

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2016

Mars Science News

1st Informational Circular for MEPAG meeting #32: October 6, web-only

Dr. Jeffrey R. Johnson, MEPAG Chair, cordially invites you to participate in the 32nd meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG), scheduled as a virtual meeting on October 6th, 2016, 8:30am-12:30pm PDT.

The agenda and Adobe Connect information will soon follow, and will be posted on the MEPAG meeting website (<http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m32>). 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, including the next face-to-face MEPAG meeting (No. 33) next Spring.

The meeting is open to all members of the Mars science community including our international colleagues. If you have a suggestion for the agenda or a question about the meeting, please email mepagmeetings@jpl.nasa.gov.

Student Opportunity: Shoemaker Impact Cratering Award

Deadline: August 26, 2016

The Eugene M. Shoemaker Impact Cratering Award is for undergraduate or graduate students, of any nationality, working in any country, in the disciplines of geology, geophysics, geochemistry, astronomy, or biology. The award, which will include \$2500, is to be applied for the study of impact craters, either on Earth or on the other solid bodies in the solar system. Areas of study may include but shall not necessarily be limited to impact cratering processes; the bodies (asteroidal or cometary) that make the impacts; or the geological, chemical, or biological results of impact cratering. Details about the award as well as an application form for interested students can be found at: http://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/kring/Awards/Shoemaker_Award/. Send questions about the award to David Kring, kring@lpi.usra.edu

Final announcement posted for 6th Internat. Conf. on Mars Polar Sci. & Explorat.

September 5-9, 2016 @University of Iceland, Reykjavik, ICELAND

The final announcement for the Sixth International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration, including the program, has been posted at <http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/>. The deadline for registering for this conference at reduced rates is August 22.

Additionally, we congratulate the Mars Program Office student travel grant award winners!

- Jacob Adler, Arizona State University
- Peter Buhler, California Institute of Technology
- Jeremy Emmett, New Mexico State University
- Margaret Landis, University of Arizona
- Noel Scudder, Purdue University

Some Mars-relevant AGU sessions

Conference is December 12-16 @San Francisco, CA, USA

Abstract deadline: August 3, 2016

[P011: Habitability, Preservation of Organic Molecules, and Environmental Transitions at Gale Crater, Mars](#)

[P012: High-Silica Materials on Mars – Observations, Processes, and Analogs](#)

[P018: Mars Upper Atmosphere, Ionosphere, Solar Wind Interactions, and Escape](#)

[P023: Processes in the present-day Atmosphere of Mars](#)

[P024: Radar Investigations of Planetary Surfaces and Subsurfaces](#)

[P029: Terrestrial Analogs for Planetary Processes: Oceans, Volcanoes, Impacts, and Dunes](#)

[P030: The early Mars environment: Warm and wet, cold and wet, or cold and icy?](#)

[EP024: Linking Sediment Transport and Geophysical Flows to Planetary Surface Evolution](#)

Planetary Science Short Course

August 29 – September 4, 2016 @Western University, London, CANADA

This is an intensive 7-day short course for graduate students, researchers, industry and government employees on planetary science. The focus of the course will be on the fundamental processes that have shaped the terrestrial planets and their moons, and asteroids. Particular emphasis will be placed on investigations of the Moon, Mars, and asteroids, which represent the highest priority targets for the Canadian planetary science community and the Canadian Space Agency. Some of the world's leading experts on planetary science will present 1 day or half-day modules on selected topics. Course registration fees are \$300 for students studying outside of Ontario, and \$1400 for professionals. Fees will cover the costs of course organization, speakers, and course notes. Click [here](#) for registration. Please contact cpsx@uwo.ca with any questions.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
August 3	AGU Fall Meeting , Abstract deadline
August 5	7th Planetary Crater Consortium meeting , Abstract deadline
August 8	6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration , Early registration deadline
August 9	3rd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions , Abstract deadline
August 10	The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3) , Abstract deadline
August 22	GSA Meeting , Early registration deadline
August 25	Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group , Abstract deadline
September 26	The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3) , Registration deadline
October 14	Sixth International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modelling and Observations , 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 Meredith Cosby (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

	August 7-12, 2016 Berlin, GERMANY	Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society http://www.metsoc-berlin.de/ , NCTS# 24222-16
	August 17-19, 2016 Providence, RI, USA	7th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/
	September 5-9, 2016 Reykjavik, ICELAND	6th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marspolar2016/ , NCTS# 23841-16
	September 14-15, 2016 Irvine, CA, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)
	September 25-28, 2016 Denver, CO, USA	GSA Meeting http://community.geosociety.org/gsa2016/home , 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	67th International Astronautical Congress http://www.iafastro.org/events/iaac/iaac2016/ , NCTS# 24741-16

Fourth Quarter, 2016

New!	October 6, 2016 Virtual meeting	32 MEPAG (virtual) meeting http://mepag.nasa.gov/meetings.cfm?expand=m32
	October 10-14, 2016 Moscow, RUSSIA	The Seventh Moscow Solar System Symposium (7M-S3) http://ms2016.cosmos.ru/
	October 16-21, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	Joint DPS-EPSC Meeting http://aas.org/meetings/dps48 , NCTS# 25341-17
	October 19, 2016	2016 ExoMars (TGO and EDM) Arrival at Mars
	October 24-27, 2016 Pasadena, CA, USA	3rd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/ipm2016/ , NCTS# 25600-17
New!	November 1-3, 2016 Colombia, MD, USA	Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/leag2016/
	November 29-December 1, 2016 Washington DC, USA	VEXAG Meeting #14 http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/upcoming/ , NCTS# 24529-17
	December 12-16, 2016 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2016/ , NCTS# 25415-17

2017

	January 17-20, 2017 Granada, SPAIN	Sixth International Workshop on the Mars Atmosphere: Modelling and Observations http://www-mars.lmd.jussieu.fr/granada2017/
	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 2017 Phoenix, AZ, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2017/
	May 15-19, 2017 Boulder, CO, USA	International Conference on Mars Aeronomy http://lasp.colorado.edu/meetings/marsaeronomy2017/index.php
	May 16-19, 2017 St. George, UT, USA	Fifth International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2017/
New!	June 13-15, 2017 Greenbelt, MD, USA	17th Meeting of the NASA Small Bodies Assessment Group http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/
	September 13-14, 2017 Washington, DC, USA	NRC's Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science (CAPS)

Seasons on Mars

	MY33	MY34	MY35
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	6/18/2015	5/05/2017	3/23/2019
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	1/03/2016	11/20/2017	10/08/2019
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	7/04/2016	5/22/2018	4/08/2020
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	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.

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

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- 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/WilmhPIM9V> (also linked on the MEPAG website <http://mepag.nasa.gov/>, under Updates).