

THE PLANETARY SOCIETY'S

RED ROVER GOES TO MARS

MEET THE ASTROBOTS

redrovergoestomars.org/astrobots

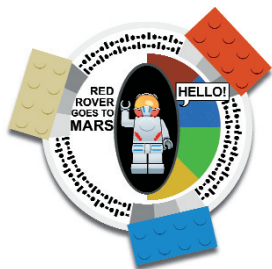


A new breed of explorer is on board the two Mars Exploration Rover (MER) spacecraft—astrobots **Biff Starling** and **Sandy Moondust** are part of The Planetary Society Astrobot Corps. Biff and Sandy are LEGO® minifigure representations suited up for space. They appear on each of the DVDs on the MER spacecraft. Their job: tell their stories to the world through a series of entertaining, fun, online communications.



Come follow these first person accounts of a planetary mission. Join laid-back Biff, the last minute replacement, who would rather be home watching Junkyard Wars, and uptight Sandy, the knower-of-all, who'd rather be nowhere else (except maybe correcting grammar or taking a test).

Biff and Sandy also will be delivering nearly 4 million Mars enthusiasts' names to the surface of Mars. These are on the mini-DVD to which the astrobots are attached.



This DVD, headed to Mars on MER, carries names of The Planetary Society's members and nearly 4 million others. It also includes engaging designs leading to other activities including: the "astrobot" LEGO mini-figure representation in the middle; magnets to collect dust; colors to study color appearance under a Martian sky; LEGO brick representations to engage kids; and secret codes around the outside to be decoded from images on Mars.

KEY FACTS:

PLACE TO READ THEIR DIARIES:

<http://redrovergoestomars.org/astrobots>
(excerpts in *LEGO Magazine* and *The Planetary Report*)

NAMES FROM:

Cindy Rossetto of Grants Pass, Oregon—the winner from more than 1100 naming contest entries.

CHARACTERISTICS:

	Sandy Moondust	Biff Starling
Launch	MER-B	MER-A
Nature	Mini-robot	Mini-robot
Height	3 cm (1.2 in)	3 cm (1.2 in)
Internal structure	Magnets to collect dust	Magnets to collect dust
Life goal	Go to Mars	Fame without effort
Favorite food	None	None
Favorite oil	Canola	Crude
Favorite color	Beige	Red
Hobby	Downloading information	Surfing



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