

# Book review in November 2005 issue of

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## The Real Space Cowboys

Ed Buckbee with Wally Schirra, Apogee Books, 2005, 168pp, £17.95, (US \$29.95), ISBN 1-894959-21-3.

This book relates the adventures of the original American Mercury astronauts and their supporters. The story is told of how the Mercury programme paved the way for the Gemini and Apollo missions.

There is a series of interviews with the astronauts and Werner von Braun and there are many historical photographs of the Mercury Seven and their equipment and spacecraft.

A tribute is given the Werner von Braun on his career spanning more than 20 years of the early US space programme, including many photos, some in colour, of the pioneer and the achievements that he helped bring to fruition.

The last chapter of this book is devoted to the NASA International Space Camp which was set up to inspire young 'wanabe' astronauts and spacecraft engineers.

A bonus included with the book is a DVD, which features interviews with space notables, President Kennedy's "We choose to go to the Moon..." speech and several early, space related documentaries and films.

This book and it's DVD are an excellent reminder of the early days of human space exploration.

*Peter D. Mata*

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