

THE HERMES



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

"Exploration is really the essence of the human spirit." -Frank Borman

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MAKING SPACE SUCCESS!

On Friday, November 8, 2024 The Inspired 24 hosted our first space networking event, which was the first of many more to come!

This successful event at Sands Space History Center in Cape Canaveral brought space enthusiasts and space professionals together to create partnerships that will help usher in a new era of commercial space exploration.

The guest speaker panel included Karsen Kitchen (Blue Origin Astronaut), Joan Melendez-Misner (NASA Engineer), Jean Wright (Sew Sisters Space Creations), and was moderated by the incredible Mike Mongo (Astronaut Teacher, Storyteller & Public Speaker).

Stay tuned for our Spring event(s)!





Member Spotlight!

Rob "Ranger" Watson



Ranger knew at age eight he wanted to be an astronaut (and has the journal entry to prove it!).

His grandfather was a master machinist who worked on the Ranger and Surveyor lunar explorers that preceded Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. His parents gave him science toys to support this budding interest, and he fondly remembers as a child putting on a motorcycle helmet and pretending to be an astronaut in the Mars-like red dirt of his backyard in the American Southwest.

In his junior year of high school, Ranger won a scholarship to study space science at Utah State University, which included working on a student GAS payload team. The experiment, which eventually flew on STS-95 in 1998, was an artificial heart valve serving as an analog to study cardiac fluid pressures in microgravity.

Ranger went on to a 28-year career as a web developer and is now the CEO of Webidextrous, a web and digital marketing agency in the Orlando metro area. But he never forgot his first love of space and regularly seeks opportunities to involve himself in space exploration.

Currently, Ranger is a World's Biggest Analog candidate and hopes to be selected and trained for the WBA event in October 2025. He is also the Executive Director of the Inspired 24 Innovation Team and the Web Manager at the Mars Initiative, a non-profit building an "X prize" to fund the first Mars mission.

The Innovation Program of The Inspired 24, which Ranger is leading, is the body or team of individual members of The Inspired 24 who are concentrated on space exploration innovations. Its full realization is pending sufficient organizational and operational funding for full-time, part-time, and contract employees. The vision of the program is to discover current and futuristic problems, and then research, analyze, and create innovative, cost-reducing, safe, and effective solutions for robotic/remote and human space exploration challenges. It is in the initiation phase of gathering applicants.

Anyone interested in joining the I24 Innovation Program can apply [here](#).

Ranger is married to Shannon, and they have four adult children. They can't wait to retire and have more adventures!





I24 HEADLINES

That's a wrap!

CHaSE Training Class #3

On November 16 and 17, I24 members Chef, Zen, Mermaid, Bullseye, and Moonwalker attended class #3 of CHaSE training at the University of Arizona, led by Trent "Atlas" Tresch.

On day one, members learned and practiced water egress training in the Univ. of Arizona swimming pool, including learning proper water ingress from a parachute harness and proper usage of water survival suits. They also worked as a team to navigate and enter a survival raft. Day 2 incorporated pressure suit training, classroom & hands-on learning, and working in teams "donning" & "doffing" pressurized suits. Check out their pics below!



Class #4 coming soon, Spring 2025!

Affiliate News

- Earlier in November, I24's Jasmine "Europa" Singh briefed our group on the recent Europa Clipper Mission. [Watch the replay HERE!](#)
- Looking for some unique ideas for holiday space-themed gifts? Check out Dr. Sian Proctor's online art store to find gorgeous artwork, books, blankets and shoes (yes shoes!) [CLICK HERE!](#)
- Do you have experience running a Hackathon? The WBA Education team is looking for volunteers who could lead a Hackathon event for the 2025 World's Biggest Analog. Contribute to this one-of-a-kind mission- [APPLY NOW!](#)

"Inspired 2 Space 4 All"

We, The Inspired 24, are an inclusive group of like-minded, space positive people dedicated to promoting the access to space for all.

Our mission objectives are:

- Network** with organizations that support inclusive participation in space exploration.
- Collaborate** to create opportunities to experience the overview effect.
- Train** for space flights and provide space-ready individuals for future missions.

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Missed November's All Hands Meeting?
[Watch the replay HERE!](#)

