


# From Africa to the World:

## Engaging Astrophotography from Africa on NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day

### What is APOD? Astronomy Picture of the Day

- <https://apod.nasa.gov/>
- Started at NASA in 1995
  - One of NASA's most popular science websites
  - Currently: 1M+ pageviews per day
  - Typically: Every university accesses APOD every day
  - Translated by volunteers into ~20 languages
  - Available: web and most social media sites

### Who is this Robert Nemiroff?



- Predicted some gravitational microlensing phenomena
- Constrained some universe attributes with GRBs
- Developed some all-sky monitors and techniques
- Studying attributes of relativistic illumination fronts
- Co-founded (1999): Astrophysics Source Code Library
- Co-founded (1995): PI: NASA's Astron. Pic. of the Day

### APOD now translated into ...

APOD in world languages:

- Arabic (IG), Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese (Beijing), Chinese (Taiwan), Czech, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Slovenian, Spanish, Taiwanese, Turkish, and Ukrainian

APOD now mirrored on social media sites:

- Facebook (500K+), Instagram (800K+), X (Twitter, 1M+), Discord, BlueSky, etc.

### Nearly 30 Years Later ...



APOD receives inaugural Outreach Prize at 2022 meeting of the International Astronomical Union

### Love and War by Moonlight




Congo: Lualaba Province

APOD:2021 July 16

### Abstract

NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD: [apod.nasa.gov](http://apod.nasa.gov)) has been featuring and explaining astronomical images from around the world for over 30 years, including many from Africa. This presentation will feature images on APOD that originated from, or included prominent images of, countries in Africa including Algeria, Botswana, Canary Islands (Spain), Chad, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Reunion Island (France), South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Also included are interesting images taken of parts of Africa from space by NASA. It will be reviewed how and why Africa's night skies are important to the world, and how the night sky and popular astronomy images are a unifying influence for peoples not only across Africa but around the world.

### A Year in Sunsets



Egypt: Cairo

APOD:2024 December 21

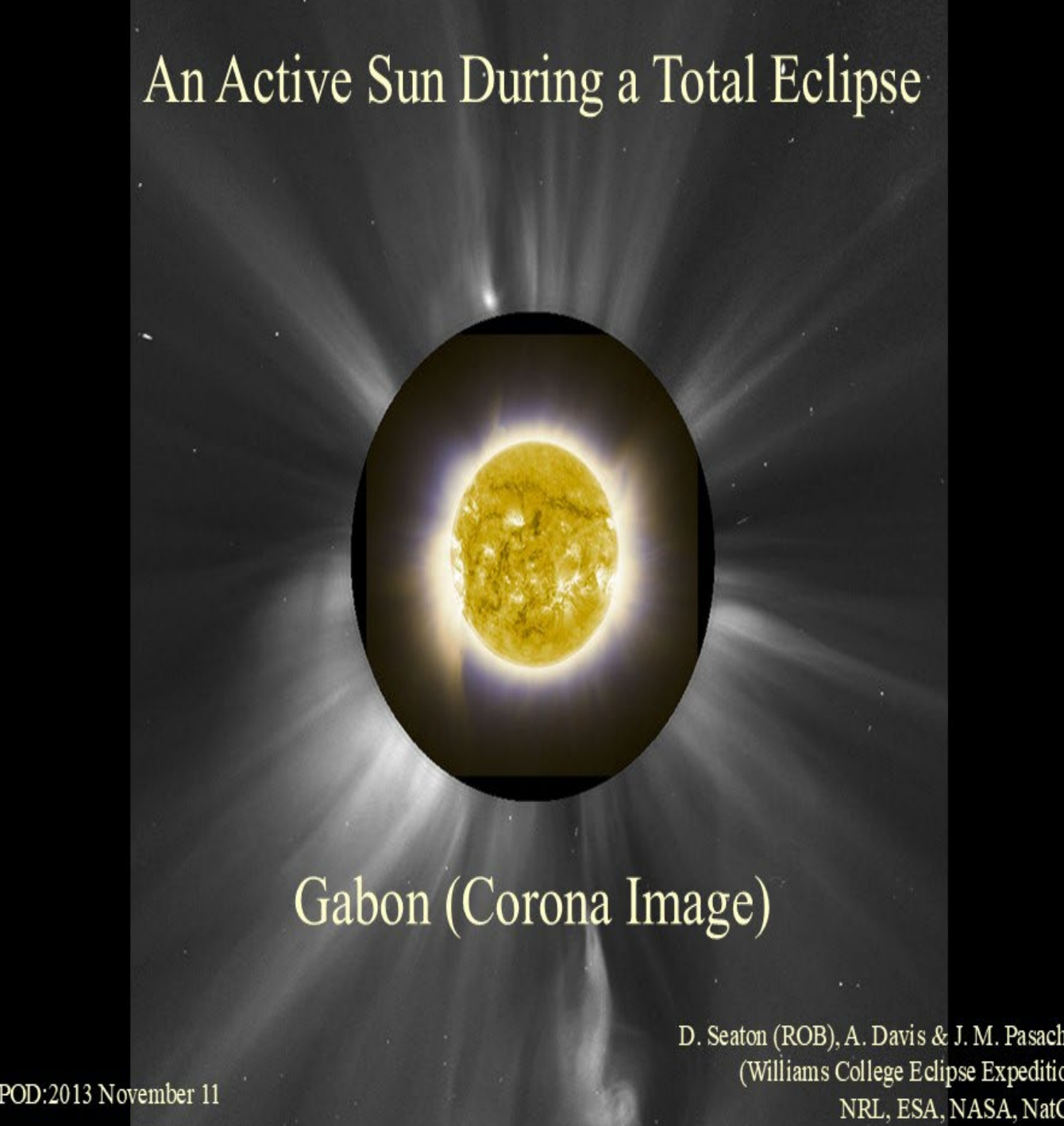
### A Pileus Iridescent Cloud Over Ethiopia



