

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

September 2016

Mars Science News

2nd Informational Circular for MEPAG meeting #32: October 6, web-only

Dr. Jeffrey R. Johnson, MEPAG Chair, cordially invites you to participate in the 32nd meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG), scheduled as a **virtual meeting on October 6th, 2016, 8:30am-12:30pm PDT**. The 2nd Informational Circular has been posted, and includes the Adobe Connect information and current draft agenda. Further updates (including any updates to the agenda) will be posted on the MEPAG meeting website (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm>).

Key discussion topics will include:

- Reports from the Mars Exploration Program on budget, current missions, and studies for future Mars missions;
- Updates on Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) activities;
- Report and on the planetary science community-wide survey of Participating Scientist programs;
- New membership within the MEPAG Goals and Executive Committee;
- Report from the recent conference on “Biosignature Preservation and Detection in Mars Analog Environments”;
- Upcoming MEPAG activities, including the next face-to-face MEPAG meeting (No. 33) in early 2017.

The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community including our international colleagues. If you need additional information or assistance, please contact Dr. Serina Diniega, MEPAG Meeting 32 coordinator (serina.diniega@jpl.nasa.gov, phone 818-393-1487 – *email is best*).

Save the Date! for Mars 2020 Rover Third Landing Site Workshop

February 8-10, 2017 in the Pasadena, CA area

Dates are set for the Mars 2020 Rover Third Landing Site Workshop. This workshop will focus on narrowing down the eight landing sites currently under consideration. Information on the workshop will be posted on <http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov> as it becomes available.

NASA employees and contractors (including JPLers): remember that this is a conference and requires forecasting. We strongly recommend forecasting by October 15, 2016, to aid with planning.

JMARS Webinar: October 13, 2016

Ever feel like there must be an easier way to find and work with Mars remote sensing data? **Join us Thursday, October 13th from 12-2 p.m. PDT for a free online webinar and find out how JMARS can help!** Brand new to JMARS? We'll show you how to get started with global maps and how to quickly find THEMIS, CTX, CRISM, and HiRISE stamps. Already know your way around JMARS? We'll teach you how to perform map sampling, perform HSV composites on HiRISE and CRISM images, and how to colorize your own vector shape data. Already a power user? Time to learn how you can work with SHARAD radargrams as well as the latest resources that have been added in support of proposing landing sites for a 2035 human mission to Mars!

Questions about this event, or about JMARS in general, as well as suggestions for webinar topics can be sent to help@jmars.asu.edu. See the October newsletter or JMARS website (<https://jmars.asu.edu/>) for Adobe Connect information.

Executive Summary Posted: Wkshp on Human Missions & Planetary Protection

The Executive Summary of the Workshop Report on **Planetary Protection Knowledge Gaps for Human Extraterrestrial Missions** is now available on NASA's Planetary Protection website: <https://planetaryprotection.arc.nasa.gov/humanworkshop2015/>. The summary provides overview details on the twenty-five key R&TD knowledge gaps that were identified at the workshop held Mar 24-26, 2015, at NASA Ames Research Center. The site also provides extensive information about the workshop agenda, logistics and presentations.

The full workshop report is being published as a Technical Manual through the NASA Scientific and Technical Information (STI) Program, which will be available on the planetary protection website and NASA's Human Exploration and Operations website.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

| Due | Project |
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| September 1 | Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group , Abstract deadline (extended) |
| September 16 | Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting , Late registration & Dependent Care Grant Application deadlines |
| September 26 | The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3) , Registration deadline |
| October 14 | Sixth International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modelling and Observations . Abstract deadline |
| November 7 | Academies' Search for Life Workshop / A Workshop on Searching for Life Across Space and Time , Poster Abstract deadline |

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

[A note about "conferences" and this calendar of events](#)

- Missing NCTS#s (and forecasting deadline, if anomalous) can be sent to Meredith Cosby (Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 90days in advance — sometimes further in advance if the conference is "Heavily Attended."
- Please do not assume our noting of NCTS# is complete. If you are unsure if an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

Third Quarter, 2016

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|  | September 5-9, 2016 Reykjavik, ICELAND | 6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/ , NCTS# 23841-16 |
| | September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA | NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) |
| | September 25-28, 2016 Denver, CO, USA | GSA Meeting http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2016/home , NCTS# 24946-16 <i>Session T168: Past and present biosignature recognition on Earth, Mars, and Beyond</i> <i>Session T161: From bouncing grains to cemented sandstones: aeolian processes and stratigraphy in the Solar System; T165: Impact cratering on Earth and throughout the Solar System; T167: Mineral spectroscopy-harnessing energy to probe solid bodies in the Solar System; T168: Past and present biosignature recognition on Earth, Mars, and Beyond; T172: Tectonic, volcanic, and volcanotectonic processes on rocky planetary bodies.</i> |
| | September 26-30, 2016 Guadalajara, MEXICO | 67th International Astronautical Congress http://www.iafastro.org/events/iac/iac2016/ , NCTS# 24741-16 |

