AIAA Rocky Mountain Section Speakers Program
Balloon Astronomy and the BRRISON Mission

Eliot Young
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6:00 pm Thursday, February 20, 2014
6:00 pm Social, 6:30 pm Program
SwRI-Boulder's Departments of Space Studies and Space Operations
1050 Walnut St, Suite 300 , Boulder, CO 80302

For our January meeting, AIAA presents an overview of the SwRI Boulder Planetary Science Directorate and balloon astronomy. By virtue of operating at altitudes of 35 km, above 99.5% of the Earth's atmosphere, balloon-borne observatories have several advantages over ground-based and airborne observatories, including space-like image quality, access to the IR spectrum from 1 to 30 microns, very stable photometry and the potential for 100-day missions. Eliot Young has been responsible for several balloon astronomy missions and will give a brief review of NASA's balloon program, using some recent missions as examples. He will discuss some of the main challenges facing balloon-borne telescopes, such as pointing and stabilization, thermal control and C&DH. Finally, Eliot Young will talk about the BRRISON mission (Balloon Rapid Response for comet ISON) flight from September 2013: what went right and what went wrong and the prospects for future observations.

Eliot F. Young received an A.B. in Physics from Amherst College in 1984, an S.M. in Aeronautical Engineering from M.I.T. in 1987, an S.M. in Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Science (EAPS) from M.I.T. in 1990, and an Sc.D. from M.I.T. (EAPS) in 1992. He is currently a Principal Scientist at Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, CO, in the Department of Space Studies. His current areas of study include the surfaces and atmospheres of Pluto, Triton, Eris and other large Trans-Neptunian Objects, as well as the distributions of aerosols and trace gases in Titan's atmosphere and the wind fields on Venus. He has led observing campaigns on four continents. He is the PI of the UV-Visible Instrument on the BRRISON mission.

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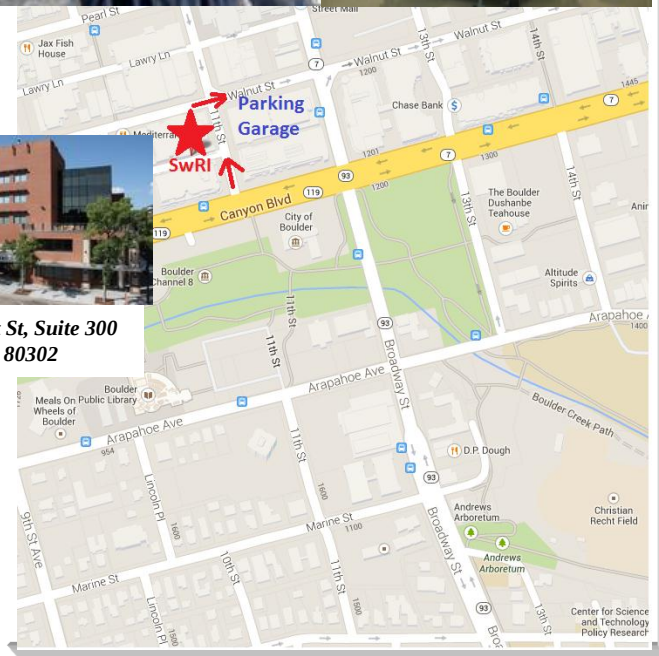
R.S.V.P by Tuesday February 18
Register Here via the Rocky Mountain AIAA website: aiaa-rm.org

For questions call or email: 303-939-4636 czeller@ball.com



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