Ethiopia

APOD:2011 August 21

### An Active Sun During a Total Eclipse



Gabon (Corona Image)

APOD:2013 November 11

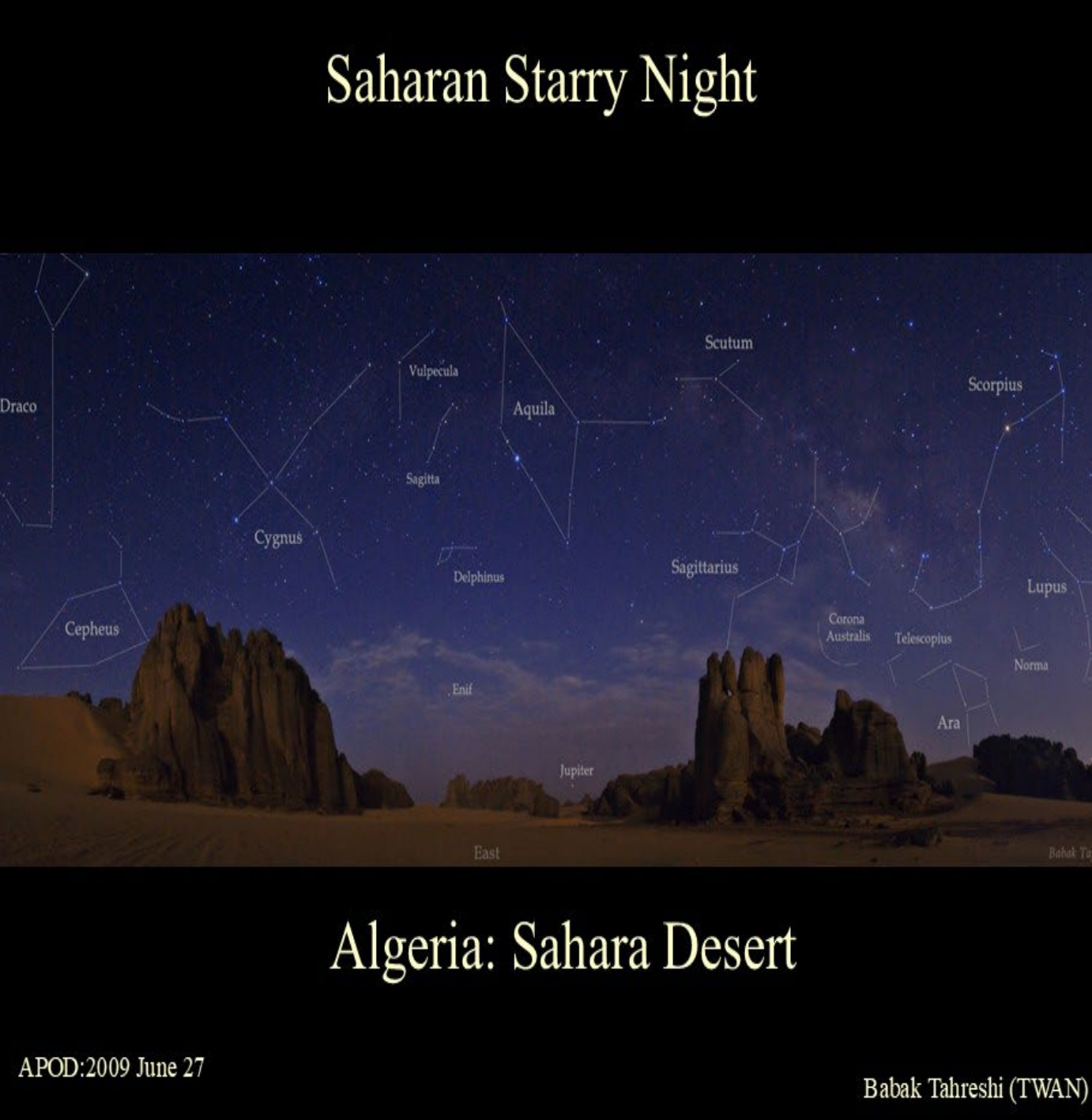
### A Hybrid Solar Eclipse over Kenya



Kenya

APOD:2017 July 24


