

# riding rockets by mike mullane

Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane: A Journey Through the Space Shuttle Era

**Riding rockets by mike mullane** is more than just a memoir; it's an intimate glimpse into the life of an astronaut during one of the most exhilarating periods of space exploration. Mike Mullane, a former Air Force pilot turned NASA astronaut, shares his first-hand experiences aboard the Space Shuttle, offering readers a vivid portrayal of what it truly means to ride rockets. Whether you're a space enthusiast, a history buff, or simply curious about the human side of spaceflight, this book provides an engaging, behind-the-scenes look at the challenges and triumphs of flying in space.

## Who is Mike Mullane?

Before diving into the content of *riding rockets by mike mullane*, it's essential to understand the man behind the story. Mike Mullane was born in 1945 and carved a distinguished career as a test pilot in the U.S. Air Force. His rigorous training and dedication eventually led him to become a NASA astronaut, where he was part of several Space Shuttle missions during the 1980s. His unique perspective stems not only from his technical expertise but also from his candid reflections on the psychological and emotional toll of spaceflight.

## What's Unique About Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane?

Many books about space missions focus heavily on scientific achievements or technical details. While *riding rockets by mike mullane* does cover the technical aspects of shuttle missions, its strength lies in its honesty and humor. Mullane doesn't shy away from discussing the intense pressures astronauts face, from grueling training exercises to the ever-present danger of launch and re-entry. Readers get a feel for the camaraderie among astronauts, the stress of public scrutiny, and the personal sacrifices involved.

## Inside the Space Shuttle Program

The book offers an insider's look at NASA's Space Shuttle program during its early years. Mullane describes the various shuttle missions he participated in, detailing everything from the pre-launch rituals to the actual experience of orbiting Earth. His narrative brings to life the technical challenges of maneuvering the shuttle, performing experiments in microgravity, and dealing with unexpected problems in the vacuum of space.

# **The Human Side of Spaceflight**

One of the most compelling aspects of *riding rockets by mike mullane* is the exploration of the psychological and interpersonal dynamics among astronauts. Mullane candidly discusses the intense pressure cooker environment of NASA, where teamwork is critical but personalities can clash. He also touches on the loneliness and isolation experienced during long missions, as well as the difficulty of maintaining relationships back on Earth.

## **Key Themes Explored in Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane**

### **Discipline and Training**

Becoming an astronaut is no small feat. Mullane's account emphasizes the relentless discipline required to succeed. The training involves not just physical endurance but also mental resilience. From learning complex spacecraft systems to emergency procedures, astronauts must be prepared for every possible scenario. The book offers valuable insights into how this preparation shapes the mindset required to handle the unknown.

### **Risk and Courage**

Space travel is inherently risky, and *riding rockets by mike mullane* doesn't gloss over this reality. Mullane reflects on the ever-present dangers of spaceflight, such as launch failures or technical malfunctions. His honest portrayal of fear and courage helps readers appreciate the bravery of astronauts, who face these risks knowingly and willingly.

### **Teamwork and Leadership**

The success of any space mission hinges on the ability of the crew to work seamlessly together. Mullane's stories highlight how leadership and cooperation are vital in the high-pressure environment of space. He shares anecdotes about conflict resolution, decision-making under stress, and the importance of trust among crewmembers.

## **Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane: Impact and Legacy**

Since its publication, *riding rockets by mike mullane* has become a beloved read for anyone interested in the Space Shuttle era. Its candid and approachable narrative style makes complex spaceflight concepts accessible to a wide audience. The book also serves

as an important document preserving the human experiences behind NASA's shuttle missions, complementing more technical histories and documentaries.

## Influence on Space Literature

Mullane's memoir has influenced how astronaut autobiographies are written. By combining technical detail with personal anecdotes and humor, he set a standard for making space stories relatable and engaging. Readers often praise the book for its down-to-earth tone, which contrasts with the often glorified portrayals of astronauts.

## Educational Value

For educators and students interested in space science and history, *riding rockets by mike mullane* offers a unique resource. It provides real-world context to the physics and engineering of spaceflight, making abstract concepts tangible. Additionally, the book's focus on human factors—such as teamwork, stress management, and perseverance—offers lessons applicable beyond space exploration.

