



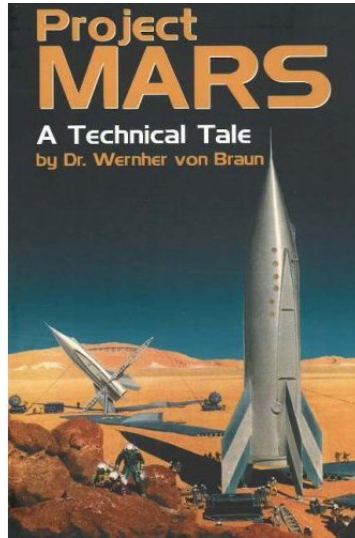
**American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics**

HOUSTON SECTION • P.O. Box 57524 • Webster, Texas 77598

Web site: [www.aiaa-houston.org](http://www.aiaa-houston.org)

Astrodynamics Technical Committee

***“Lunch-and-Learn”***



**Wernher von Braun's Long Road to Mars**

**A Story Within a Story**

*Dr. Albert A. Jackson/ESCG*

**DATE: September 28, 2007**

**TIME: Noon to 1:00 PM**

**PLACE: JSC Building 16 Rooms 111/113**

**ROOM CAPACITY: 49**

In 1949 between V2 testing and the move to Huntsville Wernher von Braun wrote a science fiction novel during the lull, it is about an expedition to Mars. The background technical support for the story was worked up by him and some of his Peenemünde colleagues. When finished the novel was submitted to a German publisher it was rejected but the editor was ecstatic about the appendix. The publisher convinced von Braun to rework the appendix and publish it as a technical monograph. This appeared as “Das Marprojekt” in 1950 and was quickly translated by the University of Illinois Press and published as a slim book “The Mars Project”. It was a technical presentation, down to the rivet head, of a 70 man ten ship expedition to Mars. From this small book sprang the 1950's Collier's magazine series on Space Flight. One of the most comprehensive popular science magazine series covering all aspects of space flight from artificial satellites, the design of a space station, space suits, expeditions to the Moon and Mars and much more. The amount of technical material was very impressive; so much so as to leave a firm impression that manned space flight was feasible. The Collier's series led to the Disney space flight TV series and a set of popular books. All this material had a lasting influence on a generation of scientists, engineers, the general public and politicians, and was, in part, an influence on the space flight as it evolved in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Dr. Al Jackson came to JSC (MSC then) in 1966 and has been involved with crew training during Apollo, flight planning software, planetary science, orbit debris and engineering simulation software for NASA and several contractors. He is currently with Jacobs Engineering on the ESCG contract. Chair of the Houston AIAA section Astrodynamics with many publications in the area of astrodynamics, celestial mechanics and astronautics related areas. Dr. Jackson received his PhD in Physics at the University of Texas in 1975.

**Please bring your lunch and a friend. This event is open to JSC-badged personnel. AIAA membership is not required. Non-badged visitors who are US citizens may contact us with visitor badging requests 3 days or more in advance. Professional Engineers earn one hour of credit toward Continuing Education requirements by attending this event. If you plan to attend, registration is recommended on-line at [www.aiaa-houston.org](http://www.aiaa-houston.org). For additional information contact Douglas Yazell at 281-244-3925.**

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