

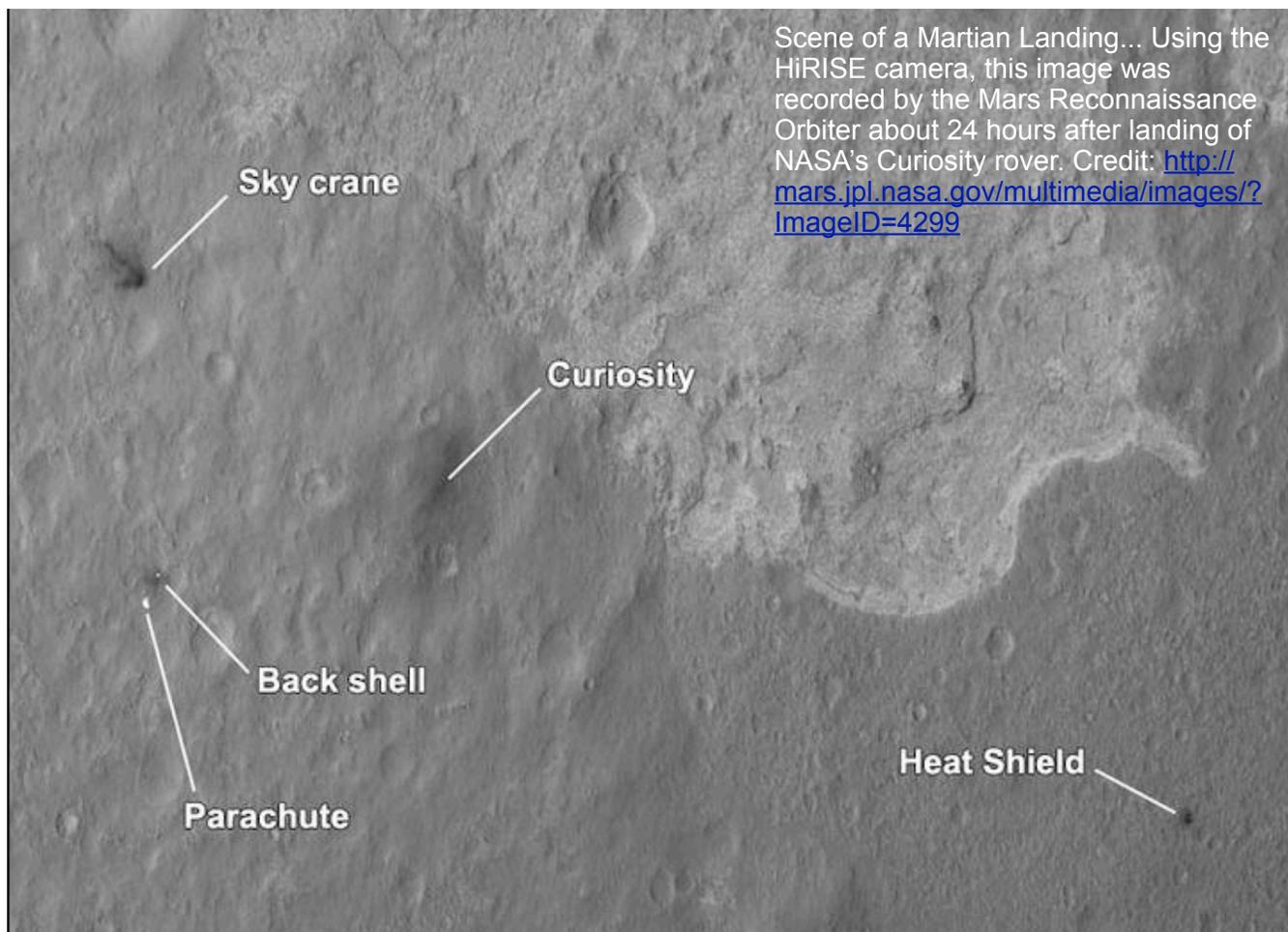
For those of us who followed the Mars Science Lander (MSL) since launch and wondered if the incredibly bold engineering of the entry-descent-landing would actually work, the answer was given in the early hour of August 6, 2012. In fact, it worked spectacularly -- "nominal" in NASA speak.

It was a team effort in design and development; hundreds of engineers and scientists reaching agreement on how to spend \$2.5 billion. But, during descent, it was another team of satellites that aided the thrilling play-by play. With the Mars Odyssey relaying signals from MSL to Earth and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) along with the ESA's Mars Express satellite recording data from MSL for later playback, the landing generated megabytes of engineering data for use in refining the landing technique in future attempts. We applaud this tremendous achievement -- a Gold Medal effort in the summer of olympics.

For now, we anxiously await the necessary detailed checkouts of the Curiosity rover's equipment in preparation for a two year exploration of the surrounding geology and marvel at the early images received.

Inside this Issue...

