

## Solar Viewing at Claremont Elementary School

Jeff Whisnant and Charles Tilley    Catawba Valley Astronomy Club

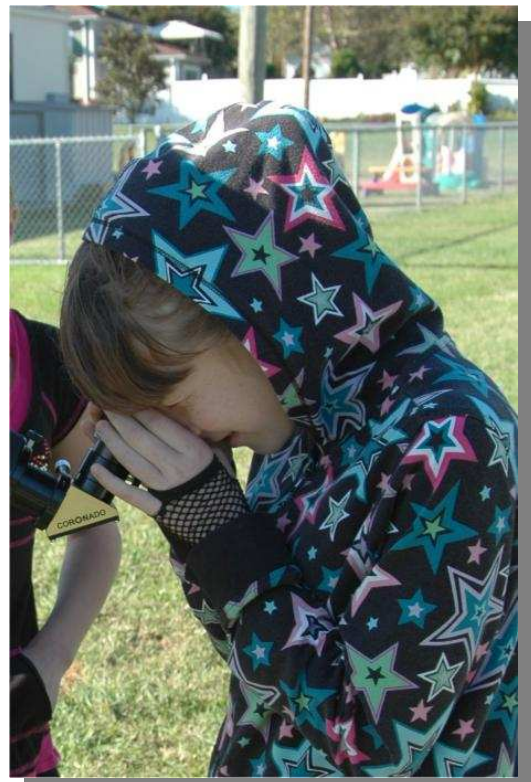


Yesterday (**05 November 2009**) I met Jeff Whisnant at Claremont Elementary School in Claremont, NC to help with a solar program by the Catawba Valley Astronomy Club for three 6 grade classes.

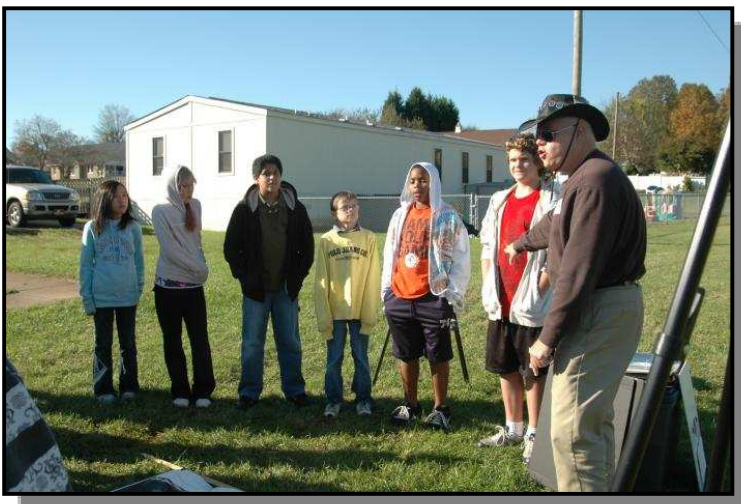
The sky was a nice blue and the temperature was great. This was a good thing since we would be out from 9:00 AM until shortly after 2:00 PM. The only problem we did have was a little wind that kept blowing our displays down. Finally Jeff solved the problem by laying everything flat on the ground.

The Sun even cooperated with us this time. Not only was there a nice little curtain shaped prominence (about 10,000 miles high) and several smaller prominences around the Sun but we also monitored a new sunspot that was trying to develop. There was a second active area that was harder to see but we did not have time to spend with it. We never did see the new sunspot completely form while we were there but I found out the next morning that the spot is officially now #1030.





The second active area on the Sun that was trying to form a sunspot is still developing so I will keep an eye on it today. Would it be possible to actually have two sunspots on the Sun at the same time? Maybe so!  
It was a great day with some great students who ask many, many great questions. We look forward to a return trip.





### **How hot is a Star?**

To demonstrate how the color of a star tells us if it is hotter or cooler than other stars we look at the color.

Here students with different color shirts demonstrate that the red shirt to the left represents a cooler burning star than the blue shirt to the far right.





Students and teachers numbered around 80 plus and they kept up busy. It was a very rewarding event.

