

OPAG Newsletter
7 November 2013

1. OPAG meeting January 13-14, 2014
2. Findings and “mind the gap” presentation
3. OPAG responses to AO RFI posted
4. OPAG report to (cancelled) PSS posted
5. Questions about new proposal for R&A organization

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Mark your calendars for our next OPAG meeting, to be held in Tucson, AZ on January 13-14, 2014. A website will be available soon with logistical details.

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On the home page of OPAG’s website (<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/>) the materials from the last OPAG meeting in July 2013 are posted. In addition to the presentations you’ll find the meeting report and findings, sent to NASA HQ. There is also a presentation called “mind the gap” which is a compilation of charts from various sources describing why we are so profoundly concerned about the future of exploration of the outer solar system. Please feel free to edit and use those charts in any venue that may be useful and constructive.

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NASA put out an RFI requesting lessons-learned on the recent AOs for Discovery and New Frontiers missions. We have discussed this topic several times at OPAG meetings, and following our last OPAG meeting we convened a subcommittee to assemble a set of responses. The 13 responses we turned in are now posted on the OPAG website. If you go to the main page and click on “OPAG Updates” on the left you will see each of them. Some had the explicit goal of enabling outer planet missions to compete in the Discovery program. Others were more generic, and some of those were coordinated with other AGs.

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Also posted on the “OPAG Update” page of the OPAG website is the report generated for the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS) meeting that was to be held October 1-2, but cancelled due to the government shutdown. That report was not given, and there was no time for extensive AG reports at the most recent PSS telecon. By the time of the next PSS meeting we will have had another OPAG meeting, so these charts will be superceded by the next set. The report does contain a number of science nuggets, which may be of interest.