- 2 - Local Events and Info.
- 3 - Volunteer opportunity
- 4 - September Calendar
- 5 - Upcoming Programs
- 6 - Minutes of July meeting
- 7 - FAQs



The EAS newsletter, **Observer**, is published monthly. Anyone wishing to contribute articles or photos may mail them to the club's PO box: EAS, PO box 3474, Evansville, IN 47733, or e-mail them to the editor at: gneireiter@wowway.com

Local Events and Information

The **Evansville Astronomical Society** (EAS) is a non-profit organization fully incorporated in the state of Indiana. It has, as its primary goal, the advancement of amateur astronomy. Founded in 1952, the society seeks to:

- 1... maintain adequate facilities for its members and for the public in order to extensively study the skies, and
- 2... promote an educational program for those who wish to learn more about the science of Astronomy.

Meetings are held the third Friday of each month, except June, when the annual EAS picnic is held. The society also sponsors monthly Open House events during the warmer seasons that afford the public an opportunity to tour the observatory.

EAS 2012 Officers and Contacts

President - Scott Conner 812.604.7164
ssconner24@gmail.com

Vice President - Tony Bryan

Secretary - Charleen Kaelin 812.303.1711

Treasurer - Scott Bishop

Counselors - Michael Borman, Kent Brenton, and Ed Erickson

Webmaster - Michael Borman

Program Director - open

Newsletter Editor - George Neireiter
812.629.7822 gneireiter@wowway.com

For more information about EAS or directions to the Observatory, visit the club's web page:
<http://www.evansvilleastro.org/>



On July 27, EAS hosted a small **Boy Scout group**. While only two scouts were present, along with three adults, they enjoyed their observing experience. Ken Harris ran the program and presented his excellent slide show on the night sky objects. After answering questions, the group moved to the dome. While Ken operated the 14" Celestron Schmitt-Cassegrain reflector telescope, the scouts and parents observed Saturn, the 1st quarter Moon, and M57 (the ring nebula). Viewing was complicated by the Moon's light and continued passing of cloud banks. There was opportunity to point out a few constellations and major stars while viewing the whole sky outside the building: Bootes (and Arcturus), Cygnus (and Deneb), Hercules, Lyra (and Vega), and Ursa Major, plus Polaris the North star. The scouts and adults were impressed with the facility and very appreciative for taking the time to share the night sky. Helping Ken were EAS members Chris Mitchell, George Neireiter, and Warren Rogers.

Upcoming **Public Star Watch** (PSW)... Be sure to mark your calendar for **August 11** when EAS will be hosting a PSW at 8 pm at Wahnsiedler Observatory. The Moon will be in its last quarter, which should aid viewing. Mars and Saturn should be visible that night.

\$\$ Dues are due **\$\$** ... Its that time of year for annual dues to be paid. Single membership is \$35.00 and Family is \$40.00. Please mail check to EAS, PO Box 3474, Evansville, IN 47733.

The **Event at Patoka Lake Beach** was cancelled for July 14. The rescheduled date is **August 11** (Saturday). This date nicely coincides with the **Perseid meteor shower** near its peak. We have free stuff from NASA, as well as a new supply of UV beads for bead bracelets. Please let Scott Conner know if you can help.

Recently, I received the following request from the **Evansville Museum** for assistance, especially for the **Koch Planetarium**. As you may know, a new planetarium will be constructed next year. This is a great opportunity to volunteer a little bit of your time and share your astronomy experience with the general public.

Please consider attending the Welcome Coffee, even if just for getting information. There is no obligation associated with attending the coffee.



Training sessions will take place on Mondays and begin in September. For more information, [click here](#), or use one of the contact numbers in the block below.

Additional FAQs on page 8.

Evansville Museum Docent Association

2012 Welcome Coffee

If you've ever wanted to learn more about the Evansville Museum, and share your knowledge with others, this is your perfect opportunity !

Museum Docents are given in-depth training for changing exhibitions, as well as permanent collections. Also included in the training, will be exhibits and shows in the Koch Planetarium. After graduation, you have the specialized knowledge to provide guided tours of our art collections, planetarium shows, and special exhibitions for school children, church groups, and other visitors.

Our Docents become ambassadors of the Museum and are able to help visitors better understand and enjoy their visit.

Museum Docents are given the opportunity to attend personal lectures from visiting artists, and receive fascinating, inside information about the artist and their exhibit. Docents also receive first-hand information on upcoming planetarium shows.

Every weekend the Koch Planetarium offers a live planetarium presentation that

details what is visible in the evening sky. From constellations to planets a member of the Science Staff will show you how you can find celestial objects from your very own backyard! THE SKY TONIGHT details "what's up" in Evansville skies. The live constellation show is presented each Saturday and Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm. As a docent at the Evansville Museum you will be given the opportunity to lead tours in the Koch Planetarium, and share your exciting knowledge with those lucky students.

We hope you will join us for the 2012 Docent Welcome Coffee on Monday, August 20th, from 9:30 am – noon, at the Evansville Museum of Art, History, and Science. No reservations are necessary.

Call Amanda at 812-425-2406 with any questions.

Thank you again for your time and effort to help increase everyone's knowledge about astronomy and the universe around us !! If you need additional information, or if I can answer any questions regarding the upcoming Docent Coffee on August 20th, please feel free to give me a call anytime.

Cindy Warren
897-4399
cell: 499-3984

EAS OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 PSW Last 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 New 
16	17	18	19	20	21 Regular Mtg.	22 First 
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Full 
30						

generated by [HTML Calendar Maker 1.1](#). Copyright (C) 2009 John Dalbey.

August Events (reminder)....

PSW Aug. 11 (Saturday) 8:00 pm Wahnsiedler Observatory
 Patoka Lake (21st) Aug. 11 (Saturday) 5:00 pm CDT Patoka Lake beach
 Regular Meeting Aug. 17 (Friday) 7:30 pm Wahnsiedler Observatory

September Events...

PSW Sep. 8 (Saturday) 7:30 pm Wahnsiedler Observatory
 Okie-Tex (29th) Sep. 8 - 16
 Ferdinand Folk Fest. Sep. 15 afternoon
 Regular Meeting Sep. 21 (Friday) 7:30 pm Wahnsiedler Observatory

Moon phase times (CST)

full	10:19 p	Sep 29	new	9:11 p	Sep 15
third quarter	8:16 a	Sep 8	first quarter	2:41 p	Sep 22

courtesy of [Time and Date](#)

Upcoming programs for EAS meetings

September:
***Visit to the Paris Observatory
and the Meudon Observatory***

**with additional views
of astronomy in Paris**

by Victor Lopez

Hurbanovo Observatory in Slovakia.
Coronagraph by Carl Zeiss !

note: A difficult observatory to visit.



October -- Tom Pickett “Dark Matter”

November -- Mitch Luman “Museum Renovations”

December -- Annual Astronomy Quiz

For more on the night sky objects of August, play the Movie of Tonight’s Sky at [Amazing Space](http://AmazingSpace.com)

EAS OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

EAS Meeting Minutes -- July 20, 2012

The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President Scott Conner at 7:35 PM with 19 people in attendance.

It was moved and seconded to approve the MINUTES of the previous month as seen on the EAS Internet page.

Vice-President Tony Bryan announced the following UPCOMING EVENTS:

PSW	Saturday, Aug 11	8:00 pm
Patoka Lake	Saturday, Aug 11	5:30 pm – Patoka Lake
Regular Meeting	Friday, Aug 17	7:30 pm
PSW	Saturday, Sept. 8	7:30 pm
Folk Festival	Saturday, Sept. 15	11:00 am -- in Ferdinand
Regular Meeting	Friday, Sept. 21	7:30 pm

There were 3 visitors and one became a member.

Treasurer Scott Bishop announced that the finances are in the black at this time. Our lease as well as our membership into the Astronomical League have been paid. Also, it's time for MEMBERS TO RENEW their dues. The rates remain the same at \$35 for single membership and \$40 for family membership.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

DOME REPAIR DAY was successful and many thanks for those who helped with this project .

OLD BUSINESS

PSW was held on May 19 with many in attendance, and the skies were clear.

The annual EAS PICNIC was held on Saturday, June 23. Starting later proved to be a good idea, and there were about 22 in attendance. A good time was had by all.

NEW BUSINESS

The annual PATOKA LAKE event will be on August 11. This year, we will setup at 5:00 PM. No programs will be held this year, but bracelet making and NASA give-aways will be featured.

Scott mentioned the passing-over of Edward Lewis Erickson and Eldonna McCarty, wife of Bill McCarty. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

Lastly, Charleen Kaelin reported a "What's Up?" on this month's astronomy happenings.

A program was presented by Mike Borman entitled, "The Sun"

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charleen Kaelin, Secretary

Continued from page 3...

Here are answers to some follow up questions I posed to Cindy Warren about the Docent program, training process, and scheduling.

Evansville Museum Docent Association

Training... Docents are trained on only two of our basic 45 minute tours: EMTRAC (our Evansville Museum Transportation Center -- where the train is located) and what we call our Highlights tour.

The Highlights tour consists of 15 minutes in 3 areas:

- the Old Rivertown area (downstairs),
- the Humankind gallery (2nd floor - where artifacts from the Native Americans and all around the world are located), and
- our main art gallery.

We encourage our docents to "shadow" other tours and basically train themselves on these tours, which include Science, Planetarium, and a variety of Outreach tours. Our Outreach tours involve taking supplies from the Museum and giving a 30-45 minute demo on several areas.

We have several docents who "specialize" in certain areas. In other words, they enjoy certain tours and rarely sign up for more than what they like. We request that you make a two year commitment when you join, but there is no obligation as to the number of tours you participate in. The two year commitment includes training beginning in September and you graduate on March 4, 2013.

Scheduling... is on an "at your leisure" basis. The scheduled tours are sent out every Monday morning to all docents via email, and you decide which tours you would like to sign up for and notify our Curator of Education. There has never been anyone assigned to a tour since I've been involved.

If you cannot fulfill your tour, it works best if you call another docent to fill your spot. Or if you prefer, simply contact our Curator of Education and she will send out an email requesting a replacement.

We had our Docent Planning Committee meeting this morning, and one of the docents who was scheduled for the "Discovery Outreach Tour" became ill over the weekend. We found a replacement right away. We totally understand "life happens!"

