

IO – May 2005

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www.eugeneastro.org

Eugene Astronomical Society, Annual Club Dues \$25, President: AC Illig, Treasurer: Rossco Wright, Secretary Alicia McGraw
 Guy Prouty (guyprouty@msn.com 463-7641, Richard Boyd (BOD Members); IO editor, Sam Pitts, sampitts@comcast.net 688-7330:
 Io (*EYE-oh*) is nearest to Jupiter and fastest orbiting of the four Galilean moons

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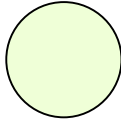
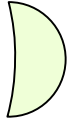
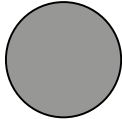


Monday- May 2nd MEETING EUGENE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY At The Science Factory Planetarium

The meeting is from **7:00-9:00 PM** in the Planetarium. Come early (6:45 PM) and help others learn about their scopes. Those of you, who are new or not sure about your equipment, show up early and some of our members will assist you in understanding your equipment better. If you are planning on getting a scope please come out and ask questions, we're glad to assist you in making a good solid choice to maximize your viewing pleasure.

The Science Factory is at 2300 Leo Harris Parkway, behind Autzen Stadium.

Check EAS WEB site for up to the minute Information



May 8	May 16	May 23	May 30
New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
Sunset: 8:24 PM	Sunset: 8:33 PM	Sunset: 8:40 PM	Sunset: 8:47 PM
Sunrise 5:53 AM	Sunrise 5:44 AM	Sunrise 5:38 AM	Sunrise 5:33 AM
Mercury Rise 5:10 AM	Mercury Rise 5:06 AM	Mercury Rise 5:08 AM	Mercury Rise 5:18 AM
Mars Rise 3:18 AM	Mars Rise 3:01 AM	Mars Rise 2:42 AM	Mars Rise 2:26 AM
Jupiter Set 4:39 AM	Jupiter Set 4:06 AM	Jupiter Set 3:38 AM	Jupiter Set 3:10 AM
Saturn Set 1:18 AM	Saturn Set 12:45 AM	Saturn Set 12:20 AM	Saturn Set 11:55 PM
Uranus Rise 3:24 AM	Uranus Rise 2:53 AM	Uranus Rise 2:22 AM	Uranus Rise 1:55 AM
Neptune Rise 2:26 AM	Neptune Rise 1:55 AM	Neptune Rise 1:24 AM	Neptune Rise 12:56 AM

All times are for Eugene, Oregon Latitude 44° 3' 8" Longitude 123° 5' 8" * Info for 4/30/05

Aquarids Meteor Shower Peak May 4 (4/16→5/28)

Magazine subscriptions go to Richard Boyd: checkerkit@comcast.net



Join the user List! Keep in-touch with Members and Events!



<http://lists.cmc.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/eugeneastro>

Celestial Events for May 2005

- May 01 - Asteroid 2005 GL Near-Earth Flyby (0.092 AU) 8.5 Million Miles RA 07 24.44 DEC +48 34.0
May 07 - Asteroid 2005 GJ Near-Earth Flyby (0.053 AU) 4.9 Million Miles RA13 24.81 DEC -47 16.8 (5-10)
May 07 - Asteroid 2005 GE60 Near-Earth Flyby (0.060 AU) 5.6 Million Miles
May 26 -A favorable double shadow transit event of Jupiter's moons Io and Europa starts about 8:40pm CDT.
May 31 - Mars is about $.5^\circ$ from the Moon
May 19 - Jupiter is less than a $.5^\circ$ from the Moon.
May14 - Mars is a little more than 1° from Uranus.

Astronomy Day 2005

Huge Success for EAS & the Science Factory

Eugene Astronomical Society in conjunction with The Science Factory held an Astronomy Day celebration on April 16, 2005 from 12:00 Noon to 6:00 PM. Many EAS members with family and friends helped to make the event so successful. Lots of volunteers to put on programs answer questions and enhance the public's view of Astronomy. AC estimated that somewhere around 1000 people attended the event. Many door prizes were given away including an 8" & 6" telescopes. The event went smoothly and a good time was had by all. The laborious task of setup and tear down went with out a hitch and in record times. Various EAS members commented as this being one of the most enjoyable events EAS has put on. AC (with permission) has submitted many photos of the event for publishing in this month's issue of IO. Thanks to everyone who participated, it could not have been such a success without each and everyone's donation of time and effort.



