

Charles Petit bio

Charlie Petit has covered science for more than 38 years as a newspaper, news magazine, and freelance writer.

His career includes 26 years at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, starting there in 1972. He left it to join the staff at *U.S. News & World Report* in early 1998. Since January 2005 he has freelanced. Recent articles have appeared in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Pew Trust*, *Science News*, and *The New York Times*.

Since early 2006 he has worked mainly as a blogger, gathering and commenting on the day's mass media science news stories for a site maintained by the Knight Sci. Journalism Fellowships at MIT – where he was a fellow in 1984-5. Its URL is <http://ksjtracker.mit.edu>. For this he reads, and publishes links to, dozens to scores of stories by his colleagues daily. This provides a view of the science beat internationally as well as providing links to press releases and other material behind the news.

He is a former president of both the National Association of Science Writers and the Northern California Science Writers Association, and has been an instructor at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. He is vice president of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.

Awards: At *US News* The American Association for the Advancement of Science magazine prize (1999) for three stories ; American Geophysical Union's David Perlman News Writing Award (2003) for reporting on ocean circulation; at the *SF Chronicle* the AAAS prize (1990) for a series on the Amazon rainforest, the American Institute of Physics prize (1991) for reporting on physics at very low temperatures, and regional prizes from the American Heart Association and San Francisco Press Club .

He has a degree in astronomy from UC Berkeley, served in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry Division's public information office, and lives in Berkeley.