

Break out the moonrakers: Space Race II is coming



MATT LISAC

always been totally rad. This is why I propose the greatest East vs West showdown in the history of the universe. It will be ten times better than the Summit Series, and 20 times greater than the Cold War. It'll be The Battle for the Moon—the kind of war that makes you pee your pants a little bit out of excitement.

Just when I was getting worried that there weren't going to be any more *Star Wars* prequels, China comes to my rescue.

Recently, China sent a probe to the moon in an effort to compete with long-time rival Japan for domination of the final frontier. Things are looking up for sci-fi fans everywhere: now I just have to stay alive long enough to see the exciting parts, which should be happening sometime in the next century. Hopefully our cryogenics programs are advanced enough to get me there—I'd love to wake up next to Walt Disney on the day they christen a new Death Star.

Ever since the Russian Sputnik program sputtered away into the darkness of almost-capitalism, this whole space thing has been a real drag. First, the Americans go to space, and, once satisfied with that, the moon. Then, to shake things up, they travel further into space and currently have their eyes firmly set on Mars. Wake me up when the play's over, grandpa.

Basically, this mouse received a cookie, and now he's slowly seeing how far he can push his luck, which makes for some boring exploration. The best part of the space race was the race, not the space. That part is surprisingly dull (and lacking in ether), while humans battling humans in space has

In the interest of saving time (we're not going to live forever, after all), we should look for ways to speed along China's progress. We must have some good space secrets to share, and potentially some FAQs—a quick ground control to Major Mao, if you will. At the very least, NASA could give them the movie set where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin and some other people pretended to walk on the moon.

I don't believe that we're using the CanadArm at the moment. Last I heard, Canadian astronauts were experimenting with passing a space-beer from one end of the International Space Station to the other, and there are future plans for experimental space high-fives. Although these are important endeavours, I reckon we could lend the thing to the Chinese for a few years—just so long as they pinky swear that they'll bring it back.

Once the shuttle Mao VII lands on the moon, Team West should follow suit as quickly as possible. That's where bases come in because if television has taught us anything, it's that you need bases. Lots of bases. Thankfully, each side has experimented with enclosed artificial eco-systems. Russia can pack up BIOS 3 and send it to the moon, the Americans can shuttle up Biosphere 2, and Pauly Shore can live in the BioDome.



JEFF MARTIN

Once the bases are set up, we'll need to address the weapon inequity between the East and the West. I propose a shinny-hockey-inspired distribution of guns, missiles, bombs, and the like: all the weapons will go in the middle, then a trustworthy neutral friend will kneel on the ground with their eyes closed, and toss the hardware to each side.

After this is done and everyone's satisfied, we'll use our buddy's cell phone to conveniently call our friend who happens to be really good at space wars and unfairly claim him for our side. This secret commando will of course be James Earl Jones. With the voice of Darth Vader on your side, you can never lose.

Sure, the East will claim that this

isn't fair, that we have more guys than them, no ringers allowed, cheaters never win, etc. But we'll plug our ears and make crying noises until they shut up. Then, when they're not looking, we'll start early and blow the shit out of them with our space nukes. That'll teach those assholes not to mess with the West. Then we can safely explore space on our own at a leisurly pace.

attitude Artistic Director Jean Grand-Maitre

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