

Re: Google/X-Prize Moon Contest

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2007-09/msg00530.html>

- *From:* BradGuth <bradguth@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 20 Sep 2007 20:45:00 -0000
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On Sep 20, 11:53 am, Len <l...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sep 20, 2:28 pm, Einar <eina...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Len wrote:

On Sep 18, 12:25 am, fairwa...[@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:fairwa...@xxxxxxxxxx) (Derek Lyons) wrote:

Alan Anderson <arand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Jeff Findley"
<jeff.find...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
replied to "Jim Relsh"
<jrel...@xxxxxxxxxx>:

Are you
saying
tourist
flights to
the Moon
would be
far to
dangerous?
If
so, what
makes them
more
dangerous
than the
existing
Soyuz
tourist

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flights?

The cislunar environment is subject to more radiation than one finds in Low Earth Orbit. I'd call that a legitimate reason for considering flights to the moon to be more dangerous than flights to a LEO station.

Of course, a reasonable design for a lunar tourism vehicle would take that into consideration and provide enough shielding to address the problem.

Such shielding, for the brief duration of a lunar flyby or brief orbital/landing visit, is trivial to provide.

Remember, radiation is dangerous not just in proportion to the strength – but the duration of exposure.

Although I would like to be unconcerned, I am concerned about solar flares during the transit from LEO to the moon's surface (and back). Currently, I suspect that about 30 cm of water in a storm cellar would be necessary to protect tourists from an unpredicted solar flare. I would like to be wrong; perhaps I could use some enlightenment on this subject.

Henry has pointed out that it is better not to worry about cosmic rays. Limited exposure time would seem to be the best answer to cosmic rays. But I am not so sure about solar flares. The luck factor may have been sufficient for

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Apollo, but may not be for space tourism.

Len

D.

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Touch–twice life. Eat. Drink. Laugh.

<http://derek11963.livejournal.com/>

–Resolved: To be more temperate in my
postings.

Oct 5th, 2004 JDL

I wonder if ideas for plasma shields have progressed beyond the
concept stage.

Einar

I don't know. I would welcome a good solution to the
solar flare problem.

I'm not even sure whether I am overly worried about
the problem—or not worried enough.

Trust those regular laws of physics and the best available science,
you're not worried enough unless it's robotics that's going to visit
that physically dark and nasty moon of ours.

Ever taken any one on one notice as to how much darker and rather
nasty deep golden brownish that fully solar illuminated moon actually
is, such as obtained within the very exact same FOV relationship as to
having included mother Earth that's not even half as bright as Venus
would have been depicted.

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/resources/apollo/>

There are actually many other examples within those Apollo archives,
as well as more than a few others ever since, that is if you'd care to

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look.

Though Venus was always a much smaller crescent item to have included, its nearly three fold brightness to that of Earth, of what such an unfiltered Kodak moment should have easily recorded with dynamic range to spare, is further proof positive that our rad-hard astronauts never set any moonboot on that physically dark and nasty moon of ours.

There's simply no freaking way that any of those NASA/Apollo EVA unfiltered Kodak moments were obtained as having been officially stipulated, and unfortunately for our NASA/Apollo freaks of nature, there's so much more that doesn't add up.

– Brad Guth –

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