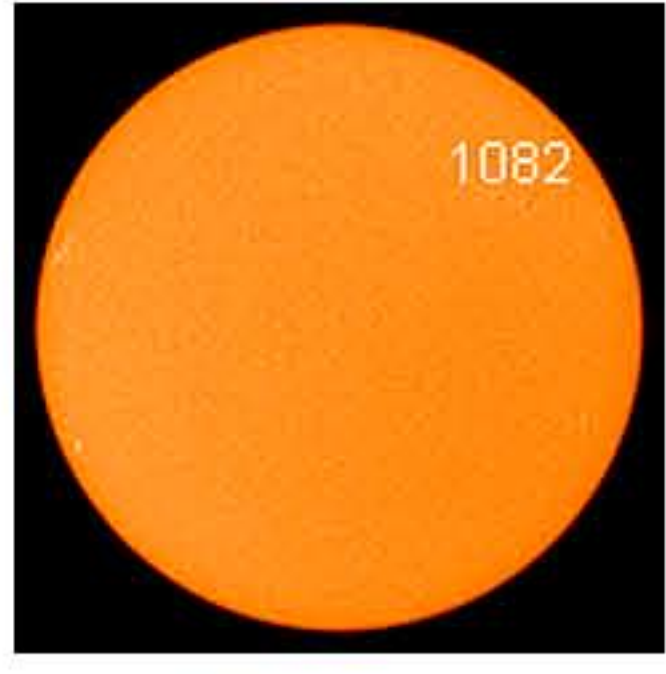


SPACE WEATHER
Current conditions
Solar wind
 speed: 314.9 km/sec
 density: 2.5 protons/cm³
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated: Today at 1616 UT

X-ray Solar Flares
 6-hr max: **B1** 1100 UT Jun23
 24-hr: **B1** 1100 UT Jun23
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated: Today at: 1610 UT

Daily Sun: 23 Jun 10



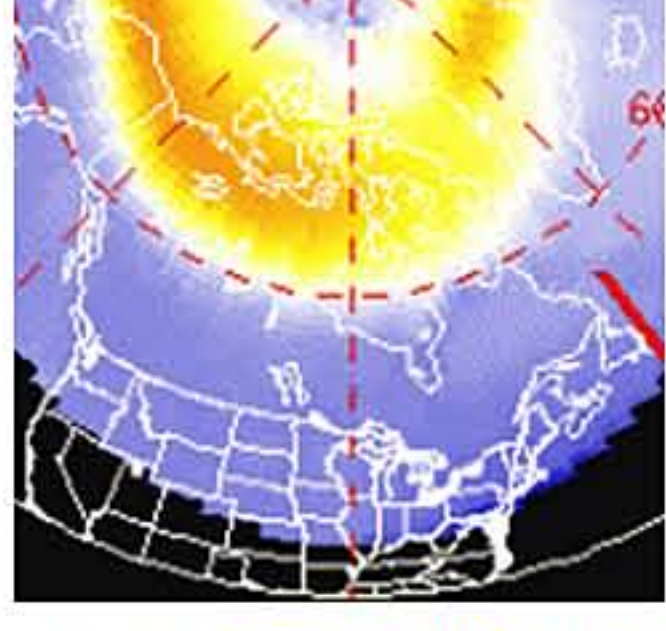
Sunspot 1082 poses no threat for strong solar flares. Credit: SOHO/MDI

Sunspot number: 14
[What is the sunspot number?](#)
 Updated 22 Jun 2010

Spotless Days
 Current Stretch: 0 days
 2010 total: 35 days (20%)
 2009 total: 260 days (71%)
 Since 2004, 992 days
 Typical Solar Min: 486 days
[explanation](#) | [more info](#)
 Updated 22 Jun 2010

The Radio Sun
 10.7 cm flux: **73** sfu
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated 22 Jun 2010

Current Auroral Oval:

