

Martian Chronicles

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Up Coming Events

May 2005

13th—M.A.R.S. Club Meeting

Program: April Solar Eclipse

by Greg Shanos

7:30 pm at MOSI

14th— MOSI SkyWatch

Starts 30 minuets after Sunset

Updates on Special Projects

Frances Ferguson did two astronomy talks at Dorothy Thomas Girl Scout Camp. The Brownie and Junior Scouts were great.

Jimmy Thomas participated in a Space Day activity at the Plant City Library.

The club received notification from the Night Sky Network, that our application has been received and will be reviewed by the end of June. So maybe by the July meeting we will have more information.

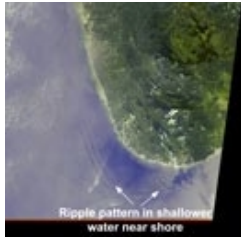
The Space Place has given the M.A.R.S. Club a Certificate of Appreciation for the valuable contributions to the community in the area of science and technology education and inspiration.



The last to leave, more pictures inside.
Astronomy Day 2005







This December 26, 2004, MISR image of the southern tip of Sri Lanka was taken several hours after the first tsunami wave hit the island. It was taken with MISR's 46° forward-looking camera.

Asian Tsunami Seen from Space

by Patrick L. Barry

When JPL research scientist Michael Garay first heard the news that a tsunami had struck southern Asia, he felt the same shock and sadness over the tremendous loss of human life that most people certainly felt. Later, though, he began to wonder: were these waves big enough to see from space? So he decided to check. At JPL, Garay analyzes data from MISR—the Multi-angle Imaging SpectroRadiometer instrument aboard NASA's Terra satellite. He scoured MISR images from the day of the tsunami, looking for signs of the waves near the coasts of India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Thailand. Looking at an image of the southern tip of Sri Lanka taken by one of MISR's angled cameras, he spotted the distinct shape of waves made visible by the glint of reflected sunlight. They look a bit like normal waves, except for their scale: These waves were more than a kilometer wide! Most satellites have cameras that point straight down. From that angle, waves are hard to see. But MISR is unique in having nine cameras, each viewing Earth at a different angle. “We could see the waves because MISR's forward-looking camera caught the reflected sunlight just right,” Garay explains. In another set of images, MISR's cameras caught the white foam of tsunami waves breaking off the coast of India. By looking at various angles as the Terra satellite passed over the area, MISR's cameras snapped seven shots of the breaking waves, each about a minute apart. This gave scientists a unique time-lapse view of the motion of the waves, providing valuable data such as the location, speed, and direction of the breaking waves. Realizing the importance of the find, Garay contacted Vasily Titov at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, Washington. Titov is a tsunami expert who had made a computer simulation of the Asian tsunami.” Because the Indian Ocean doesn't have a tsunami warning system, hardly any scientific measurements of the tsunami's propagation exist, making it hard for Dr. Titov to check his simulations against reality,” Garay explains. “Our images provide some important data points to help make his simulations more accurate. By predicting where a tsunami will hit hardest, those simulations may someday help authorities issue more effective warnings next time a tsunami strikes.”

Find out more about MISR and see the latest images at www-misr.jpl.nasa.gov/. Kids can read their own version of the MISR tsunami story at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/misr_tsunami .

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 <i>M.A.R.S. Club Meeting</i>	14 <i>MOSI SkyWatch</i>
15	16 <i>First Qtr. Moon</i>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 <i>Full Moon</i>	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Last Qtr. Moon</i>	31				

Spinning Hyperion

Saturn's chaotically tumbling moon Hyperion is captured in this view. At the top is a 130-kilometer-wide (80-mile) crater seen in some NASA Voyager spacecraft images. Detecting specific features is the first step in trying to understand the current rotation state of Hyperion, compared to that at the time of Voyager. Hyperion is 266 kilometers (165 miles) across.

This is the second-closest view of Hyperion obtained by Cassini so far. The closest view was included in a previously released montage of Hyperion images

The image was taken in visible light with the Cassini spacecraft narrow-angle camera on March 19, 2005, at a distance of approximately 1.3 million kilometers (824,000 miles) from Hyperion and at a Sun-Hyperion-spacecraft, or phase, angle of 63 degrees. Resolution in the original image was 8 kilometers (5 miles) per pixel. The image has been contrast-enhanced and magnified by a factor of three to aid visibility.

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian

Space Agency. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D. C. The Cassini orbiter and its two onboard cameras were designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The imaging team is based at the Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colo.

For more information about the Cassini-Huygens mission visit <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov>. For additional images visit the Cassini imaging team homepage <http://ciclops.org>. Original Source: NASA/JPL/SSI News Release



Saturn's chaotically tumbling moon, Hyperion. Image credit: NASA/

Newsletter of the Museum
Astronomical Resource Society

M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club
Frances Ferguson
1527 W. River Lane
Tampa, Florida 33603

Phone: 813-238-8299

Email: faferguson@sisna.com

We're on the Web
www.marsastro.org

Newsletter of the Museum Astronomical Resource Society

Martian Chronicles is published monthly by the Museum Astronomical Resource Society (also known as M.A.R.S. Astronomy Club), to provide club news and other items of interest to its member. MARS is sponsored by MOSI Tampa Florida. Annual club membership dues are \$15.00 single and \$20.00 for families. Dues can be paid to any club officer at a meeting or event or mailed to the Club Membership/Renewal Address listed below. Newsletters are available to nonmembers by requesting a complimentary issue. Please send all inquiries, comments and newsletter contributions to the address below. The deadline for submitted contributions is the 25th of the month prior to the next issue. Contribution may be delayed in publication due to available space.

Membership/Renewal

*Make checks payable to: Mildred Simpson, (Club Treasurer)
M.A.R.S.
C/O Mildred Simpson
1522 W. River Lane
Tampa Florida, 33603*

2005 M.A.R.S. Club Officers

President—Frances Ferguson, 813-238-8299

faferguson@sisna.com

Vice President—Wade Holland, 813-988-6689

Treasurer—Mildred Simpson, 813-238-8299

mildreds@sisna.com

Secretary—Katherine Holland, 813-988-6689

Newsletter—

Web Master—

Education Outreach Coordinator—

Jimmy Thomas, 813-88-7187

Astronomy Day Coordinator—

Librarian—Douglas Ordetx

MOSI Contact—813-987-633,

From the Keeper of the Frog Scope

By Frances Ferguson,
President

And the Winner is.....

The winner of the free year subscription to *Astronomy Magazine* is John Bell.

Thanks to everyone's help we have successfully Astronomy Day.

Amy Williams from the Tampa Tribute wrote a nice article which ran in some neighbor-

hood sections.

Everyone who attended the April club meeting assembled over 250 solar bracelets packets.

The door prizes were numerous. Not only did member contribute but the Science Store provide a wide variety of items. We needed 1 1/2 tables this year to display all the goodies.

The Science Library at MOSI came through again this year.

Elizabeth Mueller and her staff set up a book display in the library and created a bibliography to hand out to visitors.

The MOSI staff shone bright again this year. They withstood the hot sun to allow people to look at the sun. And what about that new Hydrogen Alpha filter?

Astronomy 2006 will be in May. What can you do to help?

