

April 9, 2014

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**Images/Video** (additional charts in footer):

[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15\\_Total\\_Lunar\\_Eclipse/Slooh\\_Charts/Arizona/03\\_Arizona\\_U2.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15_Total_Lunar_Eclipse/Slooh_Charts/Arizona/03_Arizona_U2.png)  
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## **Slooh Live Broadcasts of Mars Closest Approach and Total Lunar Eclipse on Same Night**

On the night of April 14th, two significant and spectacular events will take place simultaneously, as Mars reaches its closest point to Earth while the Moon will be totally eclipsed. Slooh will present these events in real time, starting with coverage of Mars at 7 PM PDT / 10 PM EDT / 02 UTC (4/15) ([International Times](#)) from Slooh's telescopes off the west coast of Africa in the Canary Islands and transitioning to coverage of the Total Lunar Eclipse starting at 11 PM PDT / 2 AM EDT (4/15) / 06 UTC (4/15) ([International Times](#)) with live feeds from throughout North America. Viewers can watch free on Slooh.com or by downloading the Slooh iPad app. The live image stream will be hosted by Slooh Observatory Director Paul Cox and Slooh astronomer Bob Berman, who will be reporting live from Prescott Observatory in Prescott, Arizona. Viewers can ask questions during the show by using hashtag #Slooh.

A wide range of experts will join Slooh during five full hours of programming, including astronomy luminary and bestselling author Timothy Ferris, author of "Seeing in the Dark", and Professor Emeritus of Astronomy at UC Berkeley, and documentary filmmaker Duncan Copp, producer of the award winning film, "In the Shadow of the Moon". This is the latest in a series of total lunar eclipse broadcasts dating back to Slooh's founding in 2003, the highlights of which are a June 2011 broadcast that was featured in the [Google Doodle](#) and a December 2010 eclipse broadcast live on the largest jumbotron in Times Square.

This particular lunar eclipse is expected to draw incredible interest because it is visible from the entire United States, and also because the reddish eclipsed moon will float very near the striking blue star Spica, as well as hovering to the left of orange Mars. Altogether, the eclipse will be part of a dramatic sky-spectacle. "There are not too many remaining members of the Flat Earth Society," comments SLOOH astronomer Bob Berman. "And one reason for that organization's declining attendance is revealed by the lunar eclipse. You see, only a globe *always* casts a round shadow. On eclipse night, half the world will watch the moon venture into a rounded-edged shadow, at the point of the sky exactly opposite the sun, where our world's

shadow must be cast. More than 2000 years ago, some of the ancient Greeks used this basic reality of lunar eclipses to conclude that Earth must be a sphere. We can confirm their conclusions Monday night.”

“Most people do not realize that our planet casts a red shadow into space,” Berman adds. “That’s because our atmosphere refracts or bends a little bit of sunlight into its shadow. All the world’s sunrises and sunsets send their indirect light to the moon at this time -- as the only light hitting the Moon. The result is that the fully eclipsed moon assumes a gorgeous coppery color.”

Mars orbits the Sun at a speed of 15 miles per second -- very similar to Earth’s 18.5 miles per second. The similarity means that after the two orbits align, it takes fully 26 months for them to meet again. Moreover, the meeting can happen at a narrow gap between the planets’ orbits, or a wider gap. The current meeting gap is a bit better than the 2012 opposition, and as a result Mars should virtually match the brilliance of Sirius, the night’s brightest star. Still, Mars only appears 15 arcseconds in width, less than half the apparent diameter of Jupiter. This small angular size -- even now during its closest approach in over four years -- makes the orange world a challenging telescope target. SLOOH’s telescopes are expected to reveal some of its surface features, but backyard amateur astronomers should expect a very small disk containing only dusky markings.

#### **Mars Closest Approach Broadcast Details:**

**Start time:** April 14th at 7 PM PDT / 10 PM EDT / 02 UTC (4/15)

**Link:** [www.slooh.com](http://www.slooh.com)

**Hashtag:** #Slooh

**Embed:** `<iframe width="1280" height="720" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/w9-RDrKzNiQ" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

#### **Total Lunar Eclipse Broadcast Details:**

**Start time:** April 14th at 11 PM PDT / 2 AM EDT (4/15) / 06 UTC (4/15)

**Link:** [www.slooh.com](http://www.slooh.com)

**Hashtag:** #Slooh

**Embed:** `<iframe width="1280" height="720" src="//www.youtube.com/embed/S7aXzE5ZNH8" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

#### **Total Lunar Eclipse Charts**

[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/02 Canary Islands U1.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/02%20Canary%20Islands%20U1.png)

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[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/Arizona/04 Arizona U3.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/Arizona/04%20Arizona%20U3.png)

[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/Arizona/05 Arizona U4.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/Arizona/05%20Arizona%20U4.png)

[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/Arizona/06 Arizona P4.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/Arizona/06%20Arizona%20P4.png)

[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/Los Angeles/01 Los Angeles P1.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/Los%20Angeles/01%20Los%20Angeles%20P1.png)

[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/Los Angeles/02 Los Angeles U1.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/Los%20Angeles/02%20Los%20Angeles%20U1.png)

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[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/Los Angeles/04 Los Angeles U3.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/Los%20Angeles/04%20Los%20Angeles%20U3.png)

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[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/New York/02 New York U1.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/New%20York/02%20New%20York%20U1.png)  
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[http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15 Total Lunar Eclipse/Slooh Charts/New York/06 New York P4.png](http://images.slooh.com/events/2014-04-15%20Total%20Lunar%20Eclipse/Slooh%20Charts/New%20York/06%20New%20York%20P4.png)

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### **About Slooh**

Since 2003 Slooh has connected ground-based telescopes to the Internet for access by the broader public. Slooh members have taken over 2.4m photos of over 40,000 celestial objects, and participated in numerous discoveries with leading astronomical institutions. 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's flagship observatory is situated on Mt. Teide in the Canary Islands, in partnership with the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC). 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 such as NBC, ABC, CNN, Fox News, National Geographic, the BBC, Wired, The Weather Channel and more. Slooh's live celestial events have been viewed over a billion times, the highlight of which was the 2011 lunar eclipse broadcast live on Google's home page.

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