Mars Science News

Comet Siding Spring encounter: Science results

On October 19, 2014, comet C/2013 A1 (Siding Spring) swung within 139,500 km of Mars. All spacecraft remained in good health and operation throughout the encounter, and many good scientific observations were made. Many of the images from the Mars missions, other spacecraft, and Earth-based observers are posted as they become available. Additionally, presentations from the virtual workshops held August 11 and September 19 about the expected comet environment, mission risk mitigation plans, and planned observations by observers using Earth telescopes, Mars spacecrafts, or other spacecraft are also posted.

http://cometcampaign.org/workshop
http://mars.nasa.gov/comets/sidingspring/

Special Regions SAG Report and Organic Contamination Panel Report available on MEPAG website

The Special Regions SAG (SR-SAG2) Report was compiled by a relatively large committee with a mixture of expertise in Mars environmental conditions and in the limits to life as we know them on Earth. This report has been accepted by the journal Astrobiology. (If the report is circulated, please reference it as in press, Astrobiology.) The Organic Contamination Panel (OCP) Report contains an analysis of planning considerations related to the organic contamination of martian samples that may be collected by the Mars 2020 rover, recognizing that these samples may be subjected to comprehensive scientific evaluation in Earth laboratories in the future. This report has also been submitted to Astrobiology.

http://mepag.nasa.gov/reports.cfm

Planetary Protection Workshop—enrollment open

February 24-26, 2015 at the Kennedy Space Center, FL, USA

Interested parties are invited to participate in the upcoming course on Planetary Protection Policies and Practices, which is designed to familiarize current and future practitioners with NASA, ESA, and COSPAR planetary protection programs. The course provides an overview of applicable policies, practices and procedures necessary to implement a successful planetary protection program, emphasizing integration of managerial, administrative, and laboratory activities. It is supported by the NASA Planetary Protection Officer.

http://planetaryprotection.nasa.gov/course

Enrollment limited to 14 participants, To apply, contact tasalb@msn.com.

MEPAG Mailing List Updates

The Mars Program Office has recently updated the MEPAG mailing list (the one this newsletter is sent out to), including adding Mars aficionados who have attended recent MEPAG- and Mars-focused events. If you wish to withdraw from this electronic mailing list, please send an email from your email account to mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov. To be added to this mailing list, please send an email from your email account to mepag-signup@jpl.nasa.gov.
Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 31, 2014</td>
<td>Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth &amp; Planetary Sciences Early registration deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior Early registration deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2014</td>
<td>Venus Science Priorities Workshop for Laboratory Measurements &amp; Instrument Definition Abstract deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14, 2014</td>
<td>AGU Fall Meeting Pre-registration and hotel deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18, 2014</td>
<td>Workshop on the Early Solar System Bombardment III Abstract deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24, 2014</td>
<td>Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science Abstract deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2014</td>
<td>IEEE Aerospace Conference Earlybird registration deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5th PCL Focus Days Abstract deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 5, 2015</td>
<td>Workshop on the Early Solar System Bombardment III Early registration deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 6, 2015</td>
<td>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference Abstract deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 2015</td>
<td>Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science Registration deadline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

### Fourth Quarter, 2014
- **November 1-2, 2014**
  - Sopron, HUNGARY
  - Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth & Planetary Sciences
- **November 3-5, 2014**
  - Houston, TX, USA
  - Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior
    - [http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2014/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2014/)
- **November 4-7, 2014**
  - Greenbelt, MD, USA
  - 2nd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014)
- **November 9-14, 2014**
  - Tucson, AZ, USA
  - 46th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS 2014)
    - [http://aas.org/meetings/dps46](http://aas.org/meetings/dps46)
- **December 15-19, 2014**
  - San Francisco, CA, USA
  - AGU Fall Meeting

