

Santa Fe Science Café for Young Thinkers

“What Is Light? What Are Radio Waves?”



Bruce Sherwood
North Carolina State University (Ret.)

Wednesday, January 16, 2013
6:00-7:30 PM

Georgia O’Keeffe Museum
Education Annex
123 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe

Drop a pebble into a pool and a water wave radiates outward. The wave consists of highs and lows in the water level. Light and radio and cell phone transmissions are also waves: they radiate outward from the sun, from radio antennas or from cell phones. What is “waving”? How are these waves created? Why are they called “electromagnetic?” Why is it that they can tan your skin or be sent and received on your radio or cellphone? We’ll explore the amazing phenomena of electromagnetic waves, which are the basis for many of today’s technologies as well as for the behavior of the natural world around us.

Admission is Free. Youth (ages 13-19) seating a priority. Light refreshments will be served. Bruce will also appear at 8:30 AM the same day on the **Santa Fe Radio Café** (KSFR 101.1 FM) with host Mary Charlotte, streaming from www.ksfr.org.

Bruce has taught physics at several universities in the US. He early turned his research interests to improving the introductory teaching of college physics, and with his wife Ruth Chabay has authored the physics textbook “Matter & Interactions.” Bruce also has a consuming interest in the development of modeling software. Bruce and Ruth live in Santa Fe.

Sponsors: Santa Fe Alliance for Science; Santa Fe Public Schools; Georgia O’Keeffe Museum; Santa Fe Institute. Call 603-7468 for more information.