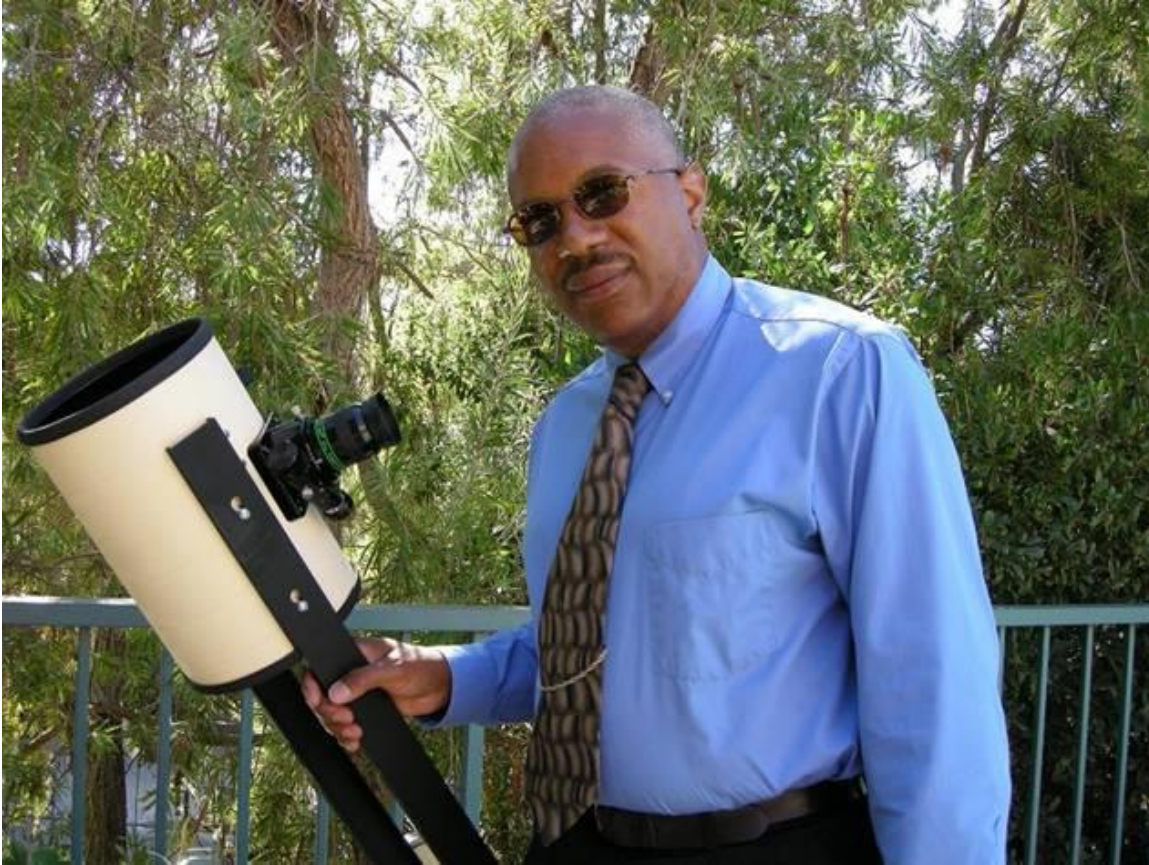


Harrison Speaker Bio



Michael Harrison – Pictured with my home made 6" Newtonian Reflecting Telescope.

Topic Categories

- Physics
- Cosmology
- Astronomy
- Computing and Technology
- Motion Picture Production
- Screen Writing

Bio

- In 37 years of working in the Aerospace Industry I have noticed that the public struggles to understand science and technology. Moreover, the media frequently makes matters worse due to their poor understanding of announcements from the engineering and science communities. In 1984 I started speaking clubs and other civic organizations to demystify the space program and scientific announcements often seen in the press. Since that time I have presented on a wide range of subjects relating to space technology. Due to my background in Astro and particle Physics I am often requested to address the Big Bang Theory, Relativity, Dark Matter/Energy and the mysteries of sub-nuclear world of Quantum Mechanics.
- My passion is to bridge the gap between the opaque jargon of the scientific world and the general public. I use real world examples and analogies that allow people to understand the broad strokes of these theories and shed light into science and technology. Nothing is more satisfying to me than when people come up after a speech to share the fact that they desperately wanted to understand these ideas and my approach allowed them to capture the concepts for the first time.
- I am obsessed with storytelling. I have been a film maker since the age of 12. I have studied screenwriting and film making at the American Film Institute, Panavision Workshops and am a member of the Independent Feature Project/West. I have produced and directed over a dozen short documentary films and in 1996 I produced a feature length Si-Fi project directing from my own script call "Chronos 5.0". What this film lacked in box-office gross it made up for in humorous anecdotes. The story of the making of Chronos; the shoestring production, its bottom feeder marketing approach and final representation at the 49th annual International Festival of Film at Cannes, France is often considered more entertaining than the film itself.
- I have a BS Degree in Theoretical Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I studied Aerospace Systems Architecture at USC and Optics for Astronomy at El Camino College.

Topics

- Title: NASA's James Webb Space Telescope
In 2018 NASA will launch its successor to the Hubble Space Telescope which will peer deeper into the cosmos almost to the Big Bang. This 90-minute presentation provides an overview of NASA's successor to Hubble and presents a non-mathematical justification of the Big Bang Theory of Cosmology. Written for the South Bay Astronomical Society, SBAS.
- Title: Dark Matters
Presents the observational evidence for Dark Matter and Dark Energy with a list of candidate explanations. Written for SBAS.
- Title: The Higgs Boson
An examination of why Physicist persists in searching for this particle since 1964. Written for friends at NGAS.
- Title: Physics for Poets
What exactly is Science and why it hurts so much to think about it? Written for Blinn Collage, Brenham, Tx.
- Title: The Solar Eclipse of 2008
My adventure to Novosibirsk, Russia to see the Total Solar Eclipse. Written for SBAS.
- Title: A Day In the Life of a Rocket Scientist
What it's like to launch a real rocket. Written for Blinn Collage.
- Title: Amateur Telescope Making
Rather than plop down a Visa card like a proper American I decided to grind and polish my own telescope mirror. Written for El Camino Collage of Torrance, Ca.
- Title: Persistence of Vision
A discussion of how computer technology extends man's vision beyond his senses. Examples include the use of robotic satellites to understand the Earth's atmosphere, smart structures that can adapt to changing conditions and the Computer Analysis behind the Large Hadron Collider. Written for the Grand Opening of the Microsoft Store in Century City, Ca.

It is not uncommon for my audiences to ask questions on subjects not directly related to my presentation. In many cases these Q&A sessions gain a life of their own spilling into the parking lot to allow the janitor to lock up the building.

Common questions include:

- What exactly is a Black Hole?
- Do Worm Holes really exist?
- Why can't I go faster than light?
- Where is the Rocket Backpack I was promised in the 60s?
- How do we know that the sun is made of Hydrogen?
- Why is the sky Blue?
- What is so hard about going to Mars?
- When can we build the Enterprise NCC-1701 D?
- Is Teleportation impossible?
- Is Time Travel impossible?
- What is the 'Eye of God' photo going around the internet?
- Why do Rocket Scientist count backwards when they launch a rocket?
- How can we travel to the nearest Stars?
- Wait a minute; did you say you were in the Movie Business?
- Why are movies so bad?
- How does Computer Graphic Imagery work?
- Why are movies shot out of sequence?
- What is the difference between a Producer and a Director?
- What does a Director actually do?
- Before you leave, could I show you my design for a perpetual motion machine?

