



LUNAR'clips 2007

Livermore Unit of the National Association of Rocketry

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We will be flying on a working crater in a debris field that hasn't changed much in the last 5,000,000,000 years. There are no paved roads, sidewalks, mowed lawns, or anything else you are used to having at the launches in Livermore. You will find rocks, dust, dirt piles, more rocks, holes, rocks, rock piles, dust piles, rocks, and other assorted items that can twist or break ankles or legs if you are not paying attention. The only wildlife you will see is what you bring yourself. If you see a mountain lion crouching in the dust, go ahead and pet it as it is really just a pile of rocks (did I mention we have lots of rocks here?) and odd shaped shadows. If you have kids, keep an eye on them, don't let them wander far without an adult or not, your choice.

If this were on earth, it would be prime rattlesnake country, but since it is on the moon, don't worry about it. Go ahead and let your kids play in the rocks and caves. No need to keep an eye on them.

When you get to the launch area, follow the marked road to the field. Even though it looks like there is a shorter way, don't do it. There is a reason I mark the road where I do. There is a road down the center of the field where we launch. You can land on either side of that road. On the east side you can go as far as the dry creek but on the west side, do not go more than one shuttle length from the road. Most of the ground is dust over more dust on a dusty base layer. Somewhere down there is rock but if you find it, you are in serious trouble. If you try to land on the dust, your shuttle will drop to its launch tubes and be stuck forever. Engine clusters won't save you. The places we will mark out have rock under them and are solid. A few feet farther up the hill are not.

As I mentioned, this is a working crater and there are a few crater rules.

- Leave the rocks alone. If the crater preservation society catches you trying to take rocks home they will picket your shuttle. They have indicated that you can take some dust as long as you don't get greedy.
- Leave the critters alone. If you find some, they are probably your own kids in dirty spacesuits.
- Close any gates that you open.
- Don't do anything to mess up the land. Cutting circles in the lunar dust might seem like a lot of fun but any ruts you make will take over a million years to heal.
- Don't forget to duck every 108 minutes as last month's rockets that weather cocked and went into low lunar orbit come back around. The first pass is expected at 10:48 GMT.

- Keep an eye open for a missing bowling ball nosecone (yep, we lost another one). It is out there somewhere.

There is probably a lot of history in this area, but we haven't got a clue what it is as living things have only been here about 35 years.

We will rent a porta potty for the day but there is no water, food, air, or anything else in the area so bring whatever you will need.

We have a solar barbecue grill I will fire up in the morning. I expect it to be really popular just for keeping warm. Bring your own dogs or burgers and have a warm lunch.

If anyone does get hurt, the closest hospital is in Oakdale, about a 15 minute drive from the Snow Ranch Launch Complex (after you get back from the moon). There is a map to the hospital in the LUNAR document box if you should need it.

There are maps to the moon and flying instructions on the LUNAR website.

If anyone has any questions, I will be happy to answer them.



Bill