### Saharan Starry Night



Algeria: Sahara Desert

APOD:2009 June 27

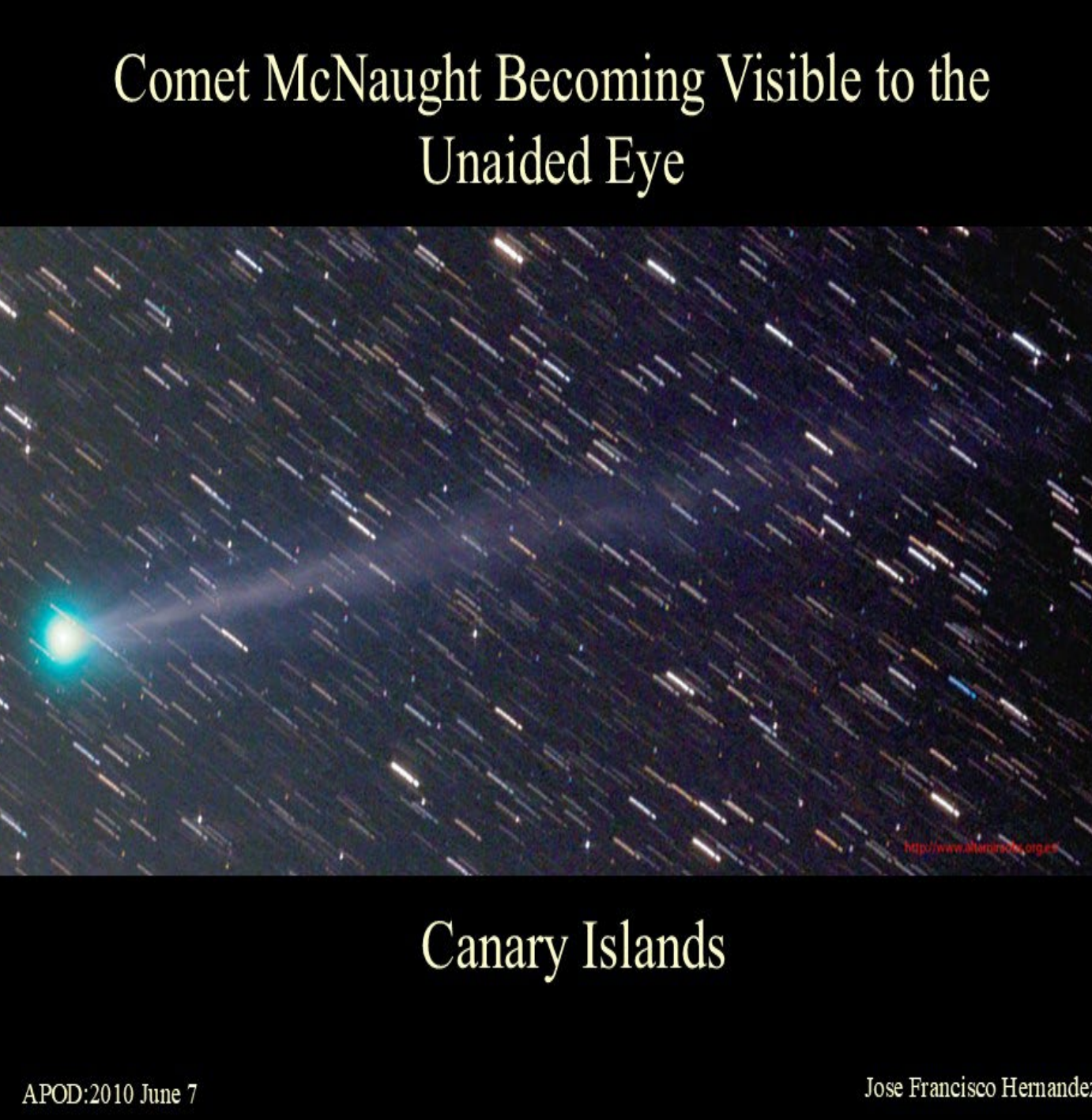
### A Kalahari Sky



Botswana: Kalahari Desert

APOD:2017 May 30

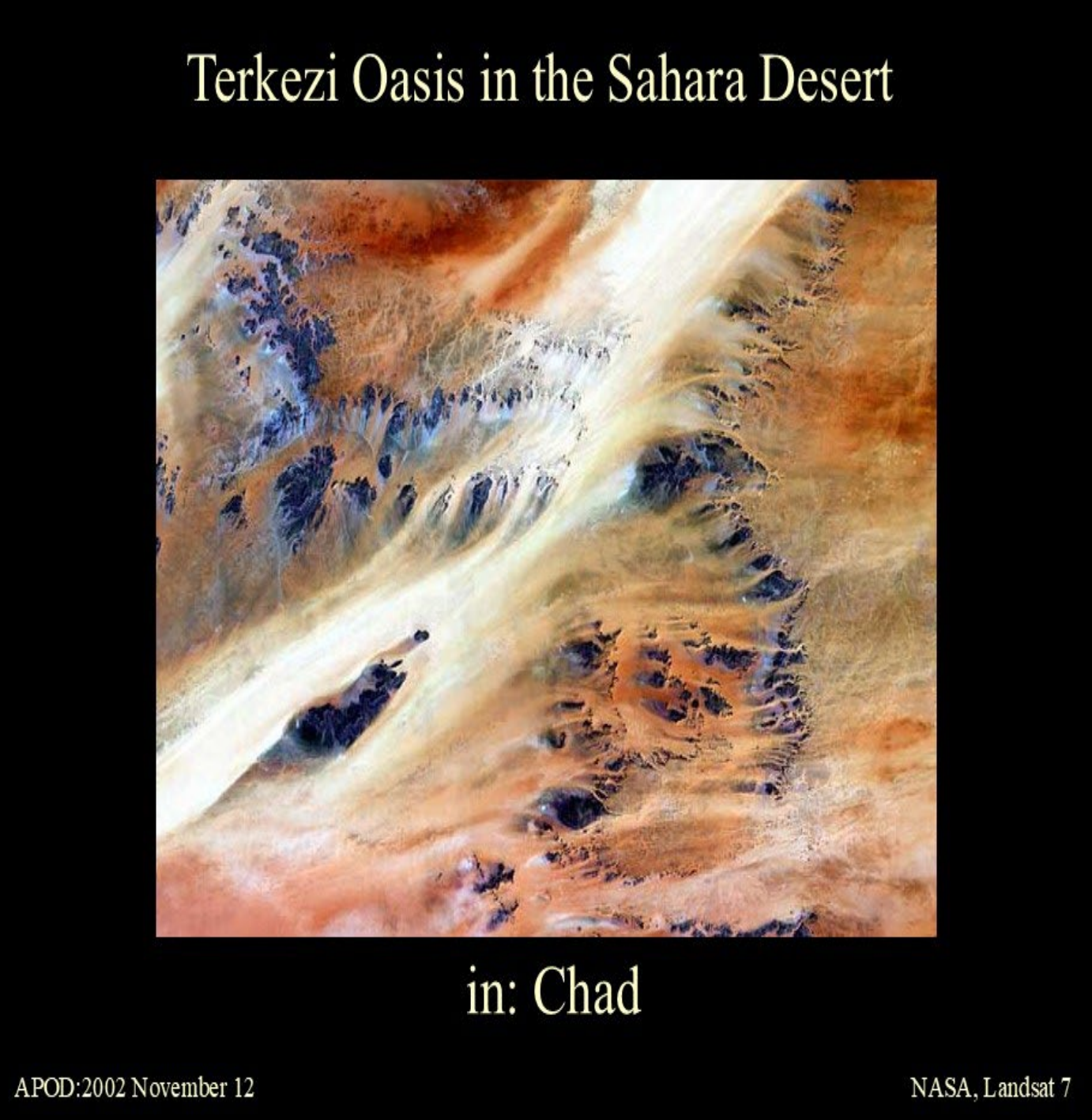
### Comet McNaught Becoming Visible to the Unaided Eye



