

OPAG Update Feb, 17th, 2009

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/>

1. New OPAG Chair
2. Next OPAG meeting March 9-10, 2009
3. AGU Spring sessions on Cassini science

Fran Bagenal & Bill McKinnon
Out-going and In-coming Chairs of OPAG

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1. New OPAG Chair

Ken Ford (NASA Advisory Council Chair) announced at their February meeting that Fran Bagenal will be replacing Sean Solomon as Chair of PSS and Bill McKinnon becomes the new Chair of OPAG. Naturally, there's still paperwork to fill out but the NAC announcement makes it pretty official.

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2. Next OPAG meeting

Dates: Mon/Tues March 9-10, 2009
Location: Bethesda Doubletree, Maryland.

Agenda to be posted shortly. This will be an important meeting for the Outer Planets Community. Major items to be discussed will include the Outer Planets Flagship and the upcoming Decadal Survey.

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3. AGU Spring sessions on Cassini science

The spring AGU meeting in Toronto (May 24-27, 2009) will be the site of two sessions focused on Cassini. We hope you'll join us!

Meeting Details & logistics:
Abstract deadline: March 4 at 23:59 UT (18:59 EST; 15:59 PST).
Topics of Cassini Special Sessions: Enceladus; Saturn Plasmas

URL for author submission

guidelines: <http://www.agu.org/meetings/sm09/index.php/Program/HomePage>

P04: Great Enceladus Debates: Plumes, Beams, Ocean, Chemistry?

Sponsor: Planetary Sciences

CoSponsors: Biogeosciences; Cryosphere; SPA-Aeronomy; SPA-Magnetospheric Physics

Conveners: Claudia J. Alexander and Robert T. Pappalardo

Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Description: The small icy Saturnian moon Enceladus has been determined to be among the very few active bodies in the solar system. Water vapor, methane, carbon dioxide and more exotic components are ejected into Saturn's magnetosphere in the form of jets emanating from fissures in the surface that exhibit strong thermal signatures. Modeling efforts have been focused on the driving mechanism and the nature of the source. Some models imply a liquid water ocean or sea in contact with rock deep below Enceladus' surface. In the magnetosphere, particle detections have led to consideration of the existence of field aligned currents (FACs). This session will focus on such debates as the nature of the south polar geology, the nature of the plume its and interaction with the magnetosphere, and the nature of the sub-surface. Topics may include but are not limited to: Enceladus' thermal and interior state; south polar morphology and geologic activity; the state and dynamics of the plume; the possibility of ions or electrons in field-aligned beams in the vicinity; composition and implications thereof; and Enceladus' astrobiological potential.

SM03: Saturn Gas and Plasma: Sources, Losses and Transport"

CoSponsors: SPA-Magnetospheric Physics

Conveners: Abigail M. Rymer and Todd Smith

Applied Physics Laboratory

Description: A unique feature of Saturn's magnetosphere in our solar system is that, over broad regions, complex spatial distributions of neutral particles dominate over charged particles by over an order of magnitude. Neutral sources include the Enceladus plumes, Saturn, rings and Titan as well as the other satellites. The interaction of these neutral particles with charged particles and solar photons provides a continuous source of fresh thermal plasma and an extended cloud of neutral particles. Once ionised the thermal plasma interacts with Saturn's rapidly rotating magnetic field and the plasma is heated as it endeavours to 'spin-up' to corotate with the field. The presence of suprathermal particles and a cornucopia of plasma and radio wave emissions also imply the existence of acceleration processes which are often associated with transport. Since the Cassini spacecraft reached Saturn's orbit in 2004, its

instruments have provided a wealth of data which are helping to provide a unifying view of these processes. For this special session we invite contributions on the theory and observational evidence of gas and plasma sources, losses (including acceleration and/or cooling processes) and transport at Saturn.

Abstract Deadline for Electronic Submissions - No Exceptions!
is 4 March at 2359UT