



# SPACE RACE

## I. SOLAR FLARE

### GLOSSARY of TERMS

**Banjax** – To break beyond repair, to put out of service.

**Bromage** – The only food provided to loxies, an algae- and yeast-based nutritionally complete liquid.

**Burnstick** – A microwave-emitting non-traumatic device that directly activates pain receptors and nerves of the skin at a range up to two meters, similar in use to a cattle prod.

**Catpack** – A battery-powered backpack providing oxygen from catalytic conversion of exhaled carbon dioxide and water to organic acids and/or ethene. With 85-95 percent recovery, the pack requires a bottle of compressed oxygen to maintain adequate oxygen flow.

**Centie** – Abbreviation for centimeter (1 cm, 0.4 in).

**Comset** – A device worn on the ear for voice communication via local networks.

**Convenient Thinking** – Thinking that ignores or distorts relevant details to support a self-serving choice.

**Cosmarine** – A member of a military unit specialized in spaceship security, boarding and combat.

**Cut-cave** – A cave excavated below the surface of the Moon for habitation, usually starting with an existing lunar cave or lava tube.

**Duro** – The unit of currency created by the austere recovery policies deployed following the dollar/euro crash of 2112.

**Earther** – A person born on Earth.

**Em** – (M) A human male.

**Ef** – (F) A human female.

**En-ef** – (NF) Non-fertile female, usually assigned to hazardous duty because of her inability to reproduce.

**Ef-ef** – (FF) Fertile female, usually assigned to surface work and a nearly constant state of pregnancy until she reaches pozzle status.

**Farside** – The space station positioned at L2, 60,000 km beyond the Moon.

**Fixkin** – Brand name of a spray combining an anaesthetic, growth factors and hardening foam; accelerates burn healing while protecting the injured skin and preventing drying.

**Flechette** – Sharp, pointed projectile with tiny fins or ribs.

**Geostaysh** – Abbreviation for “geostationary,” an orbit that maintains a position above a fixed point on the surface.

**Going Bowman** – Moving briefly in vacuum without a helmet.

**Hab** – Abbreviation of habitat.

**Jikayo** – Common name for large space stations built as self-sufficient, permanent colonies.

**Klick** – Abbreviation for one kilometer (km, 0.6 miles).

**L2** – A gravitationally stable area (Lagrange point) 60,000 km (37,500 miles) over the Moon’s far side.

**L5** – A gravitationally stable point in the Moon’s orbit around the Earth that forms a triangle with the Earth and Moon with all sides equal to the Earth-Moon separation (384,000 km, 240,000 miles).

**Lav** – Lavatory; the zero-gravity equivalent of a bathroom.

**Lipox** – Brand name of an engineered fat-fueled enzyme chip used to power electronic devices in living tissue.

**Lith** – See regolith

**Loxies** – Small-bodied human space workers, descendants of high-altitude tolerant Himalayan and Andes villagers, who are tolerant of low oxygen levels.

**LPS** – Lunar Positioning System, similar to GPS.

**Metamats** – Metamaterials; materials with tiny structures that manipulate light or sound to create effects such as invisibility.

**Millie** – Abbreviation for millimeter (1 mm, 0.04 inch).

**Minky** – An ef who has passed the age of menarche (minor-key) and thus is fertile and menstruating but is not yet fully developed (age 12-15).

**Nuvarig** – A maneuvering rig; a set of rocket thrusters strapped to a tainer to provide maneuvering control.

**O&B** – Short form of the essential supplies SSG charges against loxie workers' earnings: oxygen, bromage, dormitory, electricity and clothing (OBDE&C).

