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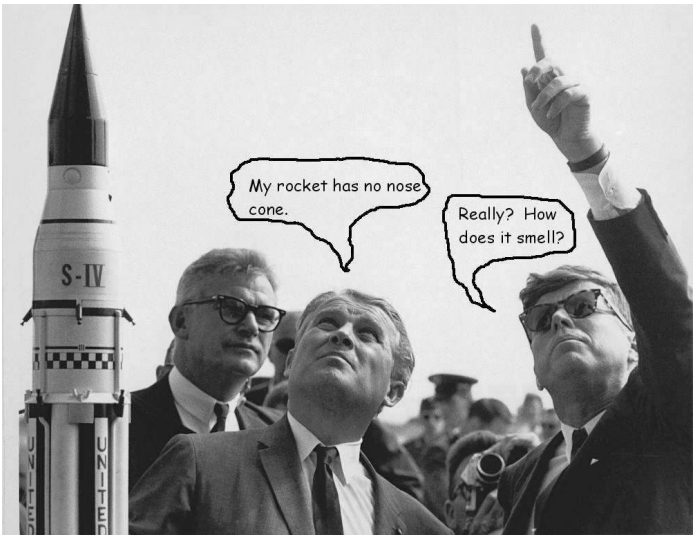

"Prime Number Explorer" Rocket Discovers New Prime Number

LUNAR member, science whiz, and rocket enthusiast Biff Studmuffin has discovered a new prime number, using his Estes #0891 rocket "Prime Number Explorer."

"With one nose cone, two sets of five fins, and three decals, I knew it couldn't miss," says Biff. "And that massive A3-2 was sure to power the rocket to great heights, but I knew I could recover it."

Prime numbers have been known since antiquity. Primes are numbers not evenly divisible by any other number. The first few primes are: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, etc.

Biff flew the Prime Number Explorer at a recent LUNAR launch. Watching the rocket recover under 13-inch parachute, before the rocket touched ground, it was apparent that the rocket had discovered a new prime number.

"I really didn't expect to catch a new prime on the first launch!" Biff exclaimed. "I had a whole pack of A3-2s for the day's work. But I didn't need to use them. I went home a happy man."

For the follow-on project, Biff plans to launch twenty-nine Prime Number Explorer models. "A mass-launch of these will create a giant quantum computer, which will make searching for the 47th Mersenne Prime really easy." Biff explains the mechanism: "Each rocket will either discover or not discover another new prime, and taken together, each rocket represents one qubit in the Mersenne exponent."

Biff hypothesizes that the exponent of the 47th Mersenne is the same as his home telephone number. "That would be a clear message of the grand interconnectedness of the universe. And maybe I could get a date."