## Tips for Readers Interested in Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane

If you're considering picking up this memoir, here are a few tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Familiarize Yourself with Space Shuttle History:** Having a basic understanding of NASA's shuttle program will help you appreciate the technical references and mission details.
- **Embrace the Humor:** Mullane's witty observations add charm and lighten the tension, making the story enjoyable even for readers unfamiliar with space jargon.
- **Reflect on the Human Element:** Pay attention to Mullane's insights into teamwork and psychological challenges, as these offer valuable lessons beyond the realm of spaceflight.
- **Use It as a Launchpad:** The book can inspire further exploration into astronaut training, space shuttle technology, and NASA's history, enriching your knowledge of the space program.

# **Final Thoughts on Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane**

Riding rockets by Mike Mullane is a compelling narrative that captures the essence of being an astronaut during the golden years of the Space Shuttle program. Through a blend of technical detail, personal storytelling, and candid reflections, Mullane invites readers aboard the shuttle to experience the thrills, fears, and triumphs of spaceflight. It's a testament to human courage and curiosity, reminding us that behind every rocket launch are individuals with dreams, doubts, and determination.

Whether you are fascinated by space exploration or looking for an inspiring story of perseverance and teamwork, *riding rockets by mike mullane* offers a richly rewarding read that stays with you long after the final page.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main focus of Mike Mullane's book 'Riding Rockets'?**

The book 'Riding Rockets' by Mike Mullane focuses on his personal experiences as a NASA astronaut, detailing the challenges, triumphs, and realities of space shuttle missions.

### **What unique perspective does Mike Mullane offer in 'Riding Rockets'?**

Mike Mullane provides an insider's perspective as an astronaut, sharing candid and sometimes humorous accounts of life at NASA, training, and the psychological pressures of spaceflight.

### **How does 'Riding Rockets' differ from other astronaut memoirs?**

Unlike many astronaut memoirs that focus mainly on technical achievements, 'Riding Rockets' is noted for its honest, unvarnished storytelling, including the interpersonal conflicts and personal struggles Mullane faced.

### **What missions did Mike Mullane participate in that are covered in 'Riding Rockets'?**

The book covers Mullane's experiences on several Space Shuttle missions, including STS-41-D, STS-27, and STS-36, providing detailed accounts of each flight.

## **Is 'Riding Rockets' suitable for readers without a technical background?**

Yes, Mike Mullane writes in an engaging and accessible style that makes the book enjoyable for readers without a deep technical understanding of spaceflight.

## **What themes are explored in 'Riding Rockets' besides space exploration?**

Besides space exploration, the book explores themes such as teamwork, leadership, overcoming fear, human error, and the psychological demands of being an astronaut.

## **Additional Resources**

Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane: An Insider's Perspective on NASA's Space Shuttle Era

**Riding rockets by mike mullane** stands as a seminal work in the realm of astronaut memoirs, offering readers an unvarnished glimpse into the rigors, triumphs, and complexities of life within NASA during the height of the Space Shuttle program. Written by Mike Mullane, a veteran astronaut and Air Force pilot, this book transcends the typical glorification of space exploration to provide a candid, detailed narrative that balances technical insight with human vulnerability.

This memoir is frequently cited for its authenticity and critical perspective, situating it among the most respected astronaut autobiographies. As interest in space travel continues to surge—with both governmental and private ventures—understanding the lived experience of those who "rode rockets" becomes increasingly valuable. Mullane's account not only captures the adrenaline and danger of shuttle missions but also reflects on the psychological and cultural atmosphere within NASA, making it a rich resource for historians, enthusiasts, and professionals alike.

## **In-depth Analysis of "Riding Rockets" by Mike Mullane**

"Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane" provides a multifaceted examination of the astronaut experience, delving into the physical demands of training, the psychological pressures of spaceflight, and the interpersonal dynamics of a highly competitive environment. Unlike many space memoirs that emphasize heroism and achievement, Mullane's narrative is marked by its honesty about the imperfections and struggles faced by astronauts.

One of the book's distinguishing features is its detailed portrayal of astronaut training. Mullane chronicles the exhaustive regimen designed to prepare space travelers for the unforgiving conditions of space. This includes everything from survival training in harsh environments to mastering complex shuttle systems and emergency protocols. The realism in these descriptions provides readers with a clear understanding of what it truly means to

be mission-ready.

Moreover, the memoir sheds light on the often-overlooked aspect of astronaut life—the psychological toll. Mullane does not shy away from discussing issues such as stress, fear, and the burden of public expectation. The camaraderie and rivalry among astronauts are explored with nuance, revealing a community that is as competitive as it is collaborative.

