

THE OUTRAGEOUS TALE OF A
SPACE-LOVER WHO RODE THE SKY

RIDING ROCKETS

ASTRONAUT MIKE SMITH

How a man who believed in
space travel became
one of the most famous
astronauts in the world



Riding Rockets The Outrageous Tales Of A Space Shuttle Astronaut

James Longuski



Riding Rockets The Outrageous Tales Of A Space Shuttle Astronaut:

Riding Rockets Mike Mullane, 2006-02-14 On February 1 1978 the first group of space shuttle astronauts twenty nine men and six women were introduced to the world Among them would be history makers including the first American woman and the first African American in space This assembly of astronauts would carry NASA through the most tumultuous years of the space shuttle program Four would die on Challenger USAF Colonel Mike Mullane was a member of this astronaut class and *Riding Rockets* is his story told with a candor never before seen in an astronaut's memoir Mullane strips the heroic veneer from the astronaut corps and paints them as they are human His tales of arrested development among military flyboys working with feminist pioneers and post doc scientists are sometimes bawdy often hilarious and always entertaining Mullane vividly portrays every aspect of the astronaut experience from telling a female technician which urine collection condom size is a fit to walking along a Florida beach in a last tearful goodbye with a spouse to a wild intoxicating terrifying ride into space to hearing Taps played over a friend's grave Mullane is brutally honest in his criticism of a NASA leadership whose bungling would precipitate the Challenger disaster *Riding Rockets* is a story of life in all its fateful uncertainty of the impact of a family tragedy on a nine year old boy of the revelatory effect of a machine called Sputnik and of the life steering powers of lust love and marriage It is a story of the human experience that will resonate long after the call of Wheel stop *Riding Rockets* R. Mike Mullane, 2006 A revealing memoir of the astronaut's career with the space shuttle program describes his childhood dreams after the launch of Sputnik work as a Mission Specialist in the first group of shuttle astronauts and hundreds of hours spent aboard the Discovery and Atlantis 60 000 first printing **NASA's First Space Shuttle Astronaut Selection** David J. Shayler, Colin Burgess, 2020-07-10 Unofficially they called themselves the TFNG or the Thirty Five New Guys Officially they were NASA's Group 8 astronauts selected in January 1978 to train for orbital missions aboard the Space Shuttle Prior to this time only pilots or scientists trained as pilots had been assigned to fly on America's spacecraft but with the advent of the innovative winged spacecraft the door was finally opened to non pilots including women and minorities In all 15 of those selected were categorised as Pilot Astronauts while the other 20 would train under the new designation of Mission Specialist Altogether the Group 8 astronauts would be launched on a total of 103 space missions some flying only once while others flew into orbit as many as five times Sadly four of their number would perish in the Challenger tragedy in January 1986 In their latest collaborative effort the authors bring to life the amazing story behind the selection of the first group of Space Shuttle astronauts examining their varied backgrounds and many accomplishments in a fresh and accessible way through deep research and revealing interviews Throughout its remarkable 30 year history as the workhorse of NASA's human spaceflight exploration twice halted through tragedy the Shuttle fleet performed with magnificence So too did these 35 men and women swept up in the dynamic thrust and ongoing development of America's Space Shuttle program This book on the Group 8 Astronauts the TFNGs is an excellent summation of the individuals first selected for the new Space Shuttle Program

It provides insight into what it took to first get the Space Shuttle flying For any space enthusiast it is a must read Robert L Crippen PLT on STS 1 As a reader I had many moments where long lost memories of the triumph and tragedy of the space shuttle program were brilliantly reawakened at the turn of a page Loved it This is a must have book for every space enthusiast s library TFNG Mission Specialist Astronaut Richard Mike Mullane author of *Riding Rockets The Outrageous Tales of a Space Shuttle Astronaut* Many of the anecdotes in the book brought back memories of challenges opportunities and a team of men and women who were committed not just to the space program but to one another I ve gone back to it several times as a reference source TFNG Steve Hawley 5 time Space Shuttle Mission Specialist Astronaut The TFNG book is incredible and amazingly thorough The detail in the book is awesome It is my go to book for any of the details I ve forgotten TFNG Dr Rhea Seddon 3 time Space Shuttle Mission Specialist Astronaut I can t believe how detailed and complete it is FANTASTIC work TFNG Robert L Hoot Gibson 5 time Space Shuttle Pilot Commander and former Chief of the NASA Astronaut Office

