

- [Home](#)
- [Suggest Stories](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Log In](#)
- [Register to Comment](#)



Search:

Find

« Houston Chron, Nat'l Geo, etc: Until we and our smokestacks etc came along, the air's CO2 hadn't changed much in 2.1 million years

**Lots of Ink: US Science Friday Video: Who stole that fish?, and look way out there, a whale! » Moon Rocket is off and away, big collision on its agenda**

NASA's plans for sending people anytime soon to any place beyond low Earth orbit may be under review but, in the meantime, the advance work on another round of Moon landings continues. Yesterday afternoon and right on schedule an Atlas V carried a double-whammy payload into trajectory toward the moon. (See previous post for some of the mission's advance stories.) In a few days it is to drop one payload, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter into a low-altitude path circling the lunar poles for an extended mapping mission. The upper stage Centaur rocket will then go into a looping orbit of Earth for a few months, intersecting the Moon's orbital path again while a suitably dark and perhaps icy south pole crater is identified. It will hit that crater, followed quickly by its accompanying, instrumented LCROSS probe to analyze the first impact's debris cloud for signs of crater-bottom ice vaporized in the crash. That'll be in October. The flash could be visible from Earth!



To back up a bit, the moon impact mission received a lively write up in the **San Francisco Chronicle** by **David Perlman**, which ran two days ago. The LCROSS is "bound for deliberate doom inside a crater on the moon," he wrote. For him it is a local story as engineers and scientists at NASA's Ames Research Center about 40 minutes drive south of SF designed and are managing the mission bound for glory in a cloud of dust.

In Britain, in contrast to the routine celebration in the US of a successful rocket launch, the event received a duskier assessment at **The Register** from **Lester Haines**. Under the hed "The Moon? We're going nowhere, says NASA official" he counters the happiness at the launch pad with the gloom in the budgetary office. Without a lot more money the Constellation Program on which moon plans depend cannot make it work, it says here. The evidence is in what one senior NASA program manager told a public meeting of the independent committee reviewing NASA's plans for human exploration. Haines also filed on the launch, which the paper headlines "NASA unleashes Moon-attack probe."

A few more samples of coverage of the launch:

- **Los Angeles Times - John Johnson Jr.** : NASA launches mission to explore the moon;
- **CNET News - William Harwood**: Atlas 5 rocket launches NASA moon mission ; Particularly

Newsletter:

Categories:

- [About Journalism](#)
- [Environment & Energy Stories](#)
- [ETC \(grab bag\)](#)
- [Health & Medicine Stories](#)
- [Rastreador Científico en Español](#)
- [Science Stories](#)

Links

- [Association of Health Care Journalists](#)
- [Council for the Advancement of Science Writing](#)
- [Knight Science Journalism Fellowships](#)
- [National Association of Science Writers](#)
- [Sigma Xi/American Scientist - Science in the News](#)
- [Society of Environmental Journalists](#)
- [The Observatory ---CJR](#)

Get Tracker Posts:

- [Entries \(RSS\)](#)

useful, vivid description of the astronavigation maneuverings prior to the Oct. 9 impact.

- **Contra Costa Times - John Simerman**: Bay Area space scientists celebrate moon rocket launch with public screening ; Spritely, light tale. Hayward Daily Review (a sister, ANG pub of the CoCoTimes) did the same tale but by **Diana Samuels**: NASA Ames satellite shoots into space, LCROSS will look for water on the moon; Both stories, in illus of the merger mashup in most Bay Area newspapers, are carried at yet a third ANG paper in the constellation, the San Jose Mercury News's site.
- **AP - Marcia Dunn**: NASA launches unmanned moon shot, first in decade ; She brightly includes mention of a country-rock (and vaguely Moody Bluesy) ode, "Water on the Moon" written by the deputy project manager. Good roundup.

**Grist for the Mill**: NASA-Goddard [LRO site](#) ; NASA-Ames [LCROSS site](#);

-CP

This entry was posted on Friday, June 19th, 2009 at 2:37 pm and is filed under [Science Stories](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

## Leave a Reply

You must be logged in to post a comment.

[Comments \(RSS\)](#)

Archives:

[June 2009](#)

[May 2009](#)

[April 2009](#)

[March 2009](#)

[February 2009](#)

[January 2009](#)

[December 2008](#)

[November 2008](#)

[October 2008](#)

[September 2008](#)

[August 2008](#)

[July 2008](#)

[June 2008](#)

[May 2008](#)

[April 2008](#)

[March 2008](#)

[February 2008](#)

[January 2008](#)

[December 2007](#)

[November 2007](#)

[October 2007](#)

[September 2007](#)

[August 2007](#)

[July 2007](#)

[June 2007](#)

[May 2007](#)

[April 2007](#)

[March 2007](#)

[February 2007](#)

[January 2007](#)

[December 2006](#)

[November 2006](#)

[October 2006](#)

[September 2006](#)

[August 2006](#)

[July 2006](#)

[June 2006](#)

[May 2006](#)

[April 2006](#)



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY