

# Meeting Minutes – Mars Society

*April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001, 7:00 PM Bethesda Public Library*

## 1. Outreach Coordinate Joe Webster: Political Issues

- Fundraiser with James Cameron
  - We have received the approval to do a fundraiser with James Cameron here in Washington DC in either November or December. We will receive final confirmation in June.
  - This fundraiser will be a joint project with the New England Chapter headed by Chris Carberry, and possibly with other East Coast Chapters.
  - The fundraiser will consist of a public presentation at the Air & Space Museum with a private reception and fundraiser afterward.
  - To pull this off, we will need to get a core group of people who want to help out. This is your opportunity to be involved in a highly publicized event, schmooze with local and national celebrities, plus promote the human settlement of Mars. Contact Joe Webster or Jennifer Melton if you're interested in helping.
- Political Update
  - The Bush Administration seems encouraged to push the Mars exploration budget by having a \$548 million increase annually to 2006. This ties into the cut off of the U.S. contribution to ISS in 2003-2004. The thought is that the funding that originally went to the ISS will now be used for Mars exploration purposes. Stay tuned.
- Mars Society Political Action Committee (MARSPAC)
  - Join the Mars Society Political Action Committee to continue our political activism. We are now planning to meet with the White House and influential members of Congress to promote Mars exploration. Most meetings are in groups of 2-3 people. Currently, we are planning to coordinate with other space-interest groups, plus promote the Mars Prize and tax exempt status. Contact Joe Webster for information.

## 2. Upcoming Local Events in May:

- **May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Space Policy Institute Exposition at George Washington University. Contact the Institute at [spi@gwu.edu](mailto:spi@gwu.edu) for more information.
- **May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>** – Bob Terry to present “Education Public Outreach in Context of Space Science”. Contact [reterry@bigplanet.com](mailto:reterry@bigplanet.com).
- **May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Mars Society DC Chapter Board Meeting at the DC Public Library in Foggy Bottom between 2:00 and 4:00 PM. Contact Jennifer Melton at [jmelton@hdrinc.com](mailto:jmelton@hdrinc.com) to request a topic or for more information.
- **May 25<sup>th</sup>** – Mars Society DC Chapter member Tom Hill will speak at the Baltimore Science Fiction Convention. Contact Tom Hill at [hillkid@earthlink.net](mailto:hillkid@earthlink.net).
- **May 29<sup>th</sup>** – Mars Society DC Chapter General Membership Meeting at the Bethesda Public Library at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Bob Parks. Contact Bruce Behrens at [bbehrens@megapipe.net](mailto:bbehrens@megapipe.net).

### **3. Featured Speaker Tom Hill: “T.E.M.P.O.”**

- “T.E.M.P.O.” is an acronym for a tethered orbiter designed to test and create artificial gravity. The orbiter would be a secondary payload for a larger project with an anticipated \$3 million cost.

### **4. By-Laws: Craig Harbuck**

- Those in attendance of the general meeting approved the Chapter By-Laws. You can view the By-Laws on our web site.

### **5. Hot Topic of the Month – Mars Property Rights: Rich Robins**

- What are your opinions of Property Rights? When organizations here on Earth offer you to buy “property” on Mars, is it legitimate or is it a scam? If property rights are acquired, how can it be protected since no one currently inhabits Mars?

End Meeting.