

## **A Tribute to Dave Sentman**

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From 19 June to 13 July of 1994, Dave Sentman, an enthusiastic research scientist, together with his colleagues from University of Alaska, climbed into an airplane to record spectacular images of a new type of electrical discharges that occur in the upper atmosphere of the planet, above electrically active thunderstorms. They did not make the discovery of these transient plasma discharges, which happened in 1989, but made the observations that defined what they are, in which region of the atmosphere they occur, provided their first brightness estimates and determined their colors, placing the first boundaries in the energies and physical processes involved in their generation. Dave Sentman and colleagues named these events Red Sprites, marking the beginning of a new research area that investigates 'Upper Atmospheric Effects of Thunderstorms', which, to our current knowledge, can take the form of optical transients and high energy emissions. This talk will highlight Dave Sentman's career trajectory, the science areas in which he was active, his major contributions to science and view of the future. It will also present a few recollections that reveal his generous heart and kind personality, showing the amazing human being this great scientist was.