

IAU Working Group on Eclipses Annual Report for the Calendar Year 2020  
Inter-Division C-E WG Solar Eclipses — **Functional**

Jay M. Pasachoff, Chair

[eclipse@williams.edu](mailto:eclipse@williams.edu)

[https://www.iau.org/science/scientific\\_bodies/working\\_groups/93/](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/93/)

- Members: Jay Pasachoff (USA, Chair), Iraida Kim (Russia), Hiroki Kurokawa (Japan), Jagdev Singh (India), Vojtech Rusin (Slovakia), Yoichiro Hanaoka (Japan), Zhongquan Qu (China), Beatriz Garcia (Argentina), Patricio Rojo (Chile), Xavier Jubier (France), Fred Espenak (US), Jay Anderson (Canada), Glenn Schneider (US), Michael Gill (UK), Michael Zeiler (USA), Bill Kramer (USA); associates: Michael Kentrianakis (USA), and Ralph Chou (Canada). For the 2019 and 2020 total eclipses in Chile and Argentina, Patricio Rojo (U. Chile) and Beatriz Garcia (Pierre Auger Observatory, Argentina) were added to the Working Group.
- <http://eclipses.info>

Web sites: [www.eclipses.info](http://www.eclipses.info), and for specific expeditions: [www.totalsolareclipse.net](http://www.totalsolareclipse.net).

The Working Group on Solar Eclipses has as its task the coordination of solar eclipse efforts, particularly making liaisons with customs and other officials of countries through which the path of totality passes and providing educational information about the safe observation of eclipses for the wide areas of the Earth in which total or partial eclipses are visible. Two of our members, Espenak and Anderson, produce widely used Technical Publications with eclipse paths and detailed information, available as hard copies or online, linked through [www.eclipses.info](http://www.eclipses.info) or via <http://EclipseWise.com>, a successor to the "NASA Eclipse Site." Gill runs the Solar Eclipse Mailing List, now at [SEML@groups.io](mailto:SEML@groups.io); daily summaries are available: <https://groups.io/g/SEML>. Anderson at <http://eclipsophile.com> has cloudiness statistics and other weather-related information. Chou, a professor of optometry, is the world's expert on eye safety at eclipses. Jubier produces zoomable, clickable maps customizable for each eclipse; the forthcoming few are linked at our website at <http://eclipses.info>.

Schneider is an expert on aerial eclipse flights, and has planned a flight to the sunrise point for the 4 December 2021 totality that otherwise passes only over Antarctica and nearby ocean with low cloudiness-success probability. Kramer at <http://eclipse-chasers-com> keeps a log of statistics of individual eclipse observers, and is newly partnering with Andreas Möller for an archive of historical eclipse papers. Kentrianakis was the project manager for the American Astronomical Society's 2017 eclipse efforts, <http://eclipse.aas.org>; the site now has advance notice of the 2023 and 2024 eclipse visibility across the United States. Pasachoff is a member of the newly reconstituted American Astronomical Society Task Group on Eclipses for the 2023 annular eclipse, with partial phases across all of North America, and the 2024 total solar eclipse, with totality from Mazatlán, Mexico across the US from Texas to Maine and onto the Canadian Maritimes.

Among our successes is the distribution of material for tens of thousands of eye-protection filters. The organization Astronomers Without Borders collected millions of slightly used

"eclipse glasses" (really "partial eclipse glasses") from users at the 2017 American eclipse. As an example, jmp brought 5000 of them to Mumbai and Madurai, India, for use at the 26 December 2019 annular eclipse, with further use at the 12 June 2020 annular eclipse. Some were sent to Chile for the 14 December 2020 total solar eclipse.

Because of the pandemic access was limited for international travelers for the June 21, 2020, annular eclipse, with path from Africa across the Middle East, through China, and for the December 14, 2020, total solar eclipse whose path was centered on Chile and Argentina, extending from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Though he was unable to get to either the annularity or the totality because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, Pasachoff summarized the observations of others in articles in *Astronomy Magazine*:

Pasachoff, Jay M., 2021, "Corona Light," 2020 annular eclipse images, *Astronomy Magazine*, February issue, pp. 40-45.

Pasachoff, Jay M., 2021, "The 2020 Total Eclipse," *Astronomy Magazine*, April issue, pp. 47-51.

Soon after the eclipse, NASA released the following:

Eclipse prediction -- <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2020/scientists-use-nasa-data-predict-appearance-corona-dec-14-total-solar-eclipse>

Eclipse comet -- <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2020/recently-discovered-comet-seen-during-2020-total-solar-eclipse-SOHO>

At the time of the 2019 eclipse, Alexander Kosonovich was in charge of IAU Symposium 354 at Copiapo, Chile; the proceedings were published by Cambridge University Press. *Solar and Stellar Magnetic Fields: Origins and Manifestations*, Copiapo, Chile, July 2019. The Proceedings appeared in September 2020:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/proceedings-of-the-international-astronomical-union/issue/88BDDA474A28E3FE79CB2BE7CE3D8854>

At the time of the 2020 total solar eclipse, Beatriz Garcia ran IAU Symposium 367, <http://sion.frm.utn.edu.ar/iaus367/>, *Education and Heritage in the Era of Big Data in Astronomy: The first steps on the IAU 2020-2030 Strategic Plan*. Originally scheduled for 9-14 December 2020, San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, with a trip to totality at the end of the meeting, it was made virtual. Pasachoff gave an eclipse lecture. The proceedings are in press at Cambridge University Press.

Each year, we provide "Eclipses" for the International Geophysical Calendar (International Space Environmental Service), <http://www.spaceweather.org/ISES/info/geocal/geocal.html>