



space odyssey

06.26.15 volunteer update

[Click here to visit the Space Odyssey MGG Portal](#)

[Click here for the latest space news update on the MGG Portal](#)

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space odyssey news

IN MEMORIAM

I am sad to announce that Phil Avrin passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Phil started volunteering at DMNS in Space Odyssey in 2004 and in Prehistoric Journey in 2005. He was an amazing man and was humble about all that he accomplished in his life, including his time spent working on the Viking camera team alongside Carl Sagan. You can see Phil's picture in the NASA published book about Mars in the 2003 storage room in Space Odyssey--he's seen in the panoramic image at least two if not three times. Phil volunteered in Space Odyssey from 2004 until 2011 and continued to volunteer in Prehistoric Journey until 2014. Steve Lee helped coordinate a memorial service on June 20 for him in the Gates Planetarium for his family and friends, including many from DMNS.

FREE DAY MONDAY JUNE 29

SCFD Community Free Day is this Monday, June 29. We expect and look forward to hosting lots happy Museum guests.

Some programming highlights:

The Jungle Lady, along with her amazing menagerie of cold blooded critters, will be on hand to entertain, educate, and delight Museum guests.

Guests will get crafty with Destination Imagination while designing and building candy launchers and paper towers.

Cook up some fun and creativity in the Discovery Zone's Science Kitchen decorating and playing with cardboard. (I can't wait to see what the kiddos come up with!!)

But wait, there's more! Please check out our website [SCFD Community Free Day, Monday, June 29 : Denver Museum of Nature & Science](#) for a full listing.

HELP NEEDED: PLUTO SCIENCE LOUNGE JULY 16

If you'd like to help out for the Pluto-centric Science Lounge on July 16, we can use people in the following areas:

Telescopes

Orbits Table

SOS

Gravity Well

Spectroscopy

Meteorites

NASA Eyes app at the Space Screen: Tom Reiners, Thursday AM/Friday PM, has agreed to help run this, but it might help to have one more person to cover it.

The evening will start with a briefing/dinner at 5:30 in Upper Trex, the event starts at 6:30 and goes till about 9:30. Please let me know if you can help. Thanks much!

HELPING NURSING MOTHERS AT DMNS

If a guest needs access to a private space to nurse their baby, please refer them to the newly created "Mom's Room" located near the Family Restroom just inside the entrance to Gems and Minerals. Nursing in public spaces is also permitted if anyone asks. Thanks for your help and let me know if you have any questions.

STEVE LEE DEVELOPING NEW MARS PLAYLIST FOR SOS

Steve has enlisted the help of a summer Teen Science Scholar to help him construct new datasets of Mars with much greater detail than currently available on the SOS. The playlist is slated to be released near the end of summer. If you'd like a sneak-peak, look under "WIP Steve Lee" on the playlist page of the iPad app. Once you open that playlist scroll to

the last three datasets to see the work in progress.

SPACE ODYSSEY AUDIT INFORMATION AND UPDATE

Please read the following note from Jodi Schoemer, Director of Exhibits here at DMNS--Jodi was also the project manager in charge of Space Odyssey when it opened in 2003:

"With Space Odyssey and the Planetarium turning ten years old in 2014, the Museum decided to do a comprehensive review to help us make the next ten years of space experiences at the Museum continue to be great! The review - a multi-month process - will help us decide how our vision for space science experiences should evolve, and will help us set goals that will define future projects, spaces, and programs.

Over 10 years ago, Space Odyssey and the Planetarium helped our Museum break new ground and grow our understanding. Here are some interesting factoids:

- Did you know that Space Odyssey was our first permanent exhibition that had a full digital technology backbone supporting its programs and exhibitions? Now we also have Expedition Health, the Discovery Zone, and even parts of our Wildlife Halls that are integrating digital technology in thoughtful ways.
- Did you know that in 2003 there were only a handful of other high-resolution full-dome digital planetariums in the world? There are a lot more now - and a lot of them built by people that toured our Gates Planetarium when it first opened.
- Did you know that Space Odyssey had the first comprehensive volunteer program where we explicitly relied on our facilitators not to only supply answers, but also to customize the experience, to be a coach to aid guests in discovering their own answers, or even to simply listen?

Did you know - when Space Odyssey first opened - that smart phones were still only experiments in laboratories, and that people sent texts by using the number pads on their cell phones? (Remember that...? 3 = D, E, F, depending on how many times you tapped it?)

Space Odyssey is once again "breaking ground" by helping the Museum establish a proactive process to comprehensively review our permanent exhibitions and prepare them for the future - a process we will adapt for other exhibitions in the future like Expedition Health."

NEW MERCURY PIC ON THE WAY

We will be installing a new picture of the planet Mercury on the "planet wall" near the Space Screen in the coming weeks. This picture utilizes data from the MESSENGER mission and is in part due to feedback from a guest who works on MESSENGER telling a volunteer who then let me know. So, keep the feedback coming! Enjoy!

WORK COMPLETED IN SO THIS WEEK

Mars Lander game has new lamp in that space; Experiment Bar cabinet door has been

reattached; Orbits computer side cover has been reattached; and thin slices exhibit is being repaired among other items. Check the whiteboard for more items we're working to resolve.

SOS SLIDESHOW

Kim Evans is working on getting the slide show up and running. With 500+ slides, it may take a bit.

RECENTLY ADDED SCIENCE ON A SPHERE DATASETS

<http://sos.noaa.gov/Datasets/list.php?category=All&type=&sort=DateAdded&order=DESC>

Our system is updated by NOAA with the latest, greatest stuff every Monday for your viewing pleasure, though occasionally, the latest datasets aren't available right away. If you encounter an issue, let me know.

AMAZING AURORA PIC...FROM COLORADO!

Thanks to Jim Nelson, Sunday PM, for sharing his picture of the aurora borealis as seen from the greater Brush, CO metropolitan area. Jim took this picture this past Tuesday, June 23.



NASA CLIMATE UPDATE

<http://climate.nasa.gov/news/>

PLUTO NEWS

<http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/>

THIS WEEK'S COOL STUFF ON THE WEB:

Dave Bauer, from the Tuesday AM team, makes the Denver Post...

[Click here](#)

Awesome pic for an awesome woman...Sally Ride's ride into space...

[Click here](#)

Storytime from..space...!

[Click here](#)

Want to build your own Pluto/Charon system?

[Click here](#)

Check out the cool (hot?) solar flare seen by Kim Grogan and Jeff Siegel with the solar telescopes this past Monday (the link below isn't exactly how they saw it of course)...

[Click here](#)

Great New Horizons video...

[Click here](#)

Boeing 787 flight with crazy take-off...

[Click here](#)

SCFD COMMUNITY FREE DAY CALENDAR

The Museum is offering 12 Community Free Days in 2015, made possible by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District. As part of the Museum's agreement to receive funds from SCFD, which account for a significant portion of the Museum's operating budget, the Museum offers "community free days" throughout the year to allow those who can't afford admission the privilege to visit DMNS. Below are the dates for the 2015 free days. To learn more about SCFD, [click here](#).

- Monday, June 29
- Sunday, July 26
- Monday, August 17
- Sunday, September 27
- Monday, October 19
- Monday, November 9

trainings and meetings

SCIENCE ON A SPHERE USER GROUP MEETING

Monday July 6

4:30 to 6:30 PM

Meet in Space Odyssey Briefing Room

RSVP to Dave Blumenstock

At this meeting we will discuss the use of Climate Bits datasets on the SOS in anticipation of a visit from Dr. Stephanie Schollaert Uz from the University of Maryland CMNS-Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center the week of July 13. Stephanie contacted us this Spring in part due to how well we hosted a colleague of hers who visited us last summer and gave a presentation about air pollution. Stephanie would like our feedback about the Climate Bits datasets on the SOS and learn about how we use them. Even if you cannot attend this meeting, I'd still like to hear your thoughts on these datasets if you currently use them. If you aren't familiar with Climate Bits, take a look here:

<http://climatebits.umd.edu/about.html>

[And click here to learn more about Stephanie.](#) Feel free to use the Climate Bits datasets on the SOS, they are ready-made datasets that help explain climate science in an easy to understand way. You can access these datasets via the iPad app library by searching under..."Climate Bits."

MISCONCEPTIONS IN ASTRONOMY TRAINING

Monday July 20

6:30 PM to 8 PM

Food and drink provided

RSVP to Dave Blumenstock

As you may know, our guests and the public at large, may have misconceptions about the workings of celestial mechanics such as the changing seasons. Dr. Ka Chun Yu, Curator of Space Science DMNS, will be presenting this evening. For many years, he has been researching how people learn and conceive of astronomical concepts and we hope this training will help you understand where our guests are coming from as well as some common misconceptions held by the public.

space science lectures & events

SUMMER SCI-FI FILM SERIES

[Click here to learn more and buy tickets.](#)

60 MINUTES IN SPACE

Wednesday June 29

7 PM

FREE

Go "behind the stories" in space science using the best images and animation available to help understand new developments. Seating is limited to first come, first served. Please use the Evening entrance on the west side of the Museum.

SCIENCE LOUNGE PLUTO PARTY

Planet or not, Pluto needs a party! Celebrate the infamous dwarf planet on a journey through our solar system. Size up the stats for what defines a planet. Raise a glass and gaze out into the night sky through telescopes and learn about the New Horizons mission that offers us a peek at petite Pluto.

Date/Time:

Thursday, July 16, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Ages:

21+

Tickets:

\$10 member, \$12 nonmember

RESERVATION INFO

Volunteers have the opportunity to attend most After Hours programs priced at the \$8 member/ \$10 nonmember rate for free on a space-available basis! Volunteers always receive the member rate for all other Adult Programs. As of May 12, please call Guest Services at 303.370.6000 to make a reservation.

Guest Services is open daily, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Admission to 60 Minutes in Space is free and is on a first come, first seated basis.

On the evening of the program, please enter through the same entrance as our guests and pick up your ticket from the will-call cashier. Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for Adult Programs!

museum news and events

NEW MOTHER'S ROOM AVAILABLE ON FIRST FLOOR

As part of the Here Better initiative and Facility Master Plan project, we're pleased to announce that we now have a new Mother's Room for nursing mothers that we can offer as a more conducive and comfortable space to employees, as well as offer the room as a guest amenity. Since it will be a shared resource for employees and guests, reserving or scheduling the room will not be required. It will be self-managed based on availability (first

come, first serve). It's located on the first floor near Gems and Minerals, along with the family restrooms. There is signage in the central atrium as well as locator signage for the Coors Hall corridor. Updated maps will also be forthcoming. But it's now available for use.

Thanks to the ideas and efforts of many employees/departments and contractors, and a special thanks to James Calder for leading the project with exceptional care. It's a beautiful space. If you're interested, please take a moment to check out the space. Any feedback or comments are encouraged and welcome.

SUMMER PARKING SHUTTLE UPDATE

The East High shuttle has been running smoothly for 2 weeks and Ed Scholz, COO of DMNS, wanted to thank the group of volunteers who are using it (as well as those who are biking, walking, carpooling, and alternatively commuting in other ways) - he's enjoyed seeing many of you on the shuttle! But it's still a relatively small number so he'd like to encourage others to give it a try.

Anyone can make the shuttle work for them. All it takes is a little planning.

The Shuttle leaves East High at :00 and :30 each hour starting at 6:30am, Monday - Friday. It leaves the Museum at :15 and :45 each hour, with the last ride at 5:45pm. The driver takes a break from 11:30-12:00 and from 3:00-3:30. The ride takes about 5-7 minutes. There is security at the lot during the day.

We are on track in 2015 to have the highest attendance since we hosted Body Worlds in 2006. The weather has gone from very rainy to very hot, which means more visitors. This is a great thing, but we need to make it an incredible experience for them. We wouldn't be here without them.

Ed has committed to himself to alternatively commute at least 3 times a week.

Please do what you can and let's make it the best summer yet our DMNS community. If you have any questions or concerns about how to make the shuttle work for you, please don't hesitate to contact anyone in Volunteer Services.

SCIENCE ATRIUM FLOOR REPAIRS BEGINNING JUNE 29

In order to repair the storm drain line that caused some flooding on the B1 and B2 levels Wednesday night, we will need to open a portion of the Science Atrium floor near the west set of double doors near the restrooms. Initially, the work will be to drill an 8" hole in the floor to see the extent of the damaged pipe and pipe supports. This will immediately be followed by more extensive work to cut the floor open, repair the pipe and fill in any voids that we discover. I estimate the work will take 4-5 days and the area affected will be about 15' square to provide work area around the holes. Barriers will be placed around the work area to ensure safety.

HERE BETTER UPDATES

The Here Better Initiative began with a list of over 80 projects that focus specifically on 2001 Colorado Blvd. This is our second quarterly update on the progress of projects.

Completed Here Better Projects:

- * Facility Master Plan Phase 1 (existing conditions)-Completed 4.1.15
- * Repair IMAX doors -Completed 4.22.15
- * Refine and operationalize Dia del Nino Festival Day-Completed 4.25.15
- * Add labels identifying dino sculptures in garage elevator area-Completed 5.18.15
- * Add a coffee/light food cart that can move to various locations-Completed May 2015
- * Consider alternative locations for camp curbside check-in-Completed June 2015
- * Add a Mother's room for guests and staff (located in the first floor family restroom area)-Completed 5.20.15
- * Hold the Makers' Faire "Beta" program-Completed 6.14.15

Here Better Projects in Progress:

- * Remove the hanging tarp on L2 parking garage-Estimated completion Q3 2015
- * Add (safe) step stools in all restrooms-Estimated completion June 30th, 2015
- * Add a penny smasher for guests to create a keepsake-Estimated completion Q3 2015
- * North/East exterior enhancements - Phase 1 (benches, trash bins, trees, north side planters)-Estimated completion Q3 2015
- * Prehistoric Journey Paleo Lab Improvements Phase 1-Estimated completion Q3 2015
- * Implement Self Service Facilitated Ticket Kiosks-Estimated completion Q3 2015
- * Implement "The Launch Pad" - New Hire Orientation overhaul-Estimated completion Q3 2015

Thanks to the many staff who are participating on a variety of teams and are working hard to make these projects happen!

MUSEUM LECTURE AND PROGRAMMING INFORMATION

[Click here for Evening Lectures](#)

[Click here for Gates Planetarium Daily Show Schedule](#)

[Click here for Museum IMAX information](#)

volunteer enrichment committee

Click here for more information about VEC events:

<http://volunteers.dmns.org/events/>

Or see the bulletin board in the Volunteer Lounge for more info.

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Join the Museum's Online Community

www.dmns.org