Canary Islands

APOD:2010 June 7

### Terkezi Oasis in the Sahara Desert



in: Chad

APOD:2002 November 12

### Skylights Over Libya



Libya: Ras Lanuf

APOD:2010 December 28

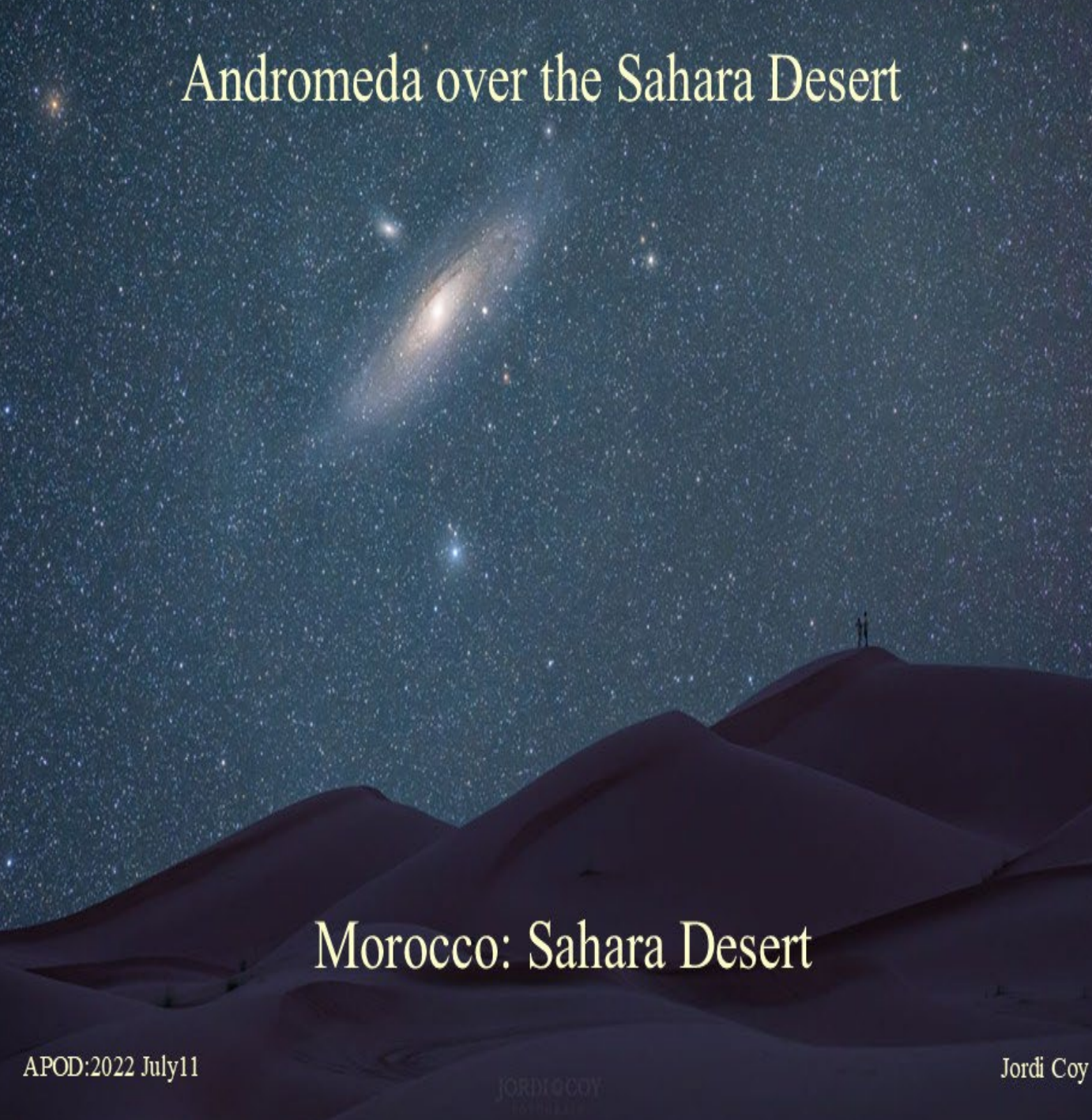
### Earth's Richat Structure



Mauritania: Sahara Desert

APOD:1998 January 5


