

Send Your Name to the Moon Aboard LRO!

NASA invites people of all ages to join the lunar exploration journey with an opportunity to send their names to the moon aboard the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, spacecraft.

The Send Your Name to the Moon Web site enables everyone to participate in the lunar adventure and place their names in orbit around the moon for years to come. Participants can submit their information at <http://lro.jhuapl.edu/NameToMoon/>, print a certificate and have their name entered into a database. The database will be placed on a microchip that will be integrated onto the spacecraft. The deadline for submitting names is June 27, 2008.

Join NASA's Return to the Moon

Sign up to send your name to the moon. Names will be collected and placed onboard the LRO spacecraft for its historic mission bringing NASA back to the moon. You will also receive a certificate showcasing your support of the mission.

The deadline is June 27, 2008 for the submission of names.

LRO's objectives are to find safe landing sites, locate potential resources, characterize the radiation environment, and demonstrate new technology.

Send your name to the Moon!

First Name Last Name

Visit the LRO Web Site at <http://lunar.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Planetarium Schedule Changes June 1



The Planetarium at UT Arlington announces its new public Summer show schedule, which will run from June 1 - August 31, 2008 (there are no shows on July 4).

On Tuesdays and Thursdays take a trip back in time and find out about the “Stars of the Pharaohs,” which runs at 2:30 P.M. Discover how the Egyptians saw their sky and how the sky influenced their great temples, including the pyramids.

On Wednesdays and Fridays we run “Astronaut” at 2:30 P.M. In this show we find out about the training involved to be an astronaut, some of the dangers in traveling in space, and how space affects the human body.

Friday nights the schedule is “Astronaut” at 7:00 P.M. and “Rock Hall of Fame” at 8:00 P.M.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons “Astronaut” runs at 1:00 with “Stars of the Pharaohs” following at 2:30. On Sundays (only) a Spanish version of the Pharaohs show runs at 4:00.

Most public shows also include a live guided tour of the current night’s sky, including tips to find bright stars, constellations, and planets.

No public shows are scheduled for Mondays this Summer.



Amy Wilder Starts June 1

The Planetarium at UT Arlington is proud to announce the hiring of a new Planetarium Program Coordinator. Her name is Amy Wilder, and she starts her new job on June 1.

Amy grew up in a small suburb of Milwaukee, WI and is a recent graduate with a B.S. in physics from the University of WI-Stevens Point.

Amy has worked at three other planetariums in the past as a lecturer and programmer. She loves rock climbing and kayaking and is looking forward to take up these hobbies in Texas. This August Amy will be getting married to her high school sweetheart, Mark.

Please take the time at some point to welcome Amy to her new position at the Planetarium at UT Arlington!



Did you know?

Groups can book private programs at the planetarium this Summer. For more information, call 817-272-1183.

Recent Supernova Remnant Discovered



The most recent supernova in our galaxy has been discovered by tracking the rapid expansion of its remains. This result, using NASA's

Chandra X-ray Observatory and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array, will help improve our understanding of how often supernovae explode in the Milky Way galaxy.

The supernova explosion occurred about 140 years ago, making it the most recent in the Milky Way. The supernova was not viewed from Earth because its light was obscured by dust in our galaxy.

Previously, the last known supernova in our galaxy occurred around 1680 (also obscured by dust), an estimate based on the expansion of its remnant, Cassiopeia A.

Supernovae are what happens to massive stars when the run out of energy in their cores. A quick gravitational collapse of the core results in a shock wave which blasts most of the star apart. The energy released is so great that a supernova temporarily can outshine its own galaxy. Supernovae are important celestial phenomena. All of the elements heavier than iron are made from the high energy explosions of massive stars, so there is a direct connection between these stars and us.

No supernova has been viewed from Earth since just before the introduction of the telescope to astronomy. Astronomers continue to wait for a chance to see a supernova with telescopes in order to test many theories. Additional information and images about this discovery is available on the Web at: <http://www.nasa.gov/chandra>

Discovery "Go" for Launch

NASA senior managers completed a review of space shuttle Discovery's readiness for flight and selected May 31 as the official launch date for the STS-124 mission. Commander Mark Kelly and his six crewmates are scheduled to lift off to the International Space Station at 5:02 p.m. EDT.

