

PUNCH Public Engagement

Monthly Newsletter Issue 18: Apr 2024

Shining New Light on Diverse Views of the Sun
with our Ancient & Modern Sun-Watching Theme



Did You Know....

...that the French astronaut, Jean-Pierre Haignere was aboard the Russian space station Mir in 1999 when he made the [first photograph from Earth orbit of the Moon's shadow during a solar eclipse](#) (below). You might think that the speed of the Moon's shadow across Earth's surface would be equal to the speed of the Moon's orbit around the Earth (2288 mph). But Earth is also rotating so the effective speed is less and varies with each eclipse, though it is always more than 1000 mph.



Image credit: [CNES](#)

PUNCH Wide Field Imager (WFI) Makes Team Portrait

The [WFI-1 Observatory](#) is now fully integrated and is proceeding to environmental testing. The first science image



was a team selfie through the same complete imaging system we will use to record the solar wind itself. The image includes Kelly Smith, Jim Foster, Ronnie Killough, Glenn Laurent, Emily Fisher, Brandon Perez, and Tonya Brody. (image credit: [SwRI](#))

Annual Retreat for PUNCH Outreach is June 17-18

PUNCH Outreach will convene our 4th annual retreat on June 17-18 in Boulder, CO, in advance of the PUNCH 5 Science Team Meeting with a day in the mountains in between (June 19th). Our sessions include: Team Building, Celebrating our Successes, PUNCH Science Q & A, Cross-Cultural Professional Development, and Planning. A few of these will be available for virtual participation. The retreat is open to all PUNCH Outreach collaborators, consultants, advisors, and friends. If interested, please send email to punchoutreach@gmail.com.

Post-Eclipse Outreach Efforts Remain Vigorous

We are still receiving reports of how [PUNCH Outreach products](#) and people supported eclipse events around the country. Please send your photos and prose to punchoutreach@gmail.com. Meanwhile, we are proceeding vigorously with plans for the [Heliophysics Big Year](#) and the [PUNCH mission launch](#) a year from now. We hope you enjoy our [recently released short video \(~5-min\)](#) that offers the essence of our Ancient & Modern Sun-watching theme.



Your Solar Photo of the Month

Every month we feature a photo submitted by readers that portrays a personal experience of the Sun or PUNCH.



Photo and caption by Derek Wallentinsen
[Eclipse Ambassador](#)

"On April 8th, 2024, I enjoyed my second totality visually through a telescope. It was a totally awesome view that included closeups of what I like to call Arch Prominence, also [visible to the unaided eye](#). Defeating challenges due to clouds, I managed to aim and focus my DSLR camera with polarizer during totality to capture the image above."