John Sohl, Ph. D., Professor of Physics, Weber State University

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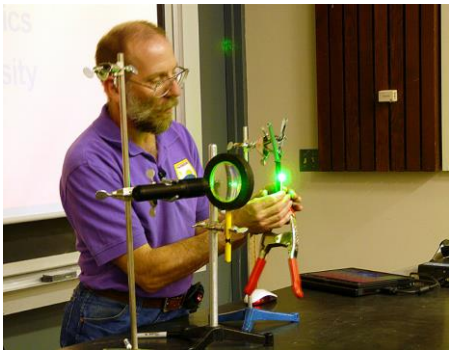
Dr. John Sohl received his B. S. in Physics from the University of West Florida in 1979 and his Ph. D. in Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics in 1990 from the Ohio State University. Teaching and research have been priorities for Dr. Sohl from his first semester as an undergraduate in 1975 and culminating with his faculty position at Weber State University from 1990 to the present. In between, he worked in industry for Honeywell (working on building the Space Shuttle) and for Martin Marietta Aerospace (designing optical systems for national defense).

Dr. Sohl has won numerous awards including the Brady Presidential Distinguished Professor, Utah Engineering Educator of the Year, George and Beth Lowe Innovative Teaching Award, Spencer L. Seager Distinguished Teaching Award, Homers Cortez Professor, The National Society of Collegiate Scholars Distinguished Member Award, Science Research Mentor of the Year, and others.



Fun with lasers, demonstration at the Physics Open House at Weber State University

Dr. Sohl's scientific work is diverse in both pure and applied physics. Dr. Sohl's three primary research areas all relate to sensing systems. He studies Earth's atmosphere using sub-orbital flights launching instrumentation payloads into the stratosphere with Weber State's high-altitude balloon program. He is developing a portable air measurement laboratory called the AtmoSniffer. And his other current research area is in human motion and prosthetics. All three of these areas are focused on making life better for humans everywhere.

Dr. Sohl makes numerous visits to schools with science activities and special lectures. He has served as a science fair judge at all levels from elementary schools to the International Science and Engineering Fair and was the director of the Ritchey Science and Engineering Fair at Weber State University.

Climbing Kala Patthar, in Nepal, with Mount Everest in the background.

For 29 years, Dr. Sohl has been a member of the Weber County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team and has served as team commander for seven. He specializes in vertical and other hazardous terrain rescue such as swift water, avalanche, backcountry skiing, and mounted search. He is the chair of the national Mountain Rescue Association's Research Grants Committee.

Some of Dr. Sohl's other interests include: rocketry, "I have been flying model rockets since the late 1960's and I grew up within eyesight of the NASA Mercury, Gemini and Apollo launches in Florida. While at Honeywell, I worked on part of the Space Shuttle and I viewed the shuttle's first launch from the VIP stands. Lately I'm building high-power model rockets and am certified to Level I by the National Association of Rocketry. I've constructed two rockets that can break the speed of sound!" He is also a licensed commercial drone pilot and has designed and built two heavy-lift rotary-wing drones for scientific research.

Working with a research student to develop a human motion measurement system to aid people with prosthetics.

Dr. Sohl's work has resulted in four patent filings, dozens of grants, over 150 presentations at professional meetings, and numerous corporate and scientific reports.