

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

March 2017

Mars Science News

The 33rd MEPAG Meeting was held in Monrovia, California, Feb 22-23

Key discussion topics included the status of Mars exploration by NASA and other space agencies, consideration of potential interactions with the Human program (HEOMD) and commercial partners, and future MEPAG activities. Meeting presentations and Summary Notes can be found at the MEPAG meeting website: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m33>.

New MEPAG Goals Committee Chair

MEPAG Chair Dr. Jeff Johnson is pleased to announce that Dr. Don Banfield (Cornell University) has agreed to serve as the next MEPAG Goals Committee Chair. Dr. Banfield is an atmospheric scientist, who has studied the giant planets and Mars from both remote sensing and in situ perspectives. He has been associated with the Voyager flyby of Neptune, Galileo at Jupiter, and the MER Rovers; was a Participating Scientist for Mars Polar Lander and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter; and is a Co-I on InSight. He succeeds Dr. Victoria Hamilton (Southwest Research Institution), who we deeply thank for the years of service that resulted in two MEPAG Goals Document revisions (2012 and 2015). The full listing of MEPAG Goals Committee members can be found at: <https://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/about.cfm>.

The 3rd Mars 2020 Landing Site Selection Workshop ...

... was held in Monrovia, CA, February 8-10. Discussion of the science value of the eight landing site candidates led into downselection to three landing site finalists: Jezero Crater, Northeast Syrtis, and Columbia Hills in Gusev Crater. Presentations, background information, and other details can be found on the workshop website: https://marsnext.jpl.nasa.gov/workshops/wkshp_2017_02.cfm. The next Landing Site workshop is expected during late summer 2018.

JMARS Showcase at Lunar Planetary Science Conference

March 22, 2017

The Java Mission-planning and Analysis for Remote Sensing (JMARS) team will present a series of short presentations on how specific science — including landing site analysis — can be done on planets, moons, and small bodies. The goal of these presentations will be to showcase how to use JMARS to discover available datasets, filter them to refine relevance, and fuse them with one another in order to evaluate research hypotheses and produce publication-quality results. Wednesday, 12:00 to 1:15 PM, Indian Springs meeting room

<http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2017/events/highlighted/?date=2017-03-22>.

6th edition of “Mars Atmosphere Modelling and Observations” available.

These are proceedings from the workshop in Granada, Spain by the same title. Any person interested in the paper book with the presented abstracts can obtain one by contacting Marie-Christine Desjean at Marie-Christine.Desjean@cnes.fr. The contents are also available at: <http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/granada2017/>.

Planetary Science Advisory Committee Nominations

NASA's Planetary Science Division (PSD) of the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) is announcing the establishment of the Planetary Science Advisory Committee (PAC), a new committee replacing the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS) of the NASA Advisory Council, Science Committee (NAC SC). The PAC has been constituted under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and will advise the PSD, the SMD (and other mission directorates as required), and the NASA administrator. The scope of the PAC includes all aspects of NASA's planetary science program. In addition to scientific research, the scope also encompasses considerations of the development of near-term enabling technologies, systems, and computing and information management capabilities, and developments with the potential to provide long-term improvements in future mission operational systems.

To be considered by NASA, self-nomination packages from interested U.S. citizens must be sent to NASA by email to pac-execsec@hq.nasa.gov, and must include the name Planetary Science Advisory Committee (PAC). Please also review <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/02/23/2017-03541/nasa-federal-advisory-committees> for specific details of package preparation. The deadline for NASA receipt of all public nominations to the PAC is March 31, 2017.

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

Thursday, 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/>.

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.

2017 NASA Planetary Science Summer Seminar

July 24-28, 2017 @ JPL/Pasadena, CA, USA,

Application deadline: April 3, 2017 5pm CST

<https://psss.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm>

NASA is accepting applications from engineering students within 6-9 months of completion of their masters degree (but not planning to pursue a PhD degree), science and engineering post-docs, recent PhDs, and doctoral students, for its 29th Annual Planetary Science Summer Seminar, which will be held July 24-28, 2017 at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. During the program and pre-session webinars, student teams will carry out the equivalent of an early mission concept study, prepare a proposal authorization presentation, present it to a review board, and receive feedback. By the end of the session, students will have a clearer understanding of the life cycle of a space mission; relationships between mission design, cost, and schedule; and the tradeoffs necessary to stay within cost and schedule while preserving the quality of science. Applications are due April 3, 2017. Partial financial support may be available. Further information is available at <http://psss.jpl.nasa.gov>.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
March 10	14th International Planetary Probe Workshop , Abstract deadline
March 16	European Geosciences Union General Assembly , Registration deadline
March 30	Dust in the Atmosphere of Mars and Its Impact on the Human Exploration of Mars , Abstract deadline
April 3	Planetary Science Summer Seminar , Application deadline
April 5	3rd Planetary Data Workshop , Abstract deadline
April 11	XVIIIth International Conference on the Origin of Life , Abstract deadline
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

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

	March 4-11, 2017 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference https://www.aeroconf.org/ , NCTS# 26165-17
	March 20-24, 2017 The Woodlands, TX, USA	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2017/ , NCTS# 26280-17
	March 28-30, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
New!	April 3-7, 2017 Warsaw, Poland	Early Earth and ExoEarths: Origin and Evolution of Life http://lifeorigins2017.ing.pan.pl/home.html NCTS#29200-17
New!	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, GM1.4/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

	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/
Updated!	June 12-15, 2017 Flagstaff, AZ	3rd Planetary Data Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/planetdata2017/ NCTS 28154-17
Updated!	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
New!	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 (<i>corrected</i>) 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-Fourth Quarter, 2017

Updated!	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
New!	August 15-17, 2017 Pasadena, CA	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
	September 13-14, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS) http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_067577#Meetings_and_Events

Third-Fourth Quarter, 2017 *continued*

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 Astronautical Congress http://www.iaac2017.org/ NCTS# 27783-17
December 11-15, 2017 New Orleans, LA, USA	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (AGU) http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/2017-fall-meeting-new-orleans/

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

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

Meredith Cosby	Meredith.A.Cosby@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-0226
Barbara Saltzberg	Barbara.A.Saltzberg@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-0226
Serina Diniega	Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov	818-393-1487
David Beaty	David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-7968
James Ashley	James.W.Ashley@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-0860

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/WilmhPI M9V> (also linked on the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/>, under Updates).