

# SPACE ODYSSEY VOLUNTEER UPDATE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2    FEBRUARY 21, 2017

## KUDOS!

Huge thanks to Mari Mahanna for a spectacular job in facilitating SOS for a student and trip coordinator. The guests had specific learning objectives in mind and Mari hit a home run. Here's the testimonial: *Thank you for connecting us to Mari and facilitating such a great learning experience! Will learned so much from Mari who was able to answer questions, pull up additional information and create a wonderful opportunity. Please convey my appreciation.* — Tracy Dunning, The Logan School

**But wait...there's more!** Take a peek at other fellow Galaxy Guides who also provided exciting and innovative learning experiences for other Museum guests. Find out what **Dave Kirkpatrick** as well



as **Dave Martinez, Tyson Randall and Andy Andersen** did for two groups of kids! And how MGGs **Jane Scott-Kukul and Alison Keener** helped create a special experience for two visually-impaired adult guests. See pg. 4!

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New SO Volunteer Training March 22*
- *AOS of Mars New Backstory Live as of Feb. 15*
- *Message from Steve Lee*
- *New Live Planetarium Show Opens March 17*
- *Space Odyssey Upgrade Update*
- *New Cubelets, New Orbits Table & Uniview Resources*
- *Galaxy Stage Schedule Needs Updating? Dial x6494*

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## New Volunteer Training March 22, 2017

The next **Space Odyssey New Volunteer Training** will be held **Wednesday, March 22, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Steve Lee, Samantha Richards and Naomi Pequette will present.

Stay tuned for topics

as we get closer to the date. Not a new volunteer but interested in one of the topics? Or perhaps you'd like another chance to go inside the diorama?

You are welcome to come to this training as well!

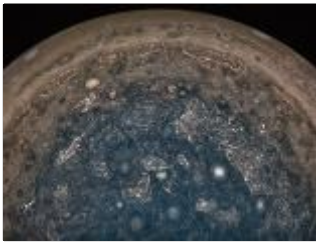
Please RSVP to [Ana](#).

**REMINDER: KEY TO LIVING IN SPACE CART STILL MISSING...**

*...if any of you have seen this key or took them home by accident, please return to 2003 room.*

*Gracias!*

## STEVE LEE SAYS...



NASA just announced their decision to not adjust the orbit of the Juno spacecraft around Jupiter.

When Juno arrived at Jupiter last July, it was inserted into an orbit with a 53 day period.

The plan was to do two of those orbits, then fire the onboard propulsion system to reduce the

orbital period to 14 days.

Concerns about possible problems with the propulsion system led to extended examination of the pros and cons of “follow the plan or take the safe approach and leave things as they are.”

The decision to remain in the 53 day orbit will not affect the science

return of the mission — it’ll just take longer to collect the data.

Full details are in this press release, “[NASA’s Juno to Remain in Current Orbit at Jupiter.](#)”



## NEW ASTRONAUT ON THE SURFACE BACKSTORY

*Live as of Feb. 15!*



Thank you to everyone who came to the Astronaut Assistant Training!

If you couldn’t make it and are interested in performing the Astronaut Assistant role, please let [Naomi](#) know so she can arrange individual training with you.

This training is mandatory for anyone who would like to perform this role moving forward.

At this training, we introduced the new mission backstory for our Astronaut on the Surface Show.

This backstory incorporates NASA’s current plans for sending humans to Mars and current science.

The new show went live on February 15, 2017! Check out the [new backstory](#) on the Galaxy Guide Portal.

### REMINDER!

#### White Board is King!

Please remember to check the White Board in the 2003 Room for operational updates before your shift! It’s also *the ideal place for jotting down any issues that need to be addressed* by the operations team!

## NEW CUBELETS ADDED TO EXPERIMENT BAR

We have added more Cubelets to the Experiment Bar!

Along with extras of your favorites, we have also added new action and sensor Cubelets.

Give them a go next time you’re at the Experiment Bar.

Have you wanted to spend time with these fun, interactive robots but haven’t gotten around to it yet? Nothing like the present to add to your facilitating expertise!

Check out the [Updated Cubelets Manual on the Volunteer Portal](#). It has great resources & video links.



Cubelets. Photo Credit: Modular Robotics

## New Live Planetarium Show Opens March 17!



Samantha, Naomi, and KaChun Yu along with Dan Neafus and Greg Mancari from the Planetarium team have been hard at work the last few months writing a new, live, interactive planetarium

show called **Space Tours Live!** It will open Fri.,

March 17, 2017.

Take an interactive tour through a 3-D atlas of the known universe and learn about our place in the cosmos.

