VEXAG Townhall Meeting, LPSC
Wednesday, March 21,
12:00 – 1:15 pm
Room: Waterways 4
VEXAG Town Hall Meeting
2012 Venus Transit Planning

Kristen Erickson
March 20, 2012
Connecting the Dots...
The Venus Spectral Rocket Experiment (VeSpR)

*NASA’s next Venus flight mission*

<table>
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<th>Scheduled Launch:</th>
<th>April 21, 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Launch Site:</td>
<td>White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico</td>
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<td>Principle Investigator:</td>
<td>John Clarke (Boston University)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jclarke@bu.edu">jclarke@bu.edu</a></td>
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<td>617-353-0247</td>
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Purpose: To study the present day escape of water from the atmosphere of Venus and relate it to the past abundance of water on Venus.
http://venustransit.nasa.gov
(Includes Phone app)
Twitter: #venustransit
- Visible to the (protected) naked eye
- Crosses in front of the Sun for 6 hours 40 minutes
- Important event in astronomical history
- Will not occur again until 2117
• Last Venus transit of our lifetime.
• Historical significance in many cultures
• Educational significance (AU calculation)
• North America is primary viewing (over 6 hours)
• Importance of understanding Sun/Venus/Earth connection
• Comparative climatology...what happened there could happen here?
• Importance technology of transits viewing: from EPOXi to Kepler
Sun-Earth Day Event Locations
Mars Science Laboratory’s Curiosity Rover
Landing August 5, 2012
http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov
Radiation Belt Storm Probes
Launching September 2012
http://rbsp.jhuapl.edu/
For 50 years, human exploration of our Solar System has yielded abundant knowledge of our origins, our evolution, and possibly our future. Reaching ever outward, we leave our imprint—uniquely human—that here lives a species driven and marked by an endless curiosity. This is our neighborhood and learning more about it is our destiny. What will the next 50 years reveal?
Image from the 1882 Venus Transit and Cover of Sheet Music, inspired by the Transit