

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, California 91103

May 28, 1971

John Newbauer
Editor-in-Chief
Astronautics and Aeronautics
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Newbauer:

As discoverer of the concept which I call gravity Thrust space trajectories (popularly known as Swing-By or Gravity Assisted trajectories) I have an obligation to astronautics to make sure this development is accurately documented and reported in the literature. I have remained silent with the hope that some reputable scholar from the AIAA or from a university would study this development and report it accurately in journals. This, unfortunately, has not been done. I believe any further delay will contribute to a continuing distortion which I have observed in the literature. I have therefore taken it upon myself to report the details involving this discovery, to emphasize the correct physical principles it embodies, and, briefly relate it to past and possible future developments in astronautics. This article represents the result of this effort. I am submitting it for publication in Astronautics and Aeronautics. I hope that a very detailed, scholarly and impartial examination of this paper (particularly in reference research) will be made and that it will be published as soon as possible. If I can be of any assistance such as supplying unpublished dated computer calculations or personal correspondences, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael A. Minovitch