



Exoplanet Activity of The Planetary Society

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The discovery and investigation of increasing numbers of exoplanets is much more important than most people realize. To some, it is not unexpected in view of what was already known about stellar evolution. To others, it is not unexpected given the long-established role of exoplanets in science fiction. Yet the onset of actual knowledge of other possible habitats for life is unique in human history. Earth is shielded by our magnetosphere and ozone from ionizing radiation inimical to surface life. Is a magnetic field one marker of habitability? Detecting exoplanet radio emissions analogous to those from the Jovian system could be a first step toward answering this question. This and other ways to find and characterize habitable planets will need new and costly instruments and analysis, demanding broad public interest, understanding and support. In this paper we aim to show how The Planetary Society's proven outreach methods can aid in this endeavor.