



**The Long Island Chapter of the IEEE  
Aerospace and Electronics Systems Society  
and  
The Long Island Section of the AIAA  
Present a Joint Section Meeting:**



**FROM MOONWALKS TO SPACEPLANES:  
A HISTORY OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM**

with

**Burton Dicht**

**IEEE Director, Student and Academic Education Programs**

**6 PM Thursday, March 14, 2019**

**Location: Bethpage Public Library  
47 Powell Avenue  
Bethpage, NY 11714**

**RESERVATIONS REQUESTED  
RSVP BY Mar. 13, 2019  
to: [davidsparis@twc.com](mailto:davidsparis@twc.com)  
or 516-458-8593**

**Time: 6:00 PM Social Time  
6:30 PM Pizza  
7:00 PM Presentation**

**Cost for Pizza: \$7 Members and Guests  
No charge for students**

On April 12, 1981, Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen lifted off from pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center on the maiden flight of the Space Shuttle Orbiter Columbia ushering in a new era for the U.S. space program. Designed to lower the cost of flying into space, the space shuttle was the world's first reusable spacecraft. The space shuttle era ended with the final flight of Atlantis in July 2011, after 35 years of operation, 135 flights, more than 1300 days in space, almost 530 million miles traveled, and more than 3 million pounds delivered to orbit. The shuttle system was an engineering marvel, a testament to the ingenuity and perseverance of its designers and builders.

Yet, from an operational standpoint, the shuttle never lived up to the dreams and expectations of its proponents and left a mixed legacy as a result of many space firsts, great successes and two devastating tragedies. Mr. Dicht's presentation will guide us through the development of the shuttle, with its origins as a follow-on to the Apollo program. He will touch on the politics and economics of the time and their impact on the shuttle design and will also describe several of the engineering challenges that in many ways were more difficult than going to the moon.

Burton Dicht joined IEEE in 2011 and serves as the Director of Student and Academic Education Programs where he oversees IEEE's engineering education accreditation efforts and is responsible for the development and implementation of programs for pre-university and university educators and students. Before joining IEEE, he was the Managing Director of ASME's Knowledge and Community Sector. Before joining ASME, he was a lead engineer for Northrop Grumman and Rockwell Space Transportation Systems Division. Specializing in systems and configuration integration, he worked on programs such as the YF-23A Advanced Tactical Fighter and the Space Shuttle. He is a member of AIAA and is an ASME Fellow. He has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.A. in History.

Mr. Dicht has authored numerous articles on aerospace history and is a frequent guest speaker on space topics. He volunteers as an Exhibit Explainer for the Intrepid Museum, serves as a Captain and Aerospace Education Officer for Civil Air Patrol and is Vice President for Membership for the National Space Society.

**Directions:** The library is west of Route 135 in Bethpage. Take Route 135 to Exit 8, then West on Powell Ave. for about 0.25 miles. The library is on the south side of the street. Park across Powell Ave., opposite the library.