

## Astrophysicist Dr. Keith Bechtol to Speak August 20

Astrophysicist Dr. Keith Bechtol will be presenting "Light and Shadows: the Eclipse and other Cosmic Wonders" in the **Rearden Theater at Rabun-Gap Nacoochee School (RGNS) on Sunday, August 20 at 5 p.m.** as a prelude to the total solar eclipse OutaSight Party hosted by the Rabun County Tourism Development Authority on Monday, August 21, 2017.

Before the presentation, the public is invited to meet Dr. Bechtol from 3-4:30 p.m. at Rabun Manor, Dillard, which is owned by his mother-in-law, Reverend Nancy Childress. Keith's parents, Dave and Diane Bechtol, and aunt and uncle, Ted and Nancy Bechtol, are coming for the eclipse weekend and will be staying at Rabun Manor.

Dr. Bechtol was raised in Virginia and attended the College of William and Mary. He met his future wife, Ellen Childress Bechtol, through the college track team. Keith then earned a PhD in physics from Stanford University and went on to postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In October 2016, Keith and Ellen both accepted positions with the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) Project Office in Tucson, AZ. Keith is a staff scientist while Ellen works on education and public outreach. Starting in the fall of 2018, Keith will be an Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Bechtol has discovered more than a dozen tiny galaxies orbiting the Milky Way and has visited six continents for scientific research, including Antarctica. His research involves dark matter, dark energy, neutrinos, and supernovae, using telescopes on mountains, high-altitude balloons, deep within glaciers, and in outer space.

Keith and Ellen welcomed their first child, Claire Theodora Bechtol on January 19, 2017. Keith's hobbies include running, hiking, and biking.



*Ellen, Keith and Claire hiking in Flagstaff*