

The Virtual Telescope Newsletter



Enjoy The Universe from your desktop

April 2014

GLOBAL ASTRONOMY MONTH!

COSMIC CELEBRATION

Finally, April is back with GAM2014!

After waiting for one long year, Global Astronomy Month (GAM) is here again, inviting you to join this international astro-party. Since 2010, this initiative has kept alive the legacy of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) and each April it is presented to the world by Astronomers Without Borders. Go out there, invite your friends and show them the wonders of the Universe, the same universe we all share.

At Virtual Telescope we joined GAM since it was introduced, after we played an important role in IYA2009, offering each year many live, online events to enjoy the sky in real time.

Every time, GAM kick-off was our Online Messier Marathon, now at its 6th edition, a true classic for star lovers.

You are invited to join and meet people from all around the world.



The **Online Messier Marathon** was “invented” by the Virtual Telescope team in 2009. Since then, we organized it every year and it immediately became the official start of Global Astronomy Month.

Surfing in one single night the whole Messier catalogue is an experience by itself and the Virtual Telescope brings it to the comfort of your home. More than 100 cosmic gems in less than 12 hours: don't miss your seat and have fun with GAM!

What's new. March has been a great month at Virtual Telescope. Not for the weather, actually, but for some online events which turned out to be planetary successes. In particular, our live coverage of asteroid 2014 DX110 hosted almost 300.000 viewers, setting a record for us.

April will bring more great stuff, part of Global Astronomy Month, including the online Messier Marathon and live view of planet Mars.

Questions? Suggestions? If yes, you can reach us at: info@virtualtelescope.eu

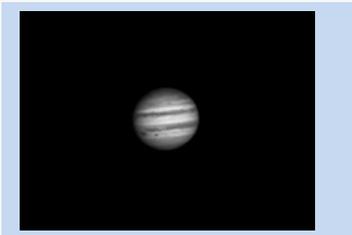
We are also on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#)

DISCOVER THE VIRTUAL TELESCOPE

Have you ever wanted to access the sky from you desktop, via the Internet, in real time? The Virtual Telescope makes it possible. Discover what it can do for you and your love for the stars.



A SATELLITE OF ANOTHER WORLD



Jupiter is surely a rewarding planet. Because of its vast, gaseous environment, its fast rotation and its many features, it always offers new sights to observers. In addition, its four, main satellites are always around and sometimes they play

with the big planet.

Last 16 Mar., while setting, Jupiter showed its largest moon, Ganymede, crossing its disk.

All this while the Great Red Spot was rising on the edge of the planet.

It was a great chance to capture a large sequence and make a time-lapse, showing both the satellite transit and the Red Spot moving to the center.

[The result is quite spectacular: check it by yourself!](#)

NEAR-EARTH ASTEROID 2014 DX110: A PLANETARY EVENT

2014 DX110 did a very close encounter with the Earth last 5 Mar.

This event received a lot of attention from the international media and our live coverage turned out to be the biggest event we ever hosted.

The asteroid never posed a threat to us, but still it was a popular approach: [more than half a million of people entered our site to see the asteroid and learn more about it.](#)

Almost half - a - million viewers

Our server crashed a few times that day, because of massive presence of viewers, reaching a peak of more than 15.000 contemporary visitors. We managed to show 2014 DX110 live, before clouds decided to cover the scenery. Once again, an asteroid showed to be one of the greatest cosmic visitors of the greatest interest for the public.

We will keep an eye on them, so stay tuned.

WHAT IS UP IN THE SKY THIS MONTH

April is really ready to offer a brand-new sky to you. The winter stars are definitely gone, they say "See You next year" on the west, but Spring has its amazing gifts for you. While bright stars are missing, with the exception of Arcturus in **Bootes**, now you have a chance to leave for a journey across endless regions of space and time.

The elegant **Leo** and **Virgo** are there showing where your sight can go really deep, visiting thousands and thousands of galaxies, also lurking behind **Coma Berenices**, **Canes Venatici** and **Ursa Major**.

Planet **Mars** will be at its best after more than two years, with **Saturn** joining the party later on. Are you still looking for a good reason to go outdoor?



SEE MARS, THE RED PLANET, LIVE

Next 8 April Mars, the famous red planet, will be at opposition.

That very same night, we will explore that inspiring and amazing world thanks to the Virtual Telescope, sharing its images online, in real-time.

This event is part of the online observing sessions planned for Global Astronomy Month 2014: the red planet was a mandatory stage, being well placed in the sky.

Save the date: you will be impressed by this show!

VIRTUAL TELESCOPE NEEDS YOU

We need you. The Virtual Telescope helps millions of individuals from more than 200 Countries each year to discover the Cosmos, for free.

But there are bills to pay and maintenance to be done and we have no funds. We survive thanks to donations from those trusting our mission.

[If you love what we are doing, you are welcome to support us.](#)

We wish to thank those who supported us since we started in 2006.

STAR WORDS

"If people sat outside and looked at the stars each night, I'll bet they'd live a lot differently".

Bill Watterson

STAR GEM OF THE MONTH

Messier 3. When you want to see a lot of very old stars at a glance, you just need to look for a globular cluster.

Among the finest one, Messier 3 is a typical wonder in our Spring skies, sitting in Canes Venatici. Discovered by Charles Messier, is already visible as a fuzzy object with a modest instrument, but 30 cm or larger telescopes will take your breath away, no question.

[What are you waiting for to look at it?](#)