

THE SUN-EARTH CONNECTION

An Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) Newsletter
for the Sun-Earth Connection Science Community - and beyond!
May 9, 2008 Volume IX, Issue 2

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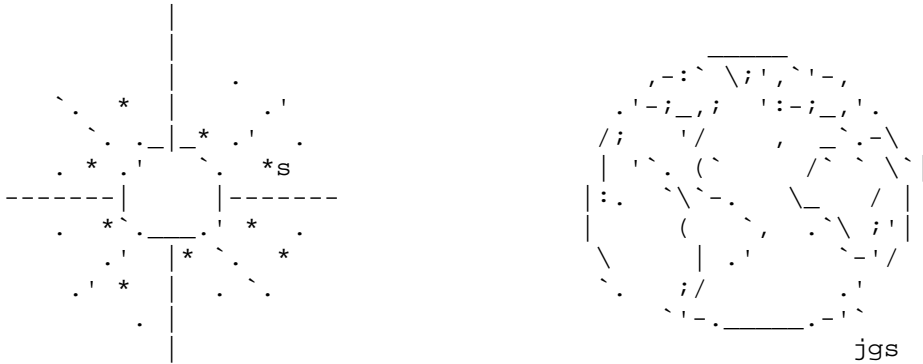


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1. Experience a Total Solar Eclipse on the Internet via
Live Webcast from China.....
The August 1 show will draw spectators as surely as the Olympics!

A total solar Eclipse begins at 6:09 pm China time near the windswept high grasslands northeast of the small hamlet of Yiwu, about two hours north of Hami in the Xinjiang province of China. As in the total solar eclipses of 1999, 2001, and 2006, a team of Exploratorium and NASA heliophysics experts will adeptly capture and broadcast the Eclipse *live* from yet another specially chosen international locale. (The NASA China team will include Heliophysics representatives Eric Christian and Carolyn Ng.) Like the Olympics, the thrills of live viewership can still be yours even if you can't travel to China for this major celestial event. Thanks to satellite technology, you can watch it from your planetarium or local museum -- or even from home at your computer screen.

Four specially-equipped solar telescopes (in white-light, hydrogen-alpha for crisp details, and Calcium-K to see surface structure) will be trained on the Sun, providing a continuous 2.25 hour video feed of the eclipse from the Moon's first contact with the Sun's fiery edge, to totality -- including the blazing "diamond ring effect," to last contact as the Moon departs. The Exploratorium

will also provide one hour of lively educational programming, featuring live hosts, animations, and some of the latest NASA imagery. NASA and Exploratorium scientists will explain the mechanics of an eclipse, observe unique features of the Sun, and fill you in on the Sun's dynamic nature— the source of sometimes threatening and turbulent "space weather." A special guest may be the Director of the Urumqi National Observatory, Dr Na Wang, who will be traveling with her team to a school in Yiwu. You'll hear about the latest US and Chinese solar- and lunar-missions. The telescopes and the local program will be uplinked to a satellite over China, and the video, along with the educational program feed, streamed from the Exploratorium's website to your computer, museum, or planetarium.

NASA's Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum is the co-host and partner in this event. E/PO leads could make a big contribution by working with their local museums as a resident expert for their programs. If you're an astronomy educator who would like to link to the satellite feed of the live solar eclipse (museums and planetariums will receive your own satellite coordinates) and the accompanying program, please go to the websites below to learn more and sign up for updates and program ideas such as make-and-take activities (inexpensive educational activities that can be done on the spot). If you register, you will receive free packets full of valuable information on topics like solar variability, space weather and solar cycles.

Join all citizens of Earth in awe as the Sun and Moon perform their own celestial Olympics!

Websites (will keep being updated as the date approaches):

www.sunearthday.nasa.gov
www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse

Local Times for Yiwu, Urumqi, China

1 st contact:	10:09:27amUT`
2 nd contact:	11:08:09amUT
3 rd contact:	11:10:05amUT
4 th contact:	12:04:35amUT

Telescope-Only Feed:

Start:	10:00am UT	6:00am EDT	3:00am PDT	6:00pm Urumqi
End:	12:15pmUT	8:15amEDT	5:15amPDT	8:15pm Urumqi

Program Feed:

Start:	10:30amUT	6:30amEDT	3:30amPDT	6:30pm Urumqi
End:	11:30amUT	7:30amEDT	4:30amPDT	7:30pm Urumqi

-- Karin Hauck karin@ssl.berkeley.edu

2. Stories of Outreach on Sun-Earth Day: Chabot Science Center

At Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland, CA,, we celebrated Sun-Earth Day on March 29th with an array of activities and offerings. In our theater we showed the movie *SolarMax* – all day long. Throughout the Center we engaged our public visitors with Sun and solar energy related activity stations—specifically: Solar Plasma and Space Weather; Aurora Chalk Art; Ultraviolet Spectrum Bracelets; Sundials; Solar Powered Cars; Worm Composting; Solar Electrical Power; Water Experiment; Live Solar Viewing; and Atmospheric Analyzers. (If it seems like some of those aren't directly Sun-related, it's true—we were actually conducting a joint Sun-Earth Day / Earth Day, as we did last year.) Visitors were given Passport pamphlets that they had stamped at each activity station as they completed each activity. A number of Sun-related NASA posters, postcards, CDs, lithographs, and stickers were given away to visitors as well. Over the day, we had 814 public visitors attend the event.

As for the August 1 Total Solar Eclipse, we are planning an event in our planetarium to view the live simulcast from China. The event will be a combination of viewing the live channel and live presentation in the planetarium.

-- Ben Burress [BBurress@ChabotSpace.org]

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Newsletter Sponsor Info: Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum

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<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov> and
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