

Astronomy Delight!

by Ed & Susan Forrest

Writing, Truth, and Responsibility

Happy New Year 2010! It's been almost ten years since I was both fortunate and privileged to be offered the opportunity to write my astronomy articles for Boating on the Hudson and Beyond magazine. What a lucky day it was long ago when John Vargo called me and informed me that he "had a little magazine" and would I be interested in writing an astronomy column for it. As I remember at the time that "little magazine" encompassed but a small amount

of black and white pages and pictures, a few stories pertaining to the Hudson River area, and some general interest articles on boating, placed between numerous pages of tide schedules and advertisements selling everything from row boats to anchors. During that time I was living in a small one room house, using an old wooden door propped up on cinder blocks as a desk for an ancient computer that blew fuses whenever I attempted to listen to a radio, struggling to get my Astronomy Delight! company

off the ground. I fondly look back over the years at the challenges I faced at the time, and am sincerely grateful for being able to watch not only my company grow, but that "little magazine" develop into one of the premiere publications in New York State with outstanding contributing writers, colorful copy, and pages of both highly informative and entertaining articles.

I owe a sincere debt of gratitude to not only John Vargo, who has become one of my most trusted friends, and whose vision of Boating on the Hudson and

Beyond, made it so successful, but without the loyal readership of my articles in Boating on the Hudson and Beyond, my own company would not have achieved the success it has so far enjoyed, nor would we have been able to inspire the thousands upon thousands of people we have met over the years providing our programs to educational and related organizations. Those who have read my articles over the years have truly inspired and provided me immense joy with their questions, comments, and advice from month to month as I have attempted to amuse, inspire, and educate the readers as to the wonders of the universe. When I look back, I remember the reader who was upset with my good natured poking fun of lawyers, IRS people, the state of Connecticut, and those who lived in Sandusky Ohio, the sight of the Big Bang and creation of the universe. I remember the elementary school age reader who asked me to write his home work assignment on the Apollo astronauts (I didn't), and how could I forget those who commented on my article titled Inspiration Point back in October 2001 right after 9-11. I remember the nice comments I received from home school parents when I wrote of my experiences teaching home schoolers, and the principal of a Westchester Elementary School who loved what I wrote about his school.

But this past year two of my articles, The Demise of NASA and Astronomical have resulted in some incredible positive reader feed back and requests for reprints. My article Astronomical, which dealt with our elected politicians spending trillions of dollars and how high a stack of a trillion dollar bills would reach, has even been spotted in barber shops in the local area!

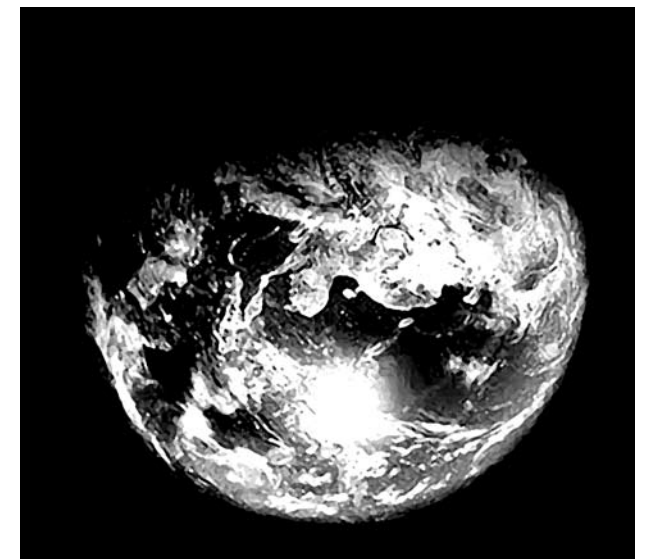
Ahhh yes! The readers of this magazine are an incredible bunch of educated, thinking, and inspired readers! I remember the commentary this past year provided by the publisher about the police patrols on the Hudson River getting out of hand and the harassment of law abiding boaters. Such a remarkable display of courage seldom found in a "feel good" magazine to providing truth and information to its readers, regardless of the political ramifications. Perhaps, in this day and

age, where the drive by media seems to rule, and distortions, political correctness, and out right lies seem to be the only thing in print anymore, there remains some writers where the word "responsibility" to the readership prevails over all regardless of what they are writing about.

You are damn right! And this year I, and the entire Astronomy Delight! Company world-wide are going to re-dedicate themselves to enhancing our main mission of entertainment, inspiration, and EDUCATION, by writing truth about the Al Gore types who continue to deceive with the man-made global warming hoax that we have been telling you for years about, the waste of millions of tax-payer dollars in our schools by teachers who can't teach and who make incredible salaries, unions who believe they are invincible, or students who are not worth educating. We will point out the sham of such things as alternative high schools, and special programs funded by tax payers for students whose parents could care less. But, we are also going to write about the successes of some teachers who are grossly underpaid, charter schools and home school cooperatives, and parents who believe in the moral responsibility to improve our nations systems in science and education.

Of course, we will continue to write about astronomy and the wonders of the universe. We will do our best to entertain with our words of wit and wisdom, educate with interesting facts, and inspire our wonderful readers to gaze upwards at the sky, but we will not be politically correct, nor will we refrain from our responsibility, as at times our broadside and direct comments are going to sting those who deserve to be stung. If you don't agree, we look forward to hearing your argument but only if you prove your point

with facts. Innuendo and rhetoric will not get a mention in our articles, however; we won't shy away from people simply because we disagree. We suspect that there may be some generalization in our arguments but we will work diligently to keep our commentary to facts with a large dose of common sense of opinion included. Whether you agree or disagree with our snapshot of whatever our article contains, we fervently hope it will at least start a discussion with your peers and perhaps, encourage you to again get involved with what's happening in your home, school, town, city, county, state, and country. As part of the boomer generation that changed the country and world we can certainly get reconnected and return our country to the people. So tune in and get involved, we look forward to hearing from you. Year 2010 is going to be a good one!



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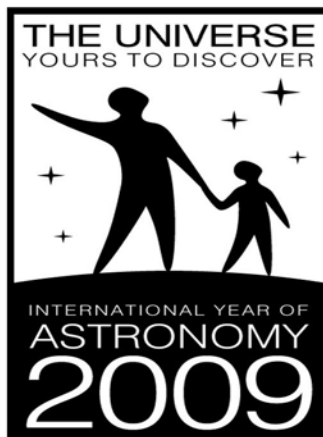
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