Fourth Quarter, 2016

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| New! | October 6, 2016 ONLINE | MEPAG Meeting #32 http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m32 |
| | October 10-14, 2016 Moscow, RUSSIA | The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3) http://ms2016.cosmos.ru/ , NCTS# 25833-17 |
| New! | October 13, 2016 ONLINE | JMARS Webinar https://jmars.asu.edu/ |
| | October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA | Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting http://aas.org/meetings/dps48 , NCTS# 25341-17 |
|  | October 19, 2016 | 2016 ExoMars (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars |
| | October 24-27, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA | 3rd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/ipm2016/ , NCTS# 25600-17 |
|  | November 1-3, 2016 Colombia, MD, USA | Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2016/ , NCTS# 27103-17 |
|  | November 29-December 1, 2016 Washington DC, USA | VEXAG Meeting #14 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/upcoming/ , NCTS# 24529-17 |
| New! | December 5-6, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA | Academies' Search for Life Workshop/A Workshop on Searching for Life Across Space and Time http://SearchingForLife.eventbrite.com , For those unable to attend in person, the live workshop webcast will be available at: https://livestream.com/accounts/15221519/events/6098927 |
| | December 12-16, 2016 San Francisco, CA, USA | AGU Fall Meeting http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/ , NCTS# 25415-17 |

First Quarter, 2017

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| New! | January 11-13, 2016 Tucson, AZ, USA | 16th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group |
|  | January 17-20, 2017 Granada, SPAIN | 6th International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modelling and Observations http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/granada2017/ , NCTS# 26193-17 |
| New! | February 8-10, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA | Mars 2020 Rover Third Landing Site Workshop http://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov |
| | March 4-11, 2017 Big Sky, MT, USA | IEEE Aerospace Conference https://www.aeroconf.org/ , NCTS# 26165-17 |

Second-Fourth Quarters, 2017

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| | March 20-24, 2017 The Woodlands, TX, USA | Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2017/ , NCTS# 26280-17 |
| | March 28-30, 2017 Washington, DC, USA | NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) |
| Updated! | April 24-28, 2017 Mesa, AZ, USA | Astrobiology Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2017/ |
|  | May 15-19, 2017 Boulder, CO, USA | International Conference on Mars Aeronomy http://lasp.colorado.edu/meetings/marsaeronomy2017/index.php , NCTS# 26278-17 |
| | May 16-19, 2017 St. George, UT, USA | Fifth International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2017/ |
| | June 13-15, 2017 Greenbelt, MD, USA | 17th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/ |
| New! | July 13-15, 2017 Houston, TX, USA | Dust in the Atmosphere of Mars and Its Impact on the Human Exploration of Mars http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marsdust2017/ |
| New! | July 14-22, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA | COSPAR 42nd Assembly https://www.cospar-assembly.org/ |
| | September 13-14, 2017 Washington, DC, USA | NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) |

Seasons on Mars

| | MY33 | MY34 | MY35 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0 | 6/18/2015 | 5/05/2017 | 3/23/2019 |
| Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90 | 1/03/2016 | 11/20/2017 | 10/08/2019 |
| Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180 | 7/04/2016 | 5/22/2018 | 4/08/2020 |
| Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270 | 11/28/2016 | 10/16/2018 | 9/02/2020 |

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

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|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Good Friday | 3/25/2016 | 4/14/2017 | 3/30/2018 | 4/19/2019 |
| Rosh Hashanah | 10/03/2016 | 9/21/2017 | 9/10/2018 | 9/30/2019 |
| Yom Kippur | 10/12/2016 | 9/30/2017 | 9/19/2018 | 10/09/2019 |
| (Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening) | | | | |
| Thanksgiving Day, Canada | 10/10/2016 | 10/09/2017 | 10/08/2018 | 10/14/2019 |
| Thanksgiving Day, U.S. | 11/24/2016 | 11/23/2017 | 11/22/2018 | 11/28/2019 |
| Christmas Day | 12/25/2016 | 12/25/2017 | 12/25/2018 | 12/25/2019 |

Editors

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|----------------|--|--------------|
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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's newsletter to:

Meredith Cosby at Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov.

This newsletter (and all previous months') is also posted on the MEPAG website: <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov> —>

Announcements —> Newsletters

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- If you wish to withdraw from the electronic mailing list this newsletter is sent out to, please send an email from your email account to mepag-removesignup@jpl.nasa.gov.
 - To be added to this list and receive this monthly newsletter and other Mars Science announcements, or to update your MEPAG directory information (which contains the email list used for sending out this newsletter), please fill out the online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/WilmhPIM9V> (also linked on the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/> under Updates).