## **The Technical and Emotional Dimensions of Space Shuttle Missions**

Mullane's recounting of specific shuttle missions offers a compelling blend of technical explanation and personal reflection. The Space Shuttle program, a hallmark of NASA's efforts from the 1980s through the early 2000s, was marked by both spectacular successes and tragic failures. Mullane's insider perspective provides context to these events, making the technical complexity accessible to a broad readership.

For instance, the book discusses the Challenger disaster—not only from a procedural standpoint but also through the emotional impact it had on the astronaut corps. This dual perspective enriches the reader's understanding of the stakes involved in shuttle flights and the profound sense of loss within the space community.

## **Comparisons with Other Astronaut Memoirs**

When situated alongside other astronaut autobiographies, "Riding Rockets" distinguishes itself by its blend of candidness and technical depth. Unlike memoirs that tend to romanticize spaceflight, Mullane's work is more grounded, highlighting both the exhilaration and the downsides of the profession.

For example, books like Chris Hadfield's "An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth" focus heavily on leadership and life lessons, while Sally Ride's memoir emphasizes breaking barriers and inspiring young people. Mullane's narrative, by contrast, is often more raw and critical, offering a unique perspective that complements the broader genre.

## **Key Features and Highlights of the Memoir**

- **Authentic Voice:** Mullane's writing is straightforward and unpretentious, which lends credibility and immediacy to his storytelling.
- **Detailed Training Descriptions:** Readers gain insight into the exhaustive physical and mental preparation required for shuttle missions.
- **Balanced Perspective:** The memoir addresses both the exhilaration of spaceflight and the challenges faced by astronauts, including political pressures and personal conflicts.

- **Historical Context:** The book situates the Space Shuttle program within NASA's broader history, providing valuable background for understanding its significance.

## Impact and Relevance in the Context of NASA's Space Shuttle Program

"Riding Rockets" remains relevant not only as a personal memoir but also as a document of the Space Shuttle era's broader cultural and operational context. The shuttle program was a pioneering initiative that shaped modern space exploration, and Mullane's account is one of the few that captures the internal workings of NASA during this transformative period.

In an age where commercial spaceflight companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin are redefining the industry, revisiting the shuttle program through firsthand narratives helps ground contemporary developments in historical experience. The challenges described by Mullane—ranging from technical malfunctions to bureaucratic constraints—mirror some of the ongoing hurdles faced by today's space enterprises.

Moreover, "Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane" serves as an educational tool for aspiring astronauts, aerospace engineers, and policy-makers. Its detailed exposition of mission protocols, crew dynamics, and risk management contributes to a deeper understanding of what it takes to succeed in space exploration.

## Pros and Cons of the Memoir for Potential Readers

- **Pros:**

- Provides a realistic and unfiltered view of astronaut life.
- Balances technical detail with engaging storytelling.
- Offers valuable historical insights into the Space Shuttle program.
- Appeals to both space enthusiasts and professionals in aerospace fields.

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the candid critique of NASA's culture challenging.
- Technical jargon, while explained, may be dense for casual readers unfamiliar with aerospace terminology.

# Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of "Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane"

As a memoir, "Riding Rockets by Mike Mullane" transcends mere personal recollection to become a vital historical and technical resource. Its balanced approach—combining the adrenaline-fueled adventure of spaceflight with sober reflections on its demands and dangers—cements its place as a cornerstone in astronaut literature.

For anyone seeking a comprehensive, insider's view of NASA's Space Shuttle era, this book offers not only gripping stories but also a thoughtful examination of what it means to live and work at the edge of human capability. In doing so, it enriches the ongoing conversation about humanity's quest to explore beyond our planet, reminding readers that the path to the stars is as human as it is heroic.

## [Riding Rockets By Mike Mullane](#)

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**riding rockets by mike mullane: 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 by mike mullane: 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.

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** *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.

