

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

April 2017

Mars Science News

12th International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference, LCPM-12

August 15-17, 2017 @ California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California

Abstract deadline: May 26, 2017

The focus of LCPM-12 is on small and/or low-cost planetary missions, on the scale of the NASA Discovery/ESA Cosmic Vision Small (S) Class and smaller, including Smallsats and CubeSats. The conference is intended to be an opportunity for scientists, technologists, engineers and project and agency managers to exchange ideas and information to enhance the viability and science return of low-cost robotic missions. The venue will be Hameetman Auditorium of the Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics on the campus of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). See <http://www.lcpm12.org> for details.

Public Participation Resources for Mars Exploration via Citizen Science Platforms

Following presentation and lively discussion at the February [MEPAG #33 meeting](#), Meg Schwamb, (Gemini Observatory) and Amy Kaminski, (NASA Office of the Chief Scientist) were asked to assemble a summary of available Citizen Science projects and platforms as a resource to the Mars science community. Citizen science, in which the public contributes to the scientific process, can advance science investigations through activities that include formulating research questions, conducting scientific experiments, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, making new discoveries, developing technologies and applications, and solving complex problems. For Mars-specific science, programs currently include *Mars Mapper*; *Planet Four*; *Planet Four: Terrains*; and *Planet Four: Ridges*. Community members considering public assistance with high data-volume projects can visit: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meeting/2017-03/MarsCitizenScience.pdf>

The 8th Planetary Crater Consortium

August 9-11, 2017 @ the US Geological Survey in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The Planetary Crater Consortium is open to all planetary scientists interested in any aspect of impact cratering on solar system bodies, including observational, theoretical, experimental, and numerical studies. Contributions on terrestrial impact crater field studies are encouraged, as well as presentations about cratering on other solar system bodies. The meeting is a combination of contributed talks, posters, and open discussion. An optional field trip around the rim of Meteor Crater will be arranged for Saturday, August 12, if there is sufficient interest. Abstract deadline is Tuesday, August 1, 2017. For more information, see www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/ or contact Nadine Barlow (Nadine.Barlow@nau.edu).

First community meeting of Mapping and Planetary Spatial Infrastructure Team (MAPSIT)

June 15, 2017, Flagstaff, Arizona

In conjunction with the 3rd Planetary Data Workshop in Flagstaff, Arizona (June 12-15, 2017; <http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2017/>), participants are invited to attend the 1st MAPSIT community meeting. More information on MAPSIT's vision, archives, and resources can be found at the MAPSIT website: <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/mapsit/>.

Request for Input: Planetary Geoscience Mapping

Please use the following link to provide much-needed anonymous input regarding planetary geoscience mapping; bit.ly/map_input. This request takes <5 minutes and covers all types of mapping efforts focused on non-terrestrial bodies. Poll results will be discussed at the Planetary Geologic Mapper's annual meeting, and will help inform how planetary geoscience mapping efforts can be improved. Results and paths forward will be posted on the MAPSIT webpage (<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/mapsit/>) by end of summer. Thank you; your input is critical!

9th International Radar/SAR Summer School

July 14-21, 2017 @ Haus Umboldtsein, Germany

Fraunhofer FHR, one of Europe's leading radar research institutes, which has pioneered radar and SAR research and development over the decades, is pleased to announce the 9th International Summer School on Radar/SAR, which will take place from 14-21 July 2017. We cordially invite students, PhD candidates, post-docs and anyone else eager to broaden and deepen their understanding of radar and SAR techniques to participate in our truly international summer school. Internationally renowned experts from across Europe, USA and Canada make up the summer school lecture team. This is a unique opportunity to gain an in-depth appreciation of modern radar and SAR systems whilst absorbing the multifarious atmosphere of the famous Upper Middle Rhine region. Participation in the programme of social activities with the international group of attendees will inspire and enrich your learning experience. See <http://www.radarsummerschool.fraunhofer.de> for further information and to download the Application form. Specific queries regarding the summer school should be addressed to: matthias.weiss@fhr.fraunhofer.de.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

