

Rochester Section

OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL DINNER

Tuesday, April 24, 2007 • Crescent Beach Restaurant • 5:30 p.m.

Mars Rover: the Latest from Spirit and Opportunity

Kjartan Kinch

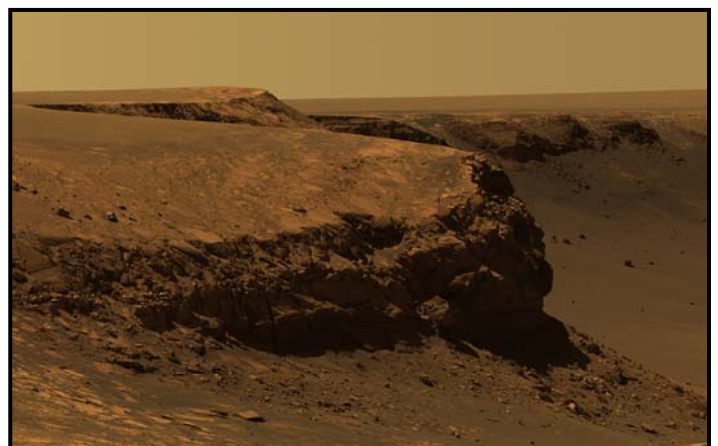
Cornell University, Department of Astronomy

On the evening of January 3rd 2004, the NASA rover *Spirit* touched down in Gusev Crater on Mars after a journey of a little less than seven months. Coming safely to rest after a series of airbag-assisted bounces across the Martian surface, *Spirit* was the first spacecraft to execute a successful landing on Mars since the landing of *Mars Pathfinder* in the summer of 1997 and only the fourth spacecraft to do so ever. *Spirit's* identical sister ship, *Opportunity*, landed equally successfully on the evening of January 24th on the opposite side of the planet in Meridiani Planum. *Spirit* and *Opportunity* were the first Martian probes to have a substantial capacity for motion once landed. During more than 3 years of operations on the Martian surface *Spirit* has traveled more than 4 miles, while *Opportunity* has exceeded 6 miles on the odometer. The Panoramic Cameras on the 2 rovers have acquired in excess of 100,000 single image frames over the course of the mission, imaging the Martian surface landscape in spectacular color as well as acquiring pictures of the sun, the Martian moons and the Earth. Images from the rover camera as well as data from other rover science instruments have vastly increased our understanding of the planet Mars.

Kjartan Kinch works at Cornell University as a Panoramic Camera Payload Downlink Lead. He will describe the design of the Mars Exploration rovers as well as the daily work of remotely operating the rovers and their science instruments. He will show images from the rover mission and discuss science findings as well as present status of the mission.



Sunset over Gusev Crater (acquired by *Spirit*).



The Cape Verde Promontory (acquired by *Opportunity*)

Kjartan Kinch was born in Aarhus, Denmark in 1974. He holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Aarhus, and has been involved with the Mars Exploration Rovers mission since he began graduate school in the summer of 1999. Since the summer of 2005 he is employed at the Cornell University Department of Astronomy, working on the Mars Exploration Rover Panoramic Cameras. His tasks include daily monitoring of instrument health and of new data from the rover cameras as well as scientific analysis of camera data.

Admission is \$30 per person (\$20 per student). Reservations can be made by paying your plant representative, or by making a check out to "OSA-RS" and sending it to:

Chris Supranowitz
QED Technologies
1040 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

No tickets will be distributed. Confirmed reservations will be placed on a list. Space is limited. Reservations (including guest names) must be made by **TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007.**

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Supranowitz (supranowitz@qedmrf.com) or Anatoly Bourov (ayb1793@rit.edu).

PROGRAM:

5:30	Social Hour (Cash bar)
6:30	Buffet Dinner
7:30	Business Meeting
8:00	Presentation by Kjartan Kinch

<http://localsections.osa.org/rosa/RochesterOSA.htm>



Directions to Crescent Beach Restaurant

Rochester: Take 390 N to Rt-18/Latta Road (exit #26). Turn right onto NY-18/Latta Road, then left onto Island Cottage Road. Travel 2.1 miles on Island Cottage Road, then turn left onto Edgemere Drive. Crescent Beach is 0.6 miles down Edgemere Dr., on the right.