



# A Primer on The Moon Society

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## Overview

The Moon Society is a professional non-profit and non-governmental organization that is actively working towards humanity's return to the Moon.

The objectives of the Moon Society include:

- Creation of a spacefaring civilization which will establish communities on the Moon.
- Promotion of large-scale industrialization and private enterprise on the Moon.
- Promotion of exploration, research, development, and habitation on the Moon.
- Support by funding or otherwise of scholarships, libraries, museum exhibits, and other means to encourage study of the Moon and its related technologies.
- Stimulation of space applications and ventures that encourage space/lunar entrepreneurial development.
- Bringing together people from government, industry, educational institutions, the media, et al, for information exchange and learning about the Moon.
- Promoting synergy and collaboration between and among various groups and organizations interested in developing the Moon and utilizing its resources.
- Providing public information on matters and issues related to the Moon.
- Providing suitable recognitions, honors, and awards to individuals and institutions which advance lunar development.

The society seeks to overcome the business, financial, and technological challenges to the establishment of a permanent, self-sustaining human presence on the Moon. Membership in the Moon Society is open to all people worldwide of any country, language, ethnicity, religion or creed.

## History of The Moon Society I: The Artemis Project

The history of the Moon Society started with a humble post on the GENIE service in 1994, which was titled "*Anybody wanna talk about a commercial moon base?*" This discussion post was made by Greg Bennett, a NASA engineer who later worked as a manager with several aerospace companies. A few others joined the discussion and together they founded **The Lunar Resources Company**, working on a commercial moonbase plan which Greg had already dubbed **The Artemis Project** during his own private planning.



*Greg Bennett in the 1990s – Photo by Marianne Dyson*

The discussions on GENie quickly grew, and several new discussion subcategories were created and organized by Greg and Nic Grabien; these later became the outline used by the (still online) **Artemis Data Book at asi.org**. Around this time, Dana Carson became involved and donated space on his personal web server, becoming the first Webmaster for the Artemis Project.



*The Artemis Project Logo*

In March 1994, Greg and Marianne Dyson presented the **Artemis Project** at Norwescon, and later that year several others held a conference in Irvine, California to further organize, and **The Artemis Society International** was formed to help promote and develop the Artemis Project. In late 1994 and early 1995, both the Lunar Resources Company and ASI were formally incorporated in Texas and Alabama, respectively.



*The Artemis Society International's web logo. Back then, "The Moon Society" was only a tagline.*

The effort continued to grow and was presented at several conferences in the late 1990s including the World Science Fiction Convention, the American Mensa National Gathering, and the National Space Society's International Space Development Conference.

In 1996, a program called *Future Fantastic* was produced by the BBC and aired in the US on the Discovery Channel, featuring actress Gillian Anderson as the host. She starred as Dana Scully on *The X-Files*, which was one of the most popular television programs at the time. Midway through the first hour of *Future Fantastic*, Gillian Anderson described the "*Lunar Renegades: Space Enthusiasts, Aerospace Workers, and Science Fiction Fans, known collectively as The Artemis Society*" and their "*Ambitious plans for the first permanent base on the Moon.*" The Artemis Society members (who were attending the Artemis '96 conference in Houston, Texas) were shown on camera, and Greg discussed The Artemis Project: "*Our job is like that of the Pilgrims: To go there, stay, build a community, and build an environment where people can live; build houses, hotels, farms and things. If everything goes well, we can probably land our exploration base in about 8 years [by 2004]. Maybe 10 years after that [2014], we would have built to the point where we are actually doing tourist flights.*" (Dates in brackets added by me.)



*Greg and other Artemis Society Members on Future Fantastic.*

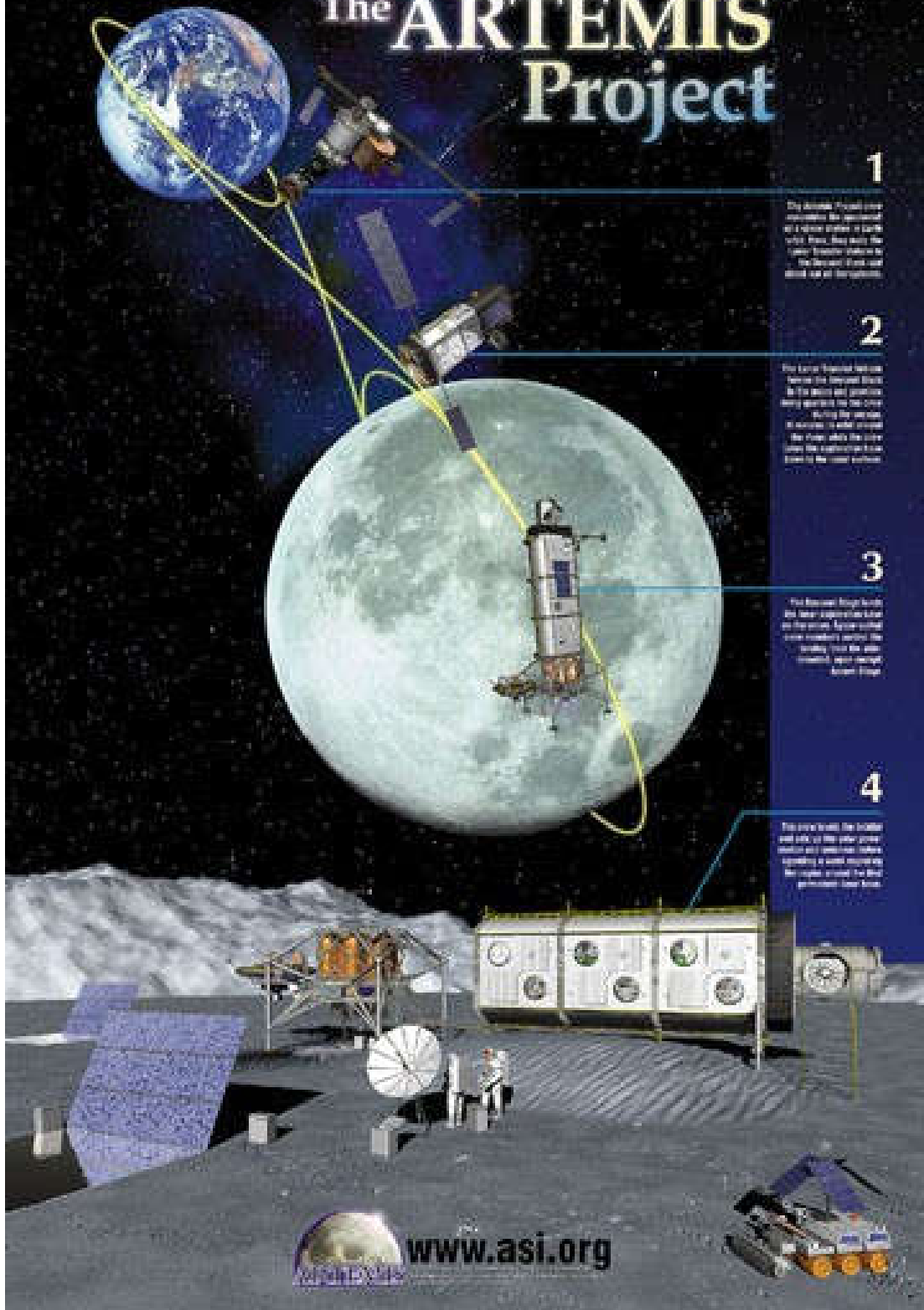


*Randall Severy, Dale Amon, and another Artemis Society member on Future Fantastic.*

I'll never forget watching this program on live television in 1996 and through it being made aware of the Artemis Project and space advocacy overall. A couple years later I met Greg, Randall, and others at the 1999 International Space Development Conference. I began contributing my web-related technical skills to the Artemis Project and the Artemis Society through their **Electronic Communication Technical Committee (ECTC)**.

The Artemis Project plans continued to be refined and more public outreach was done. This poster was created and is still given to Moon Society members who join:

# The ARTEMIS Project



1

The Artemis Project will establish the foundation of a space station in Earth orbit. First, the main lunar transfer vehicle is the Orion service module and Orion crew module.

