



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 5, 2022

Contact: Alex Vrenios, PAS Secretary

Email: Secretary@PASAZ.org

Astronomy Fans: YOU Are Invited to a Free Lecture!

Phoenix, AZ – The Phoenix Astronomical Society PASAZ.ORG is proud to announce that Ted Blank, one of our own, will be our guest lecturer May 5, 2022, during our 7:00 p.m. ZOOM meeting. Please join us via the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81032563398?pwd=UWpSOEZWRs96S3NTL3BDbCtFaGlPQT09>

Mr. Blank's talk is titled ***“Mankind's ‘Wright Brothers Moment’ on Mars”***

Join PAS member and NASA Solar System Ambassador Ted Blank for an in-depth look at the design, deployment and flights of the Mars Ingenuity helicopter, the first aircraft to ever fly on another planet. After hitching a ride to Mars underneath the Perseverance rover, this twin-blade rotorcraft is proving itself an able "scout" for the rover drivers back on Earth, exploring areas unreachable by the wheeled rover and enabling unattended drives longer than any attempted before.



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Ted had “fist contact” with PAS during the 2012 Transit of Venus. He found he loved Arizona so much he moved here in 2014. His astronomy interests include studying the shape and composition of asteroids via the technique of stellar occultations, both from his backyard observatory and by doing mobile deployments to the occultation paths. Outreach to the public is his passion, and he was the first to receive the 250-hour award pin for public outreach from the Sidewalk Astronomers of America. Ted enjoys speaking on topics ranging from solar system exploration to gravitational waves, and dreams of someday exploring Mars in person. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science from SUNY Oswego and a Master of Science in Aquatic Ecology from UC Berkeley. He worked for 25 years for IBM and another 12 for Oracle before retiring in 2019.

This lecture is open to the public, so please tell a friend!

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