

August 26th, 2014

Contacts:

Patrick Paolucci
press@slooh.com
877-427-5664 x3

Ice Giant Neptune Frontlines Potentially Hazardous Asteroid 2002 CU11 “Dodgeball” on its Closest Approach to Earth

On the night Neptune forms a straight line with the Sun and Earth in the Solar System, Asteroid 2002 CU11, with an approximate size of AT&T Stadium (500 m - 1.3 km), will flyby Earth on its closest approach. The asteroid, which we nicknamed “Dodgeball” because of its frequent returns to Earth’s vicinity, was originally listed on the Sentry Risk Table with a Torino Scale rating of 1 - at which time the asteroid was calculated to have a 1 in 9,300 chance of impacting Earth in 2049. However, follow-up observations and refinements of the asteroid’s orbit have removed such impact fears. The asteroid has an unusual, highly inclined orbit, about 48 degrees above the plane of the Solar System.

Slooh will celebrate mankind’s scientific prowess, and good fortune, with live views of this dodgy neighborhood asteroid as it zips past our world, featuring as well live views of Neptune and its giant moon Triton performing a “Moonwalk” style backward dance.

Neptune coverage will begin on Friday, August 29th starting at 5 PM PDT / 8 PM EDT / 00:00 UTC (8/30) - International Times: goo.gl/bLWshU with live views from the Institute of Astrophysics, Canary Islands (IAC). The four hour image stream will be accompanied by a multitude of audio segments on Neptune from different Slooh personalities, including Slooh Astronomer Bob Berman.

Slooh will transition coverage to Asteroid 2002 CU11 starting at 9 PM PDT / 12 AM EDT (8/30) / 04:00 UTC (8/30) - International Times: goo.gl/qCXhsT with live views again from the Institute of Astrophysics, Canary Islands (IAC). Slooh will track Asteroid 2002 CU11 live on its closest approach to Earth. The live image stream will be hosted by Geoff Fox, accompanied by expert commentary from Slooh Astronomer, Bob Berman, Slooh engineer, Paul Cox, and special guest, Lindley N. Johnson, NEO Programs Executive, Planetary Science Division, NASA HQ. Viewers can ask questions during the show by using hashtag #CU11Neptune.

On August 29th the farthest planet, Neptune, will line up directly opposite the Sun as seen from Earth. This alignment, called opposition, provides the ideal occasion to explore the many

oddities of this distant planet, discovered in 1846. Neptune is the eighth planet from our Sun, the fourth largest planet by diameter, and is 17 times the mass of the Earth. Neptune has 14 known moons with the final one discovered just last year. Its largest moon Triton is 1,680 miles (2,700 km) across. In comparison, the diameter of our Moon is 2159 miles (3,474 km).

Discovered in February 2002 by the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR), Asteroid CU11 orbits the Sun in 492 days, and will pass within 13.5 lunar distances (about 3.2 million miles distance) this time around. In August of 2080, Asteroid 2002 CU11 will flyby Earth at less than two lunar distances. Based on 2002 CU11's size and speed, it's estimated that if it should ever impact it would release the energy of 53,000 megatons of TNT. From observations made during the show, Slooh will pass along valuable orbital data to help the Minor Planet Center to further improve the asteroid's orbital information.

To see Neptune during opposition, astronomy hobbyists should point their telescope towards the constellation of Aquarius, just to the left of the 4th magnitude star Sigma Aquarii, and look for a blue 8th magnitude "star." It will be highest up between 10 PM and 2 AM, local time.

"Neptune shares with Earth a distinct blue color," says Slooh astronomer Bob Berman. "In our case the color comes from a combo-plate: Our oceans absorb red light and reflect away the blue, plus our atmosphere scatters blue light. But Neptune's color is due to methane -- what we on Earth call natural gas. It absorbs the sun's red light, but bounces the blue back to our eyes. The result is arguably the most deeply colored planet in the solar system. And the only one that always requires a telescope, since Neptune alone is never visible to the naked eye."

Neptune and Asteroid 2002 CU11 Broadcast Details:

Neptune and Asteroid 2002 CU11 Broadcast Details:

Start time: August 29th at 5:00 PM PDT / 8:00 PM EDT / 00:00 UTC (8/30)

Link: www.slooh.com

Hashtag: #CU11Neptune

One Embed for both shows:

```
<iframe
src="http://new.livestream.com/accounts/8724297/events/3317083/player?width=560&height=315&autoplay=true&mute=false" width="560" height="315" frameborder="0" scrolling="no">
</iframe>
```

Slooh Media Policy:

We own all copyright rights in the text, images, photographs, video, audio, graphics, user interface, and other content provided on Slooh live broadcasts. At times, we may include additional content from NASA or

other official partners to help explain what's happening in the live image feed. A Slooh watermark will be included on our live feed. Slooh may run a house ad prior, during, or after any broadcast to highlight the Slooh cooperative and/or iPad app program. You may embed our feeds into your coverage so long as courtesy of Slooh is located next to the feed with a link back to www.slooh.com. You may not alter or modify our broadcast in any way, unless provided with written permission to do so.

About Slooh

Slooh makes astronomy incredibly easy, engaging and affordable for anyone with a desire to see outer space for themselves. Since 2003 Slooh has connected telescopes to the Internet for access by the broader public. Slooh's automated observatories develop celestial images in real-time for broadcast to the Internet. Slooh's technology is protected by Patent No.: US 7,194,146 B2 which was awarded in 2006. Slooh members have taken over 2.5m photos/140,000 FITS of over 40,000 celestial objects, participated in numerous discoveries with leading astronomical institutions and made over 2,000 submissions to the Minor Planet Center. Slooh's flagship observatories are situated on Mt. Teide, in partnership with the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC), and in Chile, in partnership with the Catholic University. Slooh has also broadcast live celestial events from partner observatories in Arizona, Japan, Hawaii, Cypress, Dubai, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Norway. Slooh's free live broadcasts of potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs), comets, transits, eclipses, solar activity etc. feature narration by astronomy experts Bob Berman and Paul Cox and are syndicated to media outlets worldwide. Slooh signed a Space Act Agreement with NASA in March 2014 to "Bring the Universe to Everyone and Help Protect Earth, Too."

Facebook: www.facebook.com/slooh

Twitter: www.twitter.com/slooh