Riding Rockets Mike Mullane, 2007-02-06 Selected as a Mission Specialist in 1978 in the first group of shuttle astronauts Mike Mullane completed three missions and logged 356 hours aboard the Discovery and Atlantis shuttles It was a dream come true As a boy Mullane could only read about space travel in science fiction but the launch of Sputnik changed all that Space flight became a possible dream and Mike Mullane set out to make it come true In this absorbing memoir Mullane gives the first ever look into the often hilarious sometime volatile dynamics of space shuttle astronauts a class that included Vietnam War veterans feminists and propeller headed scientists With unprecedented candour Mullane describes the chilling fear and unparalleled joy of space flight As his career centred around the Challenger disaster Mullane also recounts the heartache of burying his friends and colleagues And he pulls no punches as he reveals the ins and outs of NASA frank in his criticisms of the agency A blast from start to finish *Riding Rockets* is a straight from the gut account of what it means to be an astronaut just in time for this latest generation of stargazers

Psychology of Space Exploration: Contemporary Research in Historical Perspective Douglas A. Vakoch, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2011-07-06 This book explores some of the contributions of psychology to yesterday s great space race today s orbiter and International Space Station missions and tomorrow s journeys beyond Earth s orbit It provides an analysis of the challenges facing future space explorers while at the same time presenting new empirical research on topics ranging from simulation studies of commercial spaceflights to the psychological benefits of viewing Earth from space

Psychology of Space Exploration: Contemporary Research in Historical Perspective Douglas A. Vakoch, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2012-01-27 Through essays on topics including survival in extreme environments and the multicultural dimensions of exploration readers will gain an understanding of the psychological challenges that have faced the space program since its earliest days An engaging read for those interested in space history and psychology alike this is a highly relevant read as we stand poised on the edge of a new era of spaceflight Each essay also explicitly addresses the history of

the psychology of space exploration Star Bound Emily Carney, Bruce McCandless, 2025 *Star Bound* is a book for anyone who wants to learn about the American space program but isn't sure where to start. First and foremost it's a history, short, sweet, and straightforward. From rocketry pioneer Robert Goddard's primitive flight tests in 1926 through the creation of NASA, from our first steps on the moon to construction of the International Space Station and planning a trip to Mars, readers will meet the people and projects that have put the United States at the forefront of space exploration. Along the way they'll learn how the United States beat the Soviets to the moon, why astronauts float in space (hint: it's not for lack of gravity), how fast rockets have to go to stay in orbit around Earth, how we can look back in time through a space telescope. With technology evolving and humanity's understanding of the universe expanding, we are entering an exciting period of space exploration. Authored by two veteran space writers with unique insights into the topic, *Star Bound* offers up the story of Americans in space with a focus on the cultural and societal contexts of the country's most important missions rather than engineering and technical minutiae. Vibrant, positive, and humorous, *Star Bound* is packed with facts and stories for novice space fans. And sprinkled in with the history are lists of the greatest space songs, books, movies, and more, all designed to make space exploration accessible to even the casual reader.

Tragedy and Triumph in Orbit Ben Evans, 2012-06-01 April 12, 2011 is the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's pioneering journey into space. To commemorate this momentous achievement, Springer Praxis is producing a mini-series of books that reveals how humanity's knowledge of flying, working, and living in space has grown in the last half century. *Tragedy and Triumph* focuses on the 1980s and early 1990s, a time when relations between the United States and the Soviet Union swung like a pendulum between harmony and outright hostility. The glorious achievements of the shuttle were violently arrested by the devastating loss of *Challenger* in 1986, while the Soviet program appeared to prosper with the last *Salyut* and the next generation *Mir* orbital station. This book explores the continued rivalry between the two superpowers during this period, with each attempting to outdo the other: the Americans keen to build a space station, the Soviets keen to build a space shuttle, and places their efforts in the context of a bitterly divisive decade which ultimately led them into partnership.

