

## **How fast is fast?**

By Richard Sorokin

The speed of light is the fastest of anything. Nothing that we know of goes faster. It goes so fast that it is hard to get a hold on the concept of its speed.

The best way that I know of to get an idea of how fast it is is to try this experiment. The speed of light is about 186,000 miles a second. The circumference of the earth at the equator is about 24,900 miles. If we divide the speed of light by the circumference of the earth we get about seven. That means that light will travel around the Earth's equator seven times in one second.

Now get a tennis ball or any small ball and try to move your finger around the ball seven times in one second. It cannot be done yet light does it around the Earth seven times in one second.

Now to get an idea of the size of the universe. The Hubble telescope has given us picture of galaxies 400,000 light years away. Yes it took 400,000 years for the light to reach us. Now that is big. There are billions of stars out there and probably billion of planets. Is there life out there? The odds are for it but not necessarily like ours. Someday if we are able to travel faster than the speed of light we may find out that we are not alone.

Einstein said that the faster we go our mass will increase. To go infinite speeds we will weigh infinite in mass. Therefore to go faster than light we must invent a completely different form of moving mass. I think it is a long way off.