

Re: Mars Exploration Rover Update – April 8, 2005

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro/2005-04/msg00087.html>

- *From:* "Alfred A. Aburto Jr." <aburto@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 11 Apr 2005 21:07:58 GMT
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> The Duck wrote:

On Mon, 11 Apr 2005 12:07:21 -0700, baalke wrote:

<http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/status.html>

SPIRIT UPDATE: Spirit Switchbacking Uphill - sol 442-448, April 08, 2005

Spirit continues slipping in sandy terrain but forges ahead using crafty techniques such as switchbacking and creating a zigzag course.

Sol-by-sol summaries:

Sol 442 (March 31, 2005):
Spirit drove successfully uphill for 12.6 meters (41.3 feet). At the start of the drive, Spirit averaged a 42.7 percent slip, but this quickly improved. In the last 3 meters (10 feet), Spirit only slipped 14.6 percent. The average slip for the drive was 17.6 percent.

and so on...

Can somebody please tell me what a 'sol-by-sol' summary is? Does 'sol' stand for a solar day (on Earth or on Mars)?

"Sol" is a Martian day ... about 37 minutes (I think :-)) longer than an Earth day. The early press releases talked about this but now it is sort

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of standard. Your implication is right though, they need a acronym list or an FAQ that explains the use of the term "Sol" ...

The Duck.

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