Sally Ride Lynn Sherr, 2014-06-03 The definitive biography of Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, with exclusive insights from Ride's family and partner by the ABC reporter who covered NASA during its transformation from a test pilot boys' club to a more inclusive elite. Sally Ride made history as the first American woman in space. A member of the first astronaut class to include women, she broke through a quarter century of white male fighter jocks when NASA chose her for the seventh shuttle mission, cracking the celestial ceiling and inspiring several generations of women. After a second flight, Ride served on the panels investigating the *Challenger* explosion and the Columbia disintegration that killed all aboard. In both instances, she faulted NASA's rush to meet mission deadlines and its organizational failures. She cofounded a company promoting science and education for children, especially girls. Sherr also writes about Ride's scrupulously guarded personal life; she kept her sexual orientation private, with exclusive access to Ride's

partner her former husband her family and countless friends and colleagues Sherr draws from Ride's diaries files and letters This is a rich biography of a fascinating woman whose life intersected with revolutionary social and scientific changes in America Sherr's revealing portrait is warm and admiring but unsparing It makes this extraordinarily talented and bold woman an inspiration to millions come alive

The Penguin Book of Outer Space Exploration John Logsdon, 2018-09-11 The fascinating story of how NASA sent humans to explore outer space told through a treasure trove of historical documents publishing in celebration of NASA's 60th anniversary and with a foreword by Bill Nye An extremely useful and thought provoking documentary journey through the maze of space history There is no wiser or more experienced navigator through the twists and turns and ups and downs than John Logsdon James Hansen New York Times bestselling author of *First Man* now a feature film starring Ryan Gosling and Claire Foy Among all the technological accomplishments of the last century none has captured our imagination more deeply than the movement of humans into outer space From Sputnik to SpaceX the story of that journey including the inside history of our voyages to the moon depicted in *First Man* is told as never before in *The Penguin Book of Outer Space Exploration* Renowned space historian John Logsdon traces the greatest moments in human spaceflight by weaving together essential fascinating documents from NASA's history with his expert narrative guidance Beginning with rocket genius Wernher von Braun's vision for voyaging to Mars and closing with Elon Musk's contemporary plan to get there this volume traces major events like the founding of NASA the first American astronauts in space the Apollo moon landings the Challenger disaster the daring Hubble Telescope repairs and more In these pages we such gems as Eisenhower's reactions to Sputnik the original NASA astronaut application John Glenn's reflections on zero gravity Kennedy's directives to go to the moon discussions on what Neil Armstrong's first famous first words should be firsthand accounts of spaceflight and so much more

Analyzing Art and Aesthetics Anne Collins Goodyear, Margaret A. Weitekamp, 2013-10-30 This ninth volume of the *Artefacts* series explores how artists have responded to developments in science and technology past and present Rather than limiting the discussion to art alone editors Anne Collins Goodyear and Margaret Weitekamp also asked contributors to consider aesthetics the scholarly consideration of sensory responses to cultural objects When considered as aesthetic objects how do scientific instruments or technological innovations reflect and embody culturally grounded assessments about appearance feel and use And when these objects become museum artifacts what aesthetic factors affect their exhibition Contributors found answers in the material objects themselves This volume reconsiders how science technology art and aesthetics impact one another

Dark Star Matthew H. Hersch, 2023-12-26 A captivating history of NASA's Space Transportation System the space shuttle chronicling the inevitable failures of a doomed design In *Dark Star* Matthew Hersch challenges the existing narrative of the most significant human space program of the last 50 years NASA's space shuttle He begins with the origins of the space shuttle a century long effort to develop a low cost reusable rocket powered airplane to militarize and commercialize space travel which Hersch explains was built the wrong

way at the wrong time and for all the wrong reasons Describing the unique circumstances that led to the space shuttle's creation by President Richard Nixon's administration in 1972 and its subsequent flights from 1981 through 2011 Hersch illustrates how the space shuttle was doomed from the start While most historians have accepted the view that the space shuttle's fatal accidents including the 1986 Challenger explosion resulted from deficiencies in NASA's management culture that lulled engineers into a false confidence in the craft Dark Star reveals the widespread understanding that the shuttle was predestined for failure as a technology demonstrator The vehicle was intended only to give the United States the appearance of a viable human spaceflight program until funds became available to eliminate its obvious flaws Hersch's work seeks to answer the perilous questions of technological choice that confront every generation and it is a critical read for anyone interested in how we can create a better world through the things we build

