

Colorado

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

➔ MONDAY ➔ 6 June 2011

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.

Asteroids

What's New with the Oldest Objects in the Solar System?

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Asteroids cause most people to think about death and destruction, scenes from bad movies, or the catastrophic end of the dinosaurs. When they usually miss, though, is how we can learn about the Solar System from these tiny objects. Asteroids are leftovers of the original building blocks that formed the planets. Hand samples of asteroids, which land on the Earth in the form of meteorites, tell us about the early solar nebula processes and literally how worlds were created. The orbits and physical properties of the surviving asteroids bear witness to the dramatic events that have changed the inner Solar System over the last 4.5 billion years (Gy). In many ways, asteroids are analogous to the blood splatter, bone chips, and other telltale clues found at a crime scene; they tell us how the "deed was done." Asteroids make such intriguing scientific subjects that NASA's upcoming DAWN mission will explore one of largest surviving ones, 4 Vesta, starting on July 4, 2011.

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 is organized by an informal group of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. 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 about the topic and the event on our Web site at:
<http://CafeSciColorado.org>