Q&A session at the end of the lecture.



Carl Crum is an amateur astronomer and award winning astrophotographer. He became interested in astronomy in middle school when he discovered his father's astronomy equipment, and has since developed his astronomical interests and expertise, most recently diving head first into spectroscopy. He is currently a Senior at Sacred Heart High School, where he has undertaken independent research projects in astronomical spectroscopy. More information about Carl's astronomical activities can be found at his excellent website: <https://starsurfercarl.com>

When he isn't stargazing in his backyard, Carl enjoys photographing birds around his neighborhood and playing on his high school's water polo team. One of his favorite destinations is Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton, where he peered through the Great Refractor at Albireo, the Whirlpool Galaxy, and the Cat's Eye Nebula.