



Letter from the Editor

Big rockets figure large in this issue – both past and present, as we reflect on the near-catastrophic flight of Apollo 6, 50 years ago, and the near-perfect flight of Falcon Heavy in early February. But sadness stalks the pages of this issue as we remember the life of arguably the greatest astronaut of them all – John Young, veteran of six space flights and seven launches. A consistent campaigner for safety, he will be sorely missed.

Our thanks go to Gerry Webb, the Society's President-elect, for rounding up thoughts on his contact with Arthur C. Clarke and for telling us about the eclectic mix of individuals that populated the early days of space travel and the influence of magazines and comics on the fan-based movement to expand our horizons.

Readers will notice that we have listened to opinion and enlarged the type sizes, hopefully assuaging concerns about the magazine's readability. We need to have your opinion. Don't be coy, let us know what you think about the new style and refined production. It is, after all, put together for you!

David Baker

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COVER: FALCON HEAVY LIFTS AWAY FROM LC-39A AT THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER (NASA)

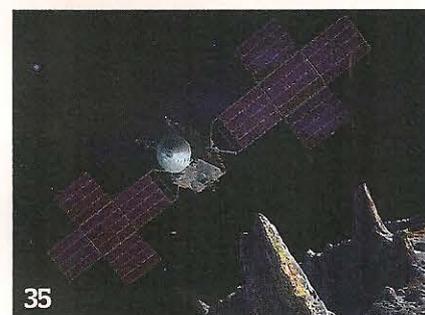
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The British Interplanetary Society promotes the exploration and use of space for the benefit of humanity, connecting people to create, educate and inspire, and advance knowledge in all aspects of astronautics.

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