



Newsletter #1

2009-04-10

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From the Editor

Welcome to our first ever newsletter! This will be a monthly publication for all members of the moonmars.com community. Once the site is operational you'll be able to specify which emails you receive, but for now, please let me know via email if you don't want these.

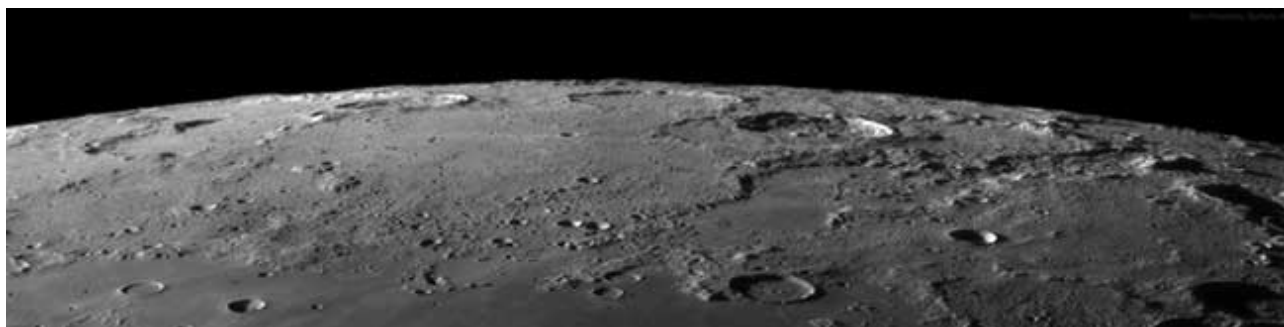
I'm becoming increasingly excited about moonmars.com, as the more I work on it, the more I realize its potential. There are communities for practically everything these days - but ours will be the only one (or at least, the best one) dedicated to *space colonization*. The members of this community will truly be the architects of the future.

I am happy to report that the project now has official support from both the Moon and Mars Societies, the Mars Foundation, and MarsDrive. This is greatly encouraging, since it's groups like these that the site is primarily intended to serve.

I hope you enjoy this first edition of the newsletter, and if you have any questions or feedback, please feel welcome to contact me at shaun@starmultimedia.biz, or skype shaun.moss1

Ad Luna, Ad Martem, Ad Astra!

Shaun



Website Update

Recently I've been primarily focused on the business plan - a more time-consuming exercise than I'd anticipated, but it should be ready for investors by next week. To be honest I have no experience with startups or raising capital, so if you do, I will be very grateful for any advice!

In the meantime, I've also found three of the world's greatest (imho) Drupal developers to help build the site, so we should make some excellent progress over the coming 7 weeks, leading up to the site launch at ISDC at the end of May. Orlando, here we come!

To give you an brief overview of the site, we envisage 4 main sections. In order of implementation, these are:

1. **Community.** This is the main foundation of the site and includes familiar community features such as:

- profile pages for members, groups, companies and schools
- communication tools like mailing lists, forums, chatrooms and messaging
- buddy list
- blogs
- events calendar

It will also include project management tools, enabling members to create and manage projects through the site (e.g. Google Lunar X Prize missions, Mars-Oz, etc.). In this way we hope to encourage and catalyze more private and grassroots space missions.

2. **Shop.** This will feature the best space-related books, magazines, apparel, telescopes, maps, globes, software, games, toys, models and anything else we can find that will appeal to our members! A special feature will be ebooks written by our members.
3. **Virtual environment.** This was in fact the initial idea that started this project 10 years ago. The virtual environment will include realistic models of the Moon and Mars that we will effectively colonize, as practice! It will enable us to construct and explore our Moon and Mars settlement designs, explore the terrain in spacesuits and rovers, enjoy a realistic view from the surface, and even experiment with laws and government.
4. **School.** This important part of the site, dedicated to education and research, will have 3 main sections: kids, students and researchers. We will start with the kids section, with games, lessons, quizzes, and online chat sessions where space kids from all over Earth can meet and learn. As we recruit more willing and able teachers from our membership, we will progress to educational resources, including ebooks and classes, for older students. For researchers we intend to assemble Earth's most comprehensive library of research papers and information related to space exploration, development and colonization.

Initially we'll be focusing on the Community and Shop, because most of this can be built using existing Drupal modules. This will enable us to get a professional and profitable website up and running reasonably quickly. The virtual environment and school are more ambitious and will take longer.