The Seven Secrets of How to Think Like a Rocket Scientist James Longuski, 2007-05-26 Explains the methods that rocket scientists use expressed in a way that could be applied in everyday life The book illustrates the methods the 7 secrets with anecdotes quotations and biographical sketches of famous scientists ideas from sci fi personal stories and insights and occasionally a bit of space history The author reveals that rocket science is just common sense applied to the extraordinarily uncommon environment of outer space and that rocket scientists are people too PRAISE FOR BOOK It's really great Dr Buzz Aldrin Lunar Module Pilot First Manned Landing on the Moon People of Earth Attention Jim Longuski's book takes you on a journey of exploration to that nearly infinite space between the ears and behind the brows of that most mysterious of all creatures the rocket scientist Going well beyond the oft used aphorisms where no writer has gone before he shows you how these gifted individuals think feel work play fantasize rationalize laugh and cry From the glories of their epoch making achievements to the tragedies of their magnificent failures it is all here told with insight humor objectivity and personal perspective Without being preachy lessons are offered that apply to anyone seeking to make professional or personal life just a little bit more successful and fun I just couldn't set this book down Robert Cesarone Rocket Scientist Voyager Navigator Space Communications Architect This book is a must read for everyone not just those who think they want to know how Rocket Scientists think Do not be scared off by the title it's a delightful and wonderfully useful easy read Dr William J O Neil Galileo Project Manager 1990 1998 Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology

The Routledge Handbook of Social Studies of Outer Space Juan Francisco Salazar, Alice Gorman, 2023-07-10 The Routledge Handbook of Social Studies of Outer Space offers state of the art overview of contemporary social and cultural research on outer space International in scope the thirty eight contributions by over fifty leading researchers and artists across a variety of disciplines and fields of knowledge present a range of debates and pose key questions about the crafting of futures in relation to outer space The Handbook is a call to attend more carefully to engagements with outer space empirically affectively and theoretically while characterizing current research practices and outlining future research agendas This recalibration opens profound questions of intersectional

politics race equity and environmental justice around the contested topics of space exploration and life off Earth Among the many themes included in the volume are the various infrastructures networks and systems that enable and sustain space exploration space heritage the ethics of outer space social and environmental justice fundamental debates about life in outer space as it pertains to both astrobiology and SETI the study of scientific communities the human body and consciousness Indigenous astronomical systems of Knowledge contemporary space art and ongoing critical interventions to overcome the legacies of colonialism and dismantle hegemonic narratives of outer space **To The Stars** Umberto Cavallaro,2023-05-23 This book is the second edition of *Women Spacefarers* and tells the fascinating stories of the valiant women who broke down barriers to join the space program Beginning with the orbital flight of USSR cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova in 1963 and continuing to the present day it covers the many female players who have had a central role in the greatest adventure of our time The book includes the biographies of and in some cases interviews with the brave women who have flown in space For each entry the author contextualizes the spacefarer s accomplishments in light of the political and cultural climate of the time The second edition features fifteen additional profiles on figures such as Jessica Meir and Wally Funk new interview material a new thematic structure based on each woman s science specialty and role an expanded glossary and more The result is a gallery of pioneering women who reached for the stars women who with exceptional skill hard work and dedication reached impressive careers as accomplished pilots researchers engineers and managers and left a legacy of strength for all aspiring spacefarers *Space Science and the Arab World* Jörg Matthias Determann,2018-01-29 When Sultan bin Salman left Earth on the shuttle Discovery in 1985 he became the first Arab first Muslim and first member of a royal family in space Twenty five years later the discovery of a planet 500 light years away by the Qatar Exoplanet Survey subsequently named Qatar 1b was evidence of the cutting edge space science projects taking place across the Middle East This book identifies the individuals institutions and national ideologies that enabled Arab astronomers and researchers to gain support for space exploration when Middle East governments lacked interest Jorg Matthias Determann shows that the conquest of space became associated with national prestige security economic growth and the idea of an Arab renaissance more generally Equally important to this success were international collaborations to benefit from American and Soviet expertise and technology Arab scientists and officials had to commit to global governance of space and the common interests of humanity Challenging the view that the golden age of Arabic science and cosmopolitanism was situated in the medieval period Determann tells the story of the new discoveries and scientific collaborations taking place from the 19th century to the present day An innovative contribution to Middle East studies and history of science the book also appeals to increased business media and political interest in the Arab space industry **Assembly** West Point Association of Graduates (Organization).,2005 *Wheels Stop* Rick Houston,2020-04-01 Humanity s first reusable spacecraft and the most complex machine ever built NASA s Space Shuttle debuted with great promise and as a dependable source of wonder and national

