

Re: O'Neill habitat spin axis

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To: sci-space-tech@moderators.isc.org

On 31 Aug 2004 11:17:49 -0700, wbogen@visteon.com (Bill Bogen) wrote, in part:

*>I thought that the two cylinders were parallel, there being no need
>for a net angular momentum. I believe your last statement is correct,
>though, since such a force arrangement would cause both cylinders to
>precess so as to keep one end pointed at the Sun.*

I'm in favor of having lots of angular momentum, and a fixed axis perpendicular to the habitat's orbit. A light mirror can be rotated to bring sunlight into the colony.

Such a design works well with radiation shielding as well...

<http://home.ecn.ab.ca/~jsavard/science/spaint.htm>

shows a design I've proposed – borrowing much from previous designs proposed, of course – in reaction to a claim that cosmic rays make an O'Neill habitat impossible – because by the time you have enough shielding to stop regular radiation, then you have too much dangerous secondary radiation caused by cosmic rays.

Well, since life is possible on Earth, if you *just keep piling on the shielding*, you will get to a point where even the cosmic rays are stopped – and I illustrate a design that lets you do just that.

And it avoids use of consumables to move the colony around as well.

John Savard

<http://home.ecn.ab.ca/~jsavard/index.html>