### Andromeda over the Sahara Desert



Morocco: Sahara Desert

APOD:2022 July 11

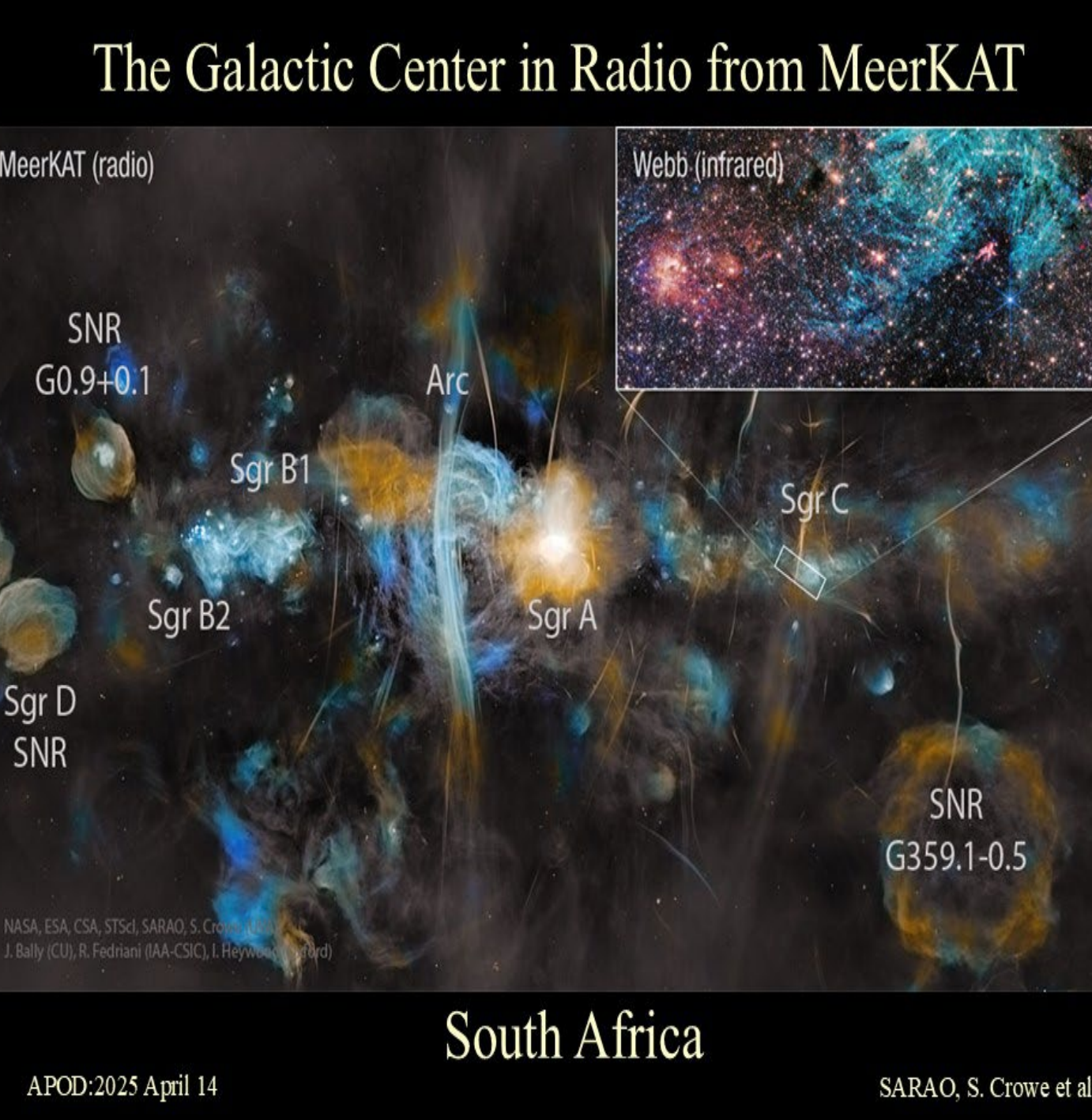
### Milky Way over Deadvlei in Namibia



Namibia: Namib-Naukluft Park

APOD:2018 April 18

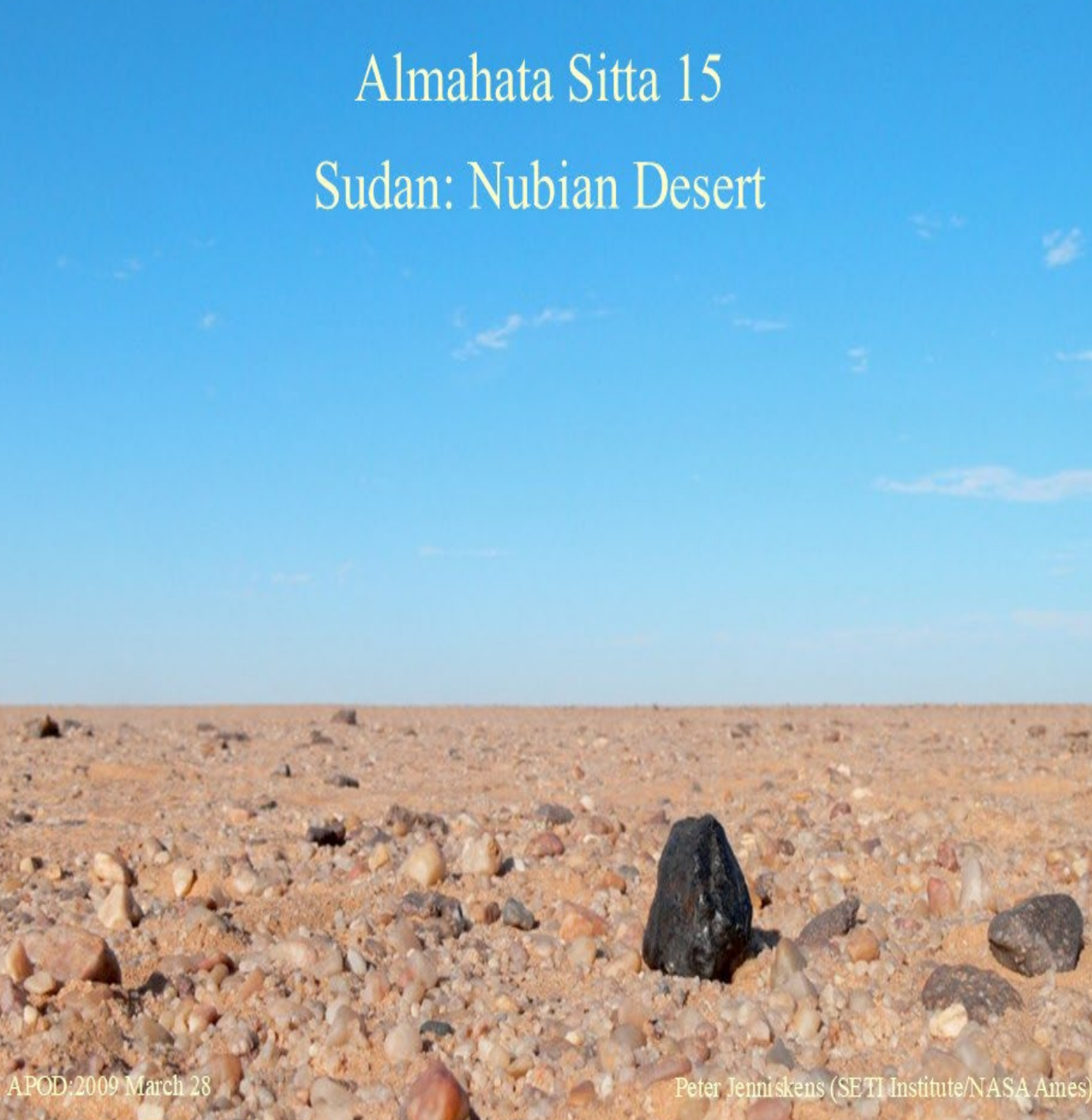
### The Galactic Center in Radio from MeerKAT



