



THE HERMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

"Spaceflight is definitely the world's biggest team sport." -Mike Finke

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I24 Members Making Moves

Here's what your fellow crewmates have been up to this month!

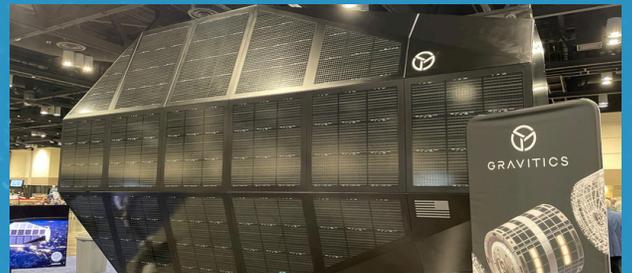


Nicole "Jovi" Bolado met Jared Isaacman at NASA KSC, where she works as a Research Scientist

Welcome home to Mariam "Polar" Naseem after a successful and amazing research campaign in Antarctica!



Rob "Ranger" Watson attended SpaceCom, a commercial space conference & exposition, in Orlando, FL



Andrew "Titan" Parris attended Astro Awards in Austin, TX, recognizing significant space missions & people for 2025





Member Spotlight!

Dr. David "SpaceWex" Wexler



Randolph Air Force Base, 1992

Dr. David "SpaceWex" Wexler began studying astronomy on his own at age 12, two years after he already decided to become a doctor. His childhood memories include watching NASA mission launches, including the Gemini astronauts and the Apollo Lunar Landing in July 1969. SpaceWex gained interest in physics during his college years at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, sparked by a professor who had started his career as student engineer at Los Alamos during WWII.

A seed was planted, but SpaceWex was there for pre-med studies. He went to medical school at Stanford University, specializing in Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery. He also served as a medical officer for four years in the U.S. Air Force. During that time, SpaceWex completed the primary flight medicine course at Brooks Air Force Base, TX, which is the preparation for working with pilots and astronauts. He stayed busy as a surgeon for many years (retired after 40 years just last year), but unfortunately didn't keep up with developments in the space program and astronomy.

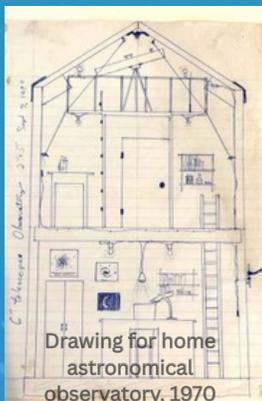
Then, fairly suddenly at age 48, SpaceWex renewed his interest in space exploration while he was helping his son with ninth-grade AP physics. Seeing his son succeed inspired him to take remote coursework while still working full-time as a surgeon. SpaceWex earned a University Certificate in Physics from Open University in the UK and a Master of Astronomy degree from James Cook University in Australia.

His thirst for more learning continued when he was accepted to take a one-week course in radio astronomy, and eventually trained students at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in West Virginia. From there, SpaceWex began volunteering as a research student, completing his work at the MIT Haystack Observatory. Not surprisingly, he was accepted in a remote PhD program through the University of Southern Queensland in Australia. While completing school work remotely, MIT remained his local office. And that connection allowed him to play trombone in the MIT alumni jazz band, in which his son is lead trumpeter, the first time two generations performed in the band at once.

SpaceWex received his PhD in 2020 and recently published a report on the effects of orbital spaceflight on astronaut hearing, in the *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance* journal ([read it HERE](#)). He contributes his success to the people and mentors he has met along the way. "Whatever stage you're at, make NOW count!"



National Radio Astronomy Observatory



Drawing for home astronomical observatory, 1970



with NASA astronaut Dr. Joe Kerwin & SpaceX Med Ops Dr. Kayleigh Stabenau



with colleague, Juha Vierinen, from Norway



I24 Headlines

We are officially in "Orbit"!

