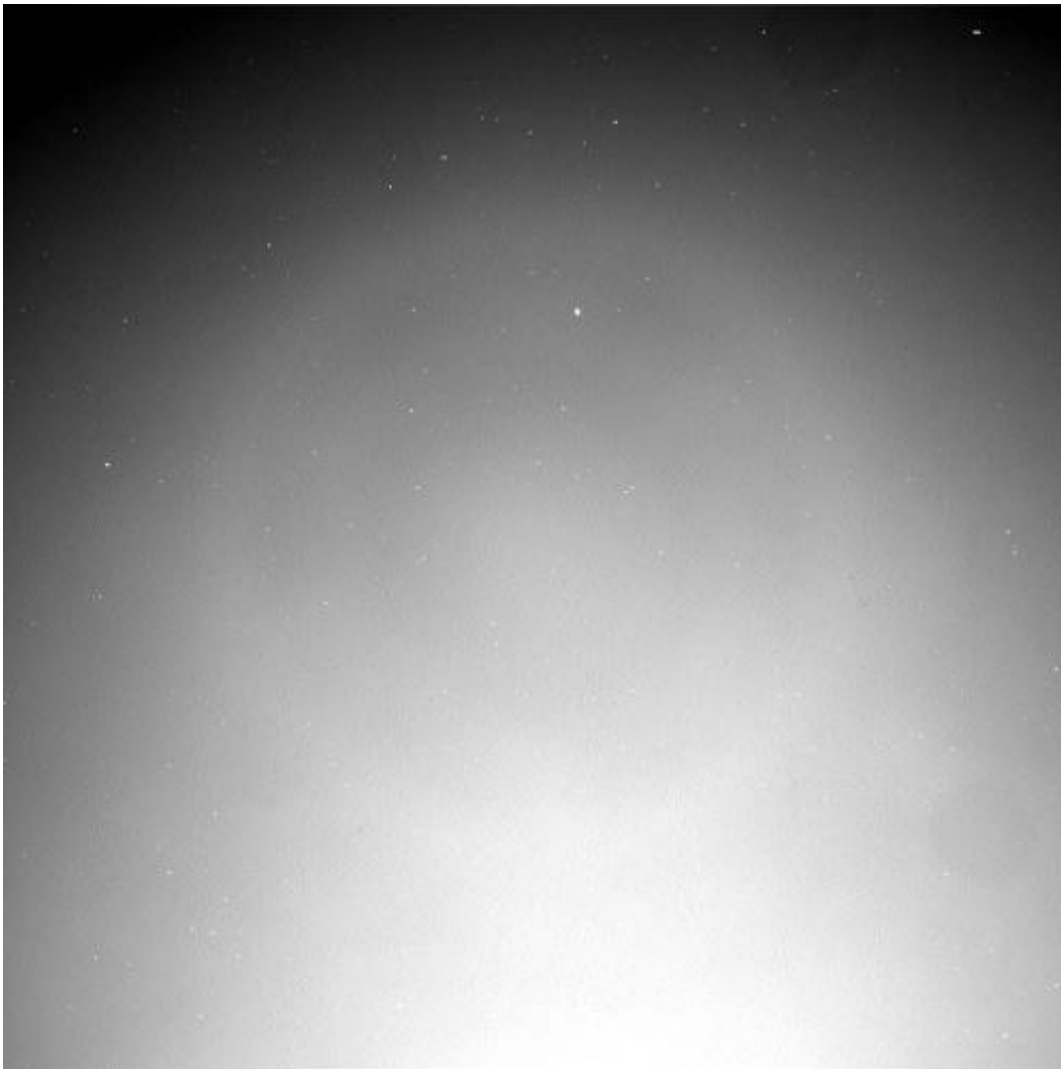


Curiosity captures 'Phobos rising' movie and Sun setting on Mars

July 4 2013, by Ken Kremer



Mars moon Phobos (above, center) rising in the night time Martian sky shortly after sunset in this still image from a movie taken by NASA's Mars rover Curiosity on Sol 317, June 28, 2013. The apparent ring is an imaging artifact. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Every once in a while when the time is just right and no one is looking, Curiosity's Earthly handlers allow her some night time Martian delights.

In this case a pair of rising and setting celestial events bookend another magnificent week in humankind's exploration of the Red Planet – courtesy of NASA.

This past week NASA's Curiosity rover captured esthetically stunning imagery of Phobos rising and Our Sun setting on Mars.

Phobos is the larger of Mars' pair of tiny moons. The other being Deimos.

On June 28, (Sol 317) Curiosity aimed her [navigation camera](#) straight overhead to capture a breathtaking series of 86 images as Phobos was ascending in the alien evening sky shortly after sunset.

NASA combined these raw images taken over about 27 minutes into a short movie clip, sped up from real time.

The pockmarked and potato shaped moon measures about $26.8 \times 22.4 \times 18.4$ kilometers.

Phobos orbits barely some 6,000 km (3,700 mi) above the Martian surface. One day far in the future, it will crash and burn.



Sunset at Gale Crater. Martian sunset vista at Gale crater rim snapped by Curiosity on Sol 312, June 22, 2013. Colorized navcam image. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Ken Kremer/Marco Di Lorenzo

On June 22, Curiosity snapped an evocative series of Martian sunset photos as Sol set behind the eroded rim of Gale Crater – see below.

In the 2030's, Humans may visit Phobos first before setting foot on the much more technically challenging Red Planet.

In the meantime, enjoy the otherworldly view!

Source: [Universe Today](#)

Citation: Curiosity captures 'Phobos rising' movie and Sun setting on Mars (2013, July 4)
retrieved 10 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2013-07-curiosity-captures-phobos-movie-sun.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.