



SAINT LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

ATTN: CALENDAR, NEWSROOM, OR PSA EDITOR

May 9, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rich Heuermann

(314) 962-9231 (home)

“NASA’s Mars 2020 Rover and Its Search For Ancient Martian Life”, an illustrated presentation by **Mr. Michael Bouchard of Washington University**, will be featured at the May meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at **7:30 PM on Friday, May 18, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63130**. McDonnell Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. **Free yellow zone and garage parking** are available to the audience. The event, cosponsored by NASA's Missouri Space Grant Consortium, is open to the public free of charge.

NASA’s Mars 2020 Rover will search for habitable environments and for evidence of past microbial life on the Red Planet. Scheduled for a July or August, 2020 launch, it will land on Mars in February 2021. The Rover is a mobile robotic laboratory packed with an array of instruments, including twenty-three cameras and a ground-penetrating radar device. Mr. Bouchard will talk about how the Mars 2020 Rover will use its instruments to explore the Martian surface and perhaps find traces of fossil microbial life. Michael Bouchard is a Doctoral candidate in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Washington University. He is currently a member of the NASA team examining possible landing sites for the Rover.

The St. Louis Astronomical Society is an organization for individuals interested in astronomy and telescopes. The public is invited to attend its meetings, telescope observing sessions, and special events. For more information about Astronomical Society events, please visit the website, www.slasonline.org , or call 314- 962-9231.

#