Discovery's 14-day flight will carry the largest payload so far to the station and includes three spacewalks. It is the second of three missions that will launch components to complete the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Kibo laboratory. The crew will install Kibo's large Japanese Pressurized Module and Kibo's robotic arm system. Discovery also will deliver new station crew member Greg Chamitoff and bring back Flight Engineer Garrett Reisman, who will end a three-month stay aboard the outpost.

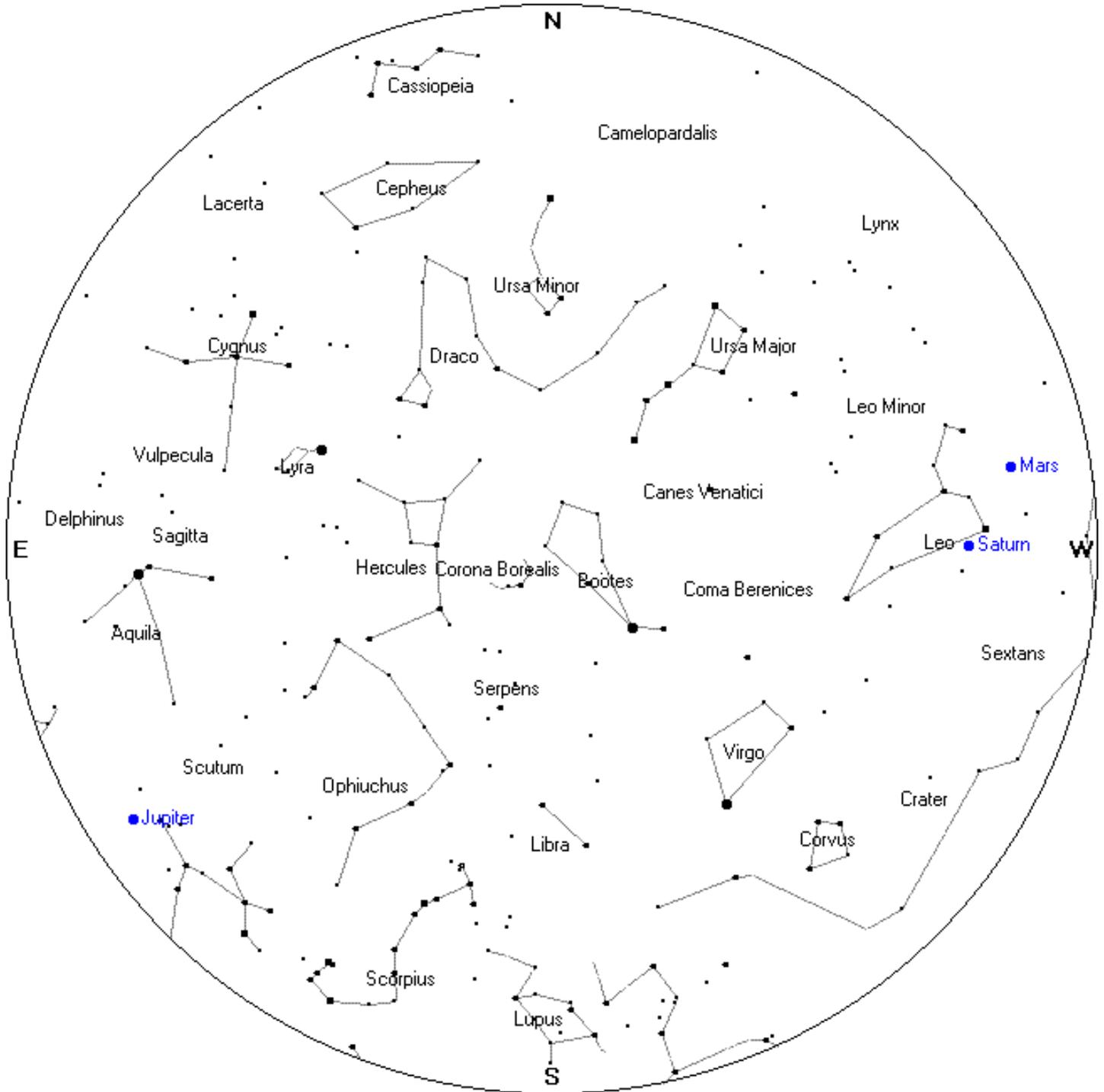
Discovery's launch date was announced after the conclusion of Monday's Flight Readiness Review. During the meeting, top NASA and contractor managers assessed the risks associated with the mission and determined the shuttle's equipment, support systems and procedures are ready for flight.

