

Re: NYC Events 2/2 Apr 6/ 7

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 - *Date:* Thu, 31 Mar 2005 21:03:26 -0400
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Also celebrating Einstein is Cornelia Street Cafe'. It's art/science series has skits on the chap, I don't know just what the performance is, but for \$10 for a Greenwich Village show, you'll be well taken care of.

Allies in Space, a coalition of several astronomy and space centers, sponsors a special presentation by Dr Neil Tyson on April 2nd. He speaks on 'America's future in space' at the American Museum of naural History. NYSkies is one of the cosponsors, of course, in its mission to encourage and promote astronomy (which includes space). So, check the April 2nd item, come on down, hear a great lecture, meet with fellow NYSkiers and other astronomers.

The Northeast Astronomy Forum, on 16 and 17 April, is the biggest gathering of dealers and vendors for home astronomy. You see, inspect, even try all the gadgets you see in advertising pictures! Yes, NYSkies has a booth; be sure to stop by for a visit.

Earth Day, 22 and 23 April, this year is in Vanderbilt Av, next to Grand Central Terminal. The fair runs on Friday and Saturday, not Saturday and Sunday like in prior years. The fair brings together a diverse coalition of eco/enviro, nature, and civic groups working to make New York a better capital of our home planet. Come on over, rain or shine, to the NYSkies booth.

Sky News

Be sure to advance, nove ahead or forward, your clocks on Sunday, April 3rd, for Daylight Savings Time! It's easiest to do this on Saturday the 2nd when you go to bedt. That way your clocks will show the correst time when you wake up on Sunday. Be specially careful about this if you're fixing to go to events on Saturday and Sunday!

Saturn is still the object of wonder, now joined in the later evening by Jupiter. Jupiter is near Spica, so the old saw is now 'Arc to Arcturus and jump to Jupiter'. Mercury put on a good show during his eastern elongation on a steep ecliptic. NYSkiers found him in deep twilight with little trouble except for high skyline.

We had several good flyovers of the International Space Station in evening hours. On the clear occasions, the spacecraft glided over the skyscrapers, as NYSkers pointed it out to cityfolk.

We're all pumped up for gamma Virginis! This binary rounds periastron in May 2005. For over a year now the two stars were too close for most small scopes to resolve; the star was a single dot. At periastron they stand but 1/4 arcsecond apart! It'll be a yearish before they recede far enough for small instruments to reveal. gamma Virginis is one of the few instances in home astronomy where we can actually see real spatial motion of stars.

City news

The National Football League in March awarded New York the 2010 Super Bowl the first time ever the megagame was played here. The game is contingent on the new sports arena planned for the Hudson yards site, a project under serious contention. This stadium will also be the central arena for the 2012 Olympics.

On March 16th the entire Manhattan reach of the IRT Lexington Av line shut down due to repeated power cuts. Water and salt (from snow melt) seeped into 33rd St station thru an access hole to short out power and signal cables. This hole was cut in 1993 during a rehan project and apparently was improperly patched closed.

In normal operation, this line moves about 1-1/2 million riders on a weekdoay. It is by far the busiest single transit line in the world.

Commerce Bank on April 1st ends indidelly fees for its customers and also starts REIMBURSING FOR FEES CHARGED TO THEM BY FOREIGN BANKS! The scheme in the City is that a fee is charged by BOTH your and the foreign bank when you use a foreign ATM. Commmerce is in effect making all ATM transaction FREE for its customers, regardless of which ATM they use.

This new program may seems silly because each charge is a dollar or so per transaction. It adds up. In 2004 Commerce customers paid to foreign banks about \$40 million in such fees. Check with your local Commerce Bank office.

Every year there is some silliness about the St Patrick's Day parade, the oldest parade in the City. This year, it's the firefighters's turn. In the past, firefighters in the parade wore a knit green beret. Higher ups decreed that only regulation uniforms may be worn, without the beret.

After the usual fire-spitting, some 1,200 firefighters boycotted the arade! They massed up on the stoop of the Metropolitan Museum in civvies --- AND THE BERETS!! The command was that thay can not MARCH eith the berets; it said nothing about being spectators with them.

As part of the Olympic bid, the City issued 'Olympics' subway maps. These are the 2005 update of the 2004 map with the future Olympic sites plotted on it. Some of the places are not built yet, like the Hudson Yards stadium and the Atlantic Yards arena. By late March, these maps were running out. You could be too late.

As an index of the improvement of the City as a wildligfe habitat, the New York Aquarium on March 18th put out a report on harbor seals. In 2004 the seals, migrating here from Canada and Quebec, set up new nests in Staten Island waters and on Hudson River side of Manhattan in the 50s. An estimated 500 to 800 seals now

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inhabit City waters, from Mt St Vincent to Far Rockaway, from City Is

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