2

The Lunar Gateway Station is the main lunar gateway. It will be the main lunar gateway. It will be the main lunar gateway. It will be the main lunar gateway.

3

The Lunar Gateway Station will be the main lunar gateway. It will be the main lunar gateway. It will be the main lunar gateway.

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The Lunar Gateway Station will be the main lunar gateway. It will be the main lunar gateway. It will be the main lunar gateway.



[www.asi.org](http://www.asi.org)



## **History of the Moon Society II: The Organizing Conference**

In July 2000, in a conference center ballroom at Caesar's Palace resort in Las Vegas, the leaders and key members of TLRC and the Artemis Society International gathered to form a new organization. We wanted to appeal to a wider, mainstream audience and be more inclusive of all aspects of lunar research. During that balmy afternoon in a comfortably air-conditioned room in a glittering city built in the wasteland of one of Earth's deserts, we met to write bylaws and begin organizing **The Moon Society**.

The first officer slate for The Moon Society had Gregory R. Bennett as President, James L. Burk as Vice President and Webmaster, Robert S. "Scotty" Gammethaler as Treasurer, and Rhoda Bryant as Secretary. Board members included Randall Severy (who was also elected as Chairman), Greg, Scotty, Dana Carson, and Ian Randall Strock.

During the later part of the conference I showed the first version of the Moon Society website, which I had designed & developed prior to the conference. It included a Current Phase of the Moon "applet" and information on the Society and our future plans.

Our first major project was to be Project Leto, an effort to build a lunar analog base, research center, and tourist attraction in Las Vegas, near where Greg was working at Bigelow Aerospace. While some initial planning work was done, those plans never came to fruition.

## **History of the Moon Society, Part III: The Peter Kokh Leadership Era**

Greg stepped down from the President office in 2004, and Peter Kokh ran for and won the Presidency. Peter had been the chapter lead of the NSS Milwaukee chapter, which he also branded **The Lunar Reclamation Society** and (as readers of this book know), since 1986 he published the **Moon Miners' Manifesto** newsletter.

Under Peter's leadership, the Society was revitalized. We redesigned our website, setting up our first blog (which Peter and others kept fresh with great content). In 2007, we founded the **Lunarpedia** wiki (as well as Marspedia and a couple others.) We also did some video projects which were posted on the early Youtube site, and contributed to several other online and print publications.

We also became an affiliated organization with the National Space Society (NSS) and organized the Moon presentation tracks at the NSS's International Space Development Conference. We grew our Board of Advisors and presented awards at the ISDC conference to lunar scientists and advocates of lunar settlement.

## **History of the Moon Society, Part IV: The 2010s**

Peter retired from the Moon Society and retired from publishing the Moon Miners' Manifesto in 2017 (as he began assembling this book). We voted to make him President Emeritus last year.

Our next President was Ken Murphy, an independent financial consultant and lunar settlement advocate. Under Ken's leadership, we organized a Lunar lava tube exploration plan which used robotics, and created concepts for solar sails for Lunar communication satellites. We also continued to speak at conferences and assisted the NSS with the Moon track at ISDC.

When Ken became too busy to assist with day-to-day work, he took on a Board seat, and Michael Mealling (who was part of the Artemis Project and an officer for the Moon Society in the early 2000s) became our 4<sup>th</sup> and current President. Michael is the co-founder of Masten Space Systems, the CEO of Waypaver Foundation, and the COO of Starbridge Venture Capital.

I rejoined the Society as Vice President (filling a vacancy) in January 2018. Immediately prior to that, I had been working to revitalize the **Marspedia** wiki by forming a partnership between the Moon Society, the Mars Foundation, and the Mars Society (where I've served as IT Director since 2011).

### **Current Projects and Plans**

Under Michael's leadership, The Moon Society has steadily continued to gain momentum. We have done a lot of work to modernize our membership and online infrastructure and take on new projects and partners. The publication of this book is one of our proudest recent accomplishments. We are also in the process of creating an online store under the **Lunar Traders** brand and growing our network of chapters.

At our Annual Meeting on August 5, 2018, we will announce some exciting additional planning & modernization activities we've been working on. Stay tuned!



*From left: James L. Burk, Peter Kokh, and Michael Mealling at ISDC 2018*