Museum staff will safely navigate you out to the depths of space and back, but \*you\* in the audience will determine our path through the Solar System and beyond.

**Space Tours Live!** will be a new, paid show at 2:45 p.m. each day.

MGGs are welcome to come watch the show for free anytime there's space available.

Simply show your badge to the planetarium ushers.

## INQUIRING MINDS

- ◆ [Teen Bot on Mars! NASA's Opportunity Rover Celebrates 13th B-day](#)
- ◆ [Girls and Science](#)
- ◆ [A Coffee Cup Designed to let Astronauts Sip Espresso in Space](#)
- ◆ [Galactic X-Rays Could Point to Dark Matter Proof](#)
- ◆ [International Space Station Technology Guide](#)
- ◆ [Midwest Meteor Police Dash Cam—YouTube](#)
- ◆ [Did the Sun Steal Planet 9 from Another Solar System?](#)
- ◆ [The Evolution of U.S. Space Suits from Mercury to Today](#)
- ◆ [NASA Moon Data Pro-](#)
- ◆ [vides More Accurate 2017 Eclipse Path](#)
- ◆ [Scientists Narrow Down List of Landing Sites for Mars 2020](#)
- ◆ [Deadly Spider's Unique Spinning Technique Could Inspire Tougher Materials](#)
- ◆ [Black-Hole Powered Jets Forge Fuel for Star Formation](#)



## THIS & THAT

**Don't See the Schedule on the Galaxy Stage Screen or it Needs Fixing?**

No problem. Simply find the floor staff and kindly ask them to correct the schedule. Can't find them? Then call **Museum Programs Logistics at x6494** and report it. Thanks!

### New SO Biz Cards Here!

Thanks to the **SO Core Team** in collaboration with the Museum's talented **Marketing department**, we've just designed and printed more professional, stream-lined and visually attractive SO business cards with space-related URLs. You'll be able to share this new batch with guests starting Feb. 22!



### KUDOS TO TELESCOPE OPERATORS!



Huge kudos to MGG (l-r) **Dave Martinez, Tyson Randall** and **Andy Andersen** for engaging 125 teen visitors during a Teen

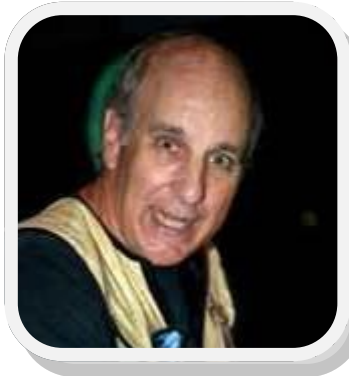
Lounge last month. Guests were interested in viewing Venus, Mars, The Pleiades and the Orion Nebula. These

guys drew lots of giggles, oohs and ahhs from the youngsters!

### GRATEFUL KIDS CONVEY GRATITUDE

Two kiddos from The Logan School were mighty grateful do MGG **Dave Kirkpatrick** for going out of his way and getting the Spectroscopy Cart out for them.

They loved his facilitation and were engaged about the light spectrum of atoms.



sons and insights from Dave that each student sent him a thank you note; one even included hand-drawn illustrations.

*Thank you, Dave, for inspiring two young guests!*

Both kiddos were in fact so grateful for the les-

### CREATIVE MINDS DELIGHT GUESTS



Thanks to the creative minds and delightful facilitating ways of MGG (l-r) **Alison Keener** and **Jane Scott-Kukel**, two lovely sight-impaired guests had a delightful experience in SO. Alison facilitated the Meteorites Cart and gave both guests time to ex-

plore the objects in their hands. Jane brought over the water bottles filled with pebbles to help them feel the gravitational pull of each planet. She also facilitated the topographical model of Mars, which the women especially enjoyed since they could explore nicely with their hands, too.



*You rock, Alison & Jane!*

## Space Odyssey Upgrade Scoop for February



Our SO Update project has had several (and many more planned) opportunities for our guests to directly give their feedback.

Focus groups consisting of families with

young children, teachers and non-users who gave us great insights. Here are a few highlights:

- \* Guests want to be immersed. They don't want it to feel like a museum. They want to feel like they're in space!

- \* Guests want experiential learning. Can they do a mission?

Can they be part of a Discovery? Can they solve problems?

- \* Personalization is very important to guests! Think about our on-demand world. Guests want to author their own experiences.

- \* Guests often find *Space Odyssey* intimidating or confusing. How do they start?

*(Cont' below...)*



## WHAT ELSE DID WE LEARN FROM SO GUESTS?

How do they pick what they to do? How is it tied together?

- \* Guests love our mechanical interactives...except when they're not working!

