Dear Members & Friends:

We invite you to join us to explore new discoveries on Mars and the Moon and see the natural world we are exploring for the first time in a desert paradise on Arizona Skies & New Discoveries, April 19-16, 2010.

We will gather in Tucson, Arizona, just south of the Santa Catalina Mountains, to begin our exploration of the spectacular desert landscape. Tucson is the “Astronomy Capital of the World.”

We will have the extraordinary opportunity to meet the scientist who postulated the Hypanthia hypothesis for our Moon and learn about current research at the planetary Science Institute.

At the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, which is surrounded by Saguaro National Park, there is a fascinating exhibit on the origin of life on earth. You will also have an opportunity to see spectacular desert plants and wildlife, including the iconic desert bird, the roadrunner!

On the north edge of the Santa Catalina Mountains, we’ll visit Biosphere 2 where scientists spent two years living under conditions similar to a space station or orbiting satellite. You will see different ecological habitats, their natural wonders of this desert area,

We will have a special lecture by the scientist in charge of the Phoenix Mars Lander (that completed its mission in 2008) which found water ice at the north Martian pole and compounds that have the potential to support life.

From Tucson, our adventure will next take us north to Sedona, where you may take a hot air balloon ride (a near earth adventure for Mars enthusiasts!).

Explore Red Rock State Park whose rock formations look like Mars). Then see Palati Heritage Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that offers a wonderful glimpse into early Native American life.

Near Flagstaff, we will visit the famous Meteor Crater. Walk to the edge and imagine the crater's pocked surface of the Moon, Mars, and other planets. Then enjoy an evening visit to Lowell Observatory where dark skies make the Milky Way a wonder to see!

We invite you to come explore extraordinary wonders of Arizona this year and hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Louis Friedman
Executive Director

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**Arizona Skies & New Discoveries**

Come explore with the Planetary Society and learn about discoveries on Mars, the Moon & More!

**Expedition Fee: $2,795 per person twin share - air fare to Tucson with return from Phoenix.**

**Single Supplement:** We encourage all singles to bring a roommate. If you prefer a single or do not have a roommate, the single supplement is $595 per person.

**Expedition Inclusions:** Group arrival and departure transfers; transportation by motorcoach or 15-passenger vans; accommodation in first class lodges twin share with private bath; meals and activities as indicated; tour leadership by an excellent naturalist and local guest expert's administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** Air fare: independent arrival transfers in Tucson; some meals; optional activities such as the hot air balloon rides or bike riding in Saguaro National Park, additional cost; transfers in Tucson; some meals; optional activities such as the hot air balloon rides or bike riding in Saguaro National Park (at additional cost).

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** Expedition Fee Does Not Include:

**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions, Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the local guest experts; administration.

**Expedition Fee:** If you prefer a single or do not have a roommate, the single supplement is $595 per person.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable up to 80 days before departure (February 10, 2010). There is no refund for any cancellation within 80 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. No refunds are made for unused services.

**Questions?** Please call Taunya DeYoung, Betchart Expeditions Inc., Phone: (800) 252-4910 or (800) 252-4910, Fax: (408) 252-1444. Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com

**Look on the Web:** www.betchartexpeditions.com

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**Arizona Adventures - March 18-24, 2010**

**Alaska Aurora Borealis!**

Join us as we explore the great beauty of Alaska in winter, and see the famed Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, the most spectacular natural wonder of the world.

**Alaska Aurora Borealis March 18-24, 2010**

Space is limited, so contact us soon for a detailed brochure and reservations: email: info@betchartexpeditions.com telephone: (408) 252-4910 (int'l) or (800) 252-4910 (USA) fax: (408) 252-1444

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**Costs & Conditions**

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of $500 per person with the completed reservation form. Final payment is due 60 days before departure (February 10, 2010).

**Cancellations & Refunds:** This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would like to explore the Tucson and Sedona areas, with a special focus on science and astronomy, as well as the spectacular desert habitat. Led by an excellent naturalist, we will explore these unique natural areas, see observatories, visit Biosphere 2, and visit Spanish and ancient Anasazi cultural sites. There will be optional hot air balloon rides or bike riding in Saguaro National Park, at additional cost. Typically, it will be in the 80’s low 90’s, with great spring weather. (No smoking in buses or vans, during lectures or meals, please.)

**Accommodations:** In Tucson, we will stay in a beautifully renovated Lodge on the Desert, a famous lodge from the early days. In Sedona, we will stay in a comfortable all suites inn.

**Trips & Conditions:**

- For reservations, please contact Betchart Expeditions Inc.
- 17050 Montebello Road
- Cupertino, CA 95014-5435
- Telephone: (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910
- Fax: (408) 252-1444
- Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com

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**For reservations, please contact Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

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We invite you to come explore extraordinary wonders of Arizona this year and hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Louis Friedman
Executive Director
Day 1  Home to Tucson, Arizona  
Expedition members will fly from their nearest gateway city to Tucson, Arizona. Transfer by Stagecoach taxi to the Lodge on the Desert (4 nights). Welcome social, orientation, and dinner.  

Day 2  Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum & Origins of Moon & Universe  
This morning, we will have an introduction to the desert as we travel through Saguaro National Park to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. This world-renowned zoo, natural history museum, and botanical garden has exhibits in the natural landscape of the Sonoran Desert. You may find yourself eye-to-eye with mountain lions, prairie dogs, Gila monsters, and more. There is also a superb exhibit of the origin of life on earth. We’ll have lunch at the Museum and then visit the Planetary Science Institute (PSI) where research projects explore the origins of the Moon, solar system, and universe. PSI also manages the Dawn Mission with a rendezvous with Vesta in 2011 and Ceres in 2015. Lecture this evening on Biosphere 2 (D).  

Day 3  Sabino Canyon & Biosphere 2  
This morning, we’ll explore the Sonoran desert with a tram ride and walk through Sabino Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mountains. For hikers, there are diverse habitats with elevation change, and sweeping views of the desert landscape. The clifftop river provides a well-watered and shaded habitat for wildlife and many opportunities for ornithology and photography. We will depart in late morning for DeGrazia’s Gallery in the Sun for a chance to see an authentic old homestead and an introduction to southwestern art.  

Day 4  Kitt Peak & Lunar & Planetary Laboratory  
We’ll continue north along the Santa Catalina Mountains (which are the center of an ancient volcano) to tour Biosphere 2, a self-contained complex from 1991 to 1994 that tried to duplicate what a small world might look like. We will walk through the living quarters, and then visit the savanna wilderness and see a 40-foot ocean cliff by a tropical ocean. We will continue through the mangrove habitat, tropical thorn forest, and coastal fog desert environments. The rainforest has over 125 different species of plants with some 80 feet tall. We’ll conclude with a walk to the lungs of the biosphere. In the late afternoon enjoy a visit to Saguaro National Park for a sunset walk or optional bike ride before dinner in the Lodge on the Desert (B,D).  

Day 5  Phoenix Botanic Garden & Sedona  
This morning, we will have an introduction to the desert as we travel through Saguaro National Park to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. This world-renowned zoo, natural history museum, and botanical garden has exhibits in the natural landscape of the Sonoran Desert. You may find yourself eye-to-eye with mountain lions, prairie dogs, Gila monsters, and more. There is also a superb exhibit of the origin of life on earth. We’ll have lunch at the Museum and then visit the Planetary Science Institute (PSI) where research projects explore the origins of the Moon, solar system, and universe. PSI also manages the Dawn Mission with a rendezvous with Vesta in 2011 and Ceres in 2015. Lecture this evening on Biosphere 2 (D).  

Day 6  Meteor Crater & Lowell Observatory  
(Optional hot air balloon ride) This morning, adventurers may take an optional hot air balloon ride over the Flatiron Canyon and the colorful buttes, spires, and pinnacles of redrock sandstone. Or enjoy a morning hiking adventure in the red rock country to the base of Cathedral Peaks. In the afternoon, we’ll drive to Meteor Crater to see the impact of the large meteoroid over 50,000 years ago. It displaced 300-400 million tons of rock and created a crater 4,300 feet wide and 571 feet deep. You may also see an audio test capsule and displays on meteors, asteroids, and space equipment. This will be an interesting tie-in to the many observations of craters on the Moon, Mars, and other planets. Afternoon walk in the lava fields of Sunset Crater Volcanic Monument. Evening visit to the Lowell Observatory to see the astronomy displays and then view the night sky through the same telescope which the expedition’s current sponsor, the University of Arizona, purchased in 1954 for education and research.  

Day 7  Red Rock State Park & Palatki Heritage Park  
This morning, we will drive northwest to the heart of the Flatiron Canyon and the colorful buttes, spires, and pinnacles of redrock sandstone. Or enjoy a morning hiking adventure in the red rock country to the base of Cathedral Peaks. This afternoon, we explore Palatki Heritage Park, a UNSECO World Heritage Site. It includes one of the largest concentrations of cliff dwellings in the Sinagua, or Western Anasazi, people. See the cliff dwellings as well as pictographs and petroglyphs. The home of the Sinagua has lived from 500 to 1420 AD for fishing, hunting, gathering, and agricultural activity. Listened to the story of the Sinagua left the region because of a long drought and warfare. Festive dinner in celebration of our journey.  

Day 8  Sedona to Phoenix  
After breakfast, we will drive north to the spectacular red rock country of Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon. And explore the huge talus slopes of redrock sandstone. Or enjoy a morning hiking adventure in the red rock country to the base of Cathedral Peaks. This afternoon, we explore Palatki Heritage Park, a UNSECO World Heritage Site. It includes one of the largest concentrations of cliff dwellings in the Sinagua, or Western Anasazi, people. See the cliff dwellings as well as pictographs and petroglyphs. The home of the Sinagua has lived from 500 to 1420 AD for fishing, hunting, gathering, and agricultural activity. Listened to the story of the Sinagua left the region because of a long drought and warfare. Festive dinner in celebration of our journey.  

Day 9  Phoenix  
After breakfast, we will drive north to the spectacular red rock country of Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon. And explore the huge talus slopes of redrock sandstone. Or enjoy a morning hiking adventure in the red rock country to the base of Cathedral Peaks. This afternoon, we explore Palatki Heritage Park, a UNSECO World Heritage Site. It includes one of the largest concentrations of cliff dwellings in the Sinagua, or Western Anasazi, people. See the cliff dwellings as well as pictographs and petroglyphs. The home of the Sinagua has lived from 500 to 1420 AD for fishing, hunting, gathering, and agricultural activity. Listened to the story of the Sinagua left the region because of a long drought and warfare. Festive dinner in celebration of our journey.  

Day 10  Home  
After breakfast, we will return to Phoenix Airport for afternoon flights.
**Day 1 Home to Tucson, Arizona**
Expedition members will fly from their nearest gateway city to Tucson, Arizona. Transfer by Stagecoach to the Lodge on the Desert (4 nights). Welcome social, orientation, and dinner. D

**Day 2 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum & Origins of Moon & Universe**
This morning, we will have an introduction to the desert as we travel through Saguaro National Park to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. This world-renowned zoo, natural history museum, and botanical garden has exhibits in the natural landscape of the Sonoran Desert. You may find yourself eye-to-eye with mountain lions, prairie dogs, Gila monsters, and more. There is also a superb exhibit of the origin of life on earth. We’ll have lunch at the Museum and then visit the Planetary Science Institute (PSI) where research projects explore the origins of the Moon, solar system, and universe. The Museum also manages the Dawn Mission with a rendezvous with Vesta in 2011 and Ceres in 2015. L, D

**Day 3 Sabino Canyon & Biosphere 2**
This morning, we’ll explore the Sonoran desert with a tram ride and walk through Sabino Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mountains. **Phoenix Mars Lander Mission**
According to the ancient Greeks, the phoenix is a bird the size of an eagle, sings a beautiful sunrise song, and symbolizes rebirth. The phoenix lives 500 years and just before death bursts into flames, when a new phoenix rises from the pyre. The Phoenix Mars Mission was, in part, a combination of spacecraft and instruments from two previous unsuccessful attempts to explore Mars. With this base the new Phoenix rose to become one of the most successful space missions. It explored three main questions: Can Mars support life? How long could life have existed on Mars? What is the history of water on Mars? How is climate affected by polar dynamics? As the Lander settled near the North Pole of Mars the thrusters produced three minutes of lift-off before gravity forces brought it down. The Phoenix Mars Lander Mission is situated in Tohono O’odham’s national park of Oak Creek Canyon. Here there is one of the largest Coconino Sandstone. Springs which feed the waters of the canyon running through the faulted rock of Oak Creek. The fault divides the canyon with many eroded rock of Oak Creek. The fault divides the canyon with many canals made by intelligent life. B, L

**Day 4 Kitt Peak & Lunar & Planetary Laboratory**
This morning, we will explore Kitt Peak National Observatory and the National Solar Observatory. Learn about their research programs that unlock the mysteries of the universe. Picnic lunch on the mountain top, then depart for Mission San Javier del Bac for a glimpse of Tucson’s early Spanish heritage. D

**Day 5 Phoenix Botanic Garden & Sedona**
After breakfast we will drive north through the Sonoran Desert to the capital of Arizona, Phoenix. We will then lunch at the Phoenix Botanic Garden. The Garden displays thousands of Arizona’s native plants, found from mountain tops to desert basins, and showcases 135 endangered desert plants. Study the grounds and see hundreds of plants from around the state. We will then continue north to the spectacular red rock country of Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon. **k&k Suitcases (3 nights).** Enjoy an evening of sky watching. B

**Day 6 Meteor Crater & Lowell Observatory (optional hot air balloon ride)**
This morning, adventurers may take an optional hot air balloon ride over Meteor Crater and the colorful buttes, spires, and pinnacles of redrock sandstone. Or enjoy a morning hiking adventure in the red rock country to the base of Cathedral Peaks. In the afternoon, we’ll drive to Meteor Crater to see the impact of the largest meteor 50,000 years ago. It displaced 300-400 million tons of rock and created a crater 4,100 feet wide and 571 feet deep. You may also view a video test capsule and displays on meteors, asteroids, and space equipment. This will be an interesting tie-in to the many observers of craters on the Moon, Mars, and other planets. Afternoon walk in the lava fields of Sunset Crater National Monument. D

**Day 7 Red Rock State Park & Palatki Heritage Site**
This morning we will visit Red Rock State Park, a wonderland of sedimentary colorful rock formations. We will walk through the High Desert and explore the mesa. We will walk through the living quarters, and then enter the what astronauts would encounter living in a different world. In the late afternoon enjoy a visit to Saguaro National Park for a sunset walk or optional bike ride before dinner in the Lodge on the Desert. B, L

**Day 8 Sedona to Phoenix & Home**
After breakfast, transfer to the Phoenix airport for afternoon flights home. B
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Alaska Aurora Borealis March 18-24, 2010

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Arizona Skies & New Discoveries • April 9-16, 2010

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