**Ozlo** – Expression meaning “do it,” from Spanish *hazlo*.

**Paracord** – Durable, flexible 4 mm (~1/4 inch) rope.

**Photeo** – A light-driven animation or short video printed using programmed ink dots on plain paper.

**Picker** – A crane-like arm used to move tainers.

**Polyseal** – A gap-sealing expanding adhesive foam.

**Pozzle** – A post-menopausal female.

**Preg** – Pregnant; when used as a verb: impregnate.

**‘Pression** – short for compression.

**Pseudogee** – Abbreviation for pseudogravity.

**Pseudogravity** – The illusion of gravity-like pull that an occupant in a spaceship under constant acceleration feels when standing on a deck perpendicular to the direction of travel. The accelerating ship is pushing on the feet of the occupant, keeping the occupant traveling at the same (accelerating) speed as the ship.

**Pup** – A loxie child (pre-puberty, 0-12 years).

**‘Puter** – Abbreviation for computer.

**Quip-op** – An operator of heavy equipment (mining excavators, loaders, bulldozers, etc.). Quip-ops usually guide equipment via remote control but may operate it directly; quip-ops are trained in first-line repairs.

**Rakches** – Loxie expletive meaning devil.

**Regolith** – Lunar “soil,” a combination of gritty, sharp-edged sand-like grains, pebbles and dust.

**Resilin** – A manufactured elastic protein, originally found in insects, that can be formed into small, very powerful springs.

**Retrothrust** – Thrust in a direction that causes braking (deceleration).

**Ripgun** – A weapon with selectable ordnance designed for use in space where hull punctures could be catastrophic. The name comes from the ripping sound produced by the explosive missile, which penetrates skin but causes little initial damage. Upon sensing sufficient heat indicating it is embedded in a living body, the round explodes. See *toxlet*.

**SkyCon** – Skylight Control, the transportation control center for the Skylight colony and mining area.

**Skylight** – A mining colony and quarry on the surface of the far side of the Moon where the story begins.

**Sleepsack** – a lightweight sleeping bag matched in size to the occupant that prevents drifting while sleeping in zero gravity, but does not restrict the occupant's arms.

**Sopo (or SoPo)** – Abbreviation for solar power.

**Soundpipe** – A tubular stringed musical instrument similar to a guitar with selectable reverberation resonators and variable resonance cavity size.

**Sprayvac** – a handheld vacuum cleaner that optionally emits forceful streams of water while vacuuming to enhance cleaning, then filters the recovered water for re-use.

**Syzer** – A machine that melts dirty clothing into resin, filters the resin, then uses it to print clean clothing.

**Tainer** – A shipping container designed for use in space and on the Moon.

**Tapcode** – The loxie code for sending messages using taps, light flashes, or tones; based on Morse code.

**Tarball** – A water-rich cometoid (mixed comet and asteroid features) trapped by gravity at L5.

**T-belt**– Abbreviation for utility belt.

**Teleo** – A tele-operated humanoid robot. A teleo moves only as directed by a human operator, similar to drone aircraft. Teleos have a reputation for berserk behavior in the optional autonomous control mode.

**Tele-op** – The operator of a teleo robot.

**Thermionics** – Flexible microscopic electronic heating and motor circuits in spacesuit gloves that allow the user to have thin-glove sensation, flexibility and dexterity.

**Toqari** – The art of touch given as a gift of sensation from one person (the artist) to another (the canvas).

**Toxlet** – One of the standard projectile selections on rip-guns, a flechette tipped with several poisons.

**Tractyl** – Brand name of cloth that contracts forcefully when energized.

**Trambot** – An automated car carrying 1-4 people in a pressurized passenger compartment; not capable of off-road use on untreated/unpaved regolith.

**Uberdude** – High-level person in business or government.

**Undersuit** – A form-fitting garment worn by loxies as the only garment when in a pressurized space; it serves as the thermal undergarment under a spacesuit (compression suit).

**Varalloy** – The brand name of a line of 3D print-forges that create fixed and gradient alloy and other products.

**Velo** – Abbreviation for velocity.

**Zecujet** – A luxury space plane capable of re-entry.

**Ziggy Club** – Nickname for the ZG (zero-gee) Club, an expression of personal achievement. The Ziggy Club has no actual structure and is similar in this regard and in its admission criterion to the Mile High Club.