

This event is sponsored by



There will be a **planetarium talk** about Pluto by Larry Berz, Planetarium Director and Astronomy Educator, Francis Malcolm Science Center, at the Center in Easton, Thursday, July 9, at 4pm (Maine) 5pm (NB).

Why does the Maine Solar System Model have two Plutos?

The Maine Solar System Model has two Plutos, one at 40 and the other at 33 miles from the Sun! The original model was finished in 2003 and had the nine planets located according to the average distance from the Sun, which for Pluto is 40 Astronomical Units (miles, at the model scale). However, in 2006 the International Astronomical Union reclassified Pluto as one of three "dwarf planets." These dwarf planets were then added to the solar system model, using the present distance (not the average distance) from the Sun as the standard for distance. Since Pluto has a very elliptical orbit and is presently only 33 Astronomical Units from the Sun, a model for the dwarf planet Pluto was placed at that distance.

Pluto Program

An Opportunity to learn about the Solar System and the New Horizons Mission

UMPI's NORTHERN MAINE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE has been an educational outreach partner with the New Horizons Mission to Pluto since 2007. Past Museum events have included the annual Planet Head Day every February (next event: Sat., Feb. 13, 2016) as we celebrate the New Horizons Mission and count down the days to the space craft's arrival at the Dwarf Planet.

For more information, please contact Kevin McCartney at 207.768.9402 or kevin.mccartney@umpi.edu.

NASA's New Horizons Mission to Pluto is a planned scientific investigation to obtain the first close look at Pluto. The space craft was launched in January 2006, received a gravity swing past Jupiter in 2007, and will fly by Pluto and its largest moon, Charon, in July 2015. As part of an extended mission, New Horizons will then move deeper into the Kuiper Belt to study one or more of the icy, rocky objects in that distant region. UMPI's Northern Maine Museum of Science represents the rural, education and public outreach partner in the project.

University of Maine at Presque Isle



One of Maine's Public Universities

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AcadAff/NasaPlutoProbeBchre/July2015

from **PLUTO** *at the* **Speed of Light**



Houlton to Presque Isle via the **Maine Solar System Model**

★
Wednesday, July 15, 2015

presented by

- ★ University of Maine at Presque Isle ★
- ★ Northern Maine Museum of Science ★
- ★ our many Community Partners ★
- ★ the Northern Maine Running Community ★



ON JULY 15, 2015, THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT PRESQUE ISLE AND THE NORTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY WILL LEAD AN EVENT OF ASTRONOMICAL PROPORTIONS – a 40-mile run along the Maine Solar System Model from Pluto (in Houlton) to Earth (in Presque Isle) at the scale speed of light. The run will celebrate the successful arrival of NASA's New Horizons Space Mission to Pluto – the space craft left Earth nine years ago and is expected to send its first up-close image of the dwarf planet on the morning of July 15.

In an Earth-bound, to-scale, real-time illustration of New Horizons' initial transmission, members of the Northern Maine running community

will carry "the signal" (an image of the dwarf planet on a thumb drive) from the model of Pluto to the model of Earth, more or less in sync with the actual photograph from the New Horizons spacecraft fly by past Pluto. Dividing the run into nine segments, runners will travel at about 7 miles per hour, an 8:20 pace, to run at the scale speed of light. Spectators are encouraged to gather in downtown Bridgewater, downtown Mars Hill, and at the model of Earth (next to Percy's Auto Sales) to cheer on the runners.

A celebration and viewing party will be held inside Percy's Auto Sales after arrival at Earth so participants can see New Horizons' official transmission of the photo.



TRAVELING FROM SOUTH TO NORTH

times are approximate (00) = miles/AU* from Earth

3am - Segment 1

Houlton-Pluto (40 AU* from the Sun) to Littleton-Pluto (33)

4am - Segment 2

Littleton-Pluto to "My Mother's Garden" in Monticello (27)

4:55am - Segment 3

Monticello to Bridgewater-Uranus (21)

5:43am - Segment 4

from North-Bridgewater to South-Mars Hill, at Scovil's (16)

6:35am - Segment 5

Scovil's to Westfield-Saturn (10)

