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> Any unique sights like Venus from the high altitude?

I must admit I had not paid much attention to details. Was quite busy talking with other passengers and taking pictures.

> Was your window clean :)

yes, quite so.

> Did you time it or get a full video.

I did not do any timing. I was a bit confused about timing. I thought the flight would leave at 1.15 PM but it seems we left at 1.05 PM. Also, the captain announced we would arrive ahead of schedule, at 7.17 AM in Amsterdam instead of 7.50 AM. So I briefly feared we would miss annularity. Later the captain told me we should be between Faroe and Shetland Islands at 3.50 UT. INdeed our routing was slightly further north than the theoretical line .

My digital video camera , which also takes video stills , was still set on CDT time. It shows the annular eclipse taken around 22.49. So I was in the 3.49 UT area of annularity.

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> Just wondering how much shorter the duration since you were flying with the earth's rotation direction.

probably a few seconds less. But I did not time it.

> see any beads?

no. Klipsi



Picture by Olivier Staiger

Bad luck in Shetland

From: McCann, Stephen To: "'SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM'" <SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM>
Date: Mon, 02 Jun 2003 11:09:15

Dear all, We had no luck from Mainland, Shetland (Toft) in viewing annularity, although we did see a bright clear crescent only 10 minutes later, some 5 degrees high.

At 04.25 local time (03.25 GMT), we could see clear skies off to the far N-E, above the sea horizon, to about 2 degrees elevation, indicating a clear view some 20-30 km N-E of our position in the North Sea. Otherwise we were under very thick cloud. As 04.45 approached, the sky darkened a little, and we did notice that the clear patch off in the distance reddened. At about 04.50 the sky brightened quite quickly and the distant sea horizon returned to its normal colouration. This is something I had not expected.

The cloud situation did not change until 05.00, by which time we had missed annularity, because the sun was too high (4 degrees) from our location, behind the cloud bank.

Around 05.00, the cloud dissipated enough to show some breaks, showing a brilliantly clear crescent sun some 5 degrees up in the N-E.

We also heard on the local Shetland radio, that the group of people who had met in Skaw (near Saxa Vord) on Unst had a similar experience, watching a partially eclipsed sun from sunrise, ascending into a thick cloud bank, thus missing annularity itself. Very disappointing for them.

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We did hear of success from Sumburgh Head in Shetland (some 60km south of our position), but I've not been able to confirm this yet. Kind regards
Stephen McCann Solent Astronomical Society
Southampton UK

From: Daniel Fischer

... can be found at <http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~dfischer/skyreports/shet2003> - in a nutshell, we got a brilliant partially eclipsed sunrise with weird atmospheric effects, lost annularity due to a solid cloud cover (but it got remarkably dark anyway) and saw the tail end of the 2nd annularity, all from the northeastern corner of Mainland. BUT on the way back we met two British teachers who had actually caught glimpses of the ring phase from a boat off the island of Noss and obtained some shaky video tape of the sight which I'll try to process later.
Daniel Fischer, Germany

P.S.: It's now 3 rings seen, then 3 rings lost, in 6 annular eclipses in the last 12 years - hopefully successes will return in 2005 with 2 annular eclipses in one year. The 2nd one October will probably be tried from Spain, the 1st one in April maybe from Panama (Alejandra, what are the *real* chances for success that time of year? :-)) - or from a boat somewhere in the Pacific.

P.P.S.: Is anyone considering a trip to Alaska in October 2004 for a deep partial eclipse at sunset? Sounds like fun to me ...

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Partial Eclipse Shots (From Romania & Slovenia)

From: Michael Gill To: "SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM" <SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM> Date: Wed, 04 Jun 2003 11:49:52

An apology to those who may have already seen these shots for any duplication.

Radu Corlan from Romania took these great images of a "shark fin" sunrise over the Black Sea:

http://astro.corlan.net/events/eclipsed_sunrise.html

Javor Kac in Slovenia took these images of the partially eclipsed Sun with a steeple in the foreground: <http://www2.arnes.si/~mborion4/soleclipses.htm> Cheers, Michael Gill

ASE and 15 May Lunar eclipse images from spaceweather.com

From: F.Podmore To: Solar Eclipses Mailing List <solareclipsesSEN200307aula.com> Date: Thu, 05 Jun 2003

I just checked www.spaceweather.com for today (5 June) and found a lovely image of the partial phase (the same Michael G found possibly) and there's a link to their ASE gallery, AND a collection for the May 15 lunar eclipse. If that day's spaceweather page has been replaced before you can see it, Michael tells me that archived pages are at: http://www.archive.org/web/*/http://www.spaceweather.com but I haven't tried that to know if it works. Bye, Francis

From: Michael Gill Francis, The correct URL is : http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://www.spaceweather.com (i.e. no "www" prior to the ".archive") Cheers, Michael

The Solar eclipse as seen from Nesoddtangen, Norway

From: Arne Danielsen To: SOLARECLIPSES-SEN200307AULA.COM Date: Sat, 07 Jun 2003 10:28:17

Dear friends, The weather was excellent in the south-eastern parts of Norway allowing us to pick our location for observing the event without any concerns about the weather. We had been out scouting for suitable locations in the Oslo area the day before and decided to go to the tip of Nesoddtangen peninsula. From this location, just S-SW of Oslo overlooking Oslo (Norway's capital and biggest city) and the Oslo fjord, we had a perfect view of the event. The Sun cleared the horizon a few minutes before first contact and absolute clear skies (only some very thin cloud filaments in the horizon) allowed us to follow the event, without any interruption, throughout the whole duration of the eclipse. I've uploaded my photographic results, using a Canon EOS D-60 (digital SLR) and a Takahashi FS-60C refractor, to my website: <http://home.online.no/~arnedani/astronomy/astrophoto/eclipse/eclipse.htm> Comments are welcome!

I would also like to mention that during the eclipse there were a major arrangement in Frognerparken (aka. Vigelands parken, one of the parks in Oslo). Norsk Astronomisk Selskap (Norwegian Astronomical Society) had invited the public to the park in order to watch the eclipse through telescopes and on a big outdoor screen. The arrangement was a huge success with tens of thousands finding their way to the park that early morning. Some people were young, some were old, some were sleeping over in the park, some were early risers while others were on their way home from party, but they had one common interest that morning - to watch the eclipsed Sun! I'm aware that not that many of you are able to read Norwegian, but at least you get to see the pictures in this report from the event :-)
http://www.astro.uio.no/ita/nyheter/solform_03/solformbilder.html
My favourite pictures are of two of the most famous statues in the park. The first shows a bunch of people climbing the biggest statue in the park in, order to get best possible view of the eclipse: http://www.astro.uio.no/ita/nyheter/solform_03/frpark/IMG0478mini.jpg and the other shows "Sinnataggen" (angry little boy) equipped with eclipse shades: http://www.astro.uio.no/ita/nyheter/solform_03/frpark/IMG0488mini.jpg Best regards, Arne - Arne Danielsen

Something wonderful

From: Onderbeke Julien To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Sun, 01 Jun 2003 16:47:08

Dear all, I just arrived home, with seven other people, from a trip to Durness (Scotland). We had good luck. At the sunrise, we could see nothing. There were some thin clouds in the horizon. As we checked the time at the beginning of annularity, we still saw nothing, although the light was clearly decreasing in the neighbourhood. The phase of annularity lasted 2 minutes and a few seconds. Suddenly, 30 seconds before the end, it looked as if a curtain was raised. We saw the ring of fire, which became clearer and clearer. Everyone was very happy! At least, we have seen more than what we could have seen from Belgium. It was my first annular eclipse (after 3 totals)

The Scottish Grampian TV made an interview with me about the eclipse. They will broadcast it Monday Evening (02. June) in "North Tonight" at 6 pm (British Time). I guess they will show the eclipse first.

