

# NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

**NAME:** Robert Allan Ridley “Bob” Parker

**ORAL HISTORY:** 23 October 2002

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

B.A. in Astronomy and Physics, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1958  
Ph.D. in Astronomy, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, 1962

**PRE-NASA EXPERIENCE:**

Associate Professor, Department of Astronomy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin (1963-1967)

**NASA INVOLVEMENT:**

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas  
Astronaut, Astronaut Office (1967-1974)  
Chief, Astronaut Office-Science and Applications (1974-1976)  
Astronaut, Astronaut Office (1977-1988)  
NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.  
Director, Space Flight/Space Station Integration Office (1988-1989)  
NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas  
Astronaut, Astronaut Office (1989-1990)  
NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC  
Director, Division of Policy and Plans, Office of Space Flight, (1991)  
Director, Spacelab and Operations Program, (1992-1993)  
Manager, Space Operations Utilization Program (1993-1997)  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California  
Director, NASA Management Office (1997-present)

**PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:**

- Member, American Astronomical Society
- Member, International Astronomical Union

**AWARDS & CITATIONS:**

- NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal (1973)
- NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal (1974)
- JSC Special Achievement Award (1978)
- Haley Space Flight Award (1984)
- Vladimir M. Komarov Diploma (1991)

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS:**

Parker, Robert A.R., Theodore R. Gull, and Robert P. Kirschner. An Emission-Line Survey of the Milky Way. Washington, DC: NASA, 1979.

Cornett, Robert H., Edward B. Jenkins, Ralph C. Bohlin, Kwang-Ping Cheng, Theodore R. Gull, Robert W. O'Connell, Robert A.R. Parker, Morton S. Roberts, Andrew M. Smith, and Eric P. Smith. "Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope Observations of the Cygnus Loop." Astrophysical Journal 395, no. 1 (10 August 1992): L9-L12.

Parker, Robert A.R. "Payload Flight Assignments: NASA Mixed Fleet." NASA/TM-97-206832 (CASI 19980017090). Washington, DC: NASA, 1997.

**SOURCES:**

A. Spencer, ed., "Haley Space Flight Award," National Air and Space Museum Homepage, Online, <http://www.nasm.edu/nasm/aero/trophy/haley.htm> (Last Updated 2 May 1997; Accessed 31 October 2001).

Johnson Space Center Telephone Directories (1973-1989), Organization Files, Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

Manned Spacecraft Center Telephone Directories (1968-1972), Organization Files, Center Series, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA Headquarters News Release, "NASA Astronauts Receive International Aeronautics Award," 91-202, 11 December 1991, Public Affairs Office, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC.

NASA Headquarters News Release, "Parker Named New Director of JPL Management Office," 97-169, 5 August 1997, Public Affairs Office, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC.

"Robert Allan Ridley Parker Biographical Data Sheet," Astronaut Biographies Homepage, Online, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/parker-rar.html> (Last Updated 24 September 2001; Accessed 30 October 2001).

"Special Achievement Awards go to Astronaut Selection Board," Roundup (Johnson Space Center), 31 March 1978, 2.