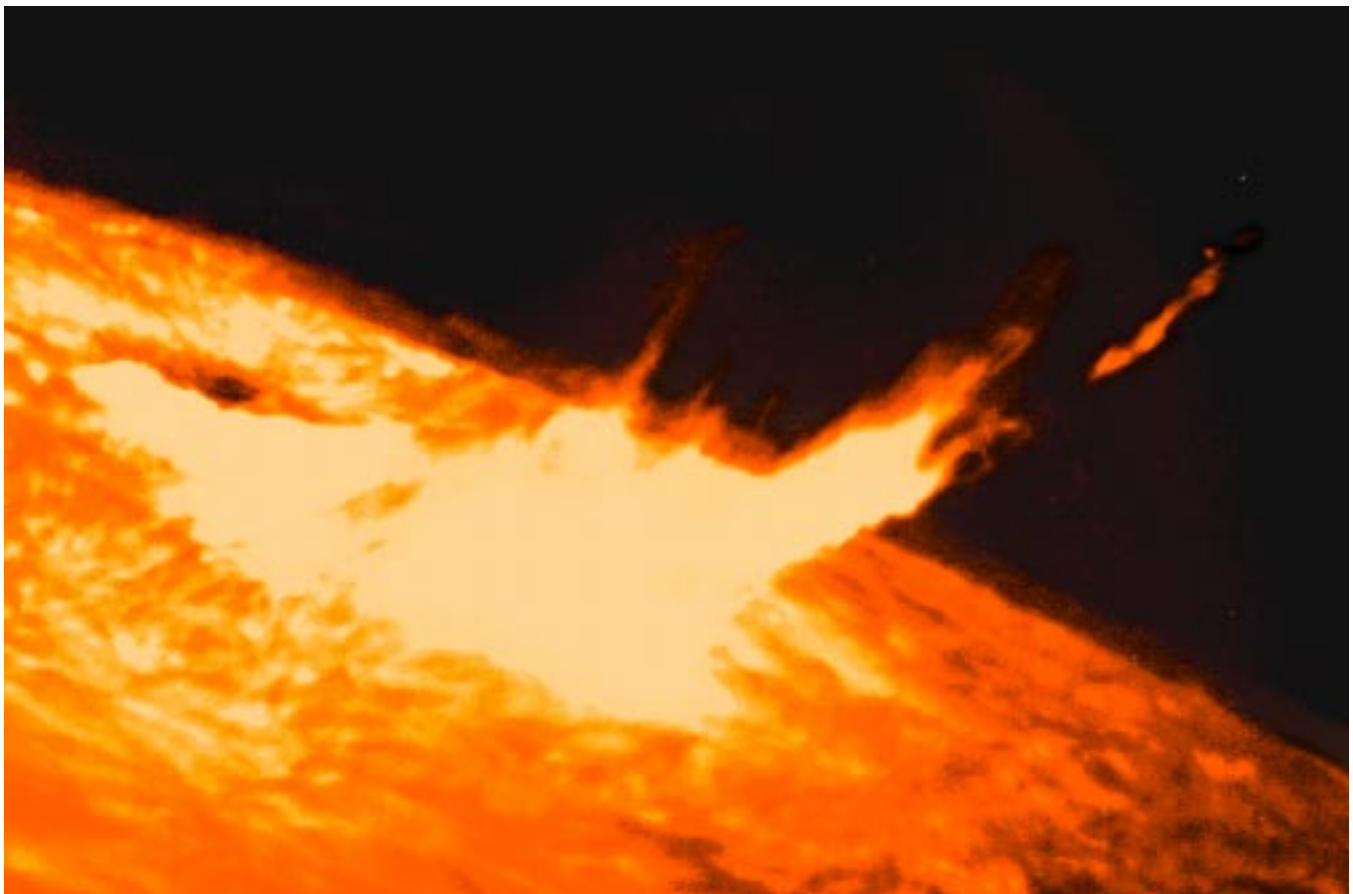


SOLIS

Synoptic Optical Long-term Investigations of the Sun



Solar flares are violent storms on the Sun's surface which can eject particles and emit radiation toward Earth, affecting radio communications. Flares are generally correlated with the solar activity cycle and will become more common as the Sun approaches solar maximum in 2000. The National Solar Observatory's SOLIS telescope project plays a critical role in providing data to understand and predict solar activity like flares.

Photo Credit: National Optical Astronomy Observatories.

Attention Editors: A high-resolution version of this image can be obtained over the Internet via <http://www.noao.edu/>



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