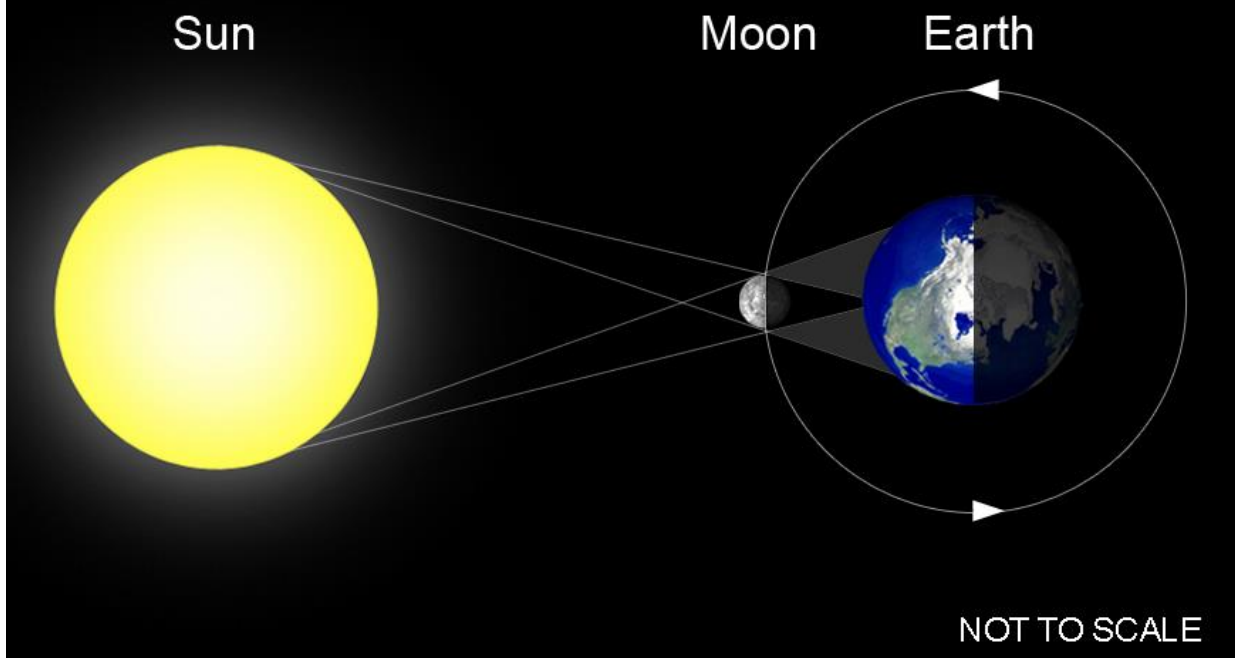


**The Total Solar Eclipse of 2024 April 8 PDT,
observed from Swallows Eve Wedding and Event Venue,
outside of Fredericksburg, Texas**



Don't mess with Texas. On the bus ride over, the lovely Texas Hill Country was a special treat.

Solar eclipse



In a solar eclipse, the Moon casts a shadow on Earth. (Image by Frederick A. Ringwald, using a NASA image of Earth)



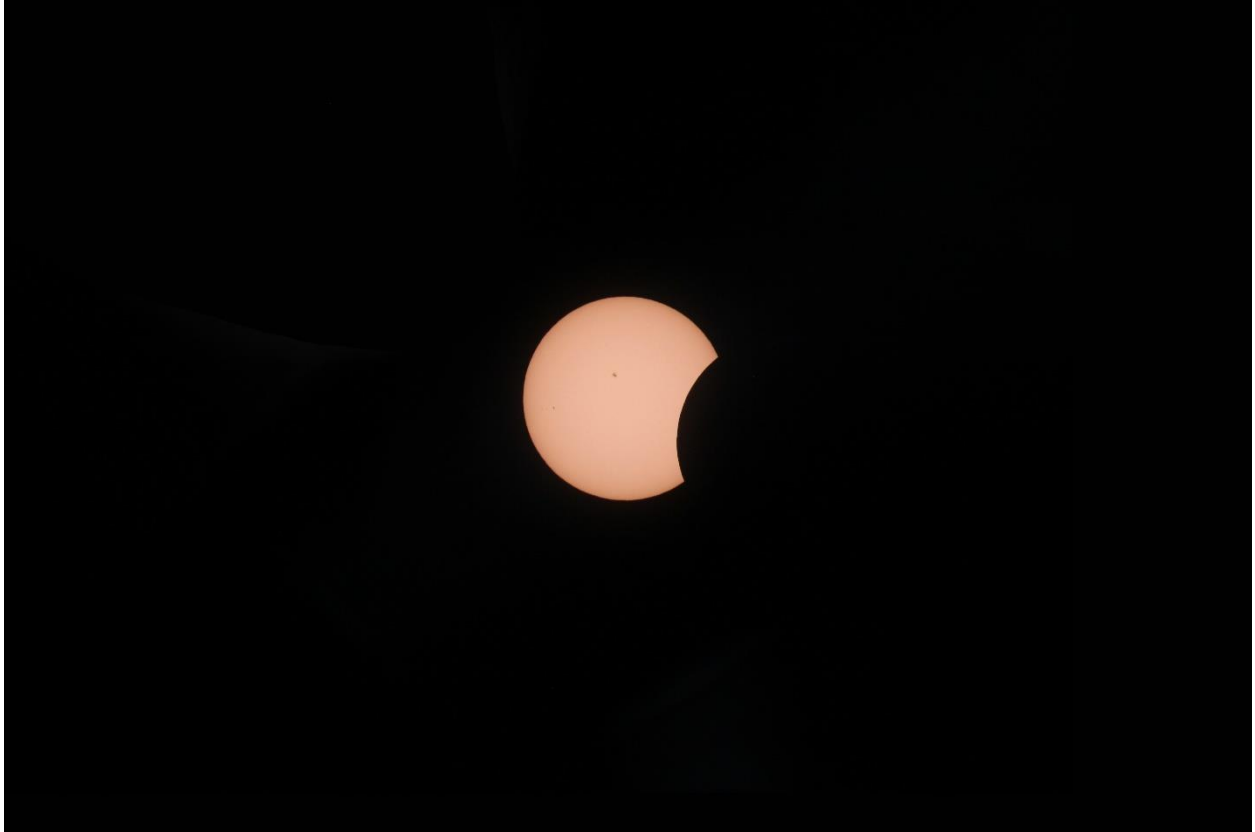
My observing setup. The cameras (from left to right) are named, "new Ringo," "John," and "Jimi." As always, Jimi was wailing.



