



space odyssey

02.26.16 volunteer update

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

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

Click below for quick access to:

[Space Odyssey News](#)

[Space Science Lectures & Events](#)

[Did you know?](#)

[Museum News and Events](#)

[Volunteer Enrichment Committee \(VEC\) Events](#)

space odyssey news

NEXT FREE DAY: MARCH 7

INTRO TO SPACE ODYSSEY TRAINING

Tuesday, March 15

6:30 PM to 8 PM

Space Odyssey

RSVP to Dave Blumenstock by March 14

HELP NEEDED MONDAY AFTERNOONS IN SPACE O

We are in need of help on the Monday PM shift while we look for new recruits to fill these positions. So, if you have the time and inclination to help out, please let me know. Thanks

much!

HELP NEEDED: MARCH 8 MEMBER NIGHT

We need help with facilitating Space Odyssey this night--we are all set for telescopes. The event starts at 5 PM with a briefing in Upper Trex and is usually over by 9 PM. This event is for Museum members only and we'll have around 1000 attendees and most of the museum will be open. Please let me know if you'd like to help out and what you'd like to do in the exhibit. Thanks!

WORKING MARCH 5? PLEASE PARK AT EAST HIGH

We will have two shuttle buses running from the East High parking lot all day from 6 AM to 6 PM on Saturday March 5 as the Girls in Science program at DMNS is expected to draw in excess of 10,000 guests. So if you can, please park at East High this day and take the shuttle bus to help save spots at the Museum for our guests. If you need the location of the East High lot, [click here](#). Thanks much all!

MARCH 5 GIRLS IN SCIENCE PROGRAM UPDATE

For those working in SO on March 5, please note that Girls in Science presenters will be using both the SOS and Galaxy Stage all day. The presenters are from NOAA and other local institutions.

NEW SIGNAGE ON SKY TERRACE

If you haven't seen this yet, it's awesome. Please check out the new sign on the Sky Terrace that identifies local and regional landmarks visible from that vantage point. Thanks to Exhibits for getting this done!

ORBITS TABLE INTERNET

We will be using the Guest Network to logon for internet access at the Orbits Table. When you open a browser, just check the box and click on the blue button to accept the terms and you're off and running. Questions? Please let me know.

HOW TO LOAD NEW HORIZONS PLUTO IMAGE AT ORBITS TABLE

If you want to wrap Pluto in its latest New Horizons image at the Orbits Table, here's what you do:

1. Fly or jump to Pluto.
2. Click on the "globe-shaped" icon on the navigation pad. This is the pad that you use to control rotate and zoom. The icon is in the upper right corner.
3. When the window pops up, click on "Layers."
4. Then click on "Load."
5. You should see another window with a file that says "Pluto..."
6. Double click on that file and the image should wrap on Pluto.

SPECTROSCOPY CART UPDATE

Naomi has ordered more of the yellow spectroscopy glasses--the ones that are linear and show the spectra in a line vs. in a multi-axis orientation. For those wondering when the new

Spectroscopy Cart, created by Dimitri and his intern last summer, will debut on the floor we don't have a date as yet, but hopefully...soon!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Dan A. on Wednesday AM asked:

"If our Single Solar Mass sun winked out and became a black hole - would we simply continue in orbit around the black hole mostly unaffected except lack of Day times or would we be too close to the event horizon and be "sucked" in?"

Dr. Ka Chun Yu answered:

"The answer is that we would not notice a difference gravitationally. You can calculate the Schwarzschild radius for the Sun which ends up being about 3000 km. So a one solar mass black hole would be half the size of the Earth. We would be too far away to worry about slipping past there boundary of no return.

There are non-Newtonian orbital effects that would manifest itself much closer in. (The same general relativistic effect that also causes the precession of Mercury's orbit which is not predicted by Newtonian theory.) But for us at the Earth, there would be no noticeable gravitational impact."

FUEL CELL UPDATE

Thanks to Dave Lewis for getting the fuel cell up and running again. Naomi will order more distilled water as well.

NASA TV UPDATE

Thanks to Tech, NASA TV is working again on the Space Screen.

NEW SITE FOR TILTY TABLE PAGE

If you want to find locations on the Tilty Table using latitude/longitude but only have a street address, we've added a new USGS site on the Portal page for that purpose. [Click here](#) to go to the page, then click on Earth Explorer.

TELESCOPE INTERACTIVE UPDATE

The camera on the telescope interactive has been acting up and not showing variation in the images based on exposure/time settings. It is still being worked on.

SEASONS TABLE UPDATE

Dave L is working on getting the Earth's tilt secured. How often can you say something like that at work?

GROUND PENETRATING RADAR UPDATE

This unit has a broken sensor so we are replacing it. In the meantime, we've moved the sandbox off the Experiment Bar until it's fixed.

ASTROTOT UPDATE

We are repairing the panel that has the steering wheel issues and have removed that panel from the Astrotot.

EXPERIMENT BAR COUNTER TOP UPDATE

You've probably noticed that the counter top at the Experiment Bar is looking fairly worn out these days--as is the table for Infrared Experiments. We are working on a solution for both areas.

CHANGE IN IR SCREEN COLOR

Thanks to Dimitri and Dave L. for changing the IR screens to the "sepia" color scheme. I heard from many of you that the black and white wasn't going over well with guests, so we made this switch. The "red glow" setting was the other choice, but it doesn't offer the same level of detail as the sepia.

MISSION: SUPERCHILL PLUTO VERSION

Thanks to Naomi and Marta, we now have a page for this new version of the Superchill show. [Click here](#) to check it out.

XBOX GAME UPDATE

We've been having issues with younger players being able to control the game properly--which is a known problem. It only seems to be working with adults these days.

