



LUNAR'clips 2009

Livermore Unit of the National Association of Rocketry

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All of those things we saw during those days 40 years ago were there to see and examine. Watching the helicopter pluck the astronauts out of the water and bring them back aboard the Hornet, the post-flight Mobile Quarantine Facility, the reentry capsule, the Moon rocks, and much more equipment. I never thought I would get a chance to see this stuff in real life.



At 1:00pm The PA system called all to attention, as the main event was about to happen. Buzz Aldrin had arrived. The color guard presented the colors and then the Navy band began to play. From the rear of the crowded hangar deck, the Navy escorts cleared a path down the center and Buzz marched right through the crowd and up to the front stage. The crowd cheered as he walked through, and he walked right past LUNAR president Dave Ramondi, and my fellow LUNAR Member-At-Large, Charlie Wittman. He took the stage and the crowd went quiet. After a brief introduction, Buzz stood at the podium and gave a thankful and welcoming speech, then talked about his journey to the Moon, coming back to the Earth, all the people involved in making it happen, and what it meant to him that we were all there on that day to congratulate him.

Standing in the crowd with Dave and Charlie, I could imagine what it was like 40 years ago when Michael, Buzz, and Neil came back to this ship after that long a exciting adventure - not knowing if they would make it back and had all those navy men and the president there in a crowd as big as this one was Saturday. The Ship felt alive with the accomplishments of the past.

After his speech, Buzz went below deck to the officers lounge, and the a crowd of over a thousand, piled in front of our exhibit and proceeded down below deck to where Buzz was signing his new book, "Magnificent Desolation."

This event was not only very, very fun, but I think we may have more people turning out again at the next launch at AMES, to guess from all the attention we got and all the questions we LUNAR folks answered. George and I got our books signed also. Very cool and very fun for this Rocketeer.. Thank you to everyone that came and helped and had fun!

For more information about the events at the Hornet go to:
<http://www.uss-hornet.org/>

See you all at the next LUNAR Launch !

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