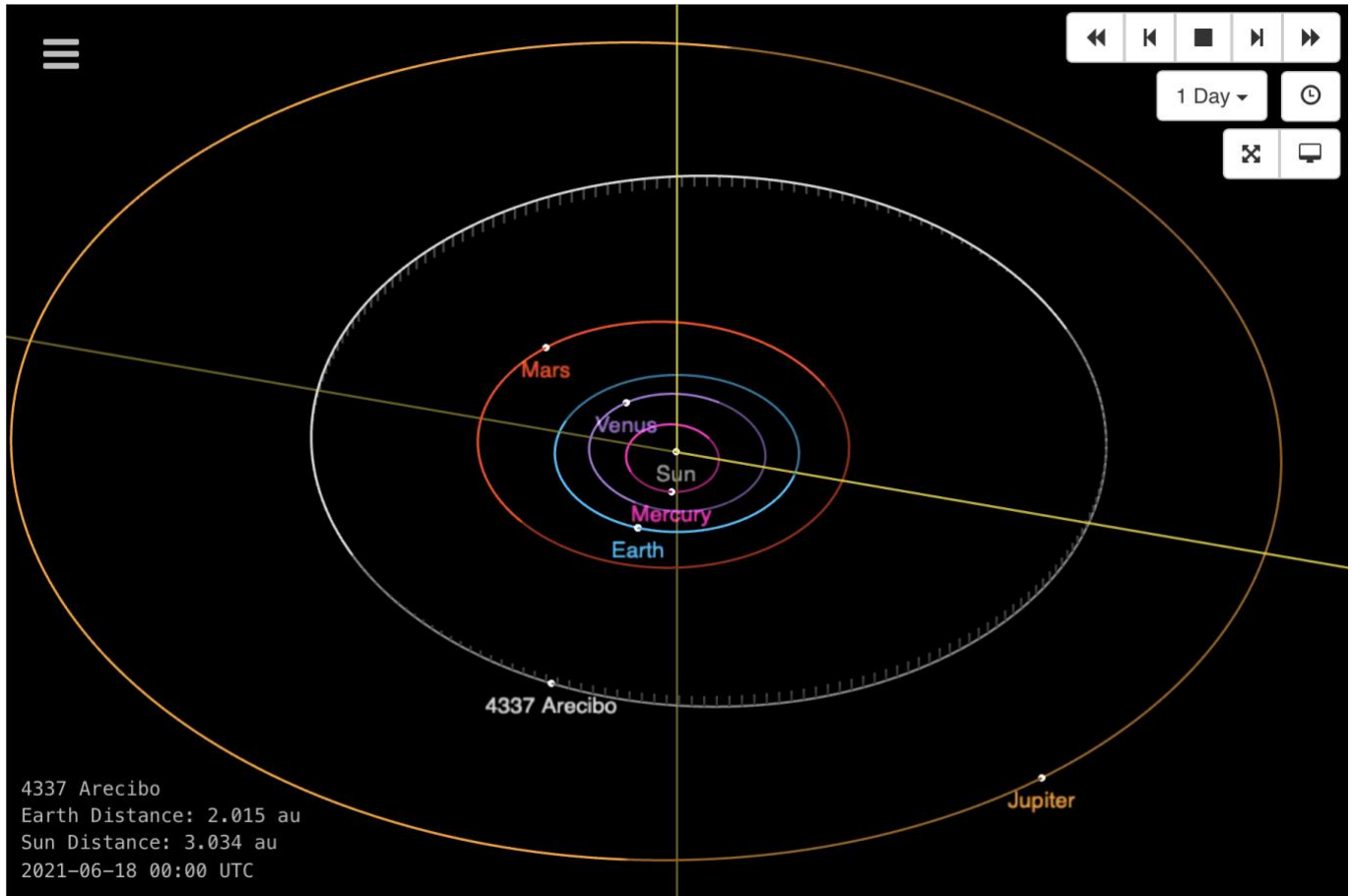


# 4337 Arecibo Discovered to be a Binary Asteroid

4337 Arecibo is a main belt asteroid discovered in 1985 by Ted Bowell at Flagstaff Observatory, Arizona. It lives between Mars and Jupiter, taking about 5.9 years to orbit once around the sun. It is assumed from photometric measurements that it is about 20 km in diameter, making it one of the smaller asteroids. It is a member of the Themis group of carbonaceous chondrite asteroids, representing about 5% of the known asteroid belt objects.



On May 20th, 2021, at 4:58 am, two members of WSAAG, **Peter Nosworthy** and **Dave Gault**, observed an occultation of a mag. 13.6 star by Arecibo. Both reported double occultation events consisting of the expected occultation followed about three seconds later by a shorter occultation of the target star.

On June 9, 2021 two observers, Richard Nolthenius and Kirk Bender in California, USA, observed another occultation by Arecibo. Both observers reported seeing two occultation events similar to the initial detection.

As it turns out, Arecibo is the first asteroid discovered to be binary by occultation methods.

Peter Nosworthy has prepared a webpage with details of the discovery at ...

<http://www.hazelbrookobservatory.com/4337arecibo/>

The paper confirming the discovery of the satellite is here ...

<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2022MPBu...49....3G/abstract>

On behalf of WSAAG, I offer Dave and Peter a serious congratulation for this discovery.

Tony Barry  
WSAAG committee.