Commander Kelly will be joined on STS-124 by Pilot Ken Ham and Mission Specialists Karen Nyberg, Ron Garan, Mike Fossum, Chamitoff and Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide. For more information about the STS-124 mission, including images and interviews with the crew, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>



June Skymap

June 1 - 12:00 A.M.
June 15 - 11:00 P.M.
June 30 - 10:00 P.M.



Skymap from www.heavens-above.com

In the Sky this Month

Planetarium this Month

The Sun

	Sunrise:	Sunset:
June 1	6:21 A.M.	8:32 P.M.
June 15	6:20 A.M.	8:38 P.M.
June 30	6:24 A.M.	8:40 P.M.

The Summer Solstice occurs on June 20, 2008 at 6:59 P.M. The Summer Solstice marks the beginning of Summer, and is the day with the longest amount of daylight hours, in the Northern Hemisphere.

Moon

New Moon	June 3
First Quarter	June 10
Full Moon	June 18
Last Quarter	June 26

The Moon passes near Mars on June 7/8 and near Saturn on June 8/9. Look for Jupiter near the Moon on June 20.

Planets

Find Saturn towards the West-Southwest in the constellation Leo, near the nearly equally bright star Regulus, the brightest star in Leo.

Mars approaches Leo and Saturn all month. Keep track of this motion as the speedier Mars (1.88 years to orbit the Sun) passes Saturn (29.5 years to orbit the Sun) in early July.

Jupiter creeps back into our sky this month, rising just after 9:00 P.M. at month's end. Jupiter is at opposition on July 9.

Venus is hidden behind the Sun all month, being at superior conjunction on June 9.

Mercury is at inferior conjunction on June 7 but will reappear to careful observers in the morning twilight during the last week of the month.

Tuesdays

2:30 Stars of the Pharaohs

Wednesdays

2:30 Astronaut

Thursdays

2:30 Stars of the Pharaohs

Fridays:

2:30 Astronaut

7:00 Astronaut

8:00 Rock Hall of Fame

Saturdays:

1:00 Astronaut

2:30 Stars of the Pharaohs

Sundays:

1:00 Astronaut

2:30 Stars of the Pharaohs

4:00 Pharaohs (en espanol)



Prices:

- \$5 - adults
- \$4 - Kids (18 & under), Seniors, Non-UTA students
- \$3 - UTA Faculty/Staff/Alumni (with ID)
- \$2 - UTA students
- \$3 - Groups of 10 or more with reservation

Phoenix Reaches Mars

NASA's Phoenix spacecraft landed in the northern polar region of Mars Sunday May 25 to begin three months of examining a site chosen for its likelihood of having frozen water within reach of the lander's robotic arm.

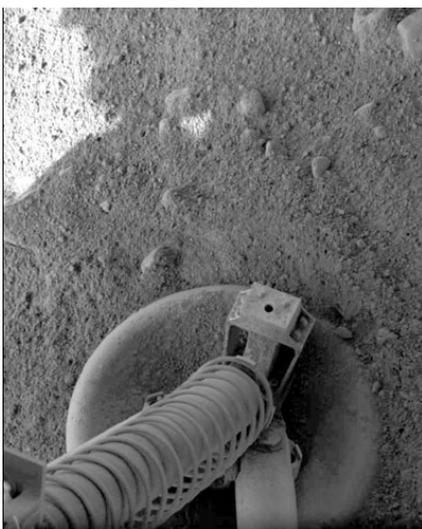
Radio signals received at 4:53:44 p.m. Pacific Time (7:53:44 p.m. Eastern Time) confirmed the Phoenix Mars Lander had survived its difficult final descent and touchdown 15 minutes earlier. The signals took that long to travel from Mars to Earth at the speed of light.

During its 422-million-mile flight from Earth to Mars after launching on Aug. 4, 2007, Phoenix relied on electricity from solar panels during the spacecraft's cruise stage. The cruise stage was jettisoned seven minutes before the lander, encased in a protective shell, entered the Martian atmosphere. Batteries provide electricity until the lander's own pair of solar arrays spread open.

