

## Contact List

**Kitt Peak Visitor Center**—318-8726  
Nick Petrosino, Supervisor  
npetrosino@noao.edu  
318-8732

**NOAO Public Outreach**  
Rich Fedele, Manager  
rfedele@noao.edu  
318-8163  
Robert Wilson,  
Program Coordinator  
rwilson@noao.edu  
318-8440

### Kitt Peak Docent Program

950 N Cherry Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85719

**Docent Forum:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/docentforum>

**Docent Calendar:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/docentforum>

**Volunteering at Kitt Peak:** <http://www.noao.edu/outreach/kpoutreach.html>

[www.noao.edu](http://www.noao.edu)



## Next Docent Meeting March 21

The next docent meeting will be held on Monday, March 21. The meeting will convene at 6:00 in the main conference room and will feature dinner and a speaker. Docents should visit the docent forum calendar to schedule their hours for April prior to the March meeting. See the URL for the docent calendar at lower left.

«First Name» «Last Name»  
«Mailing Address»  
«City» «State» «Zip Code»

## Kitt Peak Docent Program

# DOCENT NEWS

Number 89

March 2005



## DOCENT-ACCESSIBLE CALENDAR AVAILABLE

### Points of Interest:

- The docent meeting will be held Monday, March 21, featuring dinner and a speaker.
- March 3: Asteroid 1992 BF near-Earth flyby at .064 AU.
- March 9: Cassini, Enceladus and Tethys flyby.
- March 10: Asteroid 2002 FW1 near-Earth flyby at .030 AU.
- March 12: Kitt Peak celebrates the 100th anniversary of Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity.
- March 12: Mercury's greatest eastern elongation—18°.
- March 13: Percival Lowell's 150th birthday.
- March 16: Caroline Herschel's 250th birthday.
- March 20: Vernal Equinox at 12:33 UT.
- March 26: Moon occults Jupiter.

For additional information about these points of interest, visit <http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/calendar/>.

Beginning with the month of April, docents will no longer have to contact the visitor center to schedule their hours. Thanks to a feature of the Docent Forum in Yahoo groups, docents will now access that calendar and input their hours themselves.

Accessing the calendar requires that docents first join the forum. The procedure for joining is simple. Visit the web site at the URL for Docent Forum on page 4 at lower left. Once there, click the "Join This Group!" button and follow the directions. Membership requires the approval of the group moderator, so new members should identify themselves by name if they are not identifiable by their email addresses.

After becoming members, docents may select the calendar option from the menu at the left of the home page. The calendar defaults to a monthly view. Click on the appropriate date and the view will change to daily with the hours from 10:00 to 6:00 listed. Click on any hour and enter your name in the "Title" field. Then skip down to the "Time" options and click the button for "This is an all day event." Next go to the bottom of the page and find the "Reminders" buttons and select "Do not send a reminder." Finally, go to the very bottom of the page and click "Save." This final step puts the docent's name on the monthly calendar for that date.

Docents who cannot volunteer on their scheduled days may delete their entries by

simply clicking on their names in the monthly calendar. Then click on "Delete" once and "Delete" a second time and the entry is gone. Docents who delete their names from the calendar, though, should email the visitor center to inform Nick Petrosino of the change.

The obvious exception to the self-scheduling will be docents who do not own a computer. Those volunteers may continue to schedule their hours through the visitor center. All other docents are responsible for maintaining their schedules on the group calendar. Visitor center events will be posted by staff and the calendar will continue to appear in the Docent News.

In addition to granting access to the calendar, the forum gives docents the opportunity to exchange ideas and information with each other at any time. Messages are archived so docents need not get unwanted email every time someone posts a message. Instead members may peruse the archived messages on the home page and respond to any topic that appears interesting. Additionally, the chat feature is now active so docents have another means of discussing thoughts and issues related to astronomy and Kitt Peak.

Public Outreach hopes that docents will find the Docent Forum useful and enjoyable. Questions concerning its use may be directed to Robert Wilson at [rwilson@noao.edu](mailto:rwilson@noao.edu) or 318-8440.

## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR FAMILY NIGHT

Kitt Peak Family Night is still in need of a few volunteers. The more volunteers on hand the more efficiently the event runs and the more time volunteers have for just enjoying the night with their families. Docents who own telescopes are welcome to bring them

and use the .9-meter parking lot for observing. Solar observing is welcome, too. A sign up sheet will be available at the April TAAA meeting, but docents need not wait until then to get on the roster. Just contact Robert Wilson to support this fun family evening.

## CASSINI'S CAMERAS PROVIDE THE FIRST CLOSEUP LOOK AT SATURN'S ICY MOON ENCELADUS

Cassini's first very close flyby of Saturn's small, icy moon Enceladus has revealed a fascinating, tortured world of ice. The spacecraft swept within 1,180 kilometers (730 miles) of the moon's wrinkled surface on Wednesday, providing the first-ever extremely high resolution images of the world with the brightest, most reflective surface in the Solar System.

Enceladus is a target of particular interest for the Cassini mission. Since the Voyager spacecraft flew past Enceladus in 1980 and 1981, planetary scientists have been intrigued by the moon's wrinkled terrain and smooth plains, some of which appeared to be relatively free of impact craters. Smooth, crater-free surfaces on moons and planets indicate geologically young ages, while wrinkles may indicate tectonic activity or volcanism.

Cassini has now viewed these terrains at almost 10 times better resolution than Voyager. Interestingly, the icy surface of Enceladus appears to have similarities to both Europa and Ganymede - two prominent icy satellites of Jupiter - and topographic relief about 1 kilometer (0.6 mile). Both Europa and Ganymede are thought to have subsurface water layers or "oceans", so the similarities to Enceladus are intriguing.