- \* Some of our guests' favorite components are (were) Cratering, SOS, AstroTots, Astronaut on the Surface and Meteor-

ites.

- \* Some of our guests' least favorite components are Shuttle Docking, Telescopes, Stream Table and Seeing Invisible Light.

- \* Guests want to feel and understand more connections — human-to-human, human-to-earth, human-to-universe.

- \* Guests want to understand current events...but they want to define what that means. So now you're brimming over with those ideas, aren't you? Write down those ideas so you don't forget.

After we select and contract with our design firm, one of our

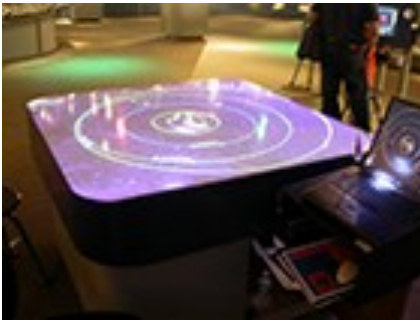
first tasks is detailing precisely how we'll get input on theme ideas from guests, volunteers, staff and space industry specialists. Stay tuned!

*Space Odyssey Update contributions are provided by Jodi Schomer, Director of Exhibits & Digital Media.*

*Gracias, Jodi!*



## New Orbits Table & Uniview Docs Now on MGG Portal



Kudos to Naomi for putting together two new documents now posted on the [Volunteer Portal](#). “[Orbits Explorer](#)” is a new manual for how to use the Orbits Table and Uniview. Volunteers had provided feedback that the manual was confusing so she created a new, more straightforward one. The second document is focused on [how to load the New Horizon’s layer in Uniview](#).

Feel free to take a peek and explore these new resources put together just for you!

## Message from [Ana’s Cubie](#)

*Salutations Space Odyssey and Prehistoric Journey facilitating luminaries!*

*Trainings, new resource development and learning related to Human Evolution and Astronaut Assistant in PJ and SO have been keeping educators and volunteers in both exhibits busy these last couple of months. In Volunteer Engagement, we’ve been communicating with, interviewing and preparing for the onboarding of new volunteer recruits who will be joining us. A big thank you in advance to Team Leaders, Guide Captains and Team Members who will soon be assisting in the welcoming and training of new volunteers, too, based on recruit shift preferences and team fit.*

*A few extra bits of interest: February is **Black History Month or National African-American History Month**, a time to recognize and celebrate the role and contributions of African Americans in U.S. history. Explore [The Man Behind Black History Month](#) or [8 Great Movies for Black History Month](#). Next, if you know a teen from represented and underrepresented populations who’s excited about science and is in their junior or senior year of high school, tell them to check out the [Museum’s 2017 Teen Science Scholars](#) program! Deadline application is March 15, 2017! And two last events in which you can assist: [Girls and Science](#) takes place **Sat., March 4, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (women volunteers especially welcome!)**, and [New Members’ Night](#) occurs on **Tues., March 21, from 6-9 p.m.** Zap an email to [Ana](#) if you’d like to volunteer for either Girls and Science or New Members’ Night! It will be great to have extra hands on deck. See you fine folks at briefings, exhibit halls and*

*my cubie. Grateful for you..* *Ana*



## DID YOU KNOW?



### [Dream Big 3-D: Engineering Our World](#) is at IMAX.

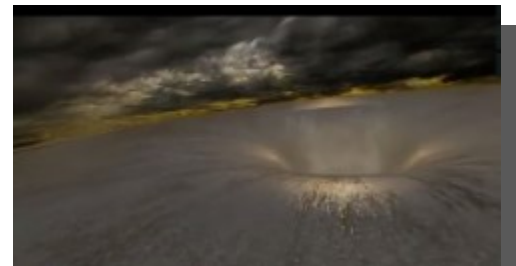
Take a tour through engineering wonders, from the small to the big, from the old to the new.

Learn first-hand how innovation is reached through human ingenuity. Celebrating those who build, invent and shape our world while inspiring the young.



The next two “[60 Minutes in Space](#)” programs will take place on **Wed., Feb. 22 and Wed., March 29, at 7 p.m. in the Phipps Theatre.**

Don’t miss out on this intriguing (and free!) series that brings ‘behind the stories’ in space science with awe-inspiring images, animation and, of course, solid scientific content.



### [Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity](#) is playing in the Gates Planetarium

Slip into a world of wormholes and the Milky Way. See the intensity in the death of a star and subsequent birth of a black hole in this Museum-produced show. Check out the math equations and latest science and Einstein’s theories as you learn about this phenomenon.