"We've passed the hardest part and we're breathing again, but we still need to see that Phoenix has opened its solar arrays and begun generating power," said JPL's Barry Goldstein, the Phoenix project manager.

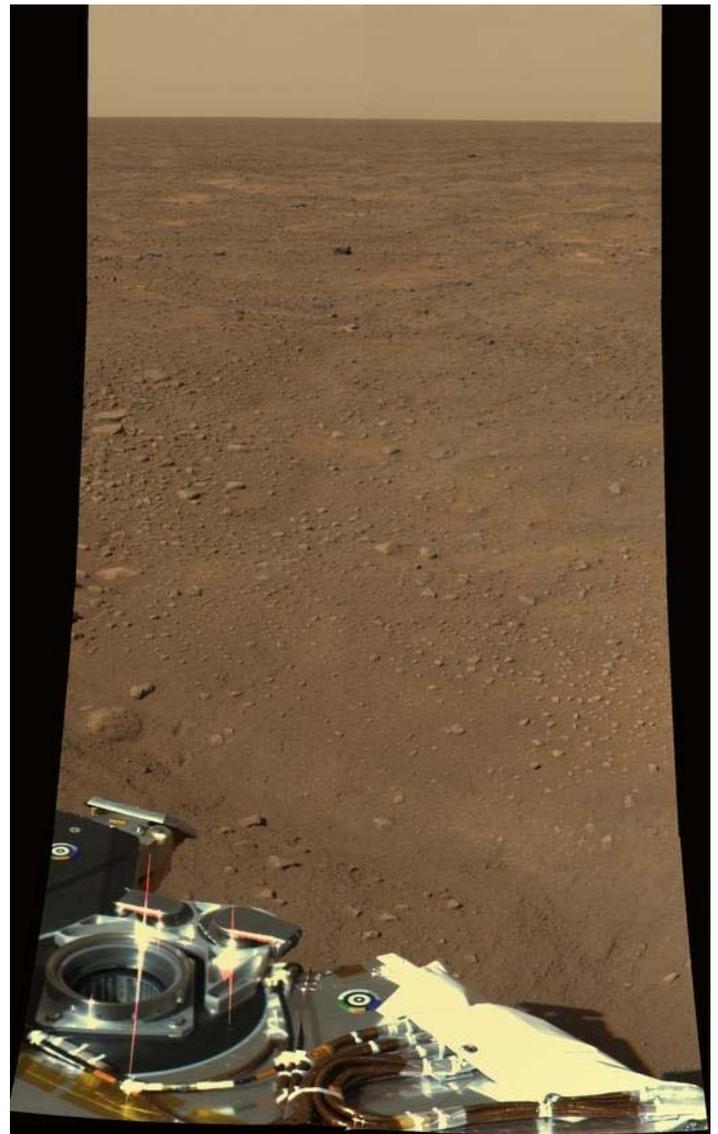
"What a thrilling landing! But the team is waiting impatiently for the next set of signals that will verify a healthy spacecraft," said Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, principal investigator for the Phoenix mission. "I can hardly contain my enthusiasm. The first landed images of the Martian polar terrain will set the stage for our mission."

Another critical deployment will be the first use of the



7.7-foot-long robotic arm on Phoenix, which will not be attempted for at least two days. Researchers will use the arm during future weeks to get samples of soil and ice into laboratory instruments on the lander deck.

The signal confirming that



Phoenix had survived touchdown was relayed via Mars Odyssey and received on Earth at the Goldstone, CA, antenna station of NASA's Deep Space Network.

Phoenix uses hardware from a spacecraft built for a 2001 launch that was canceled in response to the loss of a similar Mars spacecraft during a 1999 landing attempt. Researchers who proposed the Phoenix mission in 2002 saw the unused spacecraft as a resource for pursuing a new science opportunity. Earlier in 2002, Mars Odyssey discovered that plentiful water ice lies just beneath the surface throughout much of high-latitude Mars. NASA chose the Phoenix proposal over 24 other proposals to become the first endeavor in the Mars Scout program of competitively selected missions.

For more about Phoenix, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix>