



## Yuri's Night 2013

Join the Planetarium, the [National Space Society of North Texas \(NSS-NT\)](#), [Texas Astronomical Society](#), [Fort Worth Astronomical Society](#), and the [Fort Worth Museum of Science and History](#) as we celebrate the first spaceflight on April 12<sup>th</sup> with our Yuri's Night party.

The event runs from 6:00 – 10:00 pm on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the UTA Planetarium. Events will include planetarium shows, speakers, exhibits, telescopes and more. Admission is free to all speakers and exhibits. Planetarium show admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 children/seniors. Seating to all events is limited, so arrive early to ensure you get a good seat!

- 6:00 – Mayan Prophecies
- 7:30 – Guest Speaker TBA
- 9:00 - The Moon You Never Knew: All The Latest on our Celestial Companion
- 9:30 – NASA Is Not Dead: Introducing the Space Launch System



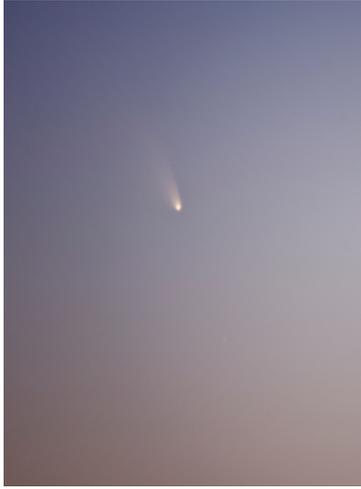
## New Mars Photos From Curiosity

NASA released a new 4 billion pixel image from the Mars Curiosity Rover. The images for the panorama were obtained by the rover's two Mast Cameras:

- **Narrow Angle Camera (NAC)**, which has a 100 mm focal length
- **Medium Angle Camera (MAC)**, which has a 34 mm focal length

The mosaic, which stretches 90,000 x 45,000 pixels, includes 295 images from NAC taken on Sols 136-149 and 112 images from MAC taken on Sol 137.

Pan and zoom through the [image](#) on the [360 Cities website](#), the level of detail is astounding! As this is a huge image file, it may take a couple minutes to load, depending on the download capacity of your computer and Internet provider.



## Comets Lemmon and PanSTARRS

As comet PanSTARRS fades from our northwestern skies at dusk, comet Lemmon begins to make an appearance at dawn. PanSTARRS is still visible and may become a little easier to spot, as it heads into darker skies over the next few weeks. Find out how to see PanSTARRS [here](#).

Comet Lemmon broke naked-eye visibility reaching +6<sup>th</sup> magnitude in late February and has thus far closely matched expectations. Current reports place it at magnitude +4 to +5 as it crosses northward through the constellation Cetus. Predictions place the maximum post-perihelion brightness between magnitudes +3 and +5 in early April, and thus far, Comet Lemmon seems to be [performing](#) right down the middle of this range.

Keep in mind, the quoted brightness of a comet is extended over its entire surface area. Thus, while a +4<sup>th</sup> magnitude star may be easily visible in the dawn, a 3<sup>rd</sup> or even 2<sup>nd</sup> magnitude comet may be invisible to the unaided eye. Anyone who attempted to spot [Comet PanSTARRS](#) in the dusk last month knows how notoriously fickle it actually was. Binoculars are your friend in this endeavor. Begin slowly sweeping the southeast horizon about an hour before local sunrise looking for a fuzzy “star” that refuses to reach focus. Comet Lemmon will get progressively easier in the dawn sky for latitudes successively farther north as the month of April progresses.

A preview guide to see comet Lemmon can be found [here](#).



## Major Cities Minus Light Pollution

French photographer [Thierry Cohen](#) worries about city dwellers not being able to see the starry sky. With light and air pollution plaguing urban areas, it is not as if residents can look up from their streets and roof decks to spot constellations and shooting stars. So, what effect does this have? Cohen fears, as he recently [told](#) the *New York Times*, that the hazy view has spawned a breed of urbanite, sheltered by his and her manmade environs, that “forgets and no longer understands nature.”

Three years ago, Cohen embarked on a grand plan to help remedy this situation. He’d give city dwellers a taste of what they were missing. The photographer crisscrossed the globe photographing cityscapes from Shanghai to Los Angeles to Rio de Janeiro, by day—when cars’ head and taillights and lights shining from the windows of buildings were not a distraction. At each location, Cohen diligently recorded the time, angle, latitude and longitude of the shot. Then, he journeyed to remote deserts and plains at corresponding latitudes, where he pointed his lens to the night sky. For New York, that meant the Black Rock Desert in Nevada. For Hong Kong, the Western Sahara in Africa. For Rio and São Paulo, the Atacama Desert in Chile, and for Cohen’s native Paris, the prairies of northern Montana. Through his own digital photography wizardry, Cohen created seamless composites of his city and skylines.

See more images and read the full article on the Smithsonian’s [blog](#). And come to the Planetarium to see our short video, [Losing the Dark](#) which will be shown during regular public shows.