Is there anyone in Scotland who can record this on the VCR and maybe send me a copy? Please don't answer this question on the list, but on my private email address. Julien

From: b.w.jones

At Durness in the north-west corner of Scotland the 1-in-10 chance came off, and the hundreds of people who gathered at this small community saw the eclipse. There was a bit of cirrus and haze that was so thick towards the horizon that the annular phase was only just visible, but just as it ended the Sun (and Moon) moved into a clearer area of sky, and it was a very beautiful sight. I heard that Patrick Moore and Brian May (of Queen), plus a BBC camera team, were just a few miles away, so they very probably saw it too.

The eclipse was visible under broadly similar sky conditions in Shetland.

I believe we've not heard from Orkney yet. Barrie W Jones

From: Hans Zekl

My wife, son and a girl friend of my wife had been in Durness too. We watched from the Camp site where about 300 people had gathered to view the eclipse. The sun appeared through the mist or thin clouds just at the beginning of the annular phase. Barely visible with naked eye it was beautiful to see in the binocular. I fiery red ring glew in the mist. Shortly after a deep red thin crescent of the sun could be seen. Wonderful. Hans Zekl

From: Govert Schilling

I've heard from Johan Gijssenbergs (through Milo Grootjens): nothing was visible from the Orkney Islands. --Govert

From: Jörg Schoppmeyer

Hi to everybody, after a 15 hours journey, my small group arrived on Thursday evening in Wick. The next morning, we met by coincidence Patrick, Joanne, their daughter and a friend from USA in a hotel in Wick at the breakfast ! Friday passed with searching for a good place for viewing the eclipse. The weather was not promising, and after the 7 o'clock news I decided to go as far as possible to the west. We started on Saturday, 30 minutes after midnight. Outside was havy fog, mist and the decision to leave wick and not to watch at Duncansby Head was very easy. After one hour drive, there was no fog any more and in Durness an unbelievable blue sky was waiting for us. The north east horizon was covered by some thick haze but I was sure that we will see at least the second part of the partial phase there. The predicted sunrise was 4h24. Because of the haze it was not visible. Exactly at 4h42 I was able to see the crescent of the sun in the viewer of my camcorder which I switched to nightshot (thanks for that hint KLIPSI !). 3Minutes later the nightshot was not necessary any more. So we saw the complete ring phase which lasted more than 2 minutes. After the ring the crescent sun over the water was so beautiful, I will never forget this picture. Yesterday we arrived very happy at home after 1600 km in the plane and 2300 km in the car ! Jörg

From: K. Wiersema

Hello everyone, I was in Durness as well, together with a friend. We couldn't make it to the meeting in the Smoo hotel, sadly. We

(Continued on page 54)

were sitting on top of the high cliff on the left as seen from the beach, and saw a very beautiful annular. Being on the cliff gave us a little advantage over the people on the beach: we were high above the (small) banks of fog that were sometimes visible on the beach. The sun was very red and also had a clear elliptic shape. Great annular! Can't wait for the pictures to be processed... Cheers, Klaas Wiersema

From: Jörg Schoppmeyer

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You can see some of my pictures now on : <http://www.astronomie.de/sonnensystem/sofi/d-2003/index.htm> On this page there is a collection of beautiful pics from the partial eclipsed sunrise in Germany, Marcs green flash is also there. Now they added my pics from Durness. The quality is not very good (my fault), they are just grabbed from my video. On the original video, the whole ring is visible, but I lost some contrast. I used Ulead 5.0 which was shipped with the grabbing card. I just downloading Version 7.0 maybe this will give better results. Jörg

From: Katherine Low

Hi all, Katherine and I are just back from Scotland. We had a nice 2.5 week holiday in Scotland, spent 5 days on Orkney, 6 days in Durness our basis for watching the eclipse. The other days were filled with the long drive back from the high north of Scotland to the ferry point at (Kingston-upon-)Hull.

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The 5 days at Orkney were great. The landscapes consist of green rolling meadows with thousands of sheep, even more lambs, brown cows. The nature is great especially near the cliffs and the bays. We have seen all the famous water birds and several colonies of seals. The archeology is very rich. Orkney has the oldest human settlements (from the Neolithic Age) of West-Europe.

The weather was very variable however, most of the times grey and cloudy, sometimes a sunny spell, sometimes a drizzle, sometimes heavy rains. We even experienced a terrible hailstorm. The first really sunny day was when we left Orkney and took the Stromness-Scabster (Thurso) ferry. When reaching the Scottish mainland, we drove to all the potential most obvious observation sites: Dunnet Head (high on the cliffs with excellent views), Duncansby Head (even better views with more impressive stacks), John O' Groat (too low and will probably be too busy). On the way to Durness we make another detour to Strathy Point: a good candidate for a contingency escape from Durness. When approaching Durness the road is passing more inland and the clouds are gathering together especially around the mountain tops. This leaves me with the subjective feeling that the eastward points (Dunnet and Duncansby) could be a possible escape route in case Durness is clouded.

The next morning (26-May) I see a very bright sun just at the time of annularity. 10 Minutes later the sun disappears. From now on I will be waking up every night to see if the sun is visible around eclipse time (it is not that hard: sun could be viewed through the window of the living of our self catering chalet at the Lazy Crofter Bunkhouse and my sleep was not very deep anyway due to the bright night skies at this latitude and probably due to the eclipse tension). All other days gave a disappointing thick grey sky at the morning. On Friday 30-May it is getting better, the sun would appear above the clouds at the horizon just 2 minutes after the time of 3d contact. Those at the top of the mountain would have seen it since the mountain top was already red coloured. Just to illustrate that it is all a lottery! Anyway with the instruments carried by car from Belgium, there is no way to climb on the mountain top. This also excluded very nice viewing locations such as cape Wrath, the most North Western point and the highest cliffs of Great Brittany, but difficult to reach with a ferry crossing in a small boat and a bumpy 45 minutes drive in a mini bus. After surveying some more easily accessible viewing points we decide to observe from a meadow on top of a cliff just behind the parking lot of the Smoo Cave Hotel. The afternoon of 30 May is sunny bright, in the evening some clouds cover the sky. Weather forecasts on television appears to be very superficial and unreliable, even web side consulting could not give a clear indication so we decided to stay in Durness. In the very early morning there is a clear sky with some stars visible. Above the see where the sun will rise is a fog cloud. Now it will all depend whether the rising sun will be strong enough to break open this mist layer. Since the fog bank is not too high above the horizon we will certainly see the last phase of the receding partial eclipse. At sunrise (04:24 local time), no sun is visible. The sky is gradually getting brighter and the mist is enervingly slow dissolving. At 04:40, the sky is obviously turning darker again and I have the impression that the colours are also fading away, similar although not so pronounced as before a total eclipse. At 04:46 is the second contact and somebody shouts that the lower part of the ring is visible. Indeed, even with the naked eye the lower part of the ring is becoming visible. First, the left part, than also the right lower part. Suddenly the upper part of the ring comes in an orange open spell in the cloud and becomes also visible. Just before 3d contact the whole ring is visible! Everybody is very enthusiast and relieved that we could witness these moments of beauty. The beginning of the last partial phase is also very beautiful. The seeing is getting better and we can follow it without filters which together with the changing cloud patterns makes it even more beautiful. At a given moment the sun is getting too bright and filters need to be used. Several people move off already but I monitor till the very last moment of 4d contact. Fantastico... And that for only(?) an annular one. This is my second annular eclipse, after the one of Malaysia in 1998, ad I will now certainly go for more. Kris Delcourte

Summary

From: Evan Zucker To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Sat, 31 May 2003 08:17:47

At 11:09 PM 5/30/2003, Jay wrote: Could you please summarize for me (from Webcams or whatever) who was seeing what from where, without my having to sign onto Webcams on this slow line?

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Jay wrote to me privately asking me to summarize what I saw on-line, and I thought the rest of you might be interested too.

I observed annularity from Akureyri in northern Iceland at <http://www.live-eclipse.org/index.html.en>. They showed wide angle views before and after annularity. They switched to telephoto a few minutes before annularity, but the view was partially obscured by something that didn't necessarily look like clouds. It looked more like something blocking part of the camera's line of sight. The view cleared around the time of second contact or maybe about a minute afterward. I was able to see most of annularity as well as about 5 to 10 minutes of partial phase after third contact before they switched back to wide angle.

(Coincidentally, when I was stationed in Iceland for a year with the U.S. Air Force, some fellow pilots and I drove around the entire country on the weekend of the summer solstice in 1985, and we observed the midnight sun from just outside Akureyri. Although Akureyri is just south of the Arctic Circle [as is all of "mainland" Iceland], we were atop cliffs a few hundred feet above the ocean, and that depressed our horizon, thereby allowing us to see the midnight sun.)

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<http://www.eclipselive.com/expeditions/see6/index.shtml> showed what appeared to be a static, unchanging wide angle view of partly cloudy skies from Thingvellir, which is east of Reykjavik in southwestern Iceland.

<http://www3.mira.be/sun-eclipse> showed what appeared to be cloudy skies in Belgium.

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~pablito/Zon/2003-05-31/Zon1.html> showed a nice view of the partial eclipse from the Netherlands.

I never was able to access <http://www.astronomy.no/live>, which was supposed to show the partial phase from Norway.

<http://spaceweather.com> had links to sites in Iran and Israel, which displayed an archive of photos of the partial phase. The links have since been removed. Evan H. Zucker San Diego, California

From: F.Podmore

For the record, I watched some of the ASE on <http://www.astronomy.no/live/liveoslo.html> so that was working

Well done Jay and party, and Klipsi. Was anyone in Scotland successful? Francis

From: Dale Ireland

Hi Evan I watched that same live feed. It was the best one of the eclipse I could find. At first it looked like the Sun was partially obscured by something solid like a window border or tree :) but when they zoomed out it could be seen that it was the sharp edge of a stratus layer and the Sun fully emerged during annularity, it was very interesting. Olivier, unfortunately your Flight NW34 dropped off the tracking screen a couple hours before it reached Iceland (a little disconcerting) so I couldn't follow the exact position but the Northwest Airlines web site updated predicted landing times so it was easy to estimate the position. The flight from Vancouver to Amsterdam that was supposed to be just 15-30min behind your Seattle to Amsterdam flight was apparently delayed because it was an hour or so late to the eclipse path, I followed it all the way. The private aviation flights aren't plotted on my software over Scotland as they are over the US and Canada so I couldn't follow anything but commercial flights (Internet flight tracker AirNavSystems.com) Ah the joys of watching an eclipse vicariously on a cathode ray tube. Dale Ireland

From: Dale Ireland

Hello FYI Whenever I make a post to the group, the post apparently goes through OK but I get an e-mail back that says,

The attempted delivery of "RE: [SEML] summary" failed for the following reason: 550 ... User unknown

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<SOLARECLIPSESEN200307aula.com>

Anyone else getting this? Dale

P.S. the word "unknown" is always spelled incorrectly in the error message

From: Jay.M.PasachoffSEN200307williams.edu

Is someone keeping a summary of the Web sites with images of the eclipse and with links to reports? I'd like to put a link to such a site from www.eclipses.info.

From: KCStarguySEN200307aol.com

Jay and all I am in the process of putting up a 2003 eclipse page to post links to accounts and pictures at my eclipse site. If you want it posted, send links to me off list. I will also try to glean links from letters if that is okay. I should have it up and started by Friday at the latest and will continue to add to it. Dr.Eric Flescher

From: Sheridan Williams

2003 Annular eclipse summary I will modify my 2003 web site to show pictures of the 2003 annular. I would appreciate images (of whatever quality) to include on the page. Even if you were unsuccessful please let me have the following Name Location (town, country) Photo, or if unsuccessful please say. (Please keep photos less than 200k in size.)

From: Sheridan Williams

Please see: www.clock-tower.com/eclipse2003/ for a summary of sightings of the recent annular eclipse.

If you have pictures or web sites that you would like adding please email them to me at:

eclipse2003SEN200307clock-tower.com with the subject: 2003

Eclipse mosaic and Saros eclipse expeditions annular 2003

From: KCStarguySEN200307aol.com To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307aula.com Date: Sun, 08 Jun 2003 16:21:17

Greetings all I came across this very nice site. Saros eclipse expeditions <http://www.saros.org> They had a live cam but there is more at this site including pics from their expedition to the annular eclipse

Look at this great eclipse mosaic and special effects as you enter the website. Well done. Click on the main mosaic and be transported to the annular eclipse page. Cute cartoonish drawing representing this annular expedition. It's in Spanish but you can still enjoy the cartoon, the site and much more Click on the 2003 picture or scroll down and you will see when you scroll down, some very nice annular pics from their expedition <http://www.saros.org> enjoy!

ASE 2003 from Isle of Lewis: no joy

From: Kelly Beatty To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Sun, 08 Jun 2003 17:23:10

folks... I returned yesterday from 10 email-free days in Scotland and Ireland. I had planned to observe the ASE from the Standing Stones of Callanish on the Isle of Lewis. had the northeastern horizon been clear -- as it had been (spectacularly) just 12 hours beforehand late on 30 May -- it would have made a great telephoto image. but unfortunately it was raining heavily at the time of the eclipse. after 3rd contact, the overcast sky brightened very rapidly.

oh, well -- on to Antarctica, where I hope to have better luck from 38,000 feet! <http://www.tq-international.com/AntarcticaFly/AntarcticaFlyHome.htm>) Kelly Beatty SKY & TELESCOPE

Scotland, "mist it" as well...

From: Geert Vandenbulcke To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Mon, 02 Jun 2003 19:33:24

Hi, Our small group of 8 Belgians also missed the eclips due to mist, we got up to Tain, NW of Inverness - better luck next time! Geert Vandenbulcke

From: Philippe JACQUOT

Hi all, No success in Wick (Scotland), because a lot of mist :- (Waiting for images of all who have seen the ring of fire !

Clear, clear skies -- Philippe JACQUOT 5d 54m 32s - 45d 58m 22s Annecy - France

From: Chris O'Byrne

Dense fog prevented the ecliptomaniacs from seeing the eclipsed sun at all from Ackergill (just outside Wick) in north-eastern Scotland.

However, the lighting effects were interesting - the sunrise seemed to come slowly, and was followed by a gradual darkening. When annularity was over, there was a very noticeable brightening, which led us to name this eclipse "the wee dimmin".

Reports and pictures will be posted on <http://www.ecliptomaniacs.com/> in the coming days and weeks - including some pictures we took of the Loch Ness Monster! Chris.

From: Michael Gill

I "mist it" in Findhorn (57d 39m 50s north, 3d 36m 54s west).

With the annular eclipse coinciding with school half-term holidays, my 17th solar eclipse expedition was combined with a family vacation.

At maximum: Derryl Barr (down his telescope), Laura and Jo (arms spread) in the mist. Picture by PP

As a holiday it was a success, but as for an eclipse expedition all I can say was that it was in the top 16.

Unfortunately, due to dense fog at Findhorn we could not see annularity. After the time for CIII had elapsed we decided to head inland and see if we could catch anything of the partial phases. Less than five minutes away (by car) we got a nice view of the partially eclipsed Sun. I took some shots with a handheld camera.

To the east of me, Alfons Gabel et al., were unsuccessful at 57d 40m 49.2s north, 3d 08m 27.8s west. Alfons reported on the Planoccult list that they were hoping to make bead observations. However, I later found out that those in Burghead between me and Alfons (about 5km from my position across Burghead Bay) had better luck. It was a real hit-or-miss affair it seems.

So, was it worth travelling 2708km by road with continual "are we nearly there?" cries (from me!) to see a solar eclipse when a large magnitude

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eclipse could be seen from my back garden? Yes. The chase was good fun, Scotland was beautiful and it made a pleasant change not having to use an airliner to go see a solar eclipse.

Hopefully I'll fare better at this November's TSE when an airliner is the method I'll be using for the chase.

But I may use the car again for the Spanish annular in October 2005. The extra payload you can carry over airline allowances is substantial. Hopefully, in 2005 I'll get a chance to make use of all the equipment. Cheers, Michael Gill

From: solareclipsewebpagesSENL200307btopenworld.com

Dear All, Just home from a wonderful 10 day driving trip in Scotland. Joanne, Laura, Derryl Barr and I have been fogged out in Skippie Geo, just south of John O'Groats, Scotland. With a visibility of less than 100 meters, we did not see any of the annular eclips.

Up to the next one ... For me only the second clouded out expedition in a number of 30 solar eclipses. Not bad, isn't it? Cheers, Patrick

From: Andrew J White

Just for the record we stood around in 10.5 deg C mist at Sinclair bay, just north of Wick, watching nothing.

A blow by blow account can be read at: http://www.vanda.demon.co.uk/travel/scotland/Eclipse_Report.htm

Our only view of the eclipse live was on the small portable TV we had with us. Our only media souvenirs are local papers and videoed TV reports - Sadly no pictures of our own. Val and Andrew White

From: McCann, Stephen

Andrew, Hello ! Thanks for sending the link to your report about Wick. I'm surprised you didn't see any darkening, as it was quite striking further North in Shetland. Perhaps the elevation of the sun was so low, that it didn't make any difference, from you vantage point.

I did take my viewers, filters, tripods, camera, lenses, binoculars with me but none were used !! The Thermochrons stayed at home this time.

Regarding you last comment about Panama/Spain, I've been toying with the idea of going to Spain for a Villa holiday with my family about that time.

The last week of May, was half term for our children, so the whole family had a break up in Shetland. Very enjoyable.

My wife and I are also considering a cruise for the March 2006 event in the Med. Kind regards Stephen



Eclipse and transit image

From: Dale Ireland To: Solar Eclipse List
<SOLARECLIPSESEN200307aula.com> Date: Tue, 10 Jun 2003
23:53:05

http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0306/SoFiMontage2_kranz.jpg
Dale Ireland

Photo by James Brindley 31. May 2003

Solar Eclipse from Iceland

From: Rik Blondeel To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307@ula.com Date: Thu, 12 Jun 2003 22:16:07

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Hello Eclipse lovers, Hereby I will tell you the story of my visit to Iceland; As an Iceland-lover I had to try at least to see the eclipse from Iceland, and so for my 10th time I travelled to my beloved country; I arrived in Keflavik on wednesday 28th and went to an Icelandic friend that evening to watch the weather forecast for the next days. The local astronomer Thorsteinn Saemundsson didn't know yet where the weather could be clear enough, but it seems the middle could be the best, so nearby Gullfoss or Geysir it could be good. On thursday the predictions were different and only the west and northwest should be good. So good predictions for the Breidafjordur and the Westfjords, and on friday I made the decision to take the bus to Stykkisholmur on the northern side of the Snaefellsnes peninsula. And indeed, when the bus left Reykjavik, where it was already overcast with rain, it started to be cleared up. In Stykkisholmur the weather was bright that evening and I even took pictures from the setting sun around midnight. The wind came from the East which should be good on the west side of Iceland because it lies into the shelter of the mountains and glaciers in the middle of the island. But the wind was rather strong, and probably the force was strong enough to even blow the clouds over it. So when I waked up from my tent I saw the clouds were all over and I could see only a redish glance in the northeast where the sun should be. Strong wind and a temperature of 5° C. So this time I missed the spectacle and was very disappointing. And when I see the results now, there were not so many places which were reachable with the scheduled buses in a day. Maybe Blönduós was the only place which lies on a regular route and where it was not completely overcast. I met also english guys who went to Bolungarvik, all the way upnorthwest further northwest than Isafjörður and they had a very good view. So, if I look back on my experience, I could have tried to go with the airplane, but there probably all the seats were taken. With the weather forecast and the predictions, I probably would make the same choice again. I had to try to see it but the luck was not with me this time. A difference of a couple of hours or also about some 100km. A next time better one should say, but not from Iceland then and that's a pity.
Rik Blondeel - Sterrenwacht (Observatory) Challenger - Humbeek - Belgium

From: Jean Meeus

It was nice to read the story of Rik Blondeel.

I too was in Iceland, with my son-in-law Andreas Dill. At the time of the eclipse we were near Egilsstadir in northeastern Iceland. Unfortunately, the sky was completely overcast and we saw nothing of the eclipse. Jean Meeus

From: hilde & wemer

Dear List, The group observers of the Urania Observatory (Antwerp) just returned from Iceland and was able to see a beautiful annular eclips from the north of Iceland near Tjörnes! Werner Hamelinck

From: Rybrks1SEN200307@cs.com

Rik Blondeel's description was enjoyable and he wondered if Blondou was OK.

Blondou was not a good place for the eclipse. We were there at sunset but the low clouds rolled in and soon turned to fog. So we headed to the north tip of Skagi peninsula and got lucky. We saw a girl from Paris in Blondou that did *not* see the eclipse from a few miles north of Blondou. Ray Brooks

From: Jay.M.PasachoffSEN200307@williams.edu

We saw pre-annularity partial phases from the airport on the ground at Blondou, and two of the photographs are in the fourth row of my images at http://www.williams.edu/astronomy/eclipse/eclipse03/2003_iceland/2003iceland_page1.htm

You will see how we saw the sun within cloud layers. We therefore took off again and flew between the cloud layers to see annularity from the air. Jay Pasachoff

From: Mike Simmons

Jay, Nice photos. I'm surprised you were able to get such a good view between the cloud layers! Isn't that unusual? I would think it would require that the upper layer end not too far in the distance in the direction of the Sun. We tried the same thing with the sunset

(Continued on page 60)

annular eclipse here in Southern California on January 1, 1992. We couldn't see anything between the cloud layers, though, and the upper one was much too high to climb above. Only later did I learn that a drive south to San Diego would have provided clear skies. I had been checking the weather to the south but not that far. Mike Simmons

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Picture by Jay Pasachoff

Amazing eclipse in Iceland !

From: christophe marlot To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Sun, 01 Jun 2003 17:52:25

Dear friends, As the storm cover more and more of Iceland on may 30, we had the opportunity to find an internet access in a remote location in the north east of the island. It was just to learn that a large storm should come from the south and give some rain everywhere in the country ... except - maybe - on a small area in the north west part, the Westfjords. We had a 700 km trip - including scouting for the right spot - at last minute on may 30, and did manage to spend all the day under a blue sky. By 1 AM, just a couple of hours before the eclipse, the sky was still blue and clear despite some clouds coming from the south on the horizon ; we found a good spot north of Isafjordur, at the deepest of a fjord, by the end of the road : impossible to drive more. The night was over and then, the Sun comes just above some mountains, the eclipse had begun. Unfortunately there was a small blanket of clouds just where the eclipse annular phase should happens. Then the Sun disappears into the clouds. It was back for viewing just 2 minutes before annularity. The eclipse was wonderful, just filtered by a few thin clouds. Now waiting to take a plane for home. More after the photos processing. Christophe

From: B0802AlexSEN200307aol.com

Not far away from the Myvatn area, at the tourist attraction Dettifoss, I saw the eclipse from 1st contact and the following 35 minutes. A fat band of clouds changed its position and I had no longer a chance to view the main thing. Alexander Birkner www.kernschatten.info

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From: Timo Karhula

Dear Eclipse Chasers, I have just returned from Iceland and my eclipse expedition was successful! I and my mother saw it from an outlook near Olafsfjörður, about 50 kms north of Akureyri. We arrived there just before midnight and we were among the first ten people on the site. Four hours later there were around a thousand spectators according to the newspaper Morgunbladid!

The sun rose blood-red above the sea, I noted the 1st contact but about a half an hour before annularity the sun moved behind a cloud bank. Five minutes prior to the 2nd contact the thin solar crescent appeared again. Almost the entire annularity could be followed through thin clouds. Only the exact moment of the 2nd contact could not really be decided when it occurred. I documented the full circle of fire with my videocamera and I watched the solar ring with my 8x20 binoculars. Very beautiful! Half an hour later the whole sky was overcast and it rained the rest of the day! A longer report will follow later on. /Timo Karhula (11 solar eclipses, 4 totals and 2 annulars)

From: Rybrks1SENL200307cs.com

Glad to hear of otherâ€™s success. We had such unexpected fun for â€¦just an annularâ€™ eclipse! The setting of being wrapped for 3 hours in fog and clouds all about us and then in absolute defiance of all meteorological laws and rules, to have a barely bitten Sun magically start glowing out of the abyss was quite incredible. It became fully bright within a few minutes, warranting full mylars and also excellent viewing through the Coronado Solar Max 60. What kind of heating could we be getting from such a low Sun shuttering closed from the Moon and shining on cold white fog above? Yet somehow the sky just cleared!!

15 minutes prior to annularity it was obvious that it would enter a cloud band approximately 1 and a half solar diameters thick. So we said goodbye to it all since the cloud had a rather parallel angle to solar motion,â€™ happy to have seen anything at allâ€™ only to have it clear the cloud a minute after C2, so we saw 2 and a half minutes of annularity. Five minutes later it was gone and it rained all day!

Even each annular eclipse has its own unique aspect. This was quite charming.

In addition, my wife, Dori, and I introduced a young couple just graduated from U of Penn in Philly to eclipses. We happened to bump into them in Akureyri at 9 pm that night, so they jumped into the back seat of our tiny rent-a car and we drove 4 hours west to the tip of Skagafjörður (the peninsula due north of the town Blondous). They loved it. Wait till they see a total!

I canâ€™t believe I am getting addicted to annulars too!! Donations for my addiction can be sent toâ€™â€™. Cheers Raymond

BOOKS

From: Fred Espenak

Greetings all - I am happy to report that our 22 person Spears Travel expedition successfully observed the annular eclipse from northern Iceland.

During the two days preceding the eclipse, we enjoyed wonderful weather with clear sunny skies. Unfortunately, cirrus clouds began to move into the area on Friday afternoon (May 30). A quick look at the Internet later that evening showed the weather system moving in from the east. It was going to be a race between the clouds and the eclipse.

Our group was staying at a farm guest-house on the eastern side of Eyjafjörður fjord about 15 km north of the town of Akureyri. Our plan was to drive around to the western side of the fjord and as far north as possible to avoid the high mountains blocking the north-eastern horizon. This gave us the added advantage of moving away from the approaching cloud front.

As we left the guest-house at 1:00 AM, the sky was completely overcast except for a narrow band of red twilight towards the north. An hour later, we arrived at our observing site just east of a several kilometer long mountain tunnel leading to the town of Olafsfjörður. The small parking lot near the tunnel entrance was already filled with cars. Our bus took the old unpaved side road leading us 100 meters above the tunnel. From there, we had a great view of the north and northeastern horizon.

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There were already 8-10 cars parked there waiting for the big event. Within the next half hour, we would be joined by several more busses and dozens of cars.

The sky was about 95% overcast, but the northern horizon was clear. We watched a brilliant sunrise beginning at about 2:30 AM. Due to our northerly latitude (half a degree south of the Arctic circle), the Sun required over 15 minutes to clear the horizon. We watched the partial phases begin at 3:08 AM and anxiously followed the progress of the eclipse. There was a wide, horizontal belt of clouds about 2 to 4 degrees above the horizon which caused us great concern because the Sun would be 4 degrees high during annularity. At 3:39 AM, the Sun disappeared behind the cloud belt and the waiting began.

The annular phase would commence at 04:02:42 AM but would the Sun reappear from the clouds in time? I watched for signs of the Sun in my 80 mm refractor. A bright spot appeared in the clouds at 3:58 AM. By 4:00, I could make out the top half of the crescent Sun which was rapidly growing brighter. Some 30 seconds before the annular phase began, the bottom of the crescent emerged from the murky clouds! I watched in awe as the ends of the crescent drew together and Baily's beads briefly appeared. Annularity! Camera shutters whirled and the crowd around us cheered! The Sun was still shrouded in thin clouds which actually enhanced the beauty of the event.

The annular phase ended 3 and a half minutes after it began at about 04:06:15 AM. The still partially eclipsed Sun vanished behind the overcast blanket of thick clouds above us just 9 minutes later. Oh how lucky we were!

On the long drive back to Reykjavik later that day. It rained much of the time but no one seemed to care! - Fred Espenak

From: Dale Ireland

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Thank you Fred for the very interesting report. Your view sounds exactly like the live webcam many of us watched. Did your group participate in the live webcam broadcast or did you see the live webcam near you? I am very jealous! You certainly beat the odds again. Dale

From: KidinvsSENL200307aol.com

I guess its true....location, location, and location are the most important thing... it seems there were more people gathered in Iceland to see the ASE than there were on the entire Zimbabwe road to see the TSE last December.... Amazing!!! Rick Brown

From: Fred Espenak

I would estimate that there were several hundred people on the old mountain road that served as our observing site. There may very well have been a live web-cam broadcast from our location, but I cannot confirm for sure. I was quite busy with my equipment and the eclipse so I didn't get much of a chance to walk around the area. But it was quite scenic since we were on a high road carved into the side of a mountain. Perched several hundred meters above the ocean it gave us a fantastic view.

As far as beating the odds is concerned, I was clouded out of the previous three eclipses (2002 Dec, 2002 Jun and 2001 Dec) so my recent track record is nothing to envy. Nevertheless, my philosophy is that your odds of seeing the eclipse are 0% if you're not in the path. Thus, Iceland was worth the risk even if we only had a 20% chance of seeing annularity. Even long shots pay off occasionally. And the chase is part of the fun. - Fred

From: Timo Karhula

A ring of fire in the land of fire

First, I was a little bit skeptical to be able to view an annular eclipse in clear skies from Iceland. Occurring in a Nordic country which I had never before visited, was nevertheless a reason to take a chance. I decided to fly from Stockholm to Reykjavik and from there rent a car, drive around the whole island and visit scenic places. My mother Rauni, who is also a globe-trotter, would accompany me. She had seen two perfect total eclipses, one in Finland in 1945 and one in Zambia in 2001! We would observe the eclipse somewhere in the north, the sun being higher in the sky. Iceland has a climate with highly variable weather, so a late weather forecast would determine our final choice of site of observation.

After three quarters around Iceland, we arrived to Akureyri the afternoon before the eclipse. Here, we visited Rauni's former col-

(Continued on page 63)

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league who had moved back to Iceland. I checked the last minute weather in Internet and found that a massive depression were closing in from south-east. Best chances of having a clear sky after midnight was on the large peninsula in the extreme north-west. It meant about 6 hours of driving and seemingly too far away. Instead, I decided to drive as far due north as I could on the eastern side of the Akureyri peninsula. We finally stopped at an outlook near Olafsfjörður, on the eastern end of a tunnel, some 60 kms north of Akureyri (latitude +66d 04' 25".2, longitude -18d 32' 16".8, elevation 110 m). We arrived there just before midnight and three cars were already on the parking lot and we were among the first ten people on the site. I tried to get some sleep before the event but more cars and buses were constantly arriving to the parking. Four hours later I could count almost 200 heads but there were around a thousand spectators on the peninsula (both on the higher ridge and on the western side of the tunnel) according to the newspaper Morgunbladid!

After 2:30 am, I set up my Sony CCD-TRV65E analog video-camera equipped with a Baader Astro solar filter on a Manfrotto tripod. The sun had just risen deep red above the ocean just south of the Arctic Circle. The sky near the horizon to the north was quite clear but the rest of the sky looked uncomfortably cloudy. This was the point of no return. The times below show how close to disaster it was. The times have an accuracy of about +/- 1 second and I used the video-camera clock tuned to my GPS-receiver.

3:00 am (=UT) The sun looks like a huge Jupiter with its cloudbelts : -)

3:08:18 I can see a dark notch by the sun's right side (just after 1st contact). Solar altitude +0.7 degrees. 3:33 The sun is about 40% obscured when it is still in a relatively clear patch of the sky. I can not see any sunspots. Soon, the sun disappears behind a cloud bank and is almost invisible through the Baader Astro solar filter until 4:00 am, 2 1/2 minutes before 2nd contact.

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4:00:10 One fifth of the sickle (NE quadrant) appears!

4:00:30 One quarter of the sickle is seen.

4:01:40 One third of the solar limb is visible.

4:02:20 The whole upper left half of the solar limb is now visible, some 20 seconds before annularity.

4:02:39 The predicted annularity begins (limb corrections taken into account).

4:03:20 About 60% of the ring is seen.

4:03:53 I am now convinced by the moon silhouette's position against the sun that the annular phase is in progress.

4:04:11 An unbroken ring, even the lower right part, can (faintly) be seen on the LCD-display.

4:04:14 I look with my 8x20 solar-filtered binoculars at the sun and can see the complete solar ring around the moon! This was beautiful! The south-western (lower right) half is dimmest due to clouds. There are other thinner cloud strips across the disc. The maximum eclipse took place at this moment when the sun's altitude was 3.8 degrees. >From now on, a more or less uninterrupted ring of light can be seen, depending on the exposure time. The upper part of the sun is constantly much brighter and it looks like a brilliant 'diamond ring' with longer exposure.

4:06:11 The thin ring on the left side brakes up. 3rd contact.

The sun disappears behind an opaque cloud sometimes after 4:15 am when I finished recording the sun. The whole sky became overcast and later it started to rain and drizzle all day long during the drive back to Reykjavik. Had the annular phase occurred just 2 minutes earlier or 9 minutes later, then we would have missed it altogether! The temperature was +5 C according to my digital thermometer on the ground and it was remarkably calm being on this elevation by the sea. I could not see Venus 22 deg to the right due to clouds. My video-camera is analog, but I will digitize frames and post them later. Strangely, the crowd seemed not to cheer during the annularity as if not everyone had noticed the miracle appearance. After the event, there was a television team interviewing somebody. After a 1750 kms drive in four days around Iceland and having visited places like Blue Lagoon, Geysir, Strokkur, Gullfoss, Vatnajökull, Myvatn, Godafoss and Thingvellir and last but not least seen a marvellous annular eclipse, this trip became a greater success than I had expected! Timo Karhula, Sweden (11 solar eclipses, 4 totals and 2 annulars)

From: Rybrks1SENL200307cs.com

"Timo Karhula" <timo.karhulaSENL200307se.ibm.com> wrote: >A ring of fire in the land of fire

Tim; Great report from the land of fire. You don't realize it but you exchanged hand-waves with my wife and me amid the steam a few days before the eclipse. We were talking with your mom for about 15 minutes as the three of us bathed with a hundred others in the Blue Lagoon. She talked about how much of a fanatic her son is about eclipses. Then we all waved to you in the distance as you stood above the lagoon with your camera. She yelled out, "Tim!" a number of times and also the exchange with your mom fits with what you stated in your email to the SEML so I am quite sure it was you. Hello.