The images released on February 18 include a high resolution mosaic, showing complex systems of fractures and resurfaced terrain. Another high resolution view reveals details of a relatively fresh-looking crevasse or fissure system with individual fractures that are over a kilometer wide. Among the most intriguing features in this view are a series of small, dark spots, which in many places seem to be aligned in chains parallel to narrow fractures.

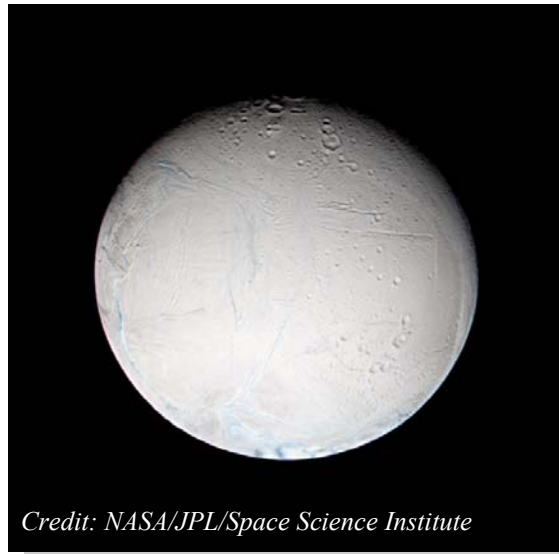
One of the new images is a false-color view that shows that some of the linear features on Enceladus have a slightly different color from their surroundings. Different colors of ice may be caused by different compositions or different ice crystal sizes - either of which can indicate different formation mechanisms or different ages.

An additional early highlight from the flyby is a high resolution stereo anaglyph, or "3-D" view of Enceladus. Stereo views such as this are helpful in interpreting the moon's complex topography.

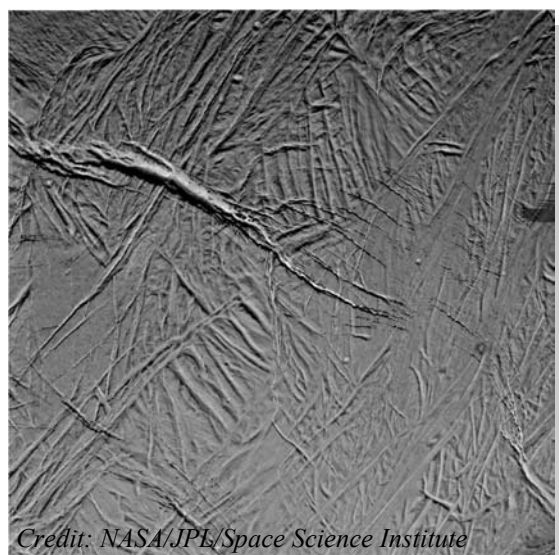
The pictures are available at <http://ciclops.org>, <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov> and <http://www.nasa.gov/cassini>.

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, manages the Cassini-Huygens mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington, D.C. The Cassini orbiter and its two onboard cameras were designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The imaging team is based at the Space Science Institute, Boulder, Colorado.

Contact Preston Dyches  
(720) 974-5823  
CICLOPS/Space Science Institute  
Boulder, Colorado.



Credit: NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute



Credit: NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute

# March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bob K., Joyce 15 students grades 5-8	2 Punch, Sheila	3 Gene, Jerry	4 Don, Doug	5 Eugene, Jim O.
6 Jerry	7 Jim M., Jessica	8 Larry	9 Punch, Sheila	10 Gene, Jerry	11 Barbara, Don	12 Jim O., Jerry Einstein Event
13 Laura, Rich R., Mark	14 Jim M, Barbara	15 Joyce, Eugene, Larry	16 Punch, Sheila	17 Barbara, Gene, Jerry	18 Don, Doug	19 Jim O., Phyllis, Ken - 32 guests U of Wisc.
20 Jerry, Anna, Mark	21 John, Ken Docent Meeting	22 Joyce, Bob, Larry	23 Punch, Sheila	24 Jerry, Laura	25 Don, Doug, Rich R.	26 Jim O., Jerry
27 Anna, Ken	28 Jim M., Jessica	29 Eugene, Lee, Larry	30 Punch, Sheila	31 Phyllis, Jerry, Elaine		

## DOCENT DATABASE AVAILABLE FOR DOCENT INPUT

The docent database is once again available for use directly by the docents. It is located on the coelostat computer in the audio-visual cabinet near the entrance to the theater.

To access the database, click on the star icon that says "Enter tour totals here" on the desk top of the computer. The computer is always left on but should the monitor be blank, just move the mouse or press a key on the keyboard to activate it. Once the program loads, select the appropriate function.

Just as before, docents will have to sign in first. This involves merely finding your name on the list and then clicking "Sign in." After that, tour totals may be entered by typing in the number of people on the tour and selecting the appropriate type of group and the appropriate tour time.

Remember that the "Special Group" category should not be

used unless the docent entering the data has been told that he or she is to conduct a tour for a special group. Just walking someone to a telescope in between regular tours does not constitute a special tour. Those are arranged by the department and are usually conducted by staff unless a docent has been recruited to fill in. Examples of special tours are the visits by US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the Mayor of La Serena, Chile, and Dr. John H. Marburger III, science advisor to President George W. Bush.

Docents are reminded to insure that the totals entered into the database are accurate because they must be reported to the NSF quarterly. Visitor center staff will continue to input the totals from the tour receipts.