South Africa

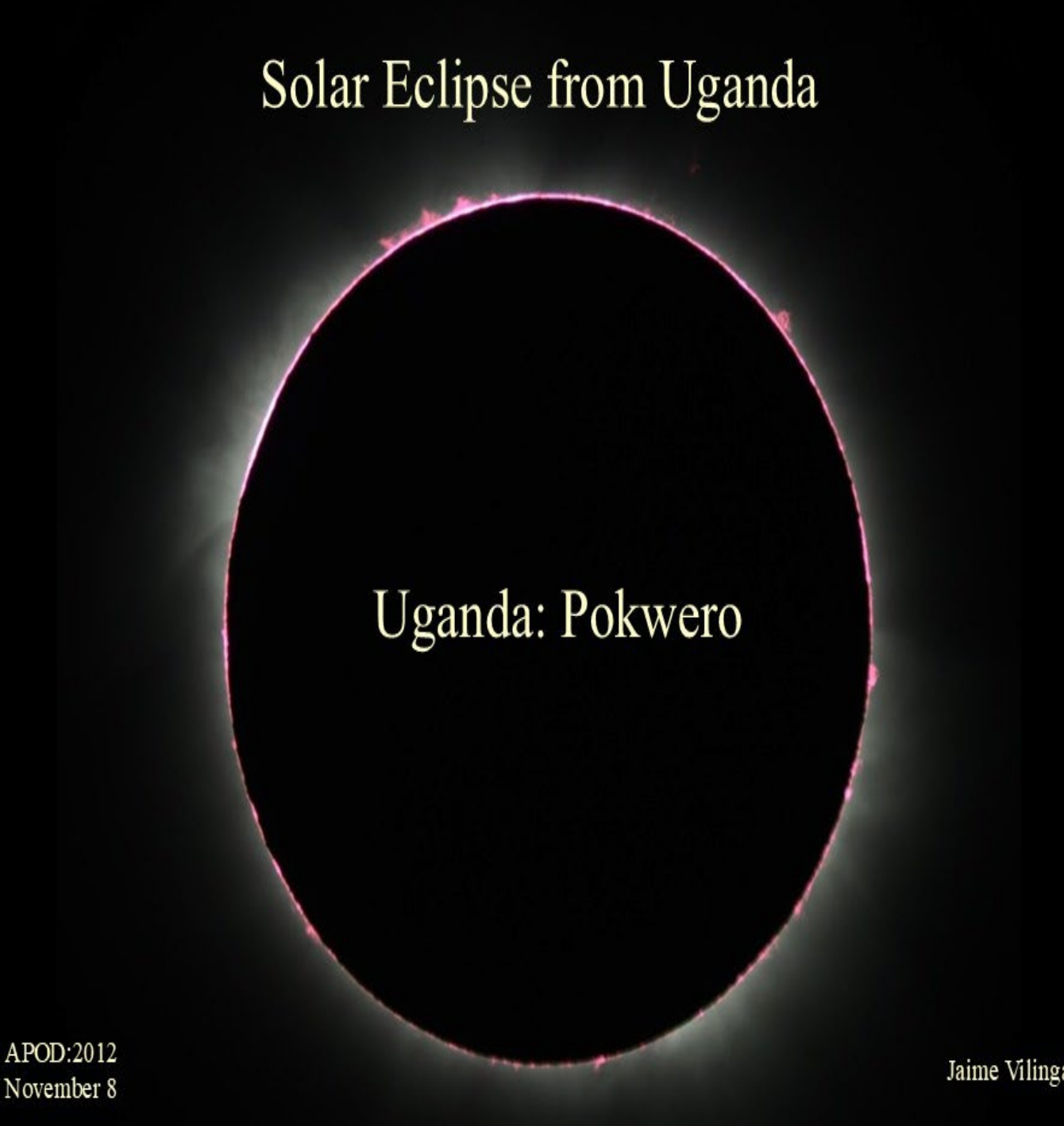
APOD:2025 April 14

### Almahata Sitta 15 Sudan: Nubian Desert



APOD:2009 March 25

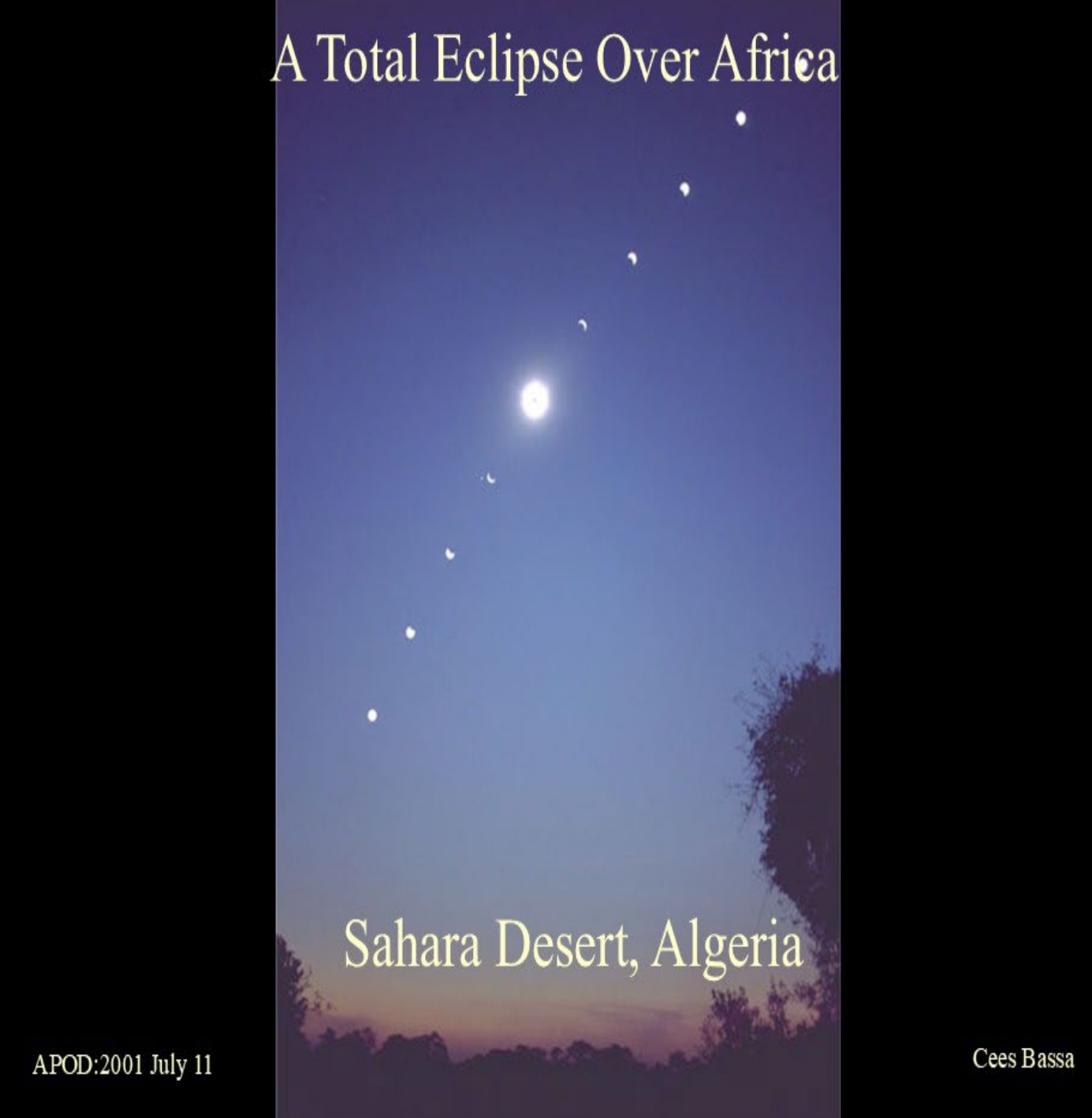
### Solar Eclipse from Uganda



Uganda: Pokwero

APOD:2012 November 8

