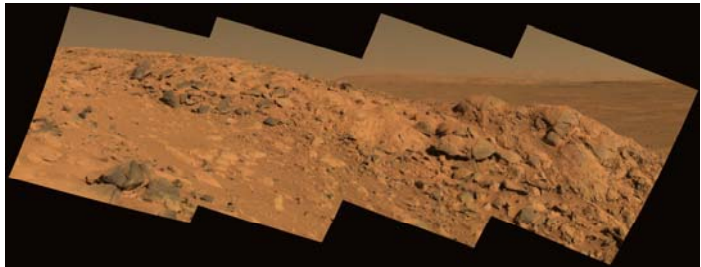


## **28 Months on Mars: Science Results from the Mars Exploration Rovers**

**Presented by Dr. James F. Bell, III  
Cornell University, Department of Astronomy**

NASA successfully landed twin rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on Mars in January 2004, in the most ambitious mission of robotic exploration ever attempted. Each rover is outfitted as a robot field geologist with an impressive array of scientific instruments--cameras, spectrometers, other sensors--designed to combine mobility and measurement sensitivity to probe the composition and geologic history of two distinctly-different landing sites. The sites were chosen because of their potential to reveal clues about the past history of water and climate on Mars, and thus to provide quantitative tests of the hypothesis that the planet may once (or still?) have been an abode for life.

Jim Bell is a Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University, and is the lead scientist responsible for the rovers' color imaging system called Pancam. Pancam has returned more than 100,000 spectacular color images from Mars, and its high resolution capabilities have revealed subtle details of the geology,



texture, and composition of the landing sites. In this presentation, Prof. Bell will discuss the strong evidence for ancient water discovered at the Opportunity landing site, the weaker evidence for ancient water at the Spirit site, and the most recent results from both rovers, which continue to operate well after more than 26 months on Mars.



Jim Bell is an Associate Professor in the Cornell University Astronomy Department. He received his B.S. from Caltech in 1987 and his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii in 1992, performing research on Mars surface mineralogy and climate variations using infrared and optical telescopes at Mauna Kea Observatory. His studies primarily focus on the geology, geochemistry, and mineralogy of planets, asteroids, and comets using data obtained from telescopes and spacecraft missions. Dr. Bell is the author of a book titled "Postcards from Mars" (Dutton/Penguin, in bookstores in Nov. 2006), which is a pictorial history of the rover missions. Jim is also a member of the science teams of the NASA Mars Pathfinder, Mars

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'01 Odyssey Orbiter, Mars '05 Reconnaissance Orbiter, and 2009 Mars Science Laboratory rover mission teams.

**Meeting logistics:** The meeting will take place on Thursday, May 18th at the Ramada Inn, located Buckley Road in Syracuse, New York. A social hour will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a buffet dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. The main presentation by Dr. Bell will begin at about 7:30 p.m.

The cost of dinner is \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members and \$15 for student members. People may also attend the presentation only for a nominal fee of \$3. Please RSVP by Monday, May 15th to Bonnie at Parratt-Wolff via e-mail at [bolney@pwinc.com](mailto:bolney@pwinc.com) or (315) 437-1429

