



San Mateo County Astronomical Society



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SMCAS General Meeting, Presentation and Star Party following

Robert Garfinkle, FRAS, Author

Fantasy Flight to the Moon

Friday, September 19, 2020 General Meeting 7:00pm,
Presentation via Zoom video conference followed by star party
(Zoom login details to be announced on our website or
SMCASNews@groups.io.com)

Over the centuries, storytellers have written tales of flights to the Moon. In this graphic presentation, Mr. Garfinkle will discuss these fantasy flights. The presentation will include illustrations from the old books the stories were, in most cases, first published in. The images show the various methods the space travelers employed to make their journeys to our nearest celestial neighbor. These include crafts that were powered by such things as animals, bottles of dew, giant magnets, ships, whirlwinds, clouds, volcanic eruptions, hot air balloons, cannons, and undisclosed powers. This talk is in part based on the same section in his new major lunar observers' handbook, *Luna Cognita*.



Bob Garfinkle writes astronomy books, articles, and book reviews and is recognized as an independent scholar on the history of astronomy and observing the night sky. His first book, *Star-Hopping: Your Visa to Viewing the Universe*, was published in 1994 by Cambridge University Press. This best-selling book was republished as both a hardback and paperback in 1997. He co-authored another best-selling book *Advanced Skywatching*. This book has been translated into German and Spanish. Bob's 3-volume lunar observers' handbook, *Luna Cognita*, with an introduction by Harrison Schmitt of Apollo 17, will soon be published by Springer, available now for pre-order on Amazon. In 1987, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of London. In May 2018, Bob was notified that the International Astronomical Union had renamed Minor Planet 2000 EY70 to be 31862 Garfinkle in his honor.

Bob received his first BA in History and a second BA in English Literature from Cal State-HAYWARD. He is a Past President of the California Writers Club (2010-12) and Mayor of Union City. Bob is also the Membership Chair of the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum in Fremont.