### First Quarter, 2015
- **New!**
  - **January 13-15, 2015**
    - Tokyo, JAPAN
    - Earth-Life Science Institute 3rd International Symposium
      - If you have any questions or are interested in presenting a poster, please send an email to sympo-03info@elsi.jp.
  - **January 27-28, 2015**
    - Hampton, VA, USA
    - The Venus Instrument and Laboratory Measurements Workshop
      - [http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/venustech2015/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/venustech2015/)
  - **New!**
    - **February 4-6, 2015**
      - Houston, TX, USA
      - Workshop on the Early Solar System Bombardment III
        - [http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2015/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/bombardment2015/)
    - **February 11-12, 2015**
      - Location TBA
      - Mars Express Science Working Team Meeting
      - For more information, contact Håkan Svedhem: hsvedhem@esa.int
### First Quarter, 2015

**New!**

- **March 2-5, 2015**
  - Santiago, CHILE
  - Ground and space observatories: a joint venture to planetary science

- **March 7-14, 2015**
  - Big Sky, MT, USA
  - IEEE Aerospace Conference
  - [http://www.aeroconf.org/](http://www.aeroconf.org/)

- **March 16-20, 2015**
  - The Woodlands, TX, USA
  - 46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
  - [http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2015/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2015/)

### Second Quarter, 2015

- **April 12-17, 2015**
  - Vienna, AUSTRIA
  - European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2015

- **April 28-29, 2015**
  - Wachtberg, GERMANY
  - 5th PCL Focus Days 2015
  - [http://workshops.fhr.fraunhofer.de/pclfocusdays/](http://workshops.fhr.fraunhofer.de/pclfocusdays/)

- **May 5-7, 2015**
  - Washington, DC, USA
  - Humans to Mars Summit
  - [http://h2m.exploremars.org/](http://h2m.exploremars.org/)

- **May 19-22, 2015**
  - Boise, ID, USA
  - 4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop
  - [http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2015/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2015/)

- **May 19-22, 2015**
  - Laural, MD, USA
  - Workshop on Issues in Crater Studies and the Dating of Planetary Surfaces
  - [http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/craterstats2015/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/craterstats2015/)

- **May 26-27, 2015**
  - London, UK
  - iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop
  - [http://iCubeSat.org](http://iCubeSat.org)

- **June 15-19, 2015**
  - Cologne, GERMANY
  - 12th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-12)

- **June 15-19, 2015**
  - Chicago, IL, USA
  - Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscicon)
  - [http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2015/](http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2015/)

### Third Quarter, 2015

**New!**

- **July 27-31, 2015**
  - Berkeley, CA, USA
  - Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society

**New!**

- **September 27-October 2, 2015**
  - Nantes, FRANCE
  - European Planetary Science Congress

### Fourth Quarter, 2015

- **November 1-4, 2015**
  - Baltimore, MD, USA
  - Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

**New!**

- **November 8-13, 2015**
  - National Harbor, MD, USA

**New!**

- **November 9-13, 2015**
  - Foz do Iguacu, BRAZIL
  - 2nd Symposium of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2015): Water and Life in the Universe

**New!**

- **December 14-18, 2015**
  - San Francisco, CA, USA
  - AGU Fall Meeting
## Seasons on Mars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>MY32</th>
<th>MY33</th>
<th>MY34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Spring / Lₐ 0</td>
<td>7/31/2013</td>
<td>6/18/2015</td>
<td>5/05/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Summer / Lₐ 90</td>
<td>2/15/2014</td>
<td>1/03/2016</td>
<td>11/20/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Autumn / Lₐ 180</td>
<td>8/17/2014</td>
<td>7/04/2016</td>
<td>5/22/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start of Northern Winter / Lₐ 270</td>
<td>1/11/2015</td>
<td>11/28/2016</td>
<td>10/16/2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>MY32</th>
<th>MY33</th>
<th>MY34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>9/25/2014</td>
<td>9/14/2015</td>
<td>9/16/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>MY32</th>
<th>MY33</th>
<th>MY34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day, Canada</td>
<td>10/13/2014</td>
<td>10/12/2015</td>
<td>10/8/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Editors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editor</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla de la Paz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paz@jpl.nasa.gov">paz@jpl.nasa.gov</a></td>
<td>818-354-3160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serina Diniega</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov">Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov</a></td>
<td>818-393-1487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Beaty</td>
<td><a href="mailto:David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov">David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov</a></td>
<td>818-354-7968</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month’s email to:

Carla de la Paz at paz@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-3160.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at:

http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov