

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE
VENUS WINDS PROJECT
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date/Time/Location: 24 Sept 2015 6:00 PM Exploration Studio 102

ATTENDING

Art	Ashley	Christian	Cristy	Dave	Drew	Dylan
Elizabeth	Emilie	John	Kevin	Mark	Marta	Michael D.
Michael L.	Rachel	Terran	Yvonne			

Guests: **None**

The meeting opened at 6:00 PM at Exploration Studio 102 in the Morgridge Wing. Those **attending** are listed above.

OLD BUSINESS

Wind velocities for analysis of July 4-13, 2004 data Mark

Mark showed the analysts' exercise for centering the nine images from the July 4-13, 2004 dataset. All have recognized the problem centering all of the images with a single mask. Art offered to create circular masks for all nine days. In the meantime, Mark will be converting the various analysts' submitted into cylindrical coordinates which will be used for tracking target features over the nine-day period. Those who have not completed the exercise should attempt it at least to gain experience in this method.

NEW BUSINESS

New observations Mark

Mark will be observing Venus with the same telescope and instrument on 25-29 September 2015. He described in detail about the optical and instrumental setup used for acquiring these Venus images globally. Several other observatories in Europe and Asia will be participating. The datasets from Mauna Kea and the other observatories will extend the observations over as much as nine? hours. In principal, the new images will be shown at the next meeting on 8 October 2015.

Akatsuki Mission Mark, Kevin

Mark and Kevin will discussed numerous details about the upcoming Japanese Akatsuki mission. The Akatsuki spacecraft was intended to go into orbit around Venus in 2010 but failed. However, it is planned to use the remaining thrusters to put the spacecraft into an orbit similar to the failed mission in December 2015.

Physiography of Pluto

Art

Images from the New Horizon's mission to Pluto have been gradually released by NASA/JHU-APL on their website. Art prepared a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the physiography of Pluto revealed by the images. Physiography is the study of landforms and Pluto is revealed to be a place of many and varied landform types. The first sets of images released were focused in and around *Sputnik Planum*, a large and bright area covered with principally methane, nitrogen and carbon monoxide ices. These ices contrast sharply with dark-colored mountains and large areas surrounding *Sputnik Planum* that are covered with multitudes of craters, assumed to be meteoric in origin. In between, is a chaotic zone of dunes and irregular crustal blocks, reminiscent of outwash debris found in terrestrial glacial terrain.

The next meeting on October 8 will be in Exploration Studio 102 at 6 PM.

Submitted by Arthur C. Tarr, Venus Winds Project Coordinator