OPAG Newsletter
16 May 2014

1. Time and location for OPAG July meeting is set
2. Ice Giants workshop
3. Rings workshop
4. Europa plume reminder

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Our next OPAG meeting will take place 23-24 July in Bethesda Maryland. A preliminary agenda will be posted soon on the OPAG website.

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WORKSHOP ON THE STUDY OF THE ICE GIANT PLANETS July 28-30 at APL in Laurel, MD. Abstract submission and registration are now open for the Workshop on the Study of the Ice Giant Planets July 28-30 at APL in Laurel, MD. The abstracts' deadline has been extended to May 22 and early registration runs through June 27. For more information, please see:
http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/icegiants2014/icegiants20141st.shtml

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PLANETARY RINGS WORKSHOP 13-15 August, 2014 Boulder, CO. The Cassini Rings Working Group will host a Planetary Rings Workshop, 13-15 August 2014 in Boulder, CO at the CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (CU-LASP). The workshop will be open to all interested parties and any observational or theoretical research on the properties, dynamics, origin or evolution of any planetary ring system is appropriate. This meeting will highlight the latest Cassini results. We plan on predominantly oral talks, but posters will be considered. Ample time will be allowed for discussion. Previous workshops were held in Ithaca (2011), Paris (2008) and Whitefish, MT (2006). The first announcement is posted at LASP's event website
http://lasp.colorado.edu/cassini/PlanetaryRingsWorkshopAug2014.html .
Registration will be by credit card through Eventbrite. Details will follow in a 2nd announcement and will be posted on the above meeting site. (Please email Laura Bloom, laura.bloom@lasp.colorado.edu, if you would like to be placed on our mailing list and receive a direct email invitation once registration opens.) The planned program includes an opening reception Tuesday evening, a workshop dinner on Wednesday, and working lunch on Friday. The meeting will end Friday evening. Estimated costs are $100 for the workshop and $30 for the dinner.

KEY DATES
First announcement: 12 May 2014
Second announcement: 6 June 2014

Eventbrite Registration open: 9 June 2014
Abstracts Due: 1 July 2014
Millennium hotel deadline: 11 July (group rate contract in process, don't call just yet. Event website above will list details when available soon)
Final program posted: 1 August 2014

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JPL Request for Proposal to Model Europa Plumes (URL: https://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/bizops/) Recent Hubble Space Telescope (HST) detection of anomalous concentrations of hydrogen and oxygen at Europa could potentially be due to plumes, analogous to the well-characterized plume at Enceladus as observed by the Cassini mission. Plumes on Europa would be extremely interesting science and mission targets, particularly due to the unique opportunity to obtain direct information on the subsurface composition, thereby addressing Europa's potential habitability. In this context, a better understanding of the density and compositional structure of potential Europa plumes would help in planning of science observations for the Europa Clipper mission concept. Moreover, understanding the density structure of plumes is important to understanding potential engineering concerns due to dust as well as the potential effects of drag on the spacecraft. JPL seeks proposals that would model Europa plumes, including their possible physical properties and three-dimensional dynamics. We anticipate up to $450 K total funding will be available for 5 – 8 successful proposals. This is anticipated as a 9 to 12 month task, beginning around July 2014. Deadline: Thursday, May 27, 2014, 3:00 p.m. (PST).