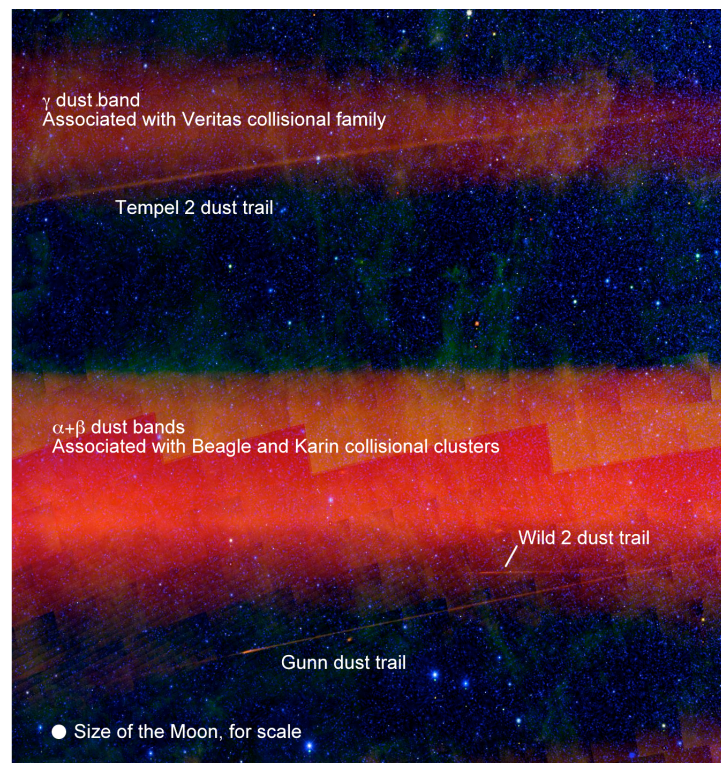


Mark V. Sykes – Biography

Mark V. Sykes is Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Planetary Science Institute at its headquarters in Tucson, Arizona. He grew up in the United States Air Force, living in numerous places around the country before attending college at the University of Oregon. He spent summers studying the photometric and polarimetric behavior of eclipsing binary stars at Pine Mountain Observatory, writing his Bachelor thesis on a search for periodicities in the light-curve of the black-hole system, Cygnus X-1. He also studied music composition. In 1978, he received a Bachelor of Arts, Honors College, in Physics. He subsequently studied Fourier optics and laser physics at the Oregon Graduate Center from which he received a Master of Electronic Science in 1982. He received his PhD in planetary sciences from the University of Arizona in 1986, and was awarded its Gerard P. Kuiper Memorial Award for his research. He discovered cometary dust trails, which revealed comets to be far more rocky than previously thought, and discovered numerous rings of dust surrounding the inner solar system arising from recent asteroid collisions. He is a Co-Investigator on the NASA Dawn mission to Vesta and the dwarf planet Ceres. He has served as Chair of the Division for Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society, and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has served on and chaired numerous NASA review panels and advisory groups including the Small Bodies Assessment Group. Mark received his Juris Doctor in 1998 from the University of Arizona, and is admitted to the Arizona State Bar and to practice before the Federal District Court. In 1991 he was honored by the International Astronomical Union with the designation of Minor Planet 4438 Sykes for his discoveries and in 2007 was the first recipient of the NASA Planetary Science Division Distinguished Service Award. For the past 30 years, he has performed professionally with the Arizona Opera Company in its chorus and is actively involved with the American Guild of Musical Artists. Mark is married to Marilyn Guengerich, who is a Senior Program Coordinator at the MMT Observatory. His son Matthew and daughter-in-law Diana live in Ann Arbor, MI, where Matthew is working on his PhD in Material Science at the University of Michigan.



Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer image of the sky courtesy F. Masci (IPAC/Caltech)