LAPTOP EMAIL

The SO laptops can send mail, sort of. If you try to send a link to a guest, you may get a message on the machine telling you that it's having trouble connecting to the server. However, I know that sometimes the mail goes through. We are continuing to try to get this resolved.

BIOBLITZ TRAINING OPPORTUNITY WITH CSU

[Click here to learn more](#). Applications due starting Feb. 29.

RECENTLY ADDED SCIENCE ON A SPHERE DATASETS

Our system is updated by NOAA every Monday with the latest, greatest datasets on a continuous basis. You can also search the NOAA site directly by [clicking here](#).

NASA CLIMATE UPDATE

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

ON THE WEB

[NASA Impact of Discovery Workshops Webinar](#)

[Exhibit in England Highlights Russian Spaceflight](#)

SCFD COMMUNITY FREE DAY CALENDAR

The Museum is offering 12 Community Free Days in 2016, 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 these Free Days throughout the year to allow those who can't afford admission the privilege to visit DMNS. To see the dates for all the Free Days and to learn more about SCFD, [click here](#).

space science lectures & events

FREE PLANETARIUM SHOW SCREENING

Come to a special, free, one-time screening of the film "Above Alaska" on Wednesday, March 2, 4:15-5:15pm, showing spectacular footage of aurorae in the Gates Planetarium! On hand will be the film's producer, astronomer Travis Rector, who will be available after the screening to answer questions. Travis will also be in IMAX at 7pm that evening to talk about his book [Coloring the Universe: An Insider's Look at Making Spectacular Images of Space](#)

COLORING THE UNIVERSE: VOLUNTEERS PAY MEMBER PRICE

Everyone marvels over images from space, but have you ever wondered if the colors you see are true? For more than 20 years, Travis A. Rector, an astronomer at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, has created color astronomical images using some of the world's largest telescopes, including Kitt Peak, Gemini Observatory, and Hubble.

Rector will share a behind-the-scenes look at what professional astronomers do-and what they don't do-to make these stunning images. His work inspired his new book *Coloring the Universe: An Insider's Look at Making Spectacular Images of Space*. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation.

Location:

Phipps IMAX Theater

Date/Time:

Wednesday, March 2, 7 p.m.

Tickets:

\$12 member, \$15 nonmember

GIRLS IN SCIENCE

Saturday, March 5

9 AM to 5 PM

Space Odyssey and throughout DMNS

The Denver Museum of Nature & Science and CBS4 are excited to host a Girls and Science event. Come explore a variety of Science Clubhouses, where girls (and boys!) and their families will meet women scientists and experience the many diverse opportunities a future in science, technology, engineering, art, and math can bring. This day is all about igniting a passion for science-so try it on, test it out, and play!

[Click here to learn more.](#) Space Odyssey Saturday volunteers take note that the SOS and Galaxy Stage will be used by Girls In Science presenters from NOAA and other institutions.

60 MINUTES IN SPACE

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.

Location:

Gates Planetarium

Date/Time:

Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m.

Tickets:

FREE

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. Please call Guest Services at 303.370.6000 to make a reservation. Guest Services is open daily, 9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

To save time the night of the program, we recommend picking up your tickets anytime during regular Museum hours at the north ticket desk. You can also pick up your ticket from the will-call cashier on your way into the program on the night of the program. You will always need a ticket to attend programs.

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!

did you know...

...that if you are discussing politics while at the Museum, please do so with consideration and respect, whether you're behind closed doors or not. The reason being that these discussions can devolve into being divisive and confrontational. We want everyone to have a pleasant experience while volunteering at DMNS, no matter their political affiliation. If you have any questions or comments about this, please contact me. Thanks in advance!

museum news and events

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month: Each year in the United States, February is dedicated as Black History Month or National African American History Month, which is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. What began as the grassroots effort of African-American historian Carter G. Woodson has grown into a national time to honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout history.

During this month, there are many organizations, including the [Denver Public Library](#) and the media [Denver 9News](#) who are recognizing the contributions of African Americans in the U.S. Or be sure to visit History Colorado for several events they will host commemorating Black History Month: [Special Events](#).

To learn more about Black History Month visit: [Black History Month](#)

TREX CAFE IMPROVEMENTS

In an ongoing effort to improve our café for our internal and external guest, we will be doing a small amount of remodeling in the T- Rex Café. Starting Monday February 29th the Italian bistro food station will be shut down and closed off for two weeks. During this time we will have a pop up café in the former home of the coffee cart. At the pop up café we will offer an array of hot and cold food choices along with some kid's options as well. The pop up café will operate the same hours as the normal café does. Please feel free to reach out if you have any issues or concerns. The food service team thanks you for your patients and support during this remodel project.

PARDON OUR DUST AS ALLOSAURUS GETS A "LEG UP"

After 20 years on display, the *Allosaurus* mount in *Prehistoric Journey* was leaning a little too much, so it's getting a leg up-and a facelift! This project is also an opportunity to spruce up the platform that holds *Stegosaurus* and *Allosaurus*, and replace an outdated plaster skull cast with a more accurate, lighter-weight one. Because of the difficult nature of working on the fossil skeleton, the dinosaur gallery will be closed from Monday, April 11, through Friday, April 22. The rest of *Prehistoric Journey* will remain open during this time. Guests will still be able to see *Diplodocus* and many of the other dinosaurs from the overlook, located upstairs from the Cretaceous Creekbed diorama. We appreciate your patience!

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.

Dave Blumenstock

Coordinator of Volunteers for Space Science

Denver Museum of Nature & Science

dblumenstock@dmns.org

Phone 303.370.8344

Fax 303.370.6005

Join the Museum's Online Community

www.dmns.org