

TOTALITY!

2007 JANUARY THE JOURNAL FOR ECLIPSE CHASERS

ISSUE 3

AVAILABLE FOR FREE ON THE WEB AT;

http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/Solar_Eclipses.html



A happy group of successful eclipse chasers pose in Egypt

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2006 ECLIPSE HIGHLIGHTS AND PICTURES FROM EGYPT

PHOTOS COPYRIGHT BY HENK BRIL



The 2006 Total Solar Eclipse passed through several countries across northern Africa across the Mediterranean and into Asia Minor (Turkey) and Asia (the major). The longest duration was in Libya near the boarder of Chad, was 4m 06.5s. From the reports I have read and heard of, there were some tour groups that were refused entry to Libya, and right until the last minute, no one was totally sure that the tour groups to Libya would be successfully surmounted. Most however were, and for many it was a very good experience.

Meteorology to take quite so much of a chance with their trip arrangements opted for two other primary locations. Both of these were near the Mediterranean Sea, in Turkey and in Egypt. Just outside of the central path of totality on the coast of Libya, and a total phase of less than 3 seconds shorter, groups flocked to a site near El Saloum, Egypt. The photos here are from Henk Bril of the Netherlands who traveled with a group from the Royal Dutch Association for Meteorology and Astronomy to this location. For more photos of the eclipse and from Henk's trip to Egypt, as well as other interesting observations and trips, visit his web site at <http://www.astrobril.nl/>.

The ancient ruins of the pharos pyramids in Egypt over 3 millennium ago, today makes a desirable tourist local. Someday in the future people will have a chance to view a total eclipse from the grounds of the great pyramids of Giza, but likely not in anybody's lifetime presently alive today.

The night before the eclipse, rain showers swept through the camp. When morning came and observers were setting up their equipment, there was an uneasy feeling with a low fog around the site, and puddles were scattered through the area. All turned out fine as the Sun rose well above the ground fogs and gave way to a blue sky, and an excellent eclipse, as follows.



Morning fog created a fog bow at the eclipse camp near El Saloum, Egypt



Puddles and eclipse observers with a low fog



The camp of the Royal Netherlands Association for Astronomy and Meteorology



Sidi Yacop



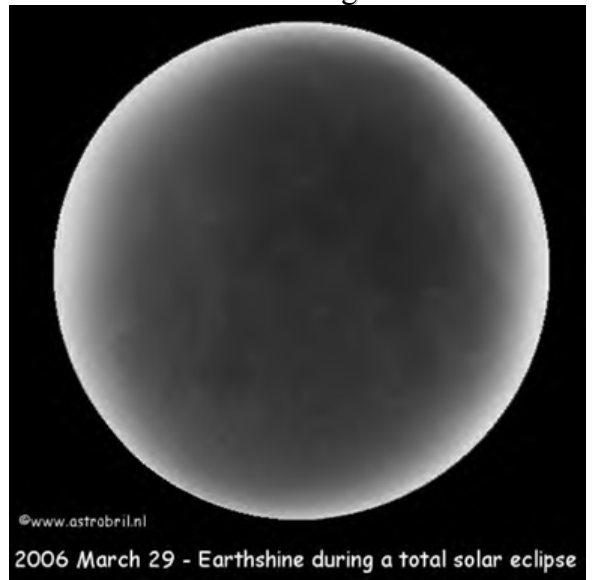
Processed to show the outermost coronal details



Diamond Ring \wedge \vee Corona



Inner Corona \wedge \vee Earthlight on the Moon



©www.astrobril.nl

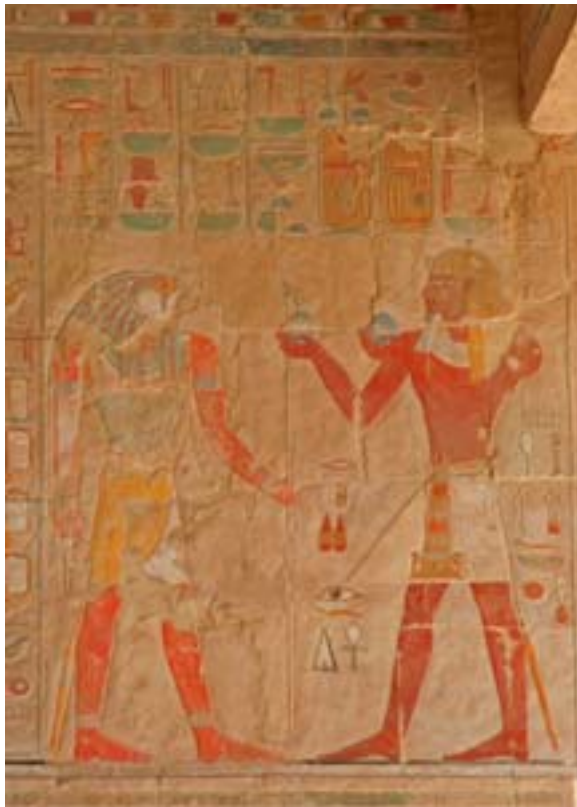
2006 March 29 - Earthshine during a total solar eclipse



Twilight encircles the horizon during totality



The crew of the Dutch television program RTL Travel, and host Floortje Dessing (center) with Henk Brill, Wieke and Dion Piet of the Dutch Embassy in Cairo (right), and Robert (rear), pose with big smiles after a successful eclipse.



Detail of the "Sanctuary of Anubis", Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, Deir El-Bahari, Egypt



Modern day caravan across the desert



The Great Sand Sea near Siwa, Egypt



Pyramids and Postcards



Camels rarely get their tires stuck in the sand, SUV's on the other hand, do!



Sand and Salt

Now Booking; 2008 Total Solar Eclipse

Here we are, 1½ years before the 2008 eclipse, and the travel groups are starting to pop up all over the place and still more to come! I encourage you to check the web sites of these groups to find the trip that best fits your needs and price ranges. Here are several groups that I was able to find on the web, and their starting prices for each trip and in the funds specified for their originating country

2008 Eclipse All Travel groups are listed in alphabetical order

Ancient World Tours (UK)

Russian Eclipse Tour A > 9-day trip
JUL 26 to AUG 03
2495 GBP

Russian Eclipse Tour B > 10-day trip
JUL 26 to AUG 04
2995 GBP

Russian Eclipse Tour C > 9-day trip
JUL 30 to AUG 03
1335 GBP

China Eclipse Tour A > 12-day trip
JUL 26 to AUG 06
2495 GBP

China Eclipse Tour B > 9-day trip
JUL 27 to AUG 04
2295 GBP

China Eclipse Tour C > 9-day trip
JUL 27 to AUG 04
2235 GBP

China Eclipse Tour D > 11-day trip
JUL 26 to AUG 05
2395 GBP

<http://www.ancient.co.uk/default.aspx?Page=astro2008>

Boojum Expeditions

Mongolia / Gobi Desert & Lake Khovsgol > 7-day trip
JUL29 to AUG 04
\$2600 USD > 3 different extensions are available
<http://www.boojum.com/extras/eclipse2008.pdf>

Civilized Adventures (CAN) thru the Calgary Center of the RASC

Silk Road Eclipse Quest > 16 day trip > TOTALITY from Hami & Yiwu
JUL 24 to AUG 08
\$4699 CAD
<http://www.civilizedadv.com/PDF/CH230708.pdf?>

EWP

Russia / Altai Program > 15-day trip > - 2m 20s TOTALITY south of Barnaul

JUL 21 to AUG 04

3000 Euro

<http://www.ewpnet.com/russia/altaieclipse.htm>

Mongolia / Gobi Desert (camping trip) >12-day trip

JUL 25 to AUG 05 - 2m 03s TOTALITY

2650 Euro from Ulaan Baatar

<http://www.ewpnet.com/mongolia/gobieclipse.htm>

Jasmine's China Adventure Tours

<http://www.jasminechina.com/ecl2008.htm>

Eclipse Only > 7-day trip

JUL 28 to AUG 03

\$2650 USD

Eclipse Over the Silk Road > 16 day trip

JUL 19 to AUG 03

\$3995 USD

Journey's International

Mongolia Solar Eclipse > 15-day trip

JUL 25 to AUG 08

\$4175 USD or less > 2m 13s from Hovd camp

<http://www.journeys-intl.com/destinations/asia/mongolia/651/>

China Solar Eclipse > 14-day trip

JUL 22 to AUG 04

TDB expected around \$3500 USD

<http://www.journeys-intl.com/destinations/asia/china/606/>

MWT Associates

Siberian Total Solar Eclipse & Grand Waterways of the Czars – 16 day trip

JUL 18 to AUG 2, 2008

Request a brochure to receive a price list

DOES include round trip airfare from JFK

<http://www.melitatrips.com/siberia/index.html>

Ring of Fire Expeditions - Winco Travel

Total Solar Eclipse in China – 7day trip – 3 viewing sites, 1m 50s to 2m 00s at 2 sites, and 0m 30s at Hami

JUL 27 to AUG 3, 2008

From \$2999 USD with extensions for Beijing, Tibet and the 2008 Olympics (coming soon)

4 Groups of up to 20 individuals each are scheduled

<http://www.eclipsetours.com/china.html>

Sirius Travel

Mongolia – 10 day trip – 2m 09s TOTALITY

JUL 26 to AUG 4, 2008

\$4150 USD

Also does not include Emergency Evacuation Insurance which is REQUIRED

<http://www.siriustravel.com/mongolia08/index.cfm>

Spears Travel by Carlson Wagonlit

Northern China 2008 > 10-day trip

JUL 26 to AUG 04 > 1m 54s TOTALITY 100 miles from Hami

\$3935 USD

<http://www.spearstravel.com/astronomy/china08/china08itin.htm>

TravelQuest International

China's Silk Road TSE Aboard the China Orient Express – 12 day trip

JUL 25 to AUG 5, 2008 and JUL 27 to AUG 7, 2008

The JUL 25 package of these 2 “reverse” direction trips, is SOLD OUT!

\$5290 USD per person double occupancy

<http://www.tq-international.com/ChinaOrientEx08/ChinaOrtExIntinerary.htm>

Hami, China TSE – 7 day trip

JUL 29 to AUG 3, 2008

\$2890 USD per person double occupancy

<http://www.tq-international.com/China08Hami/ChinaHami.htm>

Grand Passage Through Siberia, Russia aboard the Trans-Siberian Express – 15 day trip

JUL 27 to AUG 10 - Moscow to Vladivostok

\$8995 USD to \$13,895

<http://www.tq-international.com/Russia08GrandPass/RussiaGPitinerary.htm>

Great Cities of Russia – 11 day trip

JUL 26 to AUG 5, 2008

\$5690 USD

<http://www.tq-international.com/Russia08NoTrain/RussiaGCNTitinerary.htm>

Great Cities of Russia aboard the Trans-Siberian Express– 13 day trip

JUL 26 to AUG 5, 2008

\$7995 USD to \$8945 USD

<http://www.tq-international.com/Russia08GreatCities/RussiaGCitinerary.htm>

Novosibirsk Fly-in – 4 day trip

JUL 30 to AUG 2, 2008 from Moscow

\$2695 USD

<http://www.tq-international.com/Russia08Flyin/RussiaFlyinitinerary.htm>

North Pole Voyage to Totality – 17 day trip

JUL 19 to AUG 4, 2008 from Moscow

\$22,900 USD to \$29,900 USD (**\$29,900 package is SOLD OUT!**)

<http://www.tq-international.com/NorthPole2008/NPhome.htm>

North Pole Voyage to Totality – 2 day trip

JUL 31 to AUG 1, 2008

\$8880 USD to \$13,380 USD per row from Düsseldorf, Germany and Köln/Bonn

<http://www.tq-international.com/NorthPoleFlight2008/NPFlighthome.htm>

Additional Info on the Polar Eclipse flight of 2008 from Glenn Schneider

http://nicmosis.as.arizona.edu:8000/ECLIPSE_WEB/ECLIPSE_08/TSE2008_EFLIGHT.html

Tropical Sails Corp

China > 10-day trip

JUL 25 to AUG 04 > 2m 00s TOTALITY (near Hami)

\$2288 USD

<http://www.tropicalsails.com/china.pdf>

Tusker Trail

Mongolia >13-day trip

JUL 26 to AUG 06 - 2m 03

\$4380 USD > Gobi Desert Extension Available, AUG 06 to AUG 10 for \$1915 USD

<http://www.tusker.com/eclipse2008/1eclipse.htm>

Wilderness Travel

<http://www.wildernesstravel.com/itins/evmongol.html#brief>

Total Solar Eclipse in Mongolia > 7-day trip

JUL 27 to AUG 02 > 2m 05s TOTALITY at 6700 feet alt.itude

Mongolia Eclipse Camp

JUL 27 to AUG 02

SOLD OUT!

Lake Hovsgol & Eclipse > 11-day trip

JUL 27 to AUG 06

\$4995 USD

The Gobi Desert & Eclipse > 13-day trip

JUL 27 to AUG 08

\$5195 USD

Altia Mountains Trek & Eclipse > 14-day trip

JUL 27 to AUG 09

\$5595 USD

Heart of Mongolia & Eclipse > 16-day trip

JUL 27 to AUG 11

\$5295 USD

Lake Baikal & Eclipse > 15-day trip

JUL 27 to AUG 10

\$6995 USD

DISCLAIMER & ADVICE

At **TOTALITY!**, we have done a web search to find travel agents that are presently booking eclipse tours. Because they are listed here is in no way an endorsement for the veracity of any agent or agencies. We present these brief overviews for your connivance and to be a reference for your further examination to find the package that best fits your needs. Please use the links to review all of the accompanying details about each trip.

Nearly ALL packages do NOT include airfare to and from your country of origin if other than the country you reside in, and visas are also extra, unless noted otherwise. Meals are sometimes included and sometimes not, please read these itineraries carefully. All prices listed are usually the starting price, single supplements (one person/per room) prices are usually notably higher, and I encourage anyone traveling alone to find a travel buddy so these costs can be avoided. A good travel buddy will also watch your back, just like a diving buddy, and keep strangers at a distance when you are making a ATM withdrawal abroad.

Additional trip extensions are also often available. More listings will be added when they become available and be indicated by a **NEW!** on the listing indication.

The 2008 TSE in China occurs only a week before the start of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, and likely the sooner you book your flights to and from China, the more you will save, and also be likely to have a flight available.

Also Now Booking; 2009 Total Solar Eclipse

This eclipse may be the biggest eclipse event of the century as it will be the longest totality of the century. The longest it can possibly last is 6m 38.9s in an area of ocean where little land exists. There are a few tour groups booking some locations already, with more to come. So far I have only found a couple that are already taking reservations, and they are on mainland China, where the longest available time will be 5m 54s southwest of Shanghai. In a future issue we will look at this specific eclipse and the weather expectations. The following groups are listed as they have posted their itinerates;

Jasmine's China Adventure Tours

“Eclipse Only” Tour of Shanghai > 6-day trip

JUL 19 to JUL 23 > 1 pre-eclipse and 3 post-eclipse extensions are also available

Price TBD Summer of 2007

<http://www.jasminechina.com/ecl2009.htm>

Sirius Travel

Tibet & China – 18 day trip – 5m 00s TOTALITY at 3099 meters on Mt. Emei Shan

JUL 13 to JUL 30, 2009

\$4325 USD

<http://www.siriustravel.com/tibet09/itinerary.cfm>

Tropical Sails Corp

Eclipse 2009 China Total Solar > 14-day trip

JUL 11 to JUL 24 > nearly 6m TOTALITY (near Shanghai)

\$2798 USD

<http://www.tropicalsails.com/eclipse/page3.html>

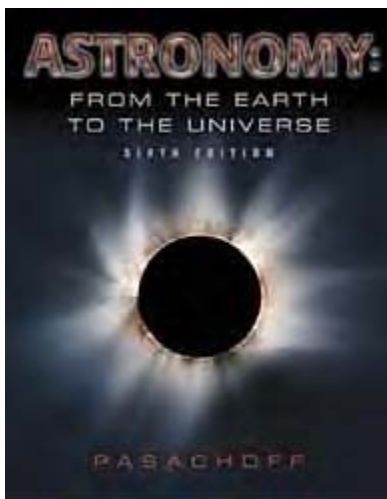


Eclipse Chaser Profile – Jay M. Pasachoff

Jay Pasachoff, is the very definition of a solar astronomer. He follows in the steps of his inspiring predecessors with such icons as Loughhead, Lyot and Menzel. Dr.

Pasachoff even studied under Dr. Menzel at Harvard University, where he received his AB in 1963, then went on to get his PhD in 1969. Today he is Field Memorial Professor of Astronomy at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he has been since 1972, and is the Director of its Hopkins Observatory.

Dr. Pasachoff is the author or co-author of many books, textbooks and guides on astronomy, solar astronomy physics and astrophysics.. The Peterson - A Field Guide to the Stars and Planets, Nearest Star: The Exciting Science of Our Sun and The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Sun are a few of the titles, including a couple of texts that he has written with his wife, Naomi. For a complete listing, link to; <http://www.solarcorona.com/>.



Although Jay works in many fields of astronomy, he is best known for his work in solar astronomy and the Sun's atmosphere, comets, Pluto, trans-Neptunian objects and moons of the outer solar system.

Jay has visited many of the world's largest observatories and made observations with the largest of instruments, optical and radio, on the ground and in space. He either carries or has carried many titles, and headed or served on, or continues to serve on several committees and boards, among them he is chair of the Working Group on Eclipses of the International Astronomical Union, see the link at; <http://www.williams.edu/astronomy/eclipses/>.

I highly recommend that you explore for yourself Dr. Pasachoff's extensive résumé on Wikipedia at; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_Pasachoff and the Williams College Web site at; <http://www.williams.edu/Astronomy/jpasachoff/>.

Born in 1943, Jay has been on 43 eclipse expeditions, 26 total, 11 annular and 6 partial. Many of the expeditions he has led. His first eclipse was in 1959 in Massachusetts at the age of 16.

On March 29 of 2006, Dr. Pasachoff was part of an expedition to Kastellorizo in the Greek islands, and on September 22 of 2006 he traveled to French Guiana to observe the annular eclipse that was visible shortly after sunrise along the Atlantic coast. He is close to the record for the most total eclipses viewed by one individual.

I asked Jay a few questions about the solar eclipses he has been to and the extended future of eclipse viewing . . .

TOTALITY!: “**F**ew eclipse chasers have stood in the Moon's shadow for as long as you. Some consider the time spent in the shadow a badge of honor. Do you happen to know what your total time in the eclipse shadow is to date?”

JAY: “I don't spend a lot of time adding things like that up. I'd much rather put my observations in context. But Sheridan Williams at <http://www.clock-tower.com> keeps statistics of that sort. I was glad to meet him when I went to one of Patrick Potievin's Solar Eclipse Conferences for amateurs and professionals, and I hope we all meet again in Los Angeles for the next such conference in August.”

Editors Note: I checked out Sheridan Williams web site, and I encourage anyone that have been to more than 1 solar eclipse and planning on going to more, to enter your stats here, many are still absent (I will be adding mine very soon). It seems that both Jay, and Glenn Schneider have traveled to 26 total eclipses, but Jay has been successful at seeing 25 while Glenn has been successful at seeing 22. However, Glenn's total time in the Moon's umbral shadow is 69.2 minutes to Jay's 60.9 minutes and closely followed by Freddy Dorst. I will be perusing both of these individuals, and several others for future profiles

TOTALITY!: “Tell us about your first total eclipse when you were 16.”