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** *Assembly* West Point Association of Graduates (Organization)., 2005

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** *Prepared for Rage* Dana Stabenow, 2008-02-05 Following *A Deeper Sleep*, her most successful Kate Shugak novel to date, the Edgar Award winner and New York Times bestselling thriller writer Dana Stabenow delivers a nail-biting, all-too-real novel of international suspense in *Prepared for Rage*. A terrorist with a most personal grudge, an FBI analyst challenged to be three steps ahead of the intelligence, a Coast Guard captain assigned to keep watch on that very American of symbols from the water, an astronaut who takes her job very seriously—the paths of all of these characters converge on one clear morning in Florida. NASA is preparing to launch the space shuttle, this time with a high-paying visitor on board as a guest, and the FBI and the Coast Guard are doing everything they can to help the launch go off without a hitch. But one Pakistani man with a bottomless personal grudge and the commitment of many zealous men behind him is determined to strike back at the most visible target he can find. Once again Dana Stabenow, who researched this gripping scenario by spending weeks living on board a Coast Guard cutter as it conducted its mission in the eastern Pacific, delivers an action-driven thriller with an ingenious, frightening, straight-from-the-headlines plot, certain to be her next bestseller.

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** *Texas Women* Elizabeth Hayes Turner, Stephanie Cole, Rebecca Sharpless, 2015 This is a collection of biographies and composite essays of Texas women, contextualized over the course of history to include subjects that reflect the enormous racial, class, and religious diversity of the state. Offering insights into the complex ways that Texas' position on the margins of the United States has shaped a particular kind of gendered experience there, the volume also demonstrates how the larger questions in United States women's history are answered or reconceived in the state. Beginning with Juliana Barr's essay, which asserts that 'women marked the lines of dominion among Spanish and Indian nations in Texas' and explodes the myth of Spanish domination in colonial Texas, the essays examine the ways that women were able to use their borderland status to stretch the boundaries of their own lives. Eric Walther demonstrates that the constant changing of governments in Texas (Spanish, Mexican, Texan, and U.S.) gave slaves the opportunities to resist their oppression because of the differences in the laws of slavery under Spanish or English or American law. Gabriela Gonzalez examines the activism of Jovita Idar on behalf of civil rights for Mexicans and Mexican Americans on both sides of the border. Renee Laegreid argues that female rodeo contestants employed a unique regional interplay of masculine and feminine behaviors to shape their identities as cowgirls--

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** *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.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: Partnership in Space** Ben Evans, 2013-10-04 April 12, 2011 was the 50th Anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's pioneering journey into space. To commemorate this momentous achievement, Springer-Praxis has produced 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. Partners in Space focuses on the early to late 1990s, a time in the post-Soviet era when relations between East and West steadily - though not without difficulty - thawed and the foundations of real harmony and genuine co-operation were laid for the first time with Shuttle-Mir and the International Space Station. This book explores the events which preceded that new era, including the political demise of Space Station Freedom and the consequences of the fall of the Soviet Union on a once-proud human space program. It traces the history of the Partnership through the often traumatic times of Shuttle-Mir and closes on the eve of the launch of Zarya, the first component of today's International Space Station.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: The Sky Above** John Howard Casper, 2022-04-15 Looking up at the stars at the age of ten, John Casper dreamed of being a space explorer. The Sky Above tells how persistence and determination led to flying in space, after serving the nation as a combat fighter pilot and test pilot. Despite life-threatening experiences and failures, his spiritual faith was pivotal in overcoming life's challenges. Through vivid storytelling, the reader rides alongside the author in the cockpit, feeling the fear of enemy anti-aircraft fire and the pressure of high g-forces during combat maneuvering. His insider accounts of four Space Shuttle missions vividly describe exhilarating launches, the magical experience of weightlessness, and the magnificent beauty of Earth from hundreds of miles above. A central theme running throughout Casper's life is his faith, as he struggles with the loss of fellow pilots and confronts life's inconsistencies and disappointments. This is a story about his growth and trust in his Creator, whose tenacious spirit never left him, even during the devastating Challenger and Columbia disasters. Readers interested in stories of true adventure or overcoming adversity will discover unique drama and insight. Those trying to reach their dreams, whatever they are, will find inspiration; those unsure or challenged in their faith will find encouragement.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: 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, firsthands accounts of spaceflight, and so much more.

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** NASA 50th Anniversary Proceedings: NASA's First 50 Years: Historical Perspectives Steven J. Dick, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2010-07-07  
On 29 July 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which became operational on 1 October of that year. Over the next 50 years, NASA achieved a set of spectacular feats, ranging from advancing the well-established field of aeronautics to pioneering the new fields of Earth and space science and human spaceflight. In the midst of the geopolitical context of the Cold War, 12 Americans walked on the Moon, arriving in peace “for all mankind.” Humans saw their home planet from a new perspective, with unforgettable Apollo images of Earthrise and the “Blue Marble,” as well as the “pale blue dot” from the edge of the solar system. A flotilla of spacecraft has studied Earth, while other spacecraft have probed the depths of the solar system and the universe beyond. In the 1980s, the evolution of aeronautics gave us the first winged human spacecraft, the Space Shuttle, and the International Space Station stands as a symbol of human cooperation in space as well as a possible way station to the stars. With the Apollo fire and two Space Shuttle accidents, NASA has also seen the depths of tragedy. In this volume, a wide array of scholars turn a critical eye toward NASA’s first 50 years, probing an institution widely seen as the premier agency for exploration in the world, carrying on a long tradition of exploration by the United States and the human species in general. Fifty years after its founding, NASA finds itself at a crossroads that historical perspectives can only help to illuminate.

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** *Making Time on Mars* Zara Mirmalek, 2020-04-07  
An examination of how the daily work of NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers was organized across three sites on two planets using local Mars time. In 2004, mission scientists and engineers working with NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers (MER) remotely operated two robots at different sites on Mars for ninety consecutive days. An unusual feature of this successful mission was that it operated on Mars time—the daily work was organized across three sites on two planets according to two Martian time zones. In *Making Time on Mars*, Zara Mirmalek shows that this involved more than a resetting of wristwatches; the team's struggle to synchronize with Mars time involved technological and communication breakdowns, informal workarounds, and extra work to support the technology that was intended to support people. Her account of how NASA created an entirely new temporality for the MER mission offers insights about the assumptions behind the organizational relationship between clock time and work. Mirmalek, herself a member of the mission team, offers an insider's view of the MER workplace and community. She describes the discord among MER's multiple temporalities and examines issues of professional identity that helped shape the experience of working according to Mars time. Considering time and work relationships through a multidisciplinary lens, Mirmalek shows how contemporary and historical human-technology relationships inform assumptions about the unalterability of clock time. She argues that the organizational connection between clock time and work, although still operational, is outdated.

**riding rockets by mike mullane:** *Come Fly with Us* Melvin Croft, John Youskauskas, 2019-02-01  
Winner of the 2020 Space Hipsters Prize for Best Book in Astronomy, Space Exploration, or Space History *Come Fly with Us* is the story of an elite group of space travelers who flew as members of many space shuttle crews from pre-Challenger days to Columbia in 2003. Not part of the regular NASA astronaut corps, these professionals known as “payload specialists” came from a wide variety of backgrounds and were chosen for an equally wide variety of scientific, political, and

national security reasons. Melvin Croft and John Youskauskas focus on this special fraternity of spacefarers and their individual reflections on living and working in space. Relatively unknown to the public and often flying only single missions, these payload specialists give the reader an unusual perspective on the experience of human spaceflight. The authors also bring to light NASA's struggle to integrate the wide-ranging personalities and professions of these men and women into the professional astronaut ranks. While *Come Fly with Us* relates the experiences of the payload specialists up to and including the Challenger tragedy, the authors also detail the later high-profile flights of a select few, including Barbara Morgan, John Glenn (who returned to space at the age of seventy-seven), and Ilan Ramon of Israel aboard Columbia on its final, fatal flight, STS-107.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: On a Mission** Valerie Neal, 2025-10-28 The definitive history of all 61 American women astronauts that's perfect for fans of *The Six* eager for more Sally Ride became a household name as the first American woman in space, but scores of equally impressive women have also left their mark in space. *On a Mission: The Smithsonian History of US Women Astronauts* spans 45 years and 61 astronauts to share the epic journeys of women who made space for themselves in a male-dominated field. Valerie Neal, emerita curator in the Department of Space History at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, offers a culturally insightful history of the experiences of women astronauts, the challenges they've faced, and their distinctive stories. Collectively, they've completed more than 100 space shuttle missions and more than 30 long-duration stays on the International Space Station and Russian Space Station Mir, and they continue to prove themselves in present-day space exploration efforts. The book includes 50 black-and-white photographs to complement the historical account. With its sweeping look from the first women astronauts to Christina Hammock Koch, assigned to the first crewed Artemis mission around the Moon, there is no comparably thorough book on America's women astronauts. *On a Mission* is an inspiring tribute to unsung women's history.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: Mrs. Perkins's Electric Quilt** Paul Nahin, 2009-08-17 An incomparable collection of stimulating math puzzles from bestselling author Paul Nahin What does quilting have to do with electric circuit theory? The answer is just one of the fascinating ways that best-selling popular math writer Paul Nahin illustrates the deep interplay of math and physics in the world around us in his latest book of challenging mathematical puzzles, *Mrs. Perkins's Electric Quilt*. With his trademark combination of intriguing mathematical problems and the historical anecdotes surrounding them, Nahin invites readers on an exciting and informative exploration of some of the many ways math and physics combine to create something vastly more powerful, useful, and interesting than either is by itself. In a series of brief and largely self-contained chapters, Nahin discusses a wide range of topics in which math and physics are mutually dependent and mutually illuminating, from Newtonian gravity and Newton's laws of mechanics to ballistics, air drag, and electricity. The mathematical subjects range from algebra, trigonometry, geometry, and calculus to differential equations, Fourier series, and theoretical and Monte Carlo probability. Each chapter includes problems—some three dozen in all—that challenge readers to try their hand at applying what they have learned. Just as in his other books of mathematical puzzles, Nahin discusses the historical background of each problem, gives many examples, includes MATLAB codes, and provides complete and detailed solutions at the end. *Mrs. Perkins's Electric Quilt* will appeal to students interested in new math and physics applications, teachers looking for unusual examples to use in class—and anyone who enjoys popular math books.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: Back to Earth** Nicole Stott, 2021-10-12 Inspired by insights gained in spaceflight, a NASA astronaut offers key lessons to empower Earthbound readers to fight climate change When Nicole Stott first saw Earth from space, she realized how interconnected we are and knew she had to help protect our planetary home. In *Back to Earth*, Stott imparts essential lessons in problem-solving, survival, and crisis response that each of us can practice to make change. She knows we can overcome differences to address global issues, because she saw this every day on the International Space Station. Stott shares stories from her spaceflight and insights from scientists, activists, and changemakers working to solve our greatest environmental challenges.

She learns about the complexities of Earth's biodiversity from NASA engineers working to enable life in space and from scientists protecting life on Earth for future generations. Ultimately, Stott reveals how we each have the power to respect our planetary home and one another by living our lives like crewmates, not passengers, on an inspiring shared mission

**riding rockets by mike mullane: Space Shuttle Challenger** Ben Evans, 2007-07-05

Ironically, the loss of Challenger in January 1986 fired my interest in space exploration more than any other single event. I was nine years old. My parents were, at the time, midway through moving house and, luckily, the TV was one of the few domestic items still to be packed. I watched the entire horror unfold live on all of the network stations. Admittedly, my fascination with rockets and astronauts, stars and planets had begun several years earlier, but Challenger's destruction turned it from an occasional hobby to a fascination which has remained with me ever since. In September 1988, aged 11, I came home from school to watch STS-26 return the Shuttle fleet to orbital operations. Five years later, I gave a speech on the STS-51L disaster to my teacher as part of my GCSE English assessment. Another decade passed and, now a teacher myself, I returned to my school one cold Monday morning to explain to my pupils what had happened to Challenger's sister ship, Columbia, a few days earlier. In some ways, the loss of Columbia affected me more deeply than Challenger.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: Predictive Analytics** Eric Siegel, 2013-02-19 In this rich, entertaining primer, former Columbia University professor and Predictive Analytics World founder Eric Siegel reveals the power and perils of prediction: What type of mortgage risk Chase Bank predicted before the recession. Predicting which people will drop out of school, cancel a subscription, or get divorced before they are even aware of it themselves. Why early retirement decreases life expectancy and vegetarians miss fewer flights. Five reasons why organizations predict death, including one health insurance company. A truly omnipresent science, predictive analytics affects everyone, every day. Although largely unseen, it drives millions of decisions, determining whom to call, mail, investigate, incarcerate, set up on a date, or medicate. Predictive analytics transcends human perception. This book's final chapter answers the riddle: What often happens to you that cannot be witnessed, and that you can't even be sure has happened afterward -- but that can be predicted in advance? Whether you are a consumer of it -- or consumed by it -- get a handle on the power of Predictive Analytics. This book is easily understood by all readers. Rather than a how to for hands-on techies, the book entices lay-readers and experts alike by covering new case studies and the latest state-of-the-art techniques.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: 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.

**riding rockets by mike mullane: 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.

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