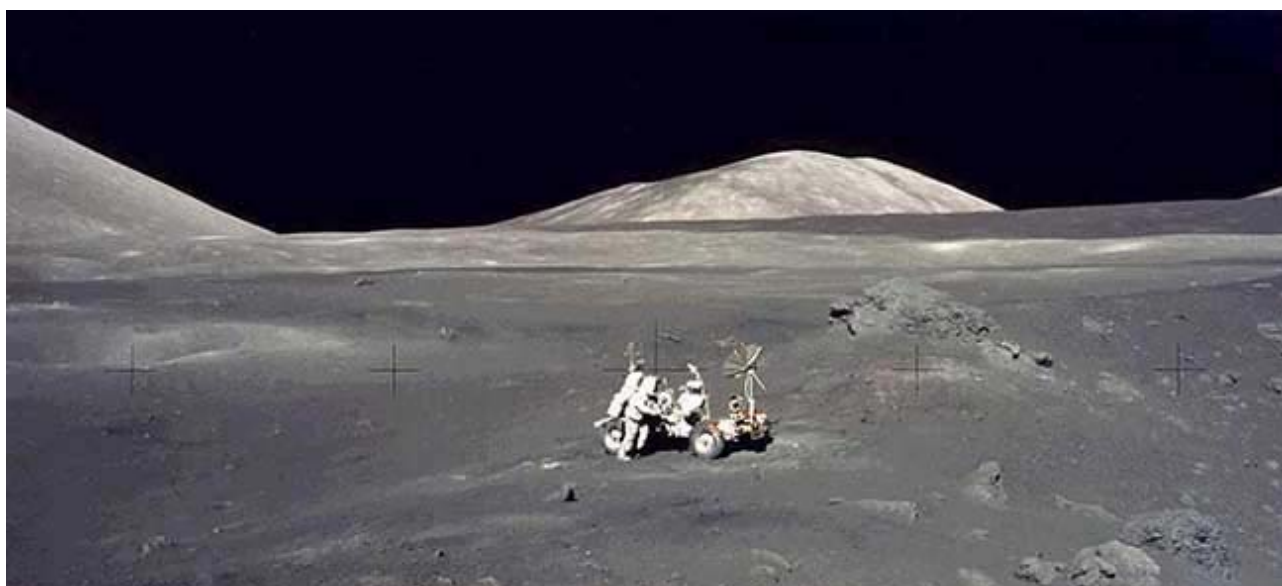


Space Conference Calendar 2009

Here are the major space development events this year. If I missed any, please let me know!

I'm still waiting on details for EMC9, the 9th European Mars Convention, for which the date and location are not yet decided, although I've heard they are thinking of having it in Italy! Details for ICEUM (International Conference on Exploration and Utilization of the Moon) have also not been published as yet.

Event	Organizer	Location	Date
40th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference	Lunar and Planetary Science Institute	The Woodlands, TX, US	Mar 23 – 27
28th International Space Development Conference (ISDC)	National Space Society	Orlando, FL, US	May 28 – 31
NewSpace 2009	Space Frontier Foundation	NASA Ames, Silicon Valley, CA, US	Jul 17 – 20
Australian Mars Exploration Conference 2009 (AMEC2009)	Mars Society Australia	Adelaide, SA, AU	Jul 17 – 19
12th International Mars Society Conference	Mars Society	University of Maryland, College Park, MD, US	Jul 30 – Aug 2
AIAA SPACE 2009	American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics	Pasadena, CA, US	Sep 14 – 17
9th Australian Space Science Conference (ASSC)	National Space Society of Australia and National Committee for Space Science	Sydney, NSW, AU	Sep 28 – Oct 1



Space Development News

Apollo Moon Party

The Moon Society is coordinating a worldwide celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Apollo 11, the first time humans ever walked on the surface of the Moon. Those who wish to participate are encouraged to organize events in their city, which can include telescope viewings, guest speakers and presentations, or just regular parties! [Website](#) | [Facebook page](#)

40% More Solar Energy For Opportunity

(NASA, 2009-04-07) Opportunity is currently trundling across the undulating dunes of Meridiani Planum on its way to Endeavour crater, a destination it won't reach for another two years. It needs all the energy it can muster. Fortunately, it has benefited from a solar array cleaning event which boosted energy levels by about 40 percent, a big increase. [Full story](#)

Twin Spacecraft May Reveal Secret of Moon's Origin

(Spaceflight Now, 2009-04-09) Two places on opposite sides of Earth may hold the secret to how the Moon was born. NASA's twin Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) spacecraft are about to enter these zones, known as the L4 and L5 Lagrangian points, each centered about 93 million miles away along Earth's orbit. [Full story](#)

NASA's Robotic Return to the Moon Delayed to June

(Spaceflight Now 2009-04-01) Given the delays of a military mission before NASA's use of the Atlas 5 rocket to dispatch a Moon mapper and experimental impact probe, the space agency has delayed launch of the LRO/LCROSS mission from May to June. [Full story](#)

Volunteers Locked Away in Mock Mars Mission

(space.com 2009-03-31) Six volunteers locked themselves away in a network of metal tubes for the next 105 days on Tuesday in an experiment to study the human stresses of a manned mission to Mars. [Full story](#)

'Most Habitable Zone' on Mars Revealed

(space.com 2009-03-30) Descending onto Mars on May 25, 2008, Phoenix was designed to study the history of water and habitability potential in the Martian arctic's ice-rich soil. It did not pack instruments designed to find life. To date, there is no firm evidence that Mars ever hosted biology. But researchers say the landing site has or had the ingredients necessary to support life as we know it. [Full story](#)

I hope you enjoyed our first newsletter! Shaun (shaun@starmultimedia.biz)

