

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2014

Mars Science News

Virtual Meeting about Comet Siding Springs Observations

September 19, 2014

On October 19, 2014, comet C/2013 A1 (Siding Spring) will swing within 131,000 km of Mars. A workshop held August 11 reviewed some of the ongoing comet observations by Earth-based assets and preliminary plans for observations by both Earth and Mars-based assets during this historic close encounter. A second workshop, held as a virtual meeting, is scheduled for September 19 to review the latest Earth-based observations of the comet and report on the status of the Mars assets as they prepare for the comet encounter. For more information about the August 11 workshop, how to listen to the September 19 meeting, and observing opportunities for Comet Siding Spring, please visit:

the CIOC Campaign webpage at: <http://cometcampaign.org>

and the Mars Program Siding Spring webpage at: <http://mars.nasa.gov/comets/sidingspring>

Key presentations posted from the 8th International Conference on Mars

Last month, over 650 “Martians” from 21 countries gathered at the Caltech to discuss the status of our exploration of the Red Planet. The 499 abstracts received were organized into 5 big-picture, thematic sessions, in a single-track of oral presentations to foster cross-disciplinary discourse. These were followed by afternoon sessions of ~100 posters per day. The conference ended with a synthesis discussion involving the community and a panel of “Integrators” representing broad disciplines in Mars studies.

Three types of summary presentations from the 8th Mars Conference have been posted as a resource to our community: the summary talks given by the invited speakers of each conference session, overviews of five upcoming Mars missions, and the synthesis put together by the conference “Integrators” and that formed the basis of the discussion during the conference’s concluding session.

<http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/8thmars2014/presentations/>

Our purpose is to convey a high-level understanding of the current state of Mars science to scientists who were not able to attend the meeting, and to provide a set of reference materials that can be used to assemble lectures and other kinds of presentations, particularly for academia. For researchers interested in following up on specifics, the conference output additionally includes the abstracts, and a subset of the posters for which the authors agreed to have their files posted.

<http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/8thmars2014/>

New LPI topical websites: Early Mars and Mars Polar Science

LPI’s second Mars topical website, Mars Polar Science and Exploration (http://www.lpi.usra.edu/mars_polar/), has now gone live. Like its predecessor, on Early Mars (http://www.lpi.usra.edu/early_mars/), the Mars Polar Science and Exploration topical website is intended to provide one-stop access to the latest news, information about past and future meetings, a searchable database of Mars polar science peer-reviewed publications and special issues, educational resources, and a variety of other web-based resources, for scientists, students, educators and the general public. Contributions of research news, citations of peer-reviewed publications for inclusion in the Early Mars or Mars Polar Science Reference Libraries, photos from past meetings and field trips, and other relevant content are most welcome. If you have any material you wish to contribute, or any feedback regarding these websites, please send it to clifford@lpi.usra.edu, with ‘Early Mars’ or ‘Mars Polar Science’ in the subject line.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
September 15, 2014	International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014) Registration deadline Geological Society of America Annual Meeting Registration deadline Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth and Planetary Sciences Early registration deadline
September 30, 2014	Humans to Mars Summit Pre-registration deadline
October 6, 2014	Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior Early registration deadline
October 10, 2014	Annual LEAG Meeting Registration deadline
October 24, 2014	IEEE Aerospace Conference Paper deadline and latest possible abstract deadline
November 14, 2014	AGU Fall Meeting Pre-registration and hotel deadline


Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Third Quarter, 2014		
	September 7-12, 2014 Centro de Congressos do Estoril, Cascais, PORTUGAL	European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2014.eu/
	September 8-12, 2014 Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL	First Astrobiology School at the Observatorio Nacional http://www.on.br/coaa/astrobion2014/indexeng.html
	September 12-14, 2014 Knoxville, TN, USA	45th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, Planetary Geomorphology http://web.eps.utk.edu/symposium/index.php
	September 22, 2014 UTC (September 21, 10pm EDT)	MAVEN Mars Orbit Insertion (MOI)
	September 24, 2014	The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Mars Orbit Insertion
Fourth Quarter, 2014		
	October 13-16, 2014 Edinburgh, SCOTLAND	EANA 2014 - The 14th European Astrobiology Conference http://www.astrobiology.ac.uk/eana2014/
	October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2014/ Special Session - MicroMars to MegaMars: Integration of Surface and Orbital Investigations
	October 19, 2014 (2:28 p.m. ET/18:28 UT)	Comet Siding Spring closest approach to Mars http://mars.nasa.gov/comets/sidingspring
New!	October 22-24, 2014 Laurel, MD, USA	Annual LEAG Meeting http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2014/
	October 27-29, 2014 St. Louis, MS, USA	ASCE Earth and Space 2014, Engineering for Extreme Environments http://earthspaceconf2014.mst.edu/

Fourth Quarter, 2014

New!	November 1-2, 2014 Sopron, HUNGARY	Workshop on Modern Analytical Methods Applied to Earth & Planetary Sciences http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/methods2014/
	November 3-5, 2014 Houston, TX, USA	Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2014/
	November 4-7, 2014 Greenbelt, MD, USA	2nd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014) http://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/IPM/
	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
	December 15-19, 2014 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2014/

First Quarter, 2015

	January 27-28, 2015 Washington, DC area, USA	Venus Explorations Instruments and Laboratory Measurements Workshop http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/Tech-Workshop0115.pdf
	March 7-14, 2015 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/ Abstracts deadline has been extended (no specific deadline given, but no later than the paper submission deadline: October 24, 2014).
	March 16-20, 2015 The Woodlands, TX, USA	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2015/

Second-Fourth Quarter, 2015

	April 28-29, 2015 Wachtberg, GERMANY	5th PCL Focus Days 2015 http://workshops.fhr.fraunhofer.de/pclfocusdays/
New!	May 5-7, 2015 Washington, DC, USA	Humans to Mars Summit http://h2m.exploremars.org/
	May 19-22, 2015 Boise, ID, USA	4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2015/
	May 26-27, 2015 London, UK	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://iCubeSat.org
	June 15-19, 2015 Chicago, IL, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscon2015/
	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

2016

	January 7, 2016	20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens
	March 8, 2016	20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens
	September 28, 2016	Insight Arrival at Mars
	October 19, 2016	ExoMars Arrival at Mars

Seasons on Mars

	MY32	MY33	MY34
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	7/31/2013	6/18/2015	5/05/2017
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	2/15/2014	1/03/2016	11/20/2017
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	8/17/2014	7/04/2016	5/22/2018
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	1/11/2015	11/28/2016	10/16/2018

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	4/18/2014	4/3/2015	4/6/2016	4/14/2017
Rosh Hashanah	9/25/2014	9/14/2015	9/16/2016	9/20/2017
Yom Kippur	10/4/2014	9/23/2015	9/25/2016	9/29/2017
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2014	11/26/2015	11/22/2016	11/23/2017
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2014	10/12/2015	10/8/2016	10/9/2017
Christmas Day	12/25/2014	12/25/2015	12/25/2016	12/25/2017

Editors

Carla de la Paz	paz@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-3160
Serina Diniega	Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov	818-393-1487
David Beaty	David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-7968

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>