pride But with the Challenger catastrophe in 1986 the whole Space Shuttle program came into question as did NASA itself so long an institution that was seemingly above reproach *Wheels Stop* tells the stirring story of how after the Challenger disaster the Space Shuttle not only recovered but went on to perform its greatest missions From the Return to Flight mission of STS 26 in 1988 to the last shuttle mission ever on STS 135 in 2011 *Wheels Stop* takes readers behind the scenes as the shuttle s crews begin to mend Cold War tensions with the former Soviet Union conduct vital research deploy satellites repair the Hubble Space Telescope and assist in constructing the International Space Station It also tells the heart wrenching story of the Columbia tragedy and the loss of the magnificent STS 107 crew As complex as the shuttle was the people it carried into orbit were often more so and this is their story too Close encounters with astronauts flight controllers and shuttle workers capture the human side of the Space Shuttle s amazing journey and invite readers along for the ride Browse more spaceflight books at atupinspace.org Purchase the audio edition *Space Ethics* Brian Patrick Green, 2021-10-19 Throughout history humans have explored new places making both good and bad moral decisions along the way As humanity proceeds to explore space it is important that we learn from the successes and not repeat the mistakes of the past This book provides the first comprehensive introduction to ethics as it applies to space exploration and use It examines real world case studies that exemplify the ethical challenges we face in exploring beyond Earth space debris militarization in space hazardous asteroids planetary protection the search for extraterrestrial life commercial and private sector activities in space space settlements very long duration missions and planetary scale interventions Major themes include human health environmental concerns safety and risk governance and decision making and opportunities and challenges of multidisciplinary and international contexts Ideal for classroom use and beyond the book provides ways of thinking that will help students academics and policymakers examine the full range of ethical decisions on questions related to space exploration [Packing for Mars](#) Mary Roach, 2025-04-25 America s funniest science writer Washington Post explores the irresistibly strange universe of life without gravity in this New York Times bestseller The best selling author of *Stiff* and *Bonk* explores the irresistibly strange universe of space travel and life without gravity From the Space Shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA s new space capsule Mary Roach takes us on the surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth

Unveiling the Energy of Verbal Beauty: An Psychological Sojourn through **Riding Rockets The Outrageous Tales Of A Space Shuttle Astronaut**

In a world inundated with monitors and the cacophony of immediate conversation, the profound energy and psychological resonance of verbal beauty frequently fade in to obscurity, eclipsed by the continuous assault of noise and distractions. Yet, located within the lyrical pages of **Riding Rockets The Outrageous Tales Of A Space Shuttle Astronaut**, a captivating work of fictional splendor that impulses with natural thoughts, lies an wonderful journey waiting to be embarked upon. Penned by a virtuoso wordsmith, this exciting opus manuals readers on an emotional odyssey, softly revealing the latent potential and profound affect stuck within the delicate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse of the evocative analysis, we shall embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is central styles, dissect their captivating publishing type, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impact it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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Riding Rockets The Outrageous Tales Of A Space Shuttle Astronaut Introduction

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