

INTRODUCTION

This year's Planetary Geologic Mappers meeting was held at the U.S. Geological Survey Flagstaff Field Center on June 22-23, 2000, with an optional field trip on Saturday the 24th. Though the meeting started at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning, meeting attendees were notified the night before of a NASA Press Conference announcing the discovery by the Mars Orbiter Camera (MOC) on Mars Global Surveyor of possibly very young fluid-carved gullies on pole-facing slopes at middle latitudes on Mars.

Investigators who are currently funded by the Planetary Geology & Geophysics (PG&G) Planetary Geologic Mapping Program are required to present their progress at this meeting. Preliminary reviews of these presentations are forwarded to the PG&G panel meeting at the end of July. At the same time, this science meeting affords the investigators a unique opportunity to present new science to an audience of people similarly focused on geologic mapping issues. It is an excellent place to get feedback on specific concerns regarding mapping conventions, styles, or formats, such as involving digital mapping software packages. In addition, individuals who wished to present plans for future mapping, such as describing plans in a new mapping proposal, were encouraged to do so.

The meeting began with presentations from Mars mappers on Thursday morning through

early afternoon. Then, focus switched to Venus mappers on Thursday afternoon through Friday morning. After the map presentations, Ken Tanaka spoke about age-dating issues for geologic mapping. Ken's talk was followed by two proposals for future regional Mappers' meetings. The first presentation, by Tim Parker, described preliminary plans for hosting a meeting in Delta, Utah, with a ~3-day field trip to study volcanic and sedimentary stratigraphy and geomorphology in the southern Bonneville Basin. The second presentation, by Larry Crumpler, described plans to hold a Mappers' meeting and field trip to investigate volcanological and structural features in New Mexico.

On Saturday, the remaining mappers were treated to a field trip to several ground water springs in and around Flagstaff. Also present was a reporter and camera crew from Space.com, who were interested in hearing what the scientists had to say regarding the press conference announcement. Thanks to all who took part in the interviews throughout the day!

Beginning this year, Ken Tanaka solicited one-page (including figures) abstracts pertaining to planetary geologic maps and mapping procedures. This volume is the compilation of abstracts submitted by the meeting attendees.