(Continued on page 64)

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Your joy about the eclipse comes shining through your description. We were about fifty miles west of you on the extreme north tip of the Skagi peninsula (the west coast of the Skagafjordur fiord) 66.08 north, 20.08 west. Yes, a few minutes earlier or later and we too would have seen nothing. It was magical how a four hour fog simply opened up for a few minutes and then closed to start a day of rain. Clouds certainly add to anxiety but I think they add substantially to the effect of an annular or partial solar eclipse. The eruption of noise normally heard for a total seems absent for annulars and partials, although quite a bit of body English, and "come on, come on, coooooome on", and "ooh, ooh, is that it?" was heard on the boat June 10, 2002 off Puerto Vallarta as we glimpsed a slit of opening right at mid-annularity with an otherwise totally overcast sky.

We both absolutely loved Iceland, the people, the fantastic food and the eclipse. Cheers Raymond Brooks 6 for 7 partials, 3 annulars and 8 totals

From: Richard Monk

Arrived back home in the early hours of this morning after a hectic "Grand Tour" of Iceland.

My first few images of the Annular Eclipse are now on my website <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rimonk/index.htm> .

Our group were sited on the hillside overlooking the mouth of the Eyjafjord, just off the old road round the headland to Olafsfjord.

As reported elsewhere, we were very fortunate to see most of the event before clouds obscured everything. There was a fine sun rise and the initial partial phases were relatively clear. A bit of a panic just before second contact when clouds descended (typical!) but the annulus seen (through filters) was superb.

More details, including timings and GPS location, are on my webpage. I'm away to unpack now, but more anon. Richard

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From: Richard Monk

Page now updated - allowing for case sensitive filenames!! Should be OK now. Richard

From: Jay.M.Pasachoff@SENL200307williams.edu

To the Solar Eclipse Mailing List: Snaevarr Gudmundsson, who wrote the article on the Iceland eclipse for Sky and Telescope, has posted the following images, with annularity from the airplane trip on which I reported previously

Forwarded Message Return-Path: snaevarr@SENL200307mmedia.is To: Jay.M.Pasachoff@SENL200307williams.edu

Hi Jay, take a look at this page: <http://www.almanak.hi.is/myrkmynd.html> Regards, Snaevarr.

From: Jay.M.Pasachoff@SENL200307williams.edu

A first cut at some of my photos from the Iceland excursion are at http://www.williams.edu/astronomy/eclipse/eclipse03/2003_iceland/2003iceland_page1.htm with two pages to follow with links at the bottom of the pages. Jay Pasachoff

From: Richard Monk

Hi eclipse chasers My page - <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rimonk/index.htm> - has been updated with a few more images and some dialogue. Richard

From: Richard Monk

Hi eclipse chasers I'm glad you liked my eclipse photos - in spite of the clouds! When I've got the hang of Adobe Premiere 6 I will put a movie of the event on my web page.

A selection of other photographs of the trip are now on a sub-page and represents our Iceland experience - enjoy!

My page - <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/rimonk/index.htm> - Richard

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Images by Michael Gill

From: Michael Gill To: solareclipsewebpages-SENL200307b@openworld.com Date: Tue, 10 Jun 2003 10:17:40

Patrick, If you want any images of the recent solar eclipse for the SENL, I can supply an image of the partial (sorry, no pictures of annularity) eclipse.

The image is about 0.6Mb in size. It shows the partially eclipsed Sun after CIII with trees in the foreground, a cloudband across the face of the Sun and the fogbank beneath the eclipsed Sun.

Let me know if you want it, and which account I should send it to. Cheers, Michael



From: Michael Gill

Hi Patrick, Here are a couple of images from May 31st 2003. The smaller image is the scene at the beach at Findhorn during annularity - dense fog!

The bigger image shows the partial stages after CIII taken after a short car journey. It shows the partially eclipsed Sun (with foreground cloud band across the photosphere and the fog layer beneath the Sun). Taken with a handheld camera (no tripod). Cheers, Michael

Pictures by Michael Gill



Annular Eclipse viewed from Iceland

From: Fred Espenak To: SOLARECLIP-
SESSEN200307AULA.COM Date: Tue,
17 Jun 2003 20:49:23

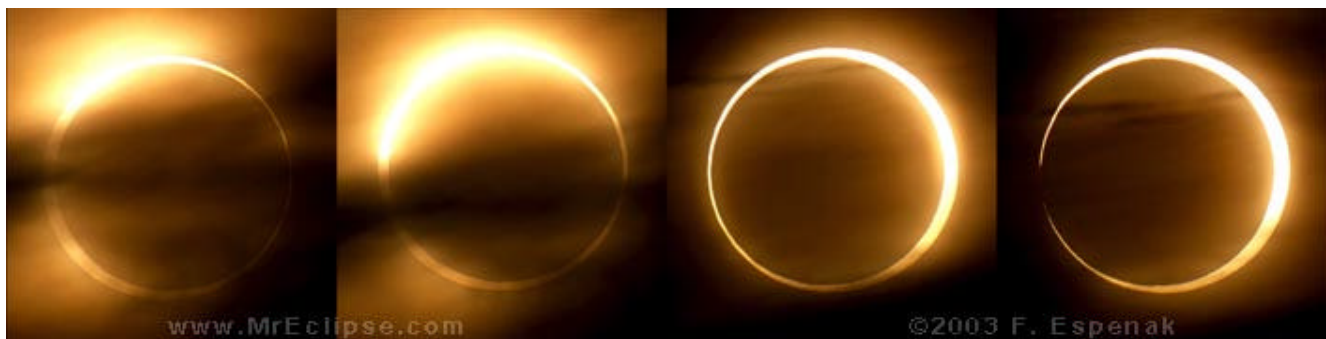
I've just posted my Iceland eclipse report and
some photos on the web:

[http://www.mreclipse.com/SEreports/
ASE2003/A03Esenak.html](http://www.mreclipse.com/SEreports/ASE2003/A03Esenak.html)

It includes a photo sequence of four shots of
taken during annularity. You can see how
quickly the clouds changed. I hope to post a
gallery of more eclipse photos at higher reso-
lution in the next week or so. Clear skies,
Fred Espenak



Pictures by Fred Espenak



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ASE2003: Success in Durness!

From: Daniel Lynch To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Mon, 16 Jun 2003 14:26:22

It's good to hear a few more successful stories coming in. I don't think I've heard too many from Scotland though so I'll add my own.

I'm happy to report that, with a friend, I travelled to Durness, North-West Scotland, where the clouds cleared with 30 seconds of annularity left. Catching me by surprise, I didn't manage any photos of annularity but I have a few nice ones of very deep partiality. (If anyone wants a look just email me). The landscape was magnificent. We were treated to our own private beach, looking out over the sea with two islands nearby, in between which the sun rose and reflected all the way to the shore. Sublime. Here's to Spain 2005 (or Antarctica for those more fortunate!), Daniel Lynch (Ireland)

Astronomy picture of day eclipse

From: KCStarguySEN200307aol.com To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307aula.com Date: Thu, 19 Jun 2003 04:18:27

June 18 Astronomy picture of day eclipse from Vienna by Peter Wienerroither Very nice.

From: KCStarguySEN200307aol.com

My apologies . Here is the url and more that I found.

