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DAWN

a journey to the beginning of the solar system



Dawn Mission Outreach E-News, Special Podcast Edition, August 2008

DAWN CONDUCTS A SOLAR ARRAY TEST AND UPDATES SOFTWARE July 31, 2008

Dawn completed another month of thrusting, as it passed outside the orbit of Mars. It stopped thrusting for two days this month to perform other activities.

Controllers conducted a test on July 21 of a method to determine how much power the solar arrays could produce (the spacecraft consumes less than the arrays generate while still this close to the Sun). The test did not provide the full set of calibration data that was wanted, but it yielded enough information to guide engineers to minor modifications of the design for the backup calibration opportunity.



View the [Mission Status Update](http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/status.asp) (<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/status.asp>).

JOURNEY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD WITH DR. LUCY McFADDEN



On August 8, 2008 Dr. Lucy McFadden presented a webinar about her exciting journey to Antarctica in search of meteorites. Living in tents set up on the ice for 42 days, Dr. McFadden, Co-Investigator for the Dawn mission and Research Professor from the University of Maryland, recounts the excitement of her scientific expedition and how it has propelled her enthusiasm to explore the small bodies in the solar system through NASA missions: NEAR, Deep Impact, Dawn, and EPOXI. If you missed the live presentation, you can [view and listen](#) to the archived file (<http://www.dawn-mission.org/multimedia/videos.asp>). [Click here](#) to learn more about this memorable trip (http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/feature_stories/antarctica.asp).

LISTEN TO RECENT BROADCASTS ABOUT THE DAWN MISSION

The Dawn team is reviewing plans for the Mars flyby and is beginning the planning for its journey to Vesta and Ceres. Dawn Principal Investigator Chris Russell, GRaND Team Leader Tom Prettyman, and Dawn Co-Investigator Tom McCord answer questions about the instrumentation and explain some of the fascinating mysteries that the Dawn mission hopes to uncover. [Listen to the broadcast](#) (<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/videos.asp>).



GREAT PLANET DEBATE (GPD): SCIENTIFIC & EDUCATOR CONFERENCE

The goal of the August 14-16 GPD Conference, held at the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins University, was to inform formal and informal educators and the interested public of the reasoning behind the International Astronomical Union's (IAU) recent definition of a planet, which reclassified Pluto as a Dwarf Planet, and to present both sides of the debate within the scientific community over the classification scheme of solar system bodies. NASA's Dawn Co-Investigator Mark Sykes was a major debater and panelist during the conference as well as a part of the Scientific Organizing Committee for the meeting. [Listen](#) to the panel discussions and read abstracts from the conference (<http://gpd.jhuapl.edu>). The video of the Great Planet Debate between Sykes and NY Hayden Planetarium Director, Neil deGrasse Tyson will be posted in the next few weeks on the GPD site and on the [Dawn Web site](#) (<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/videos.asp>).

Dawn E/PO members Dr. Lucy McFadden, Joe Wise, and John Ristvey contributed two posters to the conference:

- *Ceres and Pluto: Dwarf Planets: A New Way of Thinking about an Old Solar System*
- *Dwarf Planets, NASA's Dawn and New Frontiers Missions: Examples in the evolution of Language*

Dr. McFadden also gave a summary of a Dawn E/PO vocabulary exercise, *Ceres and Pluto: Dwarf Planets: A New Way of Thinking about an Old Solar System*, that allows students to debate the matter in their own class room. You may download the [educator](#) and [student](#) guides (http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnClassrooms/dwarf_planet/TG_dwarf_planet.pdf; http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnClassrooms/dwarf_planet/SA_dwarf_planet.pdf).

CHRIS RUSSELL ON AUSTRALIAN BROADCAST COMPANY



Listen closely to the Australian Broadcast Company interview of Principal Investigator, Chris Russell, as he talks about the mystery of Ceres, the characteristics of the two most massive asteroids in the asteroid belt, Vesta and Ceres, what Dawn hopes to gain from the Mars Flyby, and much more. [Listen to entire broadcast](http://www.dawn-mission.org/multimedia/audio/cr_dawn_abc.mp3) (http://www.dawn-mission.org/multimedia/audio/cr_dawn_abc.mp3).

TOM PRETTYMAN AND TOM McCORD ON WNYC



Pay special attention to Leonard Lopate's WNYC on-demand podcast of Dawn Co-Investigators Tom McCord and Tom Prettyman as they explain why Ceres has a special lure to scientists and the exciting connection they hope to make between the existing meteorites from Vesta and its actual surface. [Click here](#) to learn about the trajectory adjustment of the Mars Flyby in 2009 and much more (<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/videos.asp>).



MARK SYKES ON SCIENCE FRIDAY

In 2006, The International Astronomical Union voted to remove Pluto from the list of planets in our solar system -- but the controversy over just what should be called a planet lives on. Planetary scientist Mark Sykes argues that a planet should be defined simply as 'a round object orbiting a star.' [Click here](#) to find out why and whether the definition of planet really matters (<http://www.sciencefriday.com/program/archives/200803283>).



PODCASTS OF 2007 DAWN EDUCATOR CONFERENCE



View a presentation by Dawn co-investigator Dr. Mark Sykes (Planetary Science Institute) as he describes what makes a planet. See the Dawn framing camera from lab to launch in ten slides by Holger Sierks (Max Planck Institute of Solar System Research). Learn about the importance of cratering in the solar system from Dr. Chuck Wood (Executive Director, Center for Educational Technologies and NASA-sponsored Classroom of the Future, Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, WV and Senior scientist, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, AZ). These are just a few of the many

podcasts from the 2007 Dawn Educator Conference in Florida. Podcasts are short video clips that are the perfect multimedia supplement for classrooms, science centers or for your personal viewing pleasure. Access the [Dawn educator conference podcasts](http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/videos.asp) (<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/videos.asp>).

IT CAME FROM VESTA: FANTASTIC SCIENCE LEAPS AT YOU!

Science fiction meets science fact in this newly released podcast featuring Deputy Principal Investigator Carol Raymond, former Project Manager Keyur Patel, and Media Relations Specialist DC Agle. The story opens with a detective hot on the trail of Eucrites that have fallen to Earth. It then segues to an interview with Raymond and Patel who discuss the connection between Eucrites, their parent bodies, and the Dawn mission. [Listen](#) to the complete podcast at: (<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/videos.asp>).



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The Dawn Education and Public Outreach team is continually seeking ways to improve the mission Web site and is eager to receive your feedback. Please share your thoughts by completing a brief [survey](http://survey.mcrcel.org/scripts/qweb.cgi?4CFEF46) at (<http://survey.mcrcel.org/scripts/qweb.cgi?4CFEF46>).

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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 Dawn Mission Outreach E-News features information about the mission, its outreach Web site, and products, services, and materials available from the Dawn Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) team. Dawn is the ninth Discovery mission in NASA's Science Mission Directorate and is a collaborative partnership made up of the University of California, Los Angeles; Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Orbital Sciences Corporation; Los Alamos National Laboratory; German Aerospace Center; Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research; Italian Space Agency; and Italian National Institute of Astrophysics. Dawn outreach materials are developed under contract by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), Denver, CO.

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