Telescope Alley & Main Vendor Area

IO – May 2005
www.eugeneastro.org



The News Broadcast early Friday Morning



AC Hard at work with Rob Adams Scope



Sean Getting Ready with Lots of Astronomy goodies for sale



Roscoe hard at Work



Scopes on display & door prizes

Asian Tsunami Seen from Space

by Patrick L. Barry

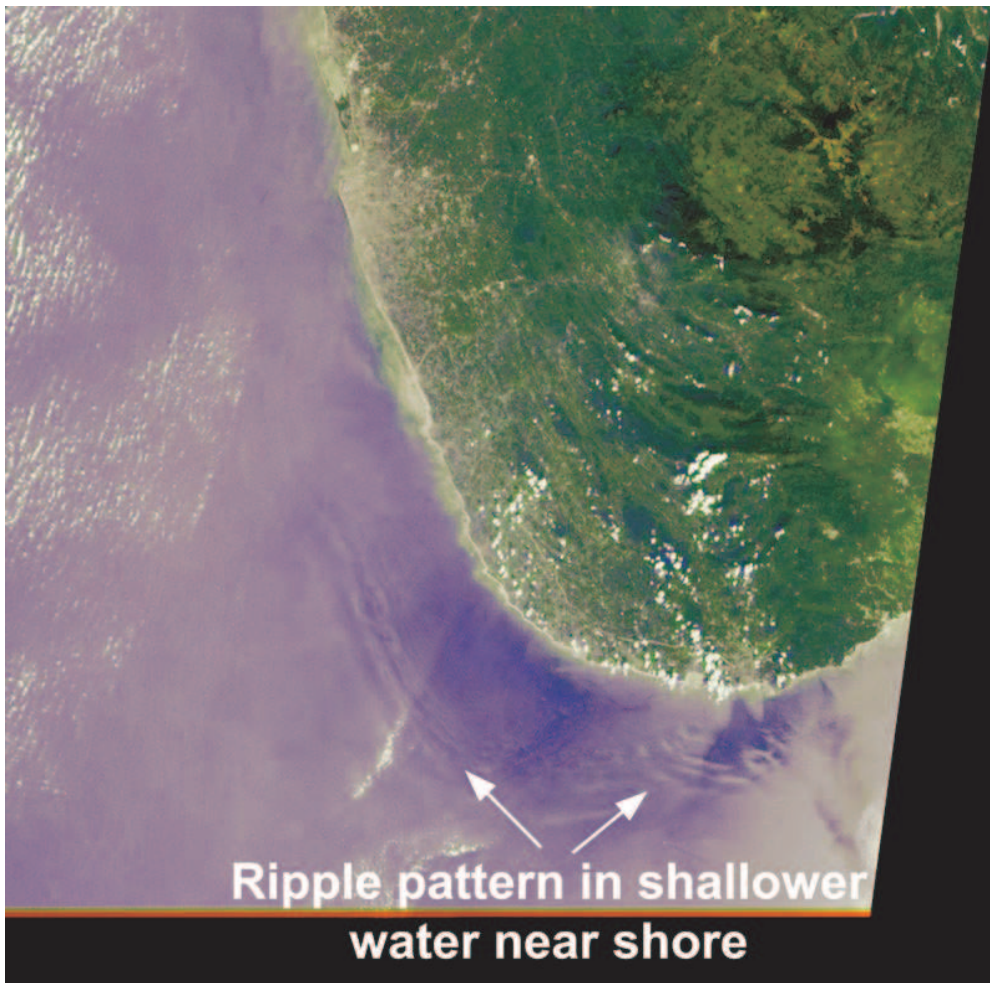


When JPL research scientist Michael Garay first heard the news that a tsunami had struck southern Asia, he felt the same shock and sadness over the tremendous loss of human life that most people certainly felt. Later, though, he began to wonder: were these waves big enough to see from space?

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.



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.

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.

CELESTRON PURCHASED BY SW TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION, A DELAWARE COMPANY, AFFILIATE OF SYNTA TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

Leading telescope manufacturer purchased by long term overseas optics manufacturer

TORRANCE, CA – April 6, 2005 – Celestron, one of the world's leading designers and manufacturers of telescopes, binoculars, spotting scopes and microscopes, today announced that SW Technology Corporation, a Delaware company, an affiliate of Synta Technology Corporation ("Synta") acquired all of the outstanding members ownership interests of the company. Synta is a well-known optics manufacturer that has participated in the development of some of Celestron's most popular products, such as the NexStar GT computerized telescope line. Synta has been a Celestron supplier for over 15 years. Celestron will continue to be led by the senior management team of Joseph A. Lupica and Richard L. Hedrick with Chairman Alan Hale and Celestron founder Tom Johnson remaining as consultants. Synta and its related companies will continue to manufacture and supply other telescopes and related products for Celestron. As a result of the acquisition, Celestron will be in a position to meet all current financial obligations and continue to lead the product engineering, development and manufacturing processes from the Torrance, California headquarters. All product warranties will stay in effect and product support will not be interrupted or delayed. The company's first goal is to fill a three month backlog of product orders and work to resume full scale production and product development operations.

"I have always had great admiration and respect for Celestron's products and have had a very close and warm relationship with the company and its management team for the past 15 years," said David Shen, Synta founder. "I am committed to maintaining Celestron's reputation of quality and innovation and will support their continued efforts to create and engineer products that give value to the consumer. I want to assure everyone that Celestron's operations will remain in Torrance, the management team will stay intact, and Celestron will continue to develop innovative products of the highest quality for amateur astronomers."

Shen said that since the reorganization in 2002 Celestron has been unable to take advantage of the market demand for its products because it was under capitalized. In addition, the long and expensive litigation initiated by its US competitor made it more difficult for the company to meet customer demands for existing and new products. Shen says those issues are now in the past. With the additional capital infusion required for the growth of the company, Shen has "full confidence that the current senior management team will be able to carry through the expansion of Celestron and continue to develop and manufacture high-end telescopes and related products to its loyal clientele."

“Synta has deep understanding of the telescope industry and appreciation for the value of Celestron’s products,” said Celestron CEO Joseph A. Lupica. “They are investing in Celestron to grow Celestron’s business and that is a very positive development. This acquisition is in the best interest of Celestron dealers, employees, consumers and the telescope industry as a whole. Synta and Celestron will form a strong team to provide competitive products of the highest quality for consumers.” Lupica added, “I am very excited to be in a position whereby our entire workforce will be able to focus 100% of our energies on the development, production and distribution of high quality optical products. I am just as excited when I consider the innovative products we will be able to develop with the assistance of one of the leading telescope suppliers in the world, Synta Technology. It's time to go back to work for our customers doing what we do best.”

This acquisition takes place among rumors that Celestron would be purchased by their main competitor, Meade Instruments. Although officials at Meade Instruments have expressed an interest in acquiring Celestron, the action has been blocked by the FTC several times. According to Lupica, Meade has continually approached Celestron management with buyout offers over the past few years. He pointed out that Celestron’s senior management had a fiduciary responsibility to consider all reasonable offers, including an offer from a major competitor that would be subject to them obtaining the approval of the FTC. Celestron management also negotiated with several other interested parties before accepting Synta’s offer. In response to a recent article in the Orange County Register, Lupica said, “We chose not to comment for the OC Register article because we felt it was inappropriate to comment on matters that were still in negotiation. Contrary to previous reports that the company is being purchased for a price below liquidation value, in fact each existing owner is getting a return on their original investment.”

About Celestron

With corporate offices and manufacturing, in Torrance, California, Celestron has been a leading designer, manufacturer and importer of high-quality optical products including telescopes and related accessories, binoculars and microscopes for almost 40 years. Celestron is a leader in the sale of performance telescopes worldwide and has very strong brand-name recognition among serious amateur astronomers for superior optics, outstanding design, and innovative technology. Celestron sells its products worldwide through a variety of specialty retail outlets and international distributors. Celestron is a privately held company.

Known throughout the world for superior optics, Celestron is recognized for many industry firsts including:

- First to offer a commercially available fully computerized “GoTo” telescope
- First to offer GPS telescopes
- First to offer a commercially available Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope
- First to offer commercially available Schmidt cameras
- First to offer a larger aperture Schmidt-Cassegrain (22”) true observatory telescope for consumers or research facilities
- First to offer PEC (Periodic Error Correction) in consumer telescopes
- First to offer StarBright® multi-coatings for the highest throughput transmission

More information is available at www.celestron.com.