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap030618.html>

another eclipse one is at <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap030604.html>

and a unique lunar eclipse one at <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap030603.html>

and another solar annular one from May <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap030605.html>

Once again my apologies

Eclipse images from Olafs fjördur

From: Timo Karhula To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Tue, 17 Jun 2003 13:56:59

Hi all, I have now downloaded images of the annular eclipse which I have grabbed from my analog video-recording. The images are in small jpg-format and lacks the smallest details. I observed the eclipse near Olafs fjördur in northern Iceland, 60 kms north of Akureyri. The iMira photo album will be arranged chronologically, except the five first pictures which highlight the event.

The URL is [http://www.imira.com/Album/GuestView.asp?AID=827945&BackURL=/search.asp?selectSearchMethod%3DAAlbum%26SearchText%3DDeclipse%26CPIIndex%3D0%26strBackURL%3D /Timo Karhula](http://www.imira.com/Album/GuestView.asp?AID=827945&BackURL=/search.asp?selectSearchMethod%3DAAlbum%26SearchText%3DDeclipse%26CPIIndex%3D0%26strBackURL%3D/Timo%20Karhula)

From: Paul M. Rybski

Dear Timo, That worked, but only with Internet Explorer 5.0. Netscape 4.7.8 delivered only a 404 error to both sites. Thanks for your help. Paul



Pictures by Timo Karhula

Antarctica Eclipse Plans - Ok to go....

From: Jen Winter - ICSTARS Astronomy To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Tue, 03 Jun 2003 18:49:11

Antarctica Eclipse Plans - Ok to go....

We have received a number of queries lately about the status of November 2003 Antarctica land expeditions we have organized. It seems that another prominent land-base expedition was recently cancelled by the organizers - and thus, travelers are nervous about other land expeditions.

I can report on the status of both the Kaptain Khlebnikov Icebreaker expedition and the Novo flight/Land based expedition. At this time, BOTH of these programs are still scheduled to take place as planned. At this time, these two programs now represent the ONLY opportunity to "put your boots/tripod on the ice" for totality. I cannot speak to the status of either fly-over programs.

The Icebreaker is almost completely sold-out, with perhaps only room for 5-6 more passengers aboard the ship. At my last discussion with the expedition leader and CEO of the company, there were no outstanding obstacles, hurdles or glitches to prevent this voyage.

The Novo Land-based space is not sold-out and bookings are scheduled as follows: The flight to the NOVO airstrip base would take place with or without eclipse passengers for logistical purposes at that time. - so lack of a qualifying number of participants would NOT cancel the flight. At this time, there are signed passengers to nearly fill the first aircraft headed to land at NOVO. The basecamp is capable of supporting up to two aircraft and passengers, so once the first plane is fully booked, it will be necessary to ascertain if international demand requires a second. We would expect to make that decision by the end of July, 2003.

Additionally, we should note that for organizations interested in conducting investigations of any kind, the flight to the Novo station will have access to freight / cargo capacity which shall be made available first to those conducting research or documentaries of any kind. Areas of potential research include any of the earth-sciences disciplines such as Aeronomy and Astrophysics, Geology and Geophysics, Glaciology, Ocean and Climate Systems. The Novo location is not established as a biological study site. Also all proposed investigations should be submitted to the home country national science authority's department of Antarctic studies for approval. We will need copies of the proposed investigations to process with Russian and South African authorities as well.

We should also comment that today, we are beyond deadlines for many funding sources such as the NSF Polar Programs. Our offices have coordinated with numerous agencies applying for sponsorship and funding for research and documentaries in the last 2 years. It would be unusual to be successful in seeking new Public or Foundation funding at this hour of proposal.

We have also added a website language translator to the Novo Eclipse Expedition website at: <http://www.astronomicaltours.net/Antarctica2/Index.html> - jen Yours, Vic & Jen Winter - Owners

TSE 2003: update on S&T/TravelQuest flight

From: Kelly Beatty To: SOLARECLIPSESEN200307AULA.COM Date: Fri, 20 Jun 2003 22:43:29

Folks... In response to several queries, here's an update on the status of the Sky & Telescope/TravelQuest charter flight to see November's total solar eclipse from above Antarctica.

The logistics and pricing remain unchanged since we announced the flight's availability earlier this year. Our chartered LanChile Airbus 340-313 will fly from Punta Arenas, Chile, using totality-intercept coordinates calculated with Glenn Schneider's EFLIGHT software. Our plan calls for a totality run centered on 23:06 UT, corresponding to an eclipse midpoint at 78°41.3' south, 51°51.5' east. Our flight vector will extend the duration of totality to 2m26s -- only 9s shorter than the theoretical maximum for this aircraft and viewing geometry (says Glenn). Plans call for an intercept at 38,000 feet, with the Sun directly off the port (left) side at a true altitude of 11.8°. We'll assume our final heading well before 3rd contact, and the plane has plenty of range to allow for unforeseen contingencies. The flight will last approximately 12 hours.



Joanne & Patrick

*The sole Newsletter dedicated
to Solar Eclipses*



THE SOLAR ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT SOLAR ECLIPSES EDITED BY PATRICK POITEVIN & JOANNE EDMONDS. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE RAINBOW SYMPHONY.



THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB PAGE OF FRED ESPENAK.



THE SOLAR ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER IS FREE OF CHARGE, BUT IS NOT AVAILABLE IN HARD COPY.

TSE 2003

(Continued from page 68)

Planning this flight over Antarctica has made me many new acquaintances in the U.S. State Dept., EPA, and NSF! However, I'm happy to announce that we've received an OK to fly over the Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole after the eclipse, weather permitting, at an altitude of ~5,000 feet AGL. (I don't think a plane of this size has ever buzzed the South Pole!) We'll also overfly Palmer Station on the way down and, fuel reserves permitting, pass near Vinson Massif (highest point in Antarctica) on the way back to Punta Arenas.

Although there'll be lots of Antarctica to see, we are taking no sights-ers per se. The plane holds 263 passengers, but we're strictly limiting the participation to just a fraction of that, to ensure that everyone can have good views of the entire eclipse (1st through 4th contact

continuously, except during the turn onto our final heading). At present we can accommodate only 20-30 more people, depending on how the seats are reserved.

Please see <http://www.tq-international.com/AntarcticaFly/AntarcticaFlyHome.htm> for more details. If you have questions, feel free to contact me, either through a SEML posting or offline (kbeattySENL200307SkyandTelescope.com). Clear skies, Kelly Beatty Executive Editor SKY & TELESCOPE

From: Kelly Beatty

Folks... in my prior email, there's a line that should have read "We'll assume our final heading well before 2nd [not 3rd] contact." sorry about that! Kelly Beatty

TSE 2006

ASE 2005 & TSE 2006

From: Jean-Luc L. J. DIGHAYE
To: SOLARECLIPSES-SENL200307@ula.com Date: Sun, 15 Jun 2003 17:44:00

Dear all, Since there is an interesting opportunity to observe both the ASE of 03.10.2005 and the TSE of 29.03.2006 from the intersection point of their respective paths, located at about 25.16°N and 18.58°E in the region of Jabal al Ma'ruf in Libya, EurAstro (Munich, Germany) and GAS (Spa, Belgium) intend to send a team to the ASE for prospecting, and, if found appropriate, a larger party with heavy instruments to the TSE there. Our project is presently in a preliminary phase. If you have similar projects or ideas, please contact me off-SEML. mail to: jdighayeSENL200307@eurastro.de