

COLORADO

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2008

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.

MARS' Disappearing **ATMOSPHERE:** **WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PLANETS**

NICK SCHNEIDER, PHD,
LABORATORY FOR ATMOSPHERIC & SPACE PHYSICS, UC BOULDER

The climate changes that capture today's headlines here on Earth are nothing compared the truly drastic climate change that occurred on Mars. The latest results from Mars missions confirm that Mars was once warmer, wetter, and possibly habitable billions of years ago. But then something went horribly wrong, and now Mars is cold, dry and desolate. I'll start with a discussion of how and why Mars changed, and end by describing the upcoming CU/NASA mission "MAVEN," the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution mission, designed to solve the mysteries of Mars' ancient atmosphere.

In the largest research contract ever awarded to the University of Colorado at Boulder, the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics has been selected by NASA to lead a \$485 million orbiting space mission slated to launch in 2013 to probe the past climate of Mars, including its potential for harboring life over the ages.

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 in Denver is organized by an informal committee of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as writers, students, and science fans from industry, government and all over. 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 on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>