

STEREO Beacon Updates from NOAA/SWPC

General Comments

- Beacon data being used daily by forecasters
 - SECCHI, PLASTIC and IMPACT data all used during a daily ‘open’ discussion of space weather
 - STEREO-B watched closely for returning and new active regions and coronal holes.
 - SECCHI data from both s/c used, but so far, no significant events from a SWx perspective
 - Beacon data has been used to improve forecasts.
 - to adjust start time of geomagnetic storms caused by high speed streams
 - To produce daily coronal hole product

Beacon issues

- HI-2 data not usable at the current compression
 - NRL (Russ Howard) and RAL (Chris Eyles) have both been contacted.
 - SWPC views a slightly lower cadence of EUVI (12 or 15 minutes) as negligible. Would also accept some additional degradation (i.e. lossy compression) in image quality.
- Would like for teams to include Doug Biesecker (doug.biesecker@noaa.gov) in beacon discussions/e-mails.
 - E.g. e-mails to Bill Thompson about recent PLASTIC-A anomaly should have also gone directly to Doug.

Beacon Ground Stations

- CNES now tracking from Toulouse M-F
 - Still need to complete automation to allow weekend coverage
- Tracking gaps only 1-2 hours per day at this time
- Little or no activity on the NOAA side
 - Fault is entirely Doug Biesecker's
 - Boulder is close to being able to track
 - Expecting sometime in Summer, 2008
- Need to go to Turbo encoding by the time STEREO range is 1 AU (October, 2009)
 - Software development needed