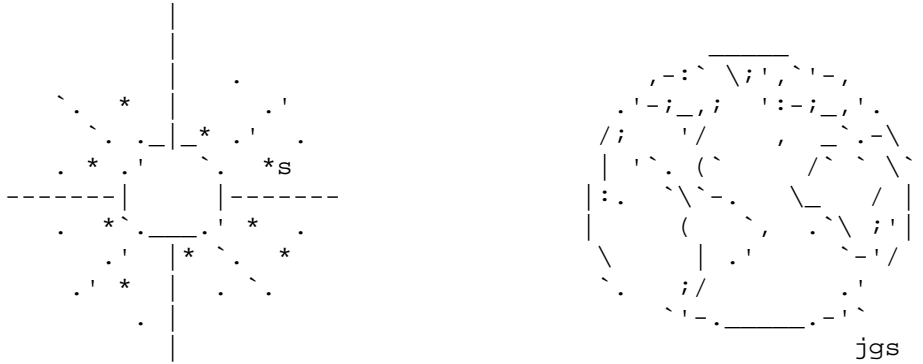


THE SUN-EARTH CONNECTION

An Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) Newsletter
for the Sun-Earth Connection Science Community - and beyond!
December 19, 2008 Volume IX, Issue 5

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----- 1. Big Events of 2008 - Congratulations, IBEX! -----

After a smooth countdown and climb toward space on October 19,
NASA's IBEX spacecraft is in orbit.

This is the beginning of NASA's two-year IBEX mission to study the
interactions of hot solar wind colliding with the cold vastness of
space, mapping the boundaries of our solar system.

Thank you to those who joined us for the live webcast. Now,
you can visit the multimedia video page to find clips from the program.
<http://ibex.swri.edu/multimedia/video.shtml>

Museums and Planetaria: visit:
<http://ibex.swri.edu/planetaria/index.shtml>

Educators page: <http://ibex.swri.edu/educators/index.shtml>

Contact: Lindsay Bartolone lbartolone@adlerplanetarium.org

----- 2. Pseudo-Science Issues in Astronomy: An Outreach Website -----

<http://homepage.mac.com/cygnusx1/>

<http://dealingwithcreationisminastronomy.blogspot.com/>

Over the past almost eight years now, I have been maintaining a site, "Dealing with Creationism in Astronomy", where I explore creationist claims in astronomy from a 'testability' perspective. In the past year, I've expanded into "Electric Universe" claims as well. More recently, I've opened a blog, <http://dealingwithcreationisminastronomy.blogspot.com/>, where I try to post material in a more timely fashion. I regard the blog as a 'drafts for comment' site before possibly being integrated into a larger work. Be warned, these are both personal sites, maintained on personal time, so I reserve the right to discuss theology issues on occasion. :^)

I am very interested in feedback from the educational community, not just in regards to what claims are actually being encountered in the astronomy classroom, but maybe checking my math (peer review?), other aspects of the analysis, or even pointing me to other data sources which might be appropriate. I actually try to integrate real datasets in these works.

At the very least, I hope this site can provide instructors with a more complete response than 'that theory doesn't work', should the issue arise in classrooms. Instructors should be able to respond with specific reasons why a crank theory doesn't work, and perhaps even demonstrate it, should it be appropriate to the classroom level.

Feel free to contact me at cygnusx1@mac.com
W.T "Tom" Bridgman, Ph.D.

3. Climate Discovery Online Courses for Educators -- Now accepting registrations for Winter Term! <http://ecourses.ncar.ucar.edu>

Are you seeking a K-12 professional development opportunity that Will enhance your qualifications, competency, and self-confidence in integrating Earth system science, climate, and global change into your science classroom? NCAR offers a series of six and seven week online courses for middle and high school teachers that combine geoscience content, information about current climate research, easy to implement hands-on activities, and group discussion. The courses run concurrently from January 23 through March 15, 2009.

- * CD 501 Introduction to Earth's Climate
- * CD 502 Earth System Science: A Climate Change Perspective
- * CD 503 Understanding Climate Change Today

There is a \$225 fee per course
(save \$25 if you register by January 1st.)

For complete course schedule and registration information, visit <http://ecourses.ncar.ucar.edu>

-- Kirsten Meymaris kirstenm@ucar.edu

4. New "Space Weather" CD and Planetarium Shows Available from MMS

The new 2009 "Space Weather" CD is now ready for distribution, funded by MMS. 20,000 went to CORE to go into the Sun-Earth Day packets. Another 5000 are at Rice to support various events. The CDs have been distributed to the Sally Ride Festival, ASTC, SACNAS, etc. If anyone has an event that they want copies, please let me know.

MMS planetarium shows will be distributed through the Discovery Dome network. With our recent installations, the network is now up to 61 systems in 22 states and 13 countries, with two new installations going in Russia and Argentina (see the Google map at <http://tinyurl.com/28wejg>),

Galileo even came to the opening of one of the installations in England... see
http://www.dimaggio.org/discovery_dome/installations.htm

-- Patricia Reiff [reiff@rice.edu]

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How to Contact Us

The Sun-Earth CONNECTION Education and Public Outreach newsletter is issued every 4-8 weeks. Back issues can be found at

<http://sunearth.ssl.berkeley.edu/SECNews/>

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<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov> and
<http://sunearth.ssl.berkeley.edu>

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