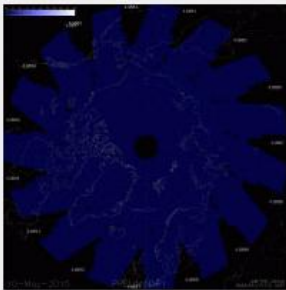


A stream of solar wind flowing from the indicated coronal hole should reach Earth on May 12-13. Credit: SDO/AIA.

Noctilucent Clouds The northern season for NLCs is about to begin. Readers should monitor the "daily daisies" below for first sightings from NASA's AIM spacecraft.



Switch view: [Europe](#), [USA](#), [Asia](#), [Polar](#)
Updated at: 05-07-2015 18:55:02

SPACE WEATHER
NOAA Forecasts



Updated at: 2015 May 09 2200 UTC

FLARE	0-24 hr	24-48 hr
CLASS M	50 %	50 %
CLASS X	10 %	10 %

Geomagnetic Storms:
Probabilities for significant disturbances in Earth's magnetic field are given for three activity levels: [active](#), [minor storm](#), [severe storm](#)

Updated at: 2015 May 09 2200

After a 2.5-hour flight, the microbes parachuted back to Earth, surviving hotter from the Eureka Dunes in California's Death Valley National Park. A team of students from Earth to Sky Calculus recovered the microbes on the same day.

Now the analysis begins. After the recovery, two of the vials were immediately flown across the USA to the University of Maryland, where microbiologists Priya and Shil DasSarma are culturing the microbes. In their state-of-the-art lab, which is supported by NASA, the DasSarmas will analyze the samples for mutations and other changes resulting from the trip to the edge of space. At the same time, the students of Earth to Sky Calculus will conduct [a parallel investigation](#) in California using samples they kept for themselves. This collaboration between Spaceweather.com, Earth to Sky Calculus, and the DasSarmas could lead to some interesting astrobiological discoveries.

THIS RESEARCH IS CROWD-FUNDED: How do we pay for these flights? Actually, *you* pay for them. Readers of Spaceweather.com, mainly private individuals and small businesses, sponsor each and every research flight to the stratosphere. Our latest astrobiology launch was made possible by S2 Maui, a windsurf sail design company. Here is their logo sailing the thin air at 100,000 feet:



The logo is made of a new lightweight windsurf fabric called "SpaceLight," developed by S2 Maui's designer, Artur Szpunar, together with US-based sail cloth manufacturer, Dimension Polyant. Visiting the stratosphere was not only an opportunity to show S2 Maui's logo at the edge of space, but also a chance to expose the fabric to high doses of UV radiation at the top of Earth's atmosphere. "This was a valuable test of our new material in an appropriate environment," says Szpunar.

Become a sponsor: Readers, if you would like to sponsor a flight and see your logo at the edge of space, the cost is only \$500. All proceeds go to cutting-edge student research. [Contact Dr. Tony Phillips](#) for details.

And now you can try them on Earth too: <http://www.s2maui.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/S2Maui-1436315573337976/timeline/>