On the Shore of the Cosmic Ocean

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December 4, 2018
“The surface of the Earth is the shore of the cosmic ocean. On this shore, we've learned most of what we know. Recently, we've waded a little way out, maybe ankle-deep, and the water seems inviting.”

Carl Sagan
Sept. 25, 2018 - WISPR instrument on Parker Solar Probe shows Earth on the right panel

PARKER SOLAR PROBE
A Mission to Touch the Sun
International Space Station

Protect & Improve Life on Earth
March 14, 2018

NASA Needs Your Help to Find Steve and Here's How

Glowing in mostly purple and green colors, a new celestial phenomenon is sparking the interest of scientists, photographers and astronauts. The display was initially discovered by a group of citizen scientists who took pictures of the unusual lights and playfully named them “Steve.” Scientists have since learned more about the purples and greens, and have given it a more accurate name: Strong Thermal Emission Velocity Enhancement, which can still be shortened to STEVE.
Curiosity Rover

Search for Life Elsewhere
Nov. 19 – NASA Announced landing site for Mars 2020 Rover mission as Jezero Crater
ExoMars Rover
Mars Organic Molecule Analyzer

MOMA targets biomarkers to answer potential origin, evolution and distribution of life on Mars.
ICESat-2

Sept. 2018 - First two weeks of observations over Antarctica

Protect & Improve Life on Earth
Nov. 26, 2018 - Surface picture taken by InSight’s Instrument Deployment Camera (IDL) on the day of its successful landing on Mars.
New Horizons
Arrival at Ultima Thule
January 1, 2019

OSIRIS-Rex
Arrival at Bennu
December 3, 2018
Nov. 29, 2018 - Upper panel shows galactic cosmic ray rates for both Voyager 1 (red, shifted by 6.2 yrs) and Voyager 2 (blue); lower panel shows anomalous cosmic ray rates.
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<th>Exoplanets</th>
<th>Last update: December 3, 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>3,848</td>
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<td>Planetary Systems</td>
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May 17, 2018 - Test image from one of the four cameras aboard TESS captures a swath of the southern sky along the plane of our galaxy after completing Lunar fly-by.