

Colorado

# CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

Tuesday 8 February 2011

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

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

Corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

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

## **METHANE SEAS AND SALTY GEYSERS:**

**THE MARVELOUS MOONS OF SATURN**

**John Spencer, PhD,**

INSTITUTE SCIENTIST, SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BOULDER

NASA's Cassini spacecraft has been exploring Saturn's system of moons for over six years now, revealing an amazing variety of landscapes both Earth-like and utterly alien. The largest moon, Titan, hides an Earth-like surface of lakes and rivers beneath its dense, smoggy, atmosphere, but the rivers are filled with methane, not water. Meanwhile one of the smaller moons, Enceladus, continually blasts jets of ice particles, perhaps escaping from misty saltwater caverns, into orbit around Saturn. Other moons in Saturn's menagerie resemble a walnut, a sponge, and the Death Star. All these varied worlds have stories to tell us about how the solar system came to be, and how we humans came to be a part of it.

***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. 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](mailto:John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu)

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

**<http://CafeSciColorado.org>**