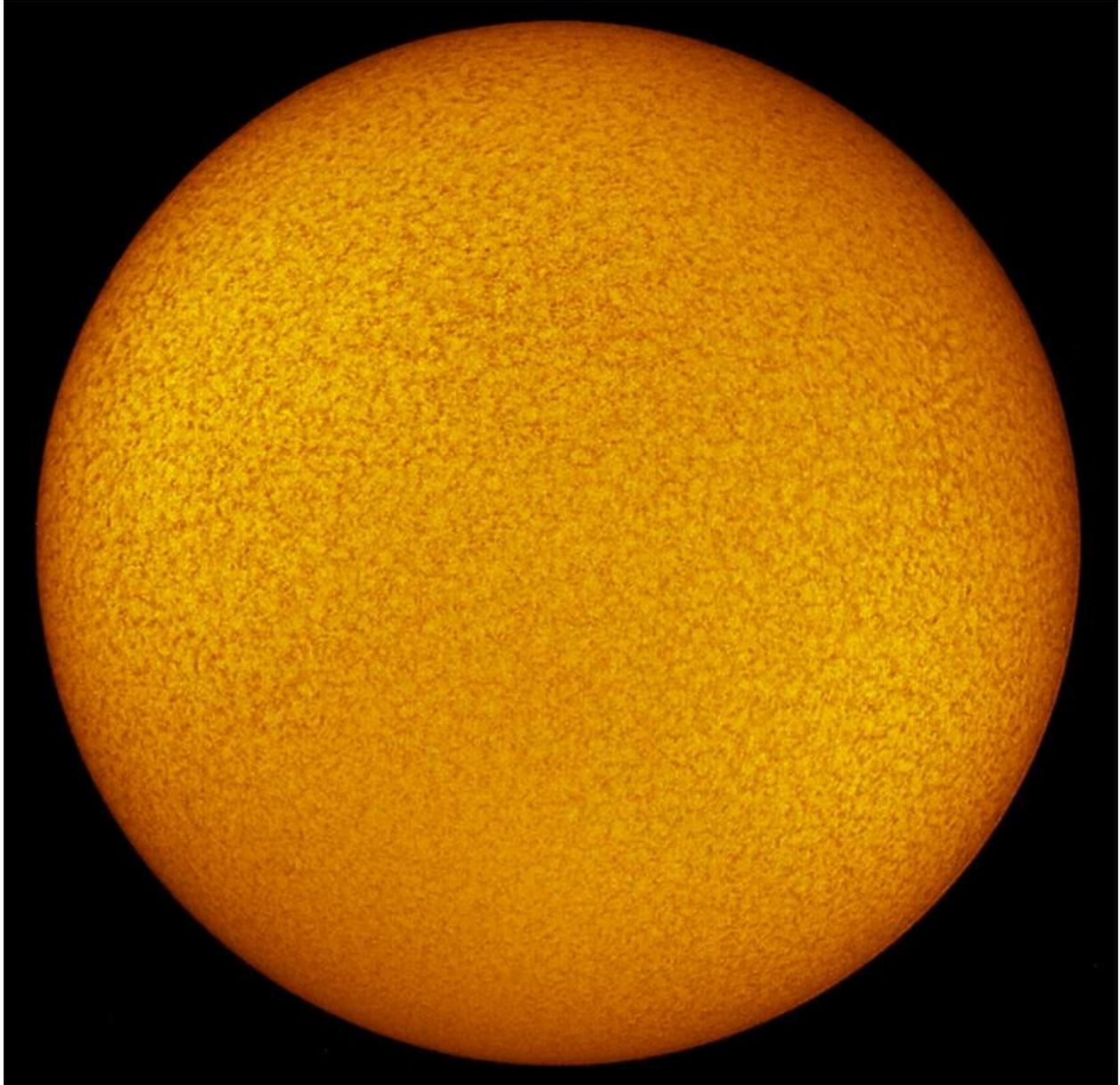


Sunspotters Posting Blank is Beautiful 8_6_2009

BLANK IS BEAUTIFUL: The sun is entering its 27th consecutive day of spotlessness, quiet and calm. That's okay. According to astrophotographer [Greg Piepol](#) of Rockville, Maryland, blank is beautiful:



"I took this picture on August 4th using my [Coronado SolarMax90](#)," says Piepol. "It was a pretty sight uninterrupted by sunspots or other activity."

Indeed, the sun is being remarkably quiet. After a [promising eruption of sunspots](#) in early July raised hopes that Solar Cycle 24 was gaining strength, the sun reversed course and retreated to peaceful slumber. Only four weeks after behemoth sunspot 1024

amazed onlookers, solar minimum has never seemed deeper. The sun's 77% rate of spotlessness in 2009 confirms the ongoing minimum as a century class event.

<http://www.sungazer.net/080409.html>

[Comment Some scientists are speculating that we may skip from Cycle 23 to Cycle 25. That is, this quiet period IS Cycle 24. That would throw all theories of sunspot cycles over board. When we finally get into sustained sunspot activity, the polarization of the sunspots will confirm if it is Cycle 24 or Cycle 25.

“There is always *something new out of Africa.*”

Pliny The Elder

“There is always *something new out of Africa* Sol”

Fox The Younger

As noted earlier ... we do live in interesting times.

Mark your calendar two or five or 10 years from now to see if this skip theory is only a blip of the sun or a Nobel Prize entry.

Detailed discussion of the skip evidence is at

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/08/01/some-speculation-that-solar-cycle-25-has-already-begun/>