6:40am - Segment 6

circa 1/4 mile segment through downtown Mars Hill

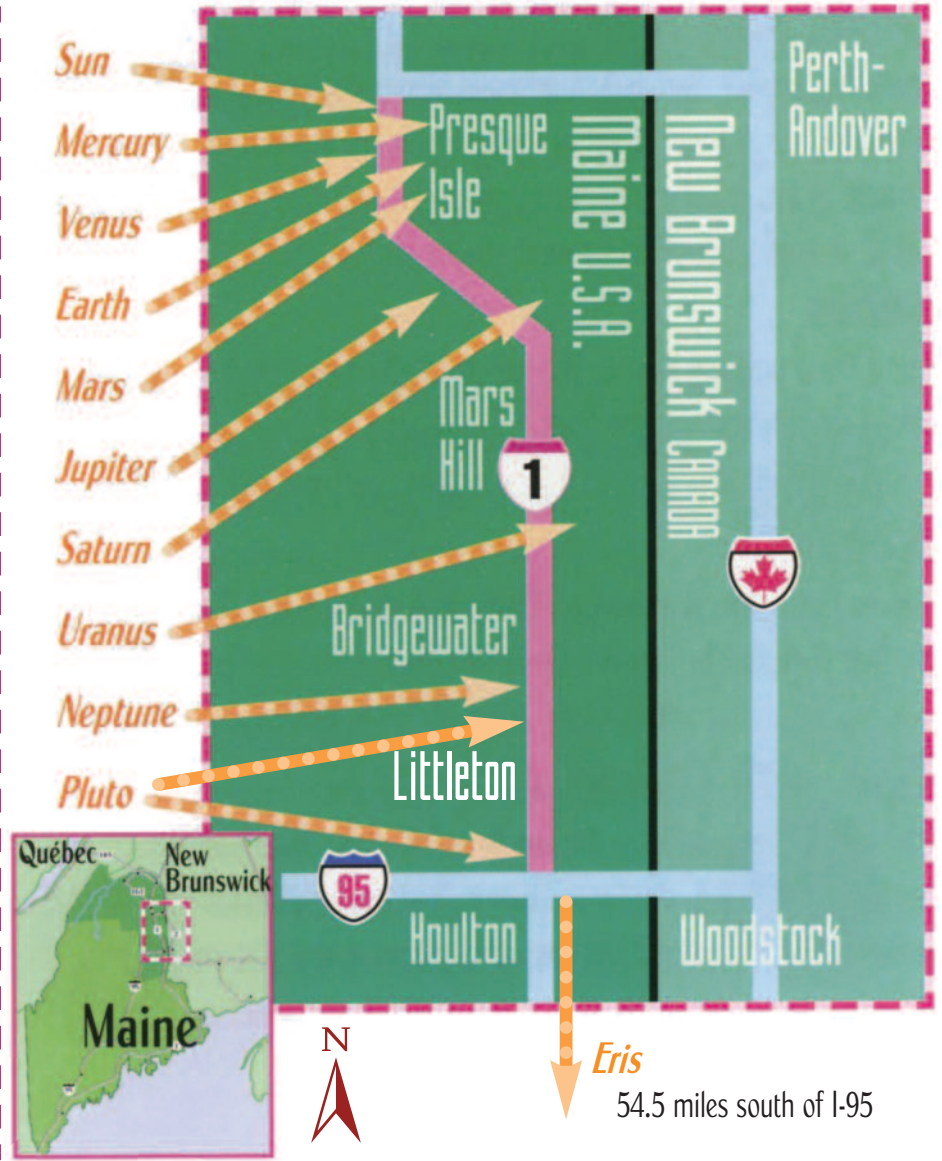
7:14am - Segment 7

Saturn (10) to Jupiter (5)

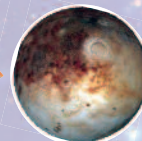
7:52am - Segment 8

Jupiter (5) to Earth (1)

Arrival ~8:30am



Earth
Presque Isle



Pluto
Houlton

*AU = Astronomical Unit

Thank you to our many community partners for helping to plan and carry out this ambitious run:

- City of Presque Isle
- Town of Houlton
- Town of Monticello
- Town of Mars Hill
- Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce
- Southern Aroostook Agricultural Museum

site of 33 AU Pluto

Houlton Information Center

site of 40 AU Pluto