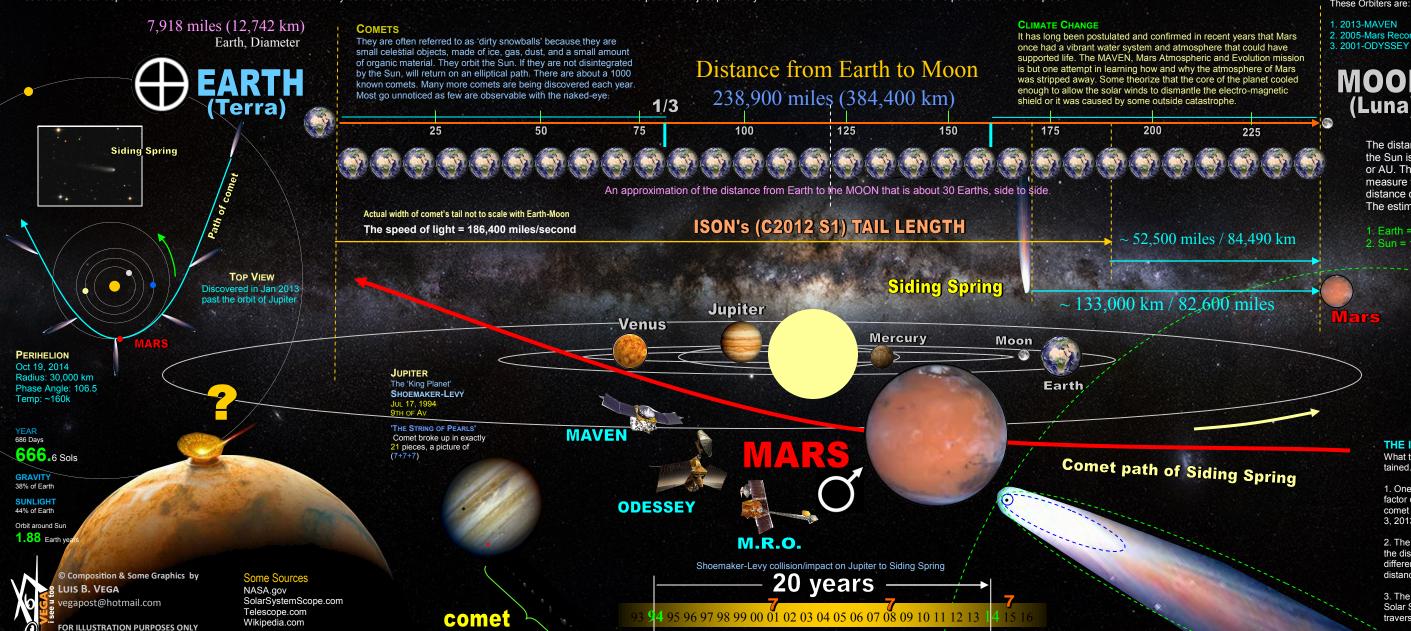
COMET SIDING SPRING & MARS PASSING

CONCEPTUAL ILLUSTRATION OF POSSIBLE ATMOSPHERIC COLLISIONS

According to NASA's calculations, comet Siding Spring C/2013 A1 will pass very near the planet Mars on October 19, 2014. The comet was named Siding Spring after the place in Australia where it was discovered in 2013. It is estimated that the distance of the comet will be 133, 000 km away. This is about 1/3 the distance from the Earth to the Moon. NASA predicts that the comet nucleus will not hit the surface of Mars but that their respective atmospheres could collide is some fashion. It is considered a once in a life-time event. Most, if not all planets have an atmosphere to one degree or another; so do comets. For the comets, this is the Coma. It is made up of ice (water) and metal elements that is surrounded by the Coma made up of dust and gases. For an approximate scale of how big an average comet's Coma is, it is roughly bigger than the diameter of Jupiter. NASA speculates that if at all, the two atmospheres will interact 'collide' is some way. Perhaps there might be some sort of electromagnetic charge at the upper atmospheric levels. This atmosphere interaction could lead to some atmospheric affects such as Auroras or worse. Is it any coincidence that NASA has a fleet of Mars Orbiters that will be positioned just precisely in-between the Comet and Mars for this particular time and place?



NASA has been sending Orbiters to Mars since 1964. The latest one, MAVEN will try to learn what caused Mar's climate change MAVEN is the 21st NASA mission to mars. These Orbiters are:

- 2. 2005-Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter



The distance from the Earth to the Sun is 1 Astronomical Unit or AU. This is the basic unit of measure to determine relative distance of objects in space. The estimated distance to



- 1. Earth = 1.61 AU 2 Sun = 1 403 AU
- **Siding Spring** Coma

NOT TO SCALE 0

THE ISON CONNECTION

What this event might mean, remains to be ascer-

- 1. One peculiar correlation of this comet is that it has a factor of a measurement that is related to a prior Mars comet interaction with comet ISON back in November
- 2. The other peculiarity is that the difference between the distance of Siding Spring's distance to Mars is the difference between ISON's tail length compared to the distance of the Earth to the Moon.
- 3. The trajectory of Siding Spring on the way out of the Solar System will have a similar path as ISON that traversed parts of Ophiuchus, Serpens and Perseus.