JAY: “I was a first-year student at Harvard, enrolled in a freshman seminar led by Prof. Donald Menzel, then the director of the Harvard College Observatory. He took our class of about a dozen aloft on an Eastern Airlines plane. Eastern Airlines may no longer be with us but my interest in solar eclipses survives. It rained on the ground, we heard, so we were among very few people to see that totality.”

TOTALITY!: “What are/your favorite eclipse(s) to date and why?”

JAY: “Almost always, my favorite eclipse is the most recent one, since they are all so fabulous. We had a busy and productive time in Greece on 29 March 2006, with half a dozen of our Williams College students plus colleagues from Williams and elsewhere to a total of 42 people in all. One always

has valuable experiences not only with the equipment and data but also with the people one meets. We were able to work with Prof. John Seiradakis of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and some of his colleagues and students. I am glad that the U.S. National Science Foundation supported our expedition and the liaison. I was also glad to have support from the National Geographic Society.”

TOTALITY!: “What are the most memorable eclipse locations you have been to?”

JAY: “I remember so many: they include 26 totalities at Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 1959; Gently, Quebec, Canada, in 1963, Miahuatlan, Mexico, in 1970; Prince Edward Island, Canada, in 1972, Loiengalani, Kenya, in 1973; Albany, Western Australia, in 1974; from a ship in the Pacific from an airplane in 1977; Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, in 1979; India in 1980; from an airplane over the Pacific near Hawaii in 1981; East Java, Indonesia, in 1983; Papua New Guinea in 1984; Sumatra, Indonesia, in 1988; from an airplane north of Helsinki, Finland, in 1990; Hawaii in 1991; from an airplane south of Cape Town, South Africa, in 1992; northernmost Chile in 1993; Rajasthan, India, in 1995; Mongolia in 1997; Aruba in 1998; Romania in 1999; Zambia in 2001; South Australia in 2002; from an airplane over Antarctica in 2003; from a ship west of the Galapagos in 2005; and a Greek island off the coast of Turkey in 2006, respectively.”

TOTALITY!: “How many eclipse have you been clouded out of?”

JAY: “That's a hard question to answer, since I have always seen some part of each eclipse, though they weren't all clear and sometimes I had to go aloft instead of staying Earthbound.”

With the burning topic of Pluto being recategorized as a dwarf planet, I had to ask Jay to comment on this subject.

TOTALITY!: “Would you share with us your brief opinion on the Pluto Planet/Dwarf Planet controversy?”

JAY: “Another hard question. I think one thing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the opposite on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. My work on Pluto has included studies of its atmosphere, so it seems like a good planet to me, having an atmosphere and a substantial moon. I also give some weight to over 75 years of history of having Pluto as a planet. But that being said, many astronomers viewed the reassignment as a promotion, not a demotion, for Pluto, since it is now the first of a new class of solar-system object. I wrote most of a 16-page booklet about it that is now distributed with my text *The Cosmos*, and I may write a book about the whole matter.”

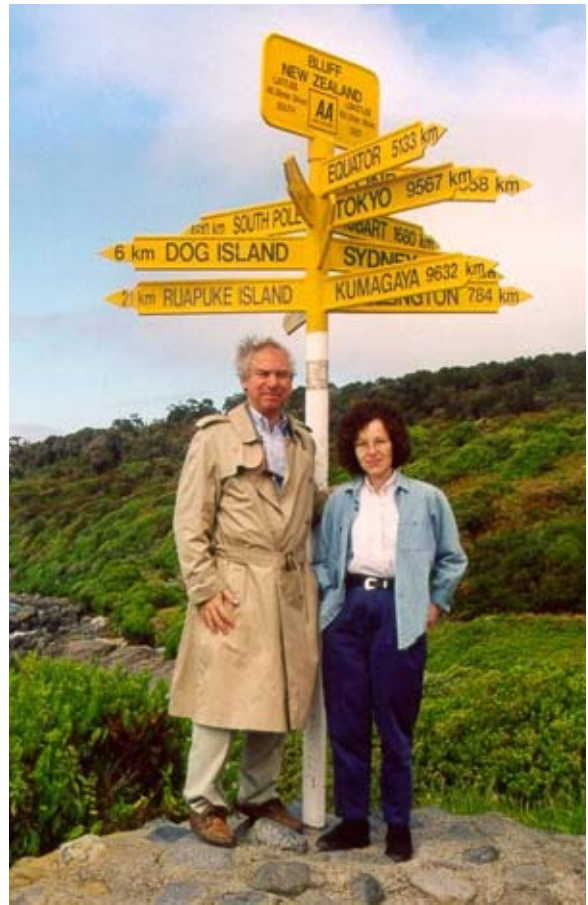
TOTALITY!: “Did you get to do any studies of Comet McNaught as it passed close to the Sun in January?” (These questions were posed on January 13 as the comet was just passing perihelion)

