



LUNAR'clips 2009

Livermore Unit of the National Association of Rocketry

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LUNAR's participation included a booth on the exhibit field and our (slightly rescheduled) monthly launch window. The booth included a 7' tall Mercury Redstone (courtesy of Jamie Clay), 10' tall Saturn V (from Erik Ebert), and 10' tall Ares (thanks to Gary Walker), along with numerous smaller models and a set of custom-made Space Race rockets. Booth traffic was steady and interested; the large rockets were visible from almost everywhere on the parade grounds, and certainly attracted attention!



When we started talking with the folks at the Lunar Science Institute who were planning the event, they expected about 6,000 people. Final estimate: 11,400! We saw spectator crowds at the airfield number about 1,000 at their peak. We launched 254 flights, including 27 "space race" flights. We were a little unprepared for the crowds; next time we work with NASA on an event, we'll get their help on the crowd control angle (we've

already discussed, for example, having a more solid barrier between the spectators and the fliers).

NASA got some pretty good print media coverage, including the lead article on page C-1 of the San Francisco Chronicle on the day after Moonfest. Model rocketry certainly caught the imagination of the public: our launch was prominently featured in photos accompanying that article, both in print and online.



Paul Pittenger's Lego Saturn V nose cone. Someone in the crowd took the nose cone. Paul would really like to get it back!

Innumerable people contributed to the success of this event for LUNAR, including (but certainly not limited to) Dave Raimondi, Charlie Wittman, Laura Raimondi, Joshua Marcum and the crew of the SSS Intrepid, Alan Thym, Jack Hagerty, Erik Ebert, Jamie Clay, and the many, many others who set up and worked the booth, helped with check-in and selling raffle tickets, donated raffle prizes, staffed our usual launch operations positions. And, without the participation of the LUNARTics and friends who came to fly at Moonfest, none of this would have been worthwhile, much less possible! Many thanks to all who volunteered, worked, and flew.