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00:00:04,819 --> 00:00:08,980

Hi, I am Colette Lohr, tactical uplink lead on the Mars Science Laboratory mission, and

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00:00:08,980 --> 00:00:14,150

this is your Curiosity Rover Report. Recently, the rover drove by an outcrop called

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00:00:14,150 --> 00:00:18,640

"Shaler," where we used Curiosity's Chemistry and Camera, or ChemCam instrument, and Mast

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00:00:18,640 --> 00:00:21,930

Camera to look at the rock's composition and observe its layering.

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00:00:21,930 --> 00:00:25,850

Then from Shaler, we drove another 50 meters or so and we descended roughly half a meter

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00:00:25,850 --> 00:00:31,330

into a location called Yellow Knife Bay, making science observations along the way.

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00:00:31,330 --> 00:00:34,940

The team is now searching in earnest for a suitable rock for our first drill activity

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00:00:34,940 --> 00:00:39,120

after the Holidays. This has been an exciting time for the team, because we've started

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00:00:39,120 --> 00:00:43,340

to do what we call, "discovery-driven planning," and this is when we, in a sense, hand over

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00:00:43,340 --> 00:00:47,960

the rover keys to the science team. In the early part of any mission, much of

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00:00:47,960 --> 00:00:51,370
what the rover does is pre-scripted, as we
kind of perform checkouts and do first-time

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00:00:51,370 --> 00:00:55,010
activities.
But in recent sols, or Martian days, the science

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00:00:55,010 --> 00:00:58,300
team has really had more freedom to send the
rover where the science takes them.

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00:00:58,300 --> 00:01:02,840
These days, the team is busy preparing to
preload the rover with 11 sols of activity

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00:01:02,840 --> 00:01:06,429
over the course of 2 Earth days, and this
is going to allow us to spend the holidays

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00:01:06,429 --> 00:01:10,990
with our friends and families.
This capability will come in handy when we

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00:01:10,990 --> 00:01:15,280
experience solar conjunction coming up in
April. This is where the Sun positions itself

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00:01:15,280 --> 00:01:18,890
between the Earth and Mars, and it's going
to interrupt our ability to communicate with

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00:01:18,890 --> 00:01:24,220
Curiosity for upwards of two weeks.
Curiosity is expected to drive another 30

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00:01:24,220 --> 00:01:27,950
meters to a location the team has informally
dubbed as "Grandma's House." That's where

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00:01:27,950 --> 00:01:33,450
she'll spend the holidays acquiring a 360-degree
panorama from within Yellow Knife Bay.\hA

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00:01:33,450 --> 00:01:38,370
small team will still be working during this
period to monitor Curiosity's health.

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00:01:38,370 --> 00:01:42,880
On behalf of the Mars Science Laboratory Mission,
we wish you all a very happy holiday and look