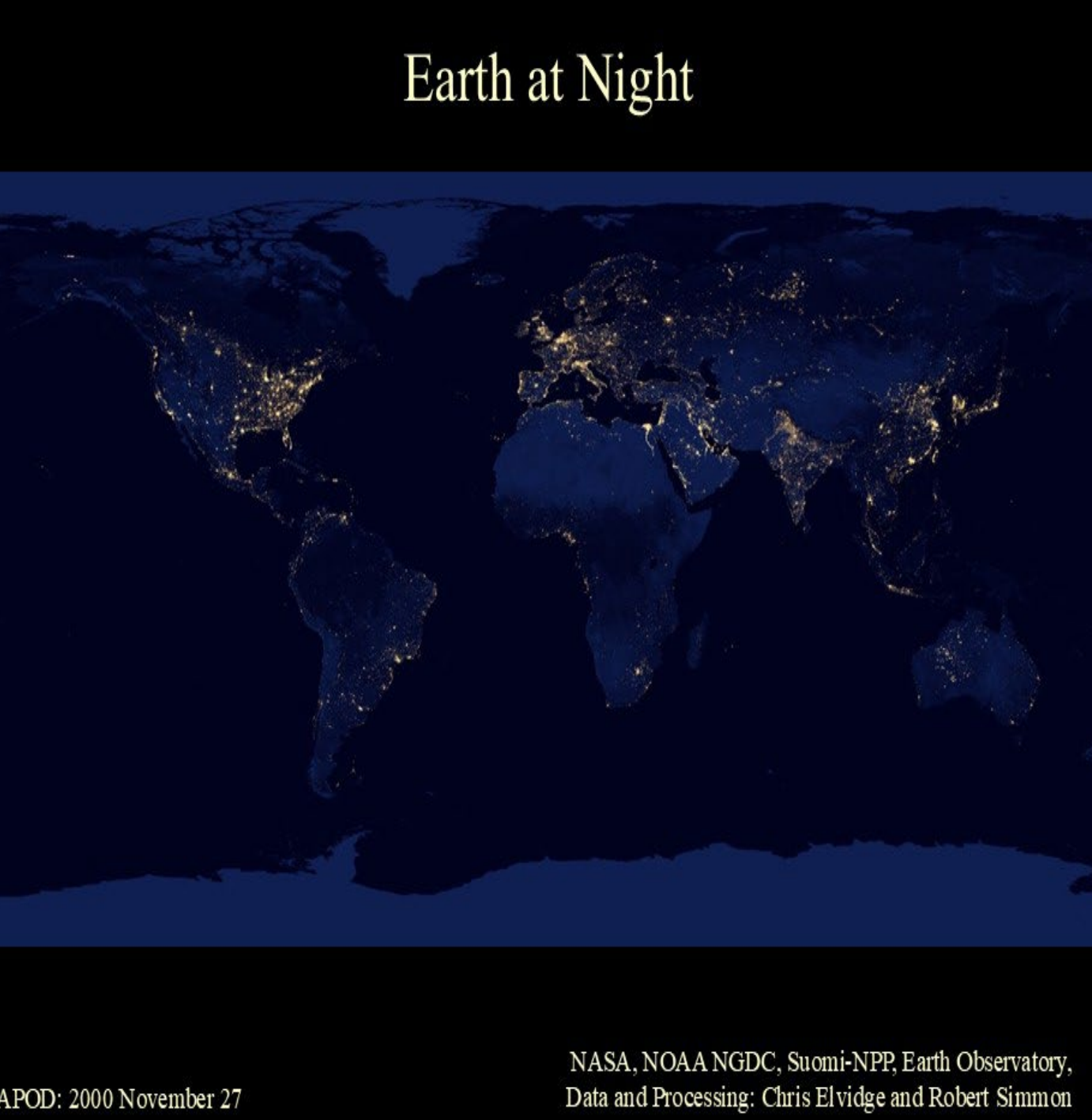
### A Total Eclipse Over Africa



Sahara Desert, Algeria

APOD:2001 July 11

### Earth at Night



APOD: 2000 November 27

### Postscripts

- Thank you:
  - NASA, Fans of APOD
  - African Astronomical Society
- I have a new book!
  - *Faster than Light: How Your Shadow Can Do It But You Can't*
  - Written on a popular level
  - Available through Amazon.com
  - Free digital copy: Email: [nemiroff@mbu.edu](mailto:nemiroff@mbu.edu)
  - Add mention this presentation

