

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

July 2016

## Mars Science News

### **Save the date! MEPAG meeting #32: October 6, web-only**

A virtual MEPAG Meeting is being planned for this fall, and is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2016. At this meeting, presentations are expected to include reports from recent Mars-focused conferences and updates from the NASA Mars Exploration Program about mission status, including studies for future Mars missions. Additionally, recent and upcoming MEPAG activities and studies will be discussed. If you have an agenda suggestion, please send it to [mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov). An official First Information Circular will be posted to the MEPAG website (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm>) in the near future. We hope that you can join us.

### **Results of the Mars Communications Survey**

The Mars Program Office cares greatly about providing useful information via convenient and accessible community communications. Towards that end, feedback had been solicited about the ways that the Mars Program Office communicates with Mars community members, via an online survey available since [MEPAG meeting 31](#). In particular, the survey solicited feedback about the Mars Science Newsletter and the MEPAG website. There were 15 respondents (thank you!), and in general the responses were positive and indicated that current communication efforts are sufficient and useful. The main points within the results are available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/announcements.cfm>. (And while we have closed this survey, individuals can of course always contact us with suggestions and requests — see the end of the newsletter for contact information or email [mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov).)

Additionally, the survey requested evaluation of a couple of potential additions to this monthly newsletter: information about non-US space agency plans and missions, and pointers towards “Mars in the news” announcements. As these items were overall favorably rated, we are now developing a system of locating and listing official press releases that will provide this type of information to the community. Suggestions of press releases or sources for press releases can be sent to [mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov).

### **USGS Planetary Photogrammetry - Free Training Opportunities**

*SOCET SET® and ISIS, applies to HiRISE image pairs: July 25-27*

*ISIS: July 28-29*

The Planetary Photogrammetry Guest Facility at the Astrogeology Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey would like to announce its Call for Participation for a training opportunity on July 25-27, 2016. This training will cover photogrammetric processing of planetary stereo imagery using USGS Integrated Software for Imagers and Spectrometers and SOCET SET® software developed by BAE Systems. The training is FREE to participants, and will cover end-to-end, hands-on photogrammetric procedures for surface extraction (i.e., digital elevation model generation) from Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter HiRISE image pairs. For additional information and application instructions, please see <http://astrogeology.usgs.gov/facilities/photogrammetry-guest-facility>. For information about a USGS Integrated Software for Imagers and Spectrometers Hands-on Workshop being held July 28-29, 2016 - also hosted by the Astrogeology Science Center, please see: <https://isis.astrogeology.usgs.gov/fixit/projects/isis/news>. Interested individuals can attend both the SOCET SET® and the USGS Integrated Software for Imagers and Spectrometers workshops.

## It's been 40 years since Viking I!

NASA's Viking Project found a place in history when it became the first U.S. mission to land a spacecraft safely on the surface of Mars and return images of the surface. Two identical spacecraft, each consisting of a lander and an orbiter, were built. Each orbiter-lander pair flew together and entered Mars orbit; the landers then separated and descended to the planet's surface. The Viking I lander touched down on the western slope of Chryse Planitia (the Plains of Gold) on July 20, 1976. For more information about the Viking missions, see: <http://mars.nasa.gov/programmissions/missions/past/viking/>.

The Viking Mars Missions Education & Preservation Project and Lockheed Martin Corporation are hosting a public celebration on July 16th at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver, CO. A private invite only Viking Alumni (from all Centers and institutes) Reunion and celebration will take place after the public event., as described at <http://wingsmuseum.org/viking-mars-missions-education-preservation-project/>.

## Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
July 12	<b>GSA Meeting</b> , Abstract deadline.
July 31	<b>Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society</b> , Registration deadline
August 9	<b>3rd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions</b> , Abstract deadline
August 10	<b>The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3)</b> , Abstract deadline
August 22	<b>GSA Meeting</b> , Early registration deadline
September 26	<b>The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3)</b> , Registration 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 Meredith Cosby ([Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov)).
- If no deadline is noted: it is usually 90days 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 if an event is a conference or not, or when the forecasting deadline may be, please consult with your NASA Center conference forecasting/travel unit.

### Third Quarter, 2016

	July 18-19, 2016 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>Third International Conference on the Exploration of Phobos and Deimos</b> <a href="http://phobos-deimos.arc.nasa.gov/">http://phobos-deimos.arc.nasa.gov/</a> , NCTS #24799-16
	July 19, 2016 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>7th Annual Lunar and Small Bodies Graduate Conference</b> <a href="http://impact.colorado.edu/lungradcon/2016/">http://impact.colorado.edu/lungradcon/2016/</a>
	July 25-29, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>NASA's 28th Annual Planetary Science Summer School</b> <a href="https://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm">https://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm</a>
	July 27-29, 2016 Seattle, WA, USA	<b>Exoplanet Biosignatures Workshop Without Walls and ExoPAG SAG 16 Activity</b> <a href="http://nai.nasa.gov/calendar/workshop-without-walls-exoplanet-biosignatures/">http://nai.nasa.gov/calendar/workshop-without-walls-exoplanet-biosignatures/</a> , NCTS#25456-16

### Third Quarter, 2016—continued

	July 30-August 7, 2016 Istanbul, TURKEY	<b>41st Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR 2016) and Associated Events</b> <a href="http://www.cospar-assembly.org">http://www.cospar-assembly.org</a>
	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	<b>Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society</b> <a href="http://www.metsoc-berlin.de/">http://www.metsoc-berlin.de/</a> , NCTS# 24222-16
	August 17-19, 2016 Providence, RI, USA	<b>7th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/">http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/</a>
	September 5-9, 2016 Reykjavik, ICELAND	<b>6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/</a> , NCTS# 23841-16
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>
	September 25-28, 2016 Denver, CO, USA	<b>GSA Meeting</b> <a href="http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2016/home">http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2016/home</a> , NCTS # 24946-16 <i>Session T168: Past and present biosignature recognition on Earth, Mars, and Beyond</i> <i>Session T161: From bouncing grains to cemented sandstones: aeolian processes and stratigraphy in the Solar System; T165: Impact cratering on Earth and throughout the Solar System; T167: Mineral spectroscopy-harnessing energy to probe solid bodies in the Solar System; T168: Past and present biosignature recognition on Earth, Mars, and Beyond; T172: Tectonic, volcanic, and volcanotectonic processes on rocky planetary bodies</i>
	September 26-30, 2016 Guadalajara, MEXICO	<b>67th International Astronautical Congress</b> <a href="http://www.iafastro.org/events/iac/iac2016/">http://www.iafastro.org/events/iac/iac2016/</a> , NCTS# 24741-16

### Fourth Quarter, 2016

	October 10-14, 2016 Moscow, RUSSIA	<b>The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3)</b> <a href="http://ms2016.cosmos.ru/">http://ms2016.cosmos.ru/</a>
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting</b> <a href="http://aas.org/meetings/dps48">http://aas.org/meetings/dps48</a> , NCTS #25341-17
	October 19, 2016	<b>2016 ExoMars (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars</b>
	October 24-27, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>3rd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/ipm2016/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/ipm2016/</a>
	November 29-December 1, 2016 Washington DC, USA	<b>VEXAG Meeting #14</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary_news/2016/05/20/save-the-date-vexag-meeting-14-tuesday-thursday-november-29-december-1-2016-nasa-headquarters-washington-dc/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary_news/2016/05/20/save-the-date-vexag-meeting-14-tuesday-thursday-november-29-december-1-2016-nasa-headquarters-washington-dc/</a> <i>Student travel grants available: <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary_news/2016/05/27/student-and-early-career-travel-grants-for-vexag-meeting-14-in-washington-dc/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary_news/2016/05/27/student-and-early-career-travel-grants-for-vexag-meeting-14-in-washington-dc/</a></i>
	December 12-16, 2016 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> <a href="http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/">http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/</a> , NCTS #25415-17

## 2017

<b>New!</b>	January 17-20, 2017 Granada, SPAIN	<b>Sixth International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modelling and Observations</b> <a href="http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/granada2017/">http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/granada2017/</a>
	March 4-11, 2017 Big Sky, MT, USA	<b>IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> <a href="https://www.aeroconf.org/">https://www.aeroconf.org/</a>
<b>New!</b>	March 20-24, 2017 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	March 28-30, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>
<b>New!</b>	May 15-19, 2017 Boulder, CO, USA	<b>International Conference on Mars Aeronomy</b> <a href="http://lasp.colorado.edu/meetings/marsaeronomy2017/index.php">http://lasp.colorado.edu/meetings/marsaeronomy2017/index.php</a>
<b>New!</b>	May 16-19, 2017 St. Goerge, UT, USA	<b>Fifth International Planetary Dunes Workshop</b> <a href="http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2017/">http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2017/</a>
	September 13-14, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	<b>NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)</b>

## Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
<b>Start of Northern Spring / L<sub>s</sub> 0</b>	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
<b>Start of Northern Summer / L<sub>s</sub> 90</b>	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
<b>Start of Northern Autumn / L<sub>s</sub> 180</b>	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
<b>Start of Northern Winter / L<sub>s</sub> 270</b>	11/28/2016	10/16/2018	9/02/2020

## Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	3/25/2016	4/14/2017	3/30/2018	4/19/2019
Rosh Hashanah	10/03/2016	9/21/2017	9/10/2018	9/30/2019
Yom Kippur	10/12/2016	9/30/2017	9/19/2018	10/09/2019
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/10/2016	10/09/2017	10/08/2018	10/14/2019
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/24/2016	11/23/2017	11/22/2018	11/28/2019
Christmas Day	12/25/2016	12/25/2017	12/25/2018	12/25/2019

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

Meredith Cosby at [Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov).

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

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