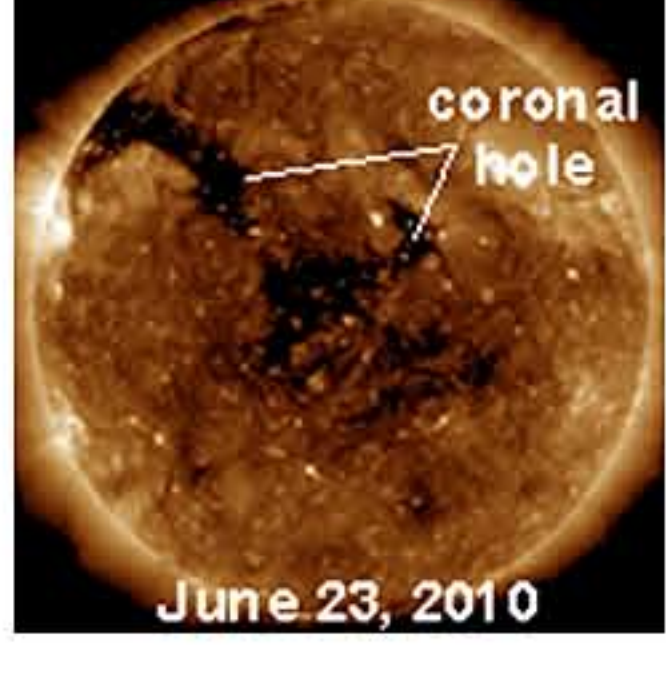


Switch to: [Europe](#), [USA](#), [New Zealand](#), [Antarctica](#)
 Credit: NOAA/POES

Planetary K-index
 Now: **Kp= 1** quiet
 24-hr max: **Kp= 3** quiet
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)

Interplanetary Mag. Field
 B_{total}: **3.8** nT
 B_z: **3** nT south
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated: Today at 1617 UT

Coronal Holes:



A solar wind stream flowing from the indicated coronal hole could reach Earth as early as June 25th. Credit: SDO/AIA

SPACE WEATHER
NOAA
Forecasts

Updated at: 2010 Jun 22 2201 UTC

FLARE	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
CLASS M	01 %	01 %
CLASS X	01 %	01 %

Geomagnetic Storms:
 Probabilities for significant disturbances in Earth's magnetic field are given for three activity levels: [active](#), [minor storm](#), [severe storm](#)

Updated at: 2010 Jun 22 2201 UTC

Mid-latitudes

	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
ACTIVE	05 %	05 %

What's up in Space June 23, 2010

NEW AND IMPROVED: Turn your iPhone or iPod Touch into a field-tested *global* satellite tracker. The [Satellite Flybys app](#) now works in all countries.



PARTIAL LUNAR ECLIPSE: This Saturday, June 26th, the Moon will pass through Earth's shadow for a [partial lunar eclipse](#). The event lasts for almost three hours centered on 11:38 UT (4:38 am PDT). At maximum, about 53% of the Moon's surface will be covered by the dark-red core of Earth's shadow. Sky watchers in the Americas, Australia, east Asia and India are favored: [visibility map](#).

NOCTILUCENT SUMMER: Summer is the season for noctilucet ("night-shining") clouds, and right on cue, the summer solstice has brought some lovely displays of electric blue:



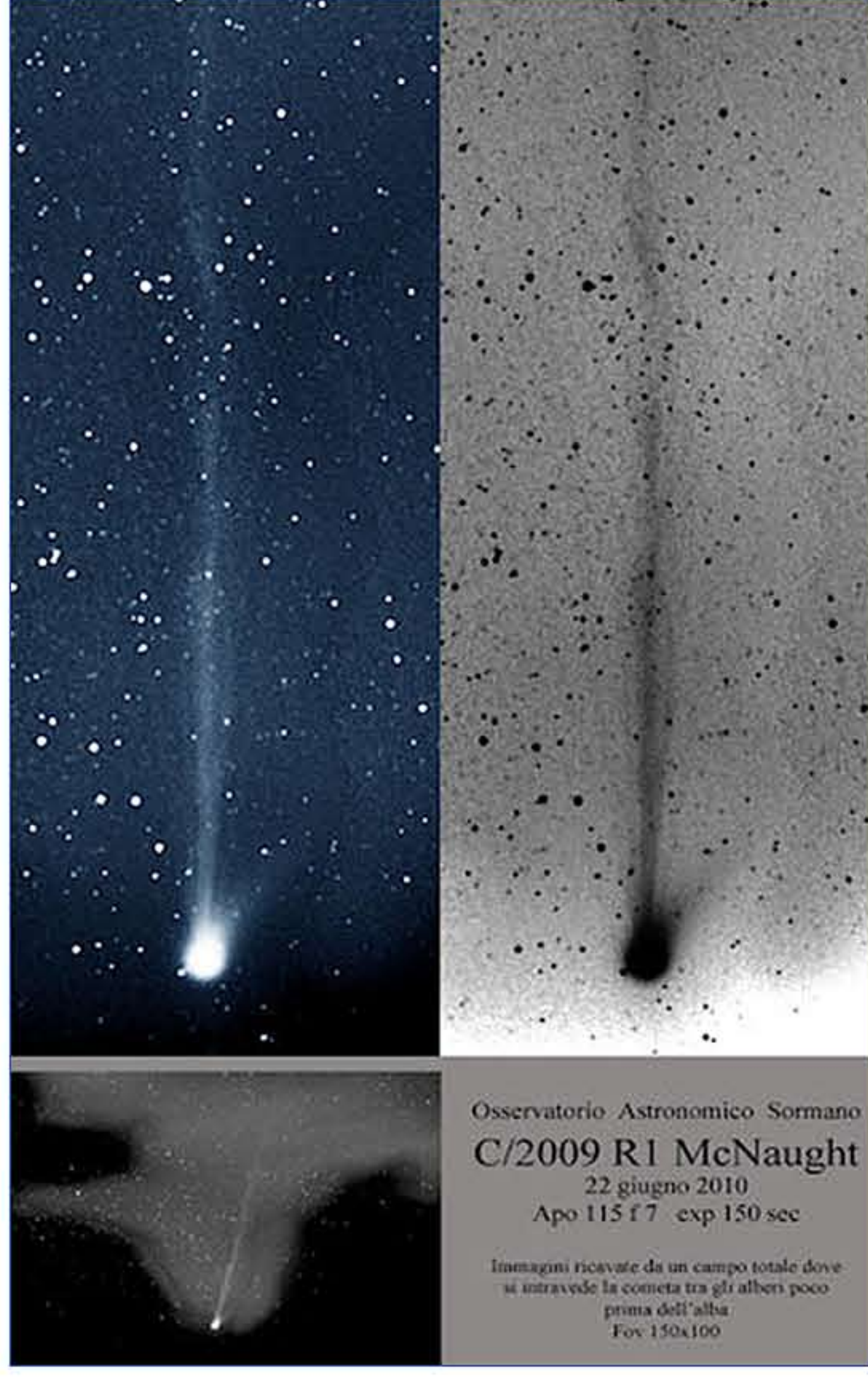
"We had a very nice NLC show on the first day of summer," reports Marek Nikodem, who took the picture using a [Nikon D700](#). "Noctilucent cloud season has officially begun here in Szubin, Poland!"

more images: [from Jun Lao](#) flying 33,000 feet over the North Atlantic Ocean; [from Mikhail Kuzmin](#) of Sergiev-Posad, Russia; [from Frank Ryan Jr](#) of Loop Head, Co. Clare, Ireland

When noctilucent clouds first appeared in the late 19th century, they were confined Arctic latitudes--i.e., places like Scandinavia, Siberia and the northern territories of Canada. In recent years, however, NLCs have increased their range with sightings in the United States as far south as Colorado and Utah. Researchers aren't sure why these mysterious clouds are spreading. It's a lovely mystery, and monitoring is encouraged!

Observing tips: Look west 30 to 60 minutes [after sunset](#) when the Sun has dipped 6° to 16° below the horizon. If you see luminous blue-white tendrils spreading across the sky, you may have spotted a noctilucent cloud.

DAWN COMET: Comet McNaught (C/2009 R1) is swinging around the sun, and solar glare is making the wispy-tailed comet difficult to see. Nevertheless, astronomer Enrico Colzani was able to glimpse it this morning just before sunrise at the Sormano Astronomical Observatory in Italy:



Osservatorio Astronomico Sormano
C/2009 R1 McNaught
 22 giugno 2010
 Apo 115 f 7 exp 150 sec
 Immagini ricavate da un campo totale dove si intravede la cometa tra gli alberi poco prima dell'alba.
 Fov 150x100

"The comet was actually moving among the trees, hanging very low over the northeastern horizon at the time I photographed it," he says. "I used a 150mm (4.4-inch) refractor to take this 150 second exposure."

Theoretically, the comet could brighten to naked eye visibility around July 2nd when it makes its closest approach to the sun (perihelion). Practically, the bright sun itself will prevent any sightings. After perihelion, the comet will recede from the sun and begin to fade. The final mornings of June, therefore, could offer our last good look at this blue-green apparition from the outer solar system. [More information](#) and a [sky map](#) are available from Sky and Telescope. See also: [ephemeris](#), [3D orbit](#).

Cool links:

archives

June
 22
 2010



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