| Due | Project |
|------------|--|
| April 20 | Accretion Building New Worlds , Indication of Interest Deadline |
| May 8 | International Conference on Mars Aeronomy 2017 , Late Abstract Deadline (poster only) |
| May 29 | 3rd Planetary Data Workshop , Registration Deadline |
| May 2 | Fifth International Planetary Dunes Workshop , Registration Deadline |
| May 3 | European Planetary Science Congress , Abstract Deadline |
| May 9 | Meteoritical Society meeting , Abstract Deadline |
| May 13 | Dust in the Atmosphere of Mars and it's Impact on Human Exploration , Early Registration Deadline |
| May 15 | 1st IUGS Symposium on Planetary Science , Abstract Deadline |
| May 26 | Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference , Abstract Deadline |
| June 1 | Accretion: Building New Worlds , 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 Barbara Saltzberg (Barbara.a.saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 90 days 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 whether an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

First Quarter, 2017

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| | April 19-21, 2017 Roscoff, France | Planetary Mapping and Virtual Observatory http://www.europlanet-eu.org/workshop-planetary-mapping-and-virtual-observatory/ NCTS#28815-17 |
| | April 23-28, 2017 Vienna, AUSTRIA | European Geosciences Union General Assembly http://www.egu2017.eu/ NCTS# 27025-17 PS8.2: Hyperspectral Data Measurements and Analysis to Support Planetary Exploration, GMI.4/PS9.5 Planetary Geomorphology |
| | April 24-28, 2017 Mesa, AZ, USA | Astrobiology Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscon2017/ , NCTS# 27507-17 |

Second Quarter, 2017

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|  | May 4-5, 2017 Muenster, GERMANY | New Views of the Moon 2—Europe http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/newviews2017/ |
|  | May 9-11, 2017 Washington, DC, USA | Humans to Mars Summit (H2M) http://h2m.exploremars.org/ , NCTS# 28099-17 |
|  | May 15-19, 2017 Boulder, CO, USA | International Conference on Mars Aeronomy (Update) 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/ , NCTS# 28521-17 |
| | May 23—25, 2017 Honolulu, HI, USA | 2017 GSA Cordilleran Section https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Sections/cd/2017mtg/home.aspx , NCTS# 28240-17 T16 New Developments in the Geology and Geochemistry of Mars, T17 Volcanism Across the Solar System, T18 Deposition and Diagenesis of Volcaniclastic Sediments on Earth and Mars, T19 Mars On Earth: Understanding Mars Through Earth Surface Processes |
| | May 30-31, 2017 Cambridge, UK | 6th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop https://icubesat.org NCTS# 27834-17 |
| | June 6-8, 2017 Beijing, China | Global Space Exploration Conference http://www.glex2017.org/ |
| | June 12-15, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ | 3rd Planetary Data Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2017/ NCTS 28154-17 |
| | June 12-16, 2017 The Hague, Netherlands | 14th International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-14) http://esaconferencebureau.com/2017-events/ippw-14/home NCTS# 28770-17 |
| | June 13-15, 2017 Greenbelt, MD, USA | 17th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group (S-BAG) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/ |
|  | June 13-15, 2017 (corrected) 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/ NCTS#28194-17 |

