



**July 26, 2023**

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## **Notice of NASA town hall meeting and request to up-vote a question for New Horizons**

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) will hold a quarterly community town hall meeting with Associate Administrator for Science Nicky Fox and her leadership team at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on **Thursday, July 27, 2023**. Members of SMD, the science community, academia, the media, and the public are invited to participate by joining the WebEx link below.

<https://nasaenterprise.webex.com/nasaenterprise/j.php?MTID=m9268a66ee6afdf9f69d99d299d84363>

If prompted, please use event number 2760 096 4056, followed by event password yuWjQCB\*723 (98957220 from phones). Presentation materials will be available for download and a recording will be available later that day at: <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/virtual-townhall>.

If you are unable to join the WebEx, NASA will be live streaming the town hall to YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@NASAScience/streams>. Participants are invited to submit their questions and/or vote up questions already posted at <https://nasa.cnf.io/sessions/pdsd/#!/dashboard>.

**We encourage NSS members to click on the questions link and up vote the following question regarding the New Horizons' mission and team:**

**“Given the tremendous global success of the New Horizons mission and**

its team of experts (Pluto’s heart shaped images, 1st fly-by of a Kuiper Belt object), why is NASA cutting its funding and recompeting the mission team when the \$920 million investment has already been made and the team still believes there is important science to conduct?”

[CLICK HERE TO UP-VOTE THE QUESTION](#)

## The 2023 Expanding Frontiers Summer Fundraising Drive

By Fredrick Jenet, NSS Board Member, at large



Aspiring South Texas entrepreneurs visit Starbase. Credit: Expanding Frontiers

Greetings NSS Downlink Readers,

At Expanding Frontiers, we're pioneering a movement in the heart of South Texas, fostering the spirit of space entrepreneurship among the diverse, often underrepresented communities of our region. Our mission is to empower the aspiring "astropreneurs" in our midst, enabling them to reach for the stars and create innovative startups that contribute to the burgeoning commercial space economy.

Through a strategic Space Act Agreement with NASA, we're able to leverage cutting-edge technologies and insights directly from the world's leading space agency. This collaborative framework allows us to mentor budding entrepreneurs as they transform NASA technologies into viable tech companies.

We believe in democratizing space development, making it accessible to all, and propelling our entrepreneurs to achieve their dreams. Every contribution towards our mission, no matter how big or small, brings us closer to the collective human aspiration of exploring, developing, and eventually settling space.

We invite each one of you, the esteemed readers of NSS Downlink, to be part of this ambitious journey. Your support will not just fuel the dreams of our 'astropreneurs,' but will also contribute to the larger vision of humanity's future beyond our home planet.

To show your support and learn more about our work, please visit our website at [www.expandingfrontiers.org](http://www.expandingfrontiers.org) and consider clicking on 'Donate'. Together, we can journey towards expanding our frontiers!

Thank you for your support, and let's journey together towards a future where space is accessible to all!

Fredrick A. Jenet, PhD  
Founder and Executive Director  
Expanding Frontiers

Visit Expanding Frontiers

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## Space Ambassadors Meetings

By Stevan Akerley, Chair, NSS Space Ambassadors

The Space Ambassadors met on June 26 for these topics:

1. Discussion of the ISDC 2023 by the ISDC 2023 12 Attendees
2. Frances Dellutri – Student Programming with Lynne Zielinski (approximately 300 Students)
3. Lalitha Murali – from Glendale River Hills School District, WI, Gifted & Talented Program.
4. Jim Plaxco's article in *NSS Ad Astra Downlink*, June 13, 2023, and [Blog](#)
5. Embroidered NSS Logo Shirts are success – 26 Space Ambassadors shirts distributed. Follow up orders for white shirts with NSS Logo pending with the NSS-North Texas Chapter
6. Now that ISDC 2023 is a fond memory, record your presentations and panel discussions in Google doc.
7. Gary Barnhard planning note for SSP Tracks ISDC 2024, with multiple email responses, and discussions about the Mark Hopkins Award.
8. Space Ambassadors planning for ISDC 2024 track on **Evolving a Lunar Base**.
9. Report on NSS Space Ambassadors successful presentations (3) to RSD-13 local High School

The next Space Ambassadors meetings are on July 31 and August 28, 2023. Here is our July 31 agenda:

1. Planning for ISDC 2024. Evolution of a Lunar Base one track (6 presentations), a second Space Ambassadors Track various subjects.
  2. Presentation Invitation to Lalitha Murali about what she does, and her impressions of ISDC 2023, at August 28 Meeting.
  3. Report on conversation with James Melton PhD, Mars Society Chief Mars Ambassador, Now NSS Member.
  4. Report on "Space Settlement" classes by LaunchSpace. Follow up on Anita Gale email, Conversation and email 7/8/2023 with Marshall H. Kaplan, PhD
  5. Report on conversation with Melodie Yashar VP – ICON. 7/28/2023
  6. Revised NSS SA Distribution List
  7. New NSS Logo Shirt orders and payments by NSS SA Donations Fund.
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## International Space Elevator Consortium Annual Conference

By Stevan Akerley, Chair, Space Ambassadors; and Larry Bartoszek,  
[Bartoszek Engineering](#)

Please be advised that the upcoming International Space Elevator Consortium [annual conference](#) is being scheduled, Saturday, August 12, through Sunday, August 13, 2023. In Chicago, IL. There is a discount on the hotel at the moment, and the team is trying to get an extension. We do have a limit of 50 for the conference and we currently have about 18, so there is room for more.

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**This Week in Space - Hosted by [Rod Pyle](#), [Tariq Malik](#)**



The *This Week in Space* podcast covers the new space age. Every Friday we take a deep dive into a fascinating topic. What's happening with the new race to the moon and other planets? When will SpaceX or NASA really send people to Mars? Join Rod Pyle and Tariq Malik from [Space.com](#) on *This Week in Space*. Subscribe today on your favorite podcatcher. New episodes posted every Friday.

Listen to "Finding Your Space Tribe" - with Dale Skran of NSS

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**Space and Things - Hosted by [Emily Carney](#), [Dave Giles](#)**

EMILY  
CARNEY



DAVE  
GILES

*Space and Things* is a weekly podcast devoted to the exploration of space, with updates on what is happening in the space flight world as well as looking back at some of the key moments and figures involved with the evolution of space flight. Presented by historian Emily Carney and space nerd Dave Giles.

Listen to "The Lost Gemini Missions" - with Michael Mackowski

## Science and Futurism with Isaac Arthur



*Science and Futurism with Isaac Arthur* (SFIA) is a science education YouTube channel focused on all aspects of futurism and space. Since its first episode in 2014, SFIA has considered topics ranging from the seemingly mundane to the extremely exotic, featuring episodes on megastructure engineering, interstellar travel, the Fermi paradox, and many other topics. But regardless of how strange a subject may seem today, we always try to ensure that the discussion is grounