



San Mateo County Astronomical Society



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SMCAS General Meeting and Presentation on Friday November 4, 2016

Dr Ross Beyer

Research Scientist

[Carl Sagan Center at the SETI Institute](#)

Charon: Pluto's Fascinating Moon Updates from the New Horizons Mission

Friday, November 4, 2016 , [College of San Mateo, Building 36](#)

SMCAS General meeting at 7:00 p.m. ISC Room, room 110

Presentation at 8:00 p.m. [Planetarium](#)

Free and open to the public, free parking.

Charon is Pluto's large companion, and in the summer of 2015 it went from a distant point of light to a full-fledged world in human understanding. Join us as we discuss the interesting fractured geology of Charon. Dr. Ross Beyer, member of the New Horizons team and a Research Scientist at the SETI Institute will take you on a tour of the canyons, faults, craters, smooth plains, enigmatic mountains, and all manner of terrains that New Horizons observed as it flew through the Pluto system.

Ross is currently a Principal Investigator and Research Scientist with the [Carl Sagan Center](#) at the [SETI Institute](#). He carries out his research in the [Space Science and Astrobiology Division](#) (Planetary Systems Branch, SST) and the [Intelligent Robotics Group](#) (part of the Intelligent

Systems Division, TI) at the [NASA Ames Research Center](#). He studies surface geomorphology, surface processes, remote sensing and photogrammetry of the solid bodies in our Solar System—if you can stand on it, he's interested in what it's like and how it got that way.



Ross works on planetary surface studies. He has performed geophysical modeling of diapirism on Mars and other terrestrial planets. He works on ways to quantitatively analyze the meter-scale topography and surface roughness of planetary surfaces via remote sensing. This work has been used to help plan landing sites on Mars. Ross has worked to gain a better understanding of the stratigraphy and layering on Mars,

particularly in the slopes of the chasmata and the interior mesas in order to learn more about the geologic history of Mars. Ross has also worked with images from Pluto and Charon to better understand their geology and tectonic history.