Third Quarter, 2017

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| | July 16-21, 2017 San Diego, California, USA | The XVIIIth International Conference on the Origin of Life http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/issol2017/ NCTS# 27115-17 |
| | July 24-27, 2017 Santa Fe, NM, USA | Meteoritical Society Meeting http://meteoriticalsociety.org/?page_id=18 NCS#28933-17 |
| | July 24-28, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA | NASA Planetary Science Summer School https://psss.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm |
| | August 15-17, 2017 Pasadena, CA, USA | Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference (LCPM-12) http://www.lcpm12.org/ |
| | August 15 –18, 2017 Houston, TX, USA | Accretion: Building New Worlds http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/accretion2017/ NCTS# 28309-17 |
| New! | September 13-16, 2017 Hong Kong, China | 2017 International Symposium on Planetary Remote Sensing and Mapping http://event.lsgi.polyu.edu.hk/prsm2017/ NCTS# 29650-17 |
| New! | September 13-14, 2017 Irvine, CA, USA | NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events |
| | September 17-22, 2017 Riga, Latvia | European Planetary Science Congress 2017 http://www.epsc2017.eu/ |
| | September 18-22, 2017 Jeju Island, South Korea | The 3rd COSPAR Symposium; Small Satellites for Space Research Abstract Submission is now open https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/ |
| | September 25—29, 2017 Adelaide, Australia | 68th International Astronautically Congress http://www.iac2017.org/ NCTS# 27783-17 |

Fourth Quarter, 2017

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| New! | September 17-22, 2017 Riga, Latvia | European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2017.eu/ |
| New! | October 2-6, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ, USA | The Fourth International Conference on Early Mars https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/earlymars2017/ NCTS# 29455-18 |
| New! | October 10-12, 2017 Toulouse, France | 33rd International Meeting of Sedimentology Planetary Sedimentology: Mars, Titan, and elsewhere” (session T2), ims2017.sciencesconf.org |
| New! | October 15-20, 2017 Provo, UT, USA | Division of Planetary Sciences Meeting https://dps.aas.org/ |
| New! | November 14-16, 2017 Laurel, MD, USA | VEXAG Meeting #15 Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/ |
| | December 11-15, 2017 New Orleans, LA, USA | American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (AGU) http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/2017-fall-meeting-new-orleans/ NCTS# 28919-18 |

2018

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| | March 27-29, 2018 Washington, DC USA | NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Sciences (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events |
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2018 continued

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| April 23-27, 2018 San Gabriel Valley, CA, USA (Proposed site) | Differentiation: Building the Internal Architecture of Planets NCTS# 28518-18 |
| April 24-26, 2018 St. Louis, MO | Planetary Science Informatics and Data Analytics https://psida.rsl.wustl.edu/ |
| May 5, 2018 | Insight launch window opens |
| September 12-13, 2018 Irvine, CA, USA | NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events |
| Sept. 30– Oct. 3, 2018 Flagstaff, AZ, USA | Bombardment: Shaping Planetary Surfaces and Their Environments NCTS# 28520-18 |
| November 26, 2018 | Insight Landing |

Seasons on Mars

| | MY34 | MY35 | MY36 |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|
| Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0 | 5/05/2017 | 3/23/2019 | 2/07/2021 |
| Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90 | 11/20/2017 | 10/08/2019 | 8/25/2021 |
| Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180 | 5/22/2018 | 4/08/2020 | 2/24/2022 |
| Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270 | 10/16/2018 | 9/02/2020 | 7/21/2022 |

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

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|---|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Good Friday | 4/14/2017 | 3/30/2018 | 4/19/2019 | 4/10/20 |
| Rosh Hashanah | 9/21/2017 | 9/10/2018 | 9/30/2019 | 9/19/20 |
| Yom Kippur | 9/30/2017 | 9/19/2018 | 10/09/2019 | 9/28/20 |
| (Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening) | | | | |
| Thanksgiving Day, Canada | 10/09/2017 | 10/08/2018 | 10/14/2019 | 10/12/20 |
| Thanksgiving Day, U.S. | 11/23/2017 | 11/22/2018 | 11/28/2019 | 11/26/20 |
| Christmas Day | 12/25/2017 | 12/25/2018 | 12/25/2019 | 12/25/20 |

Editors

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
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Through April 2017 —

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

Barbara Saltzberg at Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov.

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

- 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/>