[The I24 app](#) is now up and running, thanks to the hard work of Carlos "Risk" Hernandez and his team. The initial invites were sent to members with call signs, as that will be each member's designated user handle.

We understand not all members have call signs. In an attempt to correct this, we are now going to let members suggest their own call signs. I24 leadership will approve all call signs to avoid duplication.

When considering a call sign, please reflect on this question:

What person, group, book, movie, TV show, hobby or interest has inspired you and why?

Please email admin a sentence or two to explain your selection so we can appreciate and record your choice.

We thank all of you for joining our inclusive community and trusting us as we fulfill our mission of creating space-ready individuals for the advancement of space exploration and experiencing the overview effect.

Artemis II Launch Windows Open!

Now that NASA has released the potential launch dates for Artemis II, with the first possibility being Feb. 8, 2026, we are (preemptively) planning a pre-launch party on Feb. 7, 2026.

Similar to our Polaris Dawn event, this will be in-person, near Cape Canaveral, FL.

Once NASA officially announces the launch date, we will share more info. It is possible that NASA selects a later day and time, so please **STAY TUNED!**

Your Chance to be a STAR

Special invite from Interstellar Performance Labs

Registration is now open for the [2026 STAR Summit](#)! This is a five-day, in-person training experience designed for aspiring and current analog astronauts who want to intentionally develop the human behavior and performance competencies that matter for crew readiness, selection, and long-term growth.

To help you get a clearer sense of what the STAR Summit looks like, founder Emily Apollonio will be hosting a [live virtual Open House](#) on Feb. 26, 2026. During the open house, she will:

- Walk through the structure and intent of the STAR Summit
- Explain how it differs from conferences and traditional analog training
- Answer questions live
- Share what's coming next across STAR programs
- And...there will be a live giveaway during this free event

Register for the open house [HERE!](#)

For questions, contact trade@theinspired24.com

News from The National Space Society

- Potential speakers are invited to submit abstracts for the National Space Society's annual [International Space Development Conference® \(ISDC®\)](#), which will be held on June 4-7 in McLean, Virginia, in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Presentations covering a wide variety of space exploration, development, and policy topics are welcomed. This year's theme is "Space for Us All".
- The NSS is also still accepting entries for its annual [Martine Rothblatt Space Settlement business plan competition](#), through midnight Pacific Time, Feb. 15, 2026. The competition challenges students, academicians, entrepreneurs, and the broader space community to develop compelling business plans that will help to enable space settlement in the coming decades. Three awards of \$16,000, \$10,000, and \$6,000 USD are granted for the best business plans that will help to advance our expansion beyond Earth.




Meet some of your new I24 crewmates!

[CLICK HERE to watch the replay of Dec/Jan All-Hands Meeting](#)



They're here!

Get your I24 shirts and hoodies on Amazon!

About The Inspired 24

"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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NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

(January 2026)

Zoe Savage
Saurabh Singh Tanwar
Milos Baskic
Bhavana Priya P K

Just for fun!

Space science trivia :

Which essential element, necessary for life, was discovered on Saturn's moon, Enceladus?

- A. Boron
 - B. Sulfur
 - C. Titanium
 - D. Phosphorus
- (see below for answer)

February in space history:

- **Feb. 18, 1930:** Pluto was discovered by 24-year-old astronomer Clyde Tombaugh at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.
- **Feb. 20, 1947:** Fruit flies were the first animals launched into space to study radiation exposure.
- **Feb. 20, 1962:** John Glenn orbited the Earth three times in *Friendship 7*, becoming the first American to do so.
- **Feb 8, 1974:** The final crew (Skylab 4) departed the U.S. space station Skylab
- **Feb 3, 1995:** Eileen Collins became the first woman to pilot a space shuttle (*Discovery*).
- **Feb. 1, 2003:** Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart during re-entry at an altitude of about 40 miles, killing all seven crew members.

Trivia answer: D. Phosphorus
[Click HERE to learn more from JPL](#)