



Local Rocketeer Loves Waiting In Line

Local rocketeer Dave Frump is a regular at LUNAR rocket launches. If you've been to a recent LUNAR launch, you've probably seen Dave.



Sometimes Dave arrives early, really early, like the day before the launch. Sometimes Dave even comes without rockets. Dave says he "just loves waiting in line."

Often Dave can be seen waiting in the RSO check-in line, holding a rocket or two, talking with friends. Dave seems to know all the folks in the RSO check-in line.

Dave has found that he can save a lot of money by standing in line, but never launching. The secret, he says, is "when it gets close to my turn with the RSO, I usually find some reason to step out of line and go back to my car and fool around with the rocket a bit." What usually does the trick is forgetting something important, like the rocket motor, or wadding, or a fin or launch lug. Then he goes back in line, joining the end.

Dave estimates he can go almost all the way through the RSO line "maybe 10 or 12 times at a launch." That's a lot of motors he doesn't burn, so lots of money saved. "And you just can't beat the sheer joy of standing in line. I have a lot of friends there. LUNAR is

a great bunch of folks, they've been a community, a real support for me."

At some of the busier LUNAR launches, the RSO check-in line can stretch for an hour and a half or more. Dave says during those marathon sessions, he doesn't need to work so hard to get out of line and back in. "On those days, I might only cycle through a couple or three times."

Dave says, "It all started when my girlfriend and I were looking for something inexpensive to do together. After I got laid off, we couldn't afford to go to any concerts any more. We always used to camp out overnight to get tickets for a big show. LUNAR lines are world-renown for being super long. I thought it would be just like old times."

The girlfriend didn't embrace standing-in-line with the same enthusiasm as Dave. "She's been gone for a while. She drove off in a huff, in the trunk was one of my oldest rockets (an Estes Astron Sky Hook)," Dave explains, "and I sure will miss that old rocket."

Dave would like to share the experience he's gained from standing around at LUNAR rocket launches. "I'd like to give a talk at the club meeting some time, how we can kinda take the edge off, lose the hectic-ness of the launches. Think of all the money you'll save."

