Rosetta is not only the first mission to rendezvous with and orbit a comet, but it also carried along a companion payload, Philae, which was the first spacecraft to land on a comet. The main Rosetta spacecraft spent more than two years escorting comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, studying it up close through the active phase of the comet’s orbit around perihelion. Rosetta and Philae brought a wide array of instruments for this endeavor: cameras and spectrographs covering wavelengths from the ultraviolet, visible, and infrared though the microwave and radio, as well as dust analyzers, mass spectrometers, particle and field instruments, and even hammers, ice screws, and harpoons. I will give an overview of the mission and present some of the results obtained so far from the treasure trove of data returned by Rosetta. Using the Rosetta mission as a touchstone, I will discuss some successes and failures of science communication and - with the March for Science recently on our minds - the social responsibility of science and public outreach.

Bio: Dr. Joel Parker is a Director in the Boulder office of Southwest Research Institute. He has B.A. degrees in Physics and Astrophysics from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He worked at NASA’s Goddard Spaceflight Center studying hot, massive stars in neighboring galaxies using observations from ground-based observatories around the world as well as from the Hubble Space Telescope, the International Ultraviolet Explorer spacecraft, and the Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope that flew aboard the Space Shuttle. When he moved back to Boulder in 1992 Dr. Parker began working more on studies of solar system objects such as comets, the Moon, asteroids, and trans-Neptunian objects. He is the Principal Investigator for the Alice ultraviolet spectrograph instrument on the Rosetta mission, a co-investigator on the New Horizons mission to Pluto and the Kuiper belt, and was the project manager for a similar ultraviolet spectrograph on the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission. He is editor of "Distant EKOs" the Kuiper Belt Electronic Newsletter, is a musician and actor, and is a producer and host for the science show "How on Earth" on radio station KGNU in Boulder/Denver.

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