



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000
(MUSIC)

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00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:08,000
Hi, I am Colette Lohr, tactical uplink lead on the Mars Science Laboratory mission,

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00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:11,000
and this is your Curiosity Rover Report.

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00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:14,000
Recently, the rover drove by an outcrop called 'Shaler,'

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:17,000
where we used Curiosity's Chemistry and Camera, or ChemCam instrument,

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00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:21,000
and Mast Camera to look at the rock's composition and observe its layering.

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00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:25,000
Then from Shaler, we drove another 50 meters or so and we descended roughly

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00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:30,000
half a meter into a location called Yellow Knife Bay, making science observations along the way.

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00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:36,000
The team is now searching in earnest for a suitable rock for our first drill activity after the holidays.

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00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:39,000
This has been a really exciting time for the team because we've started to do what we call,

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00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:45,000
'discovery-driven planning,' and this is when we, in a sense, hand over the rover keys to the science team.

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00:00:45,000 --> 00:00:49,000
In the early part of any mission, much of what the rover does is pre-scripted,

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as we kind of perform checkouts and do first-time activities.

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00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:55,000

But in recent sols, or Martian days, the science team has really had

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00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,000

more freedom to send the rover where the science takes them.

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00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:02,000

These days, the team is busy preparing to preload the rover with 11 sols

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00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,000

of activity over the course of two Earth days,

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00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:08,000

and this is going to allow us to spend the holidays with our friends and families.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:13,000

This capability will come in handy when we experience solar conjunction coming up in April.

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00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,000

This is where the sun positions itself between the Earth and Mars,

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00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:21,000

and it's going to interrupt our ability to communicate with Curiosity for upwards of two weeks.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:26,000

Curiosity is expected to drive another 30 meters to a location the team has informally dubbed as

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:29,000

'Grandma's House.' This is where she'll spend the holidays

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00:01:29,000 --> 00:01:33,000

acquiring a 360-degree panorama from within Yellow Knife Bay.

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:37,000

A small team will still be working during this period to monitor Curiosity's health.

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00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:40,000
On behalf of the Mars Science Laboratory Mission,