



# THE HERMES

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

*"Be thankful for problems. If they were less difficult, someone with less ability might have your job."*

*-Jim Lovell*

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### Achieving Access to Space for All!

*"The success of our training demonstrates that deaf and hard-of-hearing people possess the skills, expertise, and adaptability required for spaceflight. We're one step closer to seeing a DHH astronaut in space, and I'm honored to be part of this journey."*

*-Shelia "Cool" Xu*

I24 member, Sheila "Cool" Xu, recently announced the exciting collaboration between AstroAccess and Blue Origin to make space exploration more inclusive and accessible for D/deaf and heard-of-hearing (DHH) on the space company's New Shepard program.



Cool is an Ambassador for AstroAccess, and she attended a two-day workshop at Blue Origin's facilities to provide expert consulting on DHH accessibility, making observations during training and delivering a comprehensive report with recommendations on how to enhance the NS spaceflight experience for DHH astronauts. She was accompanied by two other AstroAccess ambassadors, Eric Shear and Victoria Garcia, as well as Executive Director Anna Voelker, and ASL interpreters Justin Baldi and Brooke Jensen.

The Inspired 24 also congratulates AstroAccess member Michaela Benthaus on her recent space flight announcement on board the New Shepard rocket. She will be the first wheelchair user to take part in a suborbital flight.







## Member Spotlight!

### Thorsten "Pathfinder" Eschweiler



Born in 1984, Pathfinder's early passion for space was sparked by Voyager images, space books, backyard stargazing, and lunar observations. Events like the Shoemaker-Levy 9 impact, shuttle launches and landings live on television, and particularly the Mars Pathfinder mission ignited his curiosity. The allure of space deepened with Sci-fi like Star Trek, Stargate, and movies like Stowaway to the Moon and Contact (1997).

Driven to explore terrestrial and extraterrestrial environments, he earned a bachelor's degree in geosciences, conducting remote sensing geological research on Mars for his thesis—reflecting his exuberant explorer mindset.

In 2020, new gateways unlocked and his journey accelerated with graduate certificates in "Mars Settlement and Exploration" and "Mars Science and Engineering" from Mars University (MarsU), Spacesuit Training at CHaSE (2023), and the "Stellar Training for Astronaut Readiness" program (2025). As a research scholar and grant recipient, he authored Evolution of Martian Exploration and Evolution of Space Exploration. He witnessed his first rocket launch with Artemis I and, as a "Texas Tank Watcher" on NASASpaceflight's YouTube channel, has actively followed the evolution of Starship and Starbase since 2019.

After a one-year International Experience Canada, he volunteered in nature conservation in the Dutch Caribbean and Iceland, where he serendipitously discovered scuba diving (2021) and had his first magical Northern Lights encounter. He later interned at a marine science diving project in Koh Phangan, Thailand, followed by reef restoration and diving in Bali, advancing his expertise in the aquatic realm.



Currently, he explores integration pathways for Randomized Audio-Visual Entrainment Technology (RAVE/AVE) to enhance cognitive resilience, crew performance, and stress adaptation in analog missions. Since 2022, he has presented on the technology's relevance to space and earned a neurotechnology certificate from Mind Alive Inc.

As an Independent Space Science Researcher (Zooniverse) with over 1.1 million classifications across 6,000+ hours, he advances peer-reviewed research in astronomy and planetary science, contributing to machine learning and discovery pipelines, with outcomes including recovering a trans-Neptunian object, identifying active asteroids and co-authoring a paper on a new planetary system discovered through TESS.

Pathfinder is committed to advancing Mars exploration as a Mars Technology Institute co-founder, Mars Society ambassador, analog astronaut candidate for the World's Biggest Analog, and SpaceKind 11 graduate. He joined I24 and I24 Innovation through the Analog Astronaut community. A frontier-driven multiplanetary pathfinder, his mission is to instill wonder in divers, space enthusiasts, and mentor/train prospective astronauts. From ocean depths to Martian heights, he strives to revive our innate spirit of enthusiasm and exploration through inspiration and innovation.

Now a certified PADI Instructor focused on Asia Pacific, Pathfinder is dedicated to advancing analog mission readiness at the nexus of diving, extreme environment operations, and human spaceflight training—aiming to reach escape velocity in his journey toward space.







## I24 Headlines

- Save the date for **SPOOKY SPACE!!** Come join your fellow I24 members for a night of networking and fundraising, hosted in conjunction with Reinvented Magazine's Space Gala, October 31, at Sands Space History Center, Cape Canaveral, FL. *Ticket info coming soon!*
- Congratulations to I24 member Ariane "Leto" Fikki on joining the NEXPLORE 2040 Summit as the Master of Ceremonies! See Leto on September 9-11 at Amazon headquarters in Arlington, VA. [Click HERE to get your tickets!](#)
- Stay tuned for these upcoming I24 events:
  - September 15, 2025: 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inspiration 4 flight and the forming of The Inspired 24; 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Polaris Dawn flight (virtual event with crewmembers)
  - September 20, 2025: Induction of I24 member Dr. Eiman "Phoenix" Jahangir's flight suit at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville, TN (in-person)

## Affiliate News

- The World's Biggest Analog is coming in October! You can still participate by becoming a sponsor or taking part in the education program. [Click HERE for more info!](#)
- Help launch a new era of space exploration by joining **SPACEKIND!** This 8-week experiential training is lead by Virgin Galactic founding astronaut Loretta Whitesides. Crew16 begins Sept 17... [Registration is still open!](#)
- The National Space Society (NSS) and BLUECUBE Aerospace have joined forces to honor the legacy of Robert Goddard, the father of modern rocketry with a series of contests for all school-aged children. Win prizes and showcase the work at national space conferences! [Click HERE](#)

### NEW I24 CALL SIGNS

Ashley "Heartfire" Haynes-Gibson  
Marina "AstroGlia" Freitas  
Jessica "Spacegirl Falcon" Steinhauser


## NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

(August 2025)

Carlo Vizzi	Luiza Arievalo
Emma Miclea	bhavya Prasad
Jessica Steinhauser	Aahna Pushpa
Lisa May	Himanshi Tanwar
Alisha Allen	Tyson Rydalch
Shybu Edwin	Mohan Tamang
Lucia Maria Ferreira Lima	Inchara Kakkuppi
Marina Correa Freitas	Dev Shishodia
Maria Alejandra Botero	Daniela Villao
Hanka Partelova	Himanshi Tanwar
Matheus Santos	Hanka Partelova
Mohana Sai Akula	Shinul Paul
Ananda Padmanabhan Dileep	



*They're here!*

**Get your I24 shirts and hoodies on Amazon!** 

### "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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