Unfortunately, the weather was cloudy. It could have been worse: it could have been raining.



The intrepid eclipse chasers soldier on, regardless of the weather.



Going, going... During the partial phases, the Moon only partly obscures the Sun.



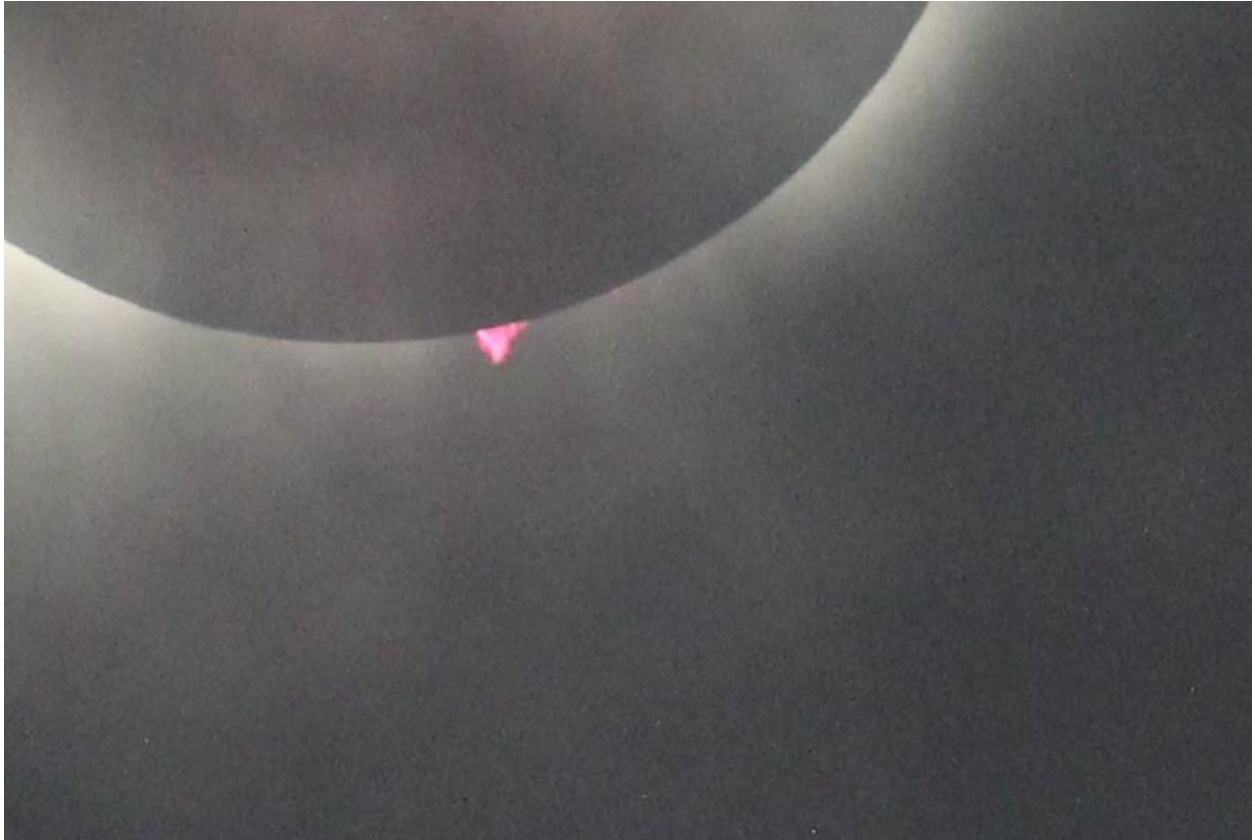
Totality! The solar corona, which is hot gas escaping from the Sun, is visible through thin clouds.



This totality was the darkest I had ever seen. It was as dark as night: usually totality is an eerie twilight.



It's good to see the eclipse chasers getting their money's worth. We could hear crickets chirping.



Prominences are magnetically heated, buoyant loops and streamers of gas rising from the Sun. Multiple prominences were visible, but the clouds allowed me a shot of only this one, on the Sun's south limb.



Diamond ring! The bright solar surface (also called the photosphere) emerges, signaling the end of totality.



The lovely Texas Hill Country was a treat on the bus ride home, too.