

Colorado

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

Tuesday 15 October 2013

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18th and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

Colorado's MAVEN mission to Mars

Nick Schneider, LASP, CU Boulder

The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission, scheduled for launch on 18 November 2013, will be the first mission devoted to understanding the Martian upper atmosphere. The goal of MAVEN is to determine the role that loss of atmospheric gas to space played in changing the Martian climate through time. Where did the atmosphere – and the water – go? MAVEN will determine how much of the Martian atmosphere has been lost over time by measuring the current rate of escape to space and gathering enough information about the relevant processes to allow extrapolation backward in time. **Nick Schneider** is lead scientist for the CU Boulder–built Imaging Ultraviolet Spectrograph, IUVS.

A U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane delivered the solar-powered spacecraft to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on 2 August, kicking off the final weeks of prelaunch activities such as hardware installation, testing and fueling. MAVEN is set to launch aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket during a 20-day launch window beginning November 18. The one-year mission begins in Sept. 2014, when the spacecraft reaches Mars orbit.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. No baseball game tonight! We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu

**Essential information about the topic and the event on our Web site at:
CafeSciColorado.org**