

This is a Sun-Earth Day alert:

We just received the following information from Solar Physicist, Dr. Holly Gilbert:

The Sun is finally awakening after a long slumber of very low sunspot numbers and solar activity! The early part of 2010 brings new Solar Cycle 24 sunspots as well as the successful launch of the Solar Dynamics Observatory, a mission designed to study our variable star. Although some of us have been looking forward to an increase in solar activity, we do appreciate the Sun waiting for SDO to launch before providing any big storms for this next solar cycle! It is still not clear how intense the activity will be as the Sun ramps up to “solar maximum”, but we are well equipped to study any surprises the Sun may throw at us. Stay tuned for an interesting ride to solar max.

Dr. Holly Gilbert is the Associate Director for Science, GSFC Heliophysics Science Division.