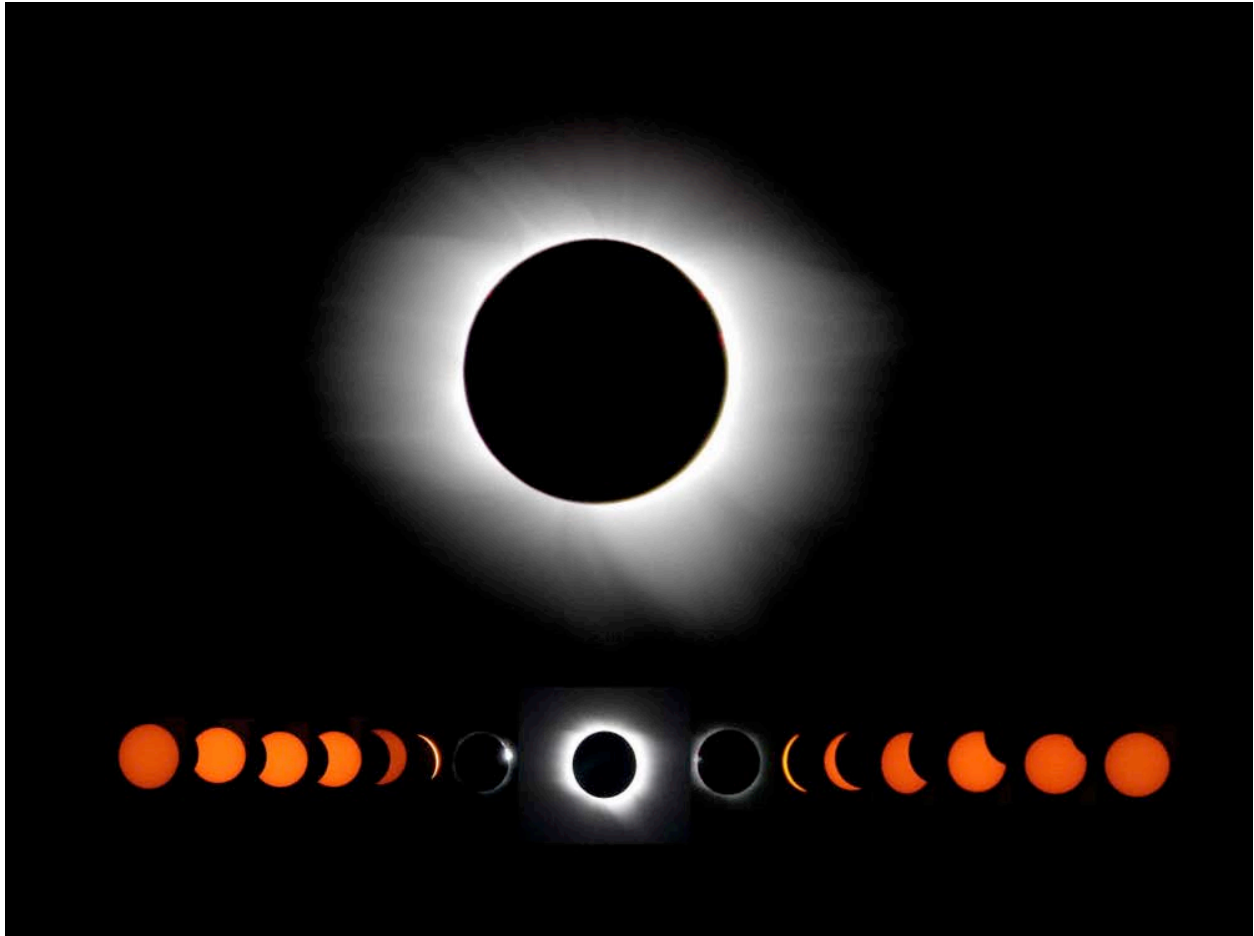


St Louis Explorer Chapter Member Dr Eliot Herman (FN 05) was among fortunate observers of the July 11, 2010 total solar eclipse on Rapa Nui, or Easter Island.

Solar eclipses are awe inspiring events and the path of July 11 eclipse barely had any landfall except for Rapa Nui's position nearly on the eclipse's center line. Any solar eclipse is special, but on Rapa Nui special does not do it justice. The mysteries of Rapa Nui's history, the magnificent Moai statues, its tragic history before and after European discovery all contributed it being the event of a lifetime. About two thousand people were present to witness the eclipse -- a challenge for the island almost doubling its population.



Whole eclipse montage



Moai overlooking the ocean



Moai head