JAY: “I just returned from Seattle, where the American Astronomical Society met for the past week, and now we are having an ice storm in Williamstown. I'm looking at the photos on the Web from the ground and from SOHO in space and wondering if I should fly someplace with better weather, though it may well already be too late for that. I did, however, spend time during my 1984-5 sabbatical at the University of Hawaii observing comets with a big telescope on Mauna Kea. And I am coauthor of a book on comets in art, *Fire in the Sky: Comets and Meteors, the Decisive Centuries, in British Art and Science.*”

Editors Note: From the looks of the fabulous photos of McNaught, indeed Jay should have hopped on a plane headed to the southern hemisphere (I should have as well, we likely will not have another comet so special in quite a long time).

TOTALITY!: “What do you enjoy most about eclipses?”

JAY: “It's fun to observe eclipses and it is fun to help figure out how the sun shines, at least from its outermost layer.”



Jay Pasachoff and wife, Naomi, in New Zealand

Eclipse Specialty Tour Group Web Sites . . .

Eclipse City

<http://www.eclipse-city.com/>

Far Horizons

<http://www.farhorizon.com/2006-solar-eclipse.htm>

Mayhugh Travel – Astronomy Vacations

<http://astronomyvacations.com/>

MWT Associates (Astronomical Tours)

<http://www.melitatrips.com/>

Ring of Fire Expeditions

<http://www.eclipsetours.com>

Sirius Travel

<http://www.siriustravel.com/>

Sita Solar Eclipse Tours

<http://www.eclipsetours.net/>

TravelQuest International

<http://www.tq-international.com/index.htm>

Travel Wizard

<http://www.travelwizardtravel.com/astro.htm>

Winco Eclipse Tours, Inc.

<http://www.wincoeclipsetours.com>

Other Useful Eclipse Web Sites . . .

NASA Eclipse Home Page

<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/eclipse.html>

Fred Espenak's Web Site

<http://www.mreclipse.com/>

Jay Anderson – Eclipse Weather Predictions

<http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~jander/>

Xavier Jubier's Google Earth Eclipse Maps

http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/SolarEclipsesGoogleMaps.html

IAU Solar Eclipse Working Group

<http://www.williams.edu/Astronomy/eclipses/>

Sheridan Williams Web Site

<http://www.clock-tower.com/>

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Fred Espenak

Jay Anderson

And to ; Dr. Jay M. Pasachoff, Williams College web site, and Wikipedia.

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Some future issues will occasionally use photos that have been posted to web sites that are saved at 72 dpi, and likely will not be as sharp as others posted at 128 dpi.

Please send any correspondence, suggestions or submissions to TOTALITYnewzine@aol.com.

Photo submissions can also be sent to the TOTALITYnewzine@aol.com, please format @128dpi.

In the Next Issue;

- **Eclipse Timeline: 2008-2017**

In Future Issues;

- **2008 Total Solar Eclipse - The Hermit Eclipse**
- **2009 Total Solar Eclipse - Longest Eclipse of the 21st Century**
- **Total & Annular Solar Eclipse Maps 2001 to 2050**
- **Will Your Next Eclipse Trip Weather It?**
- **Eclipses of the Past >**
1984 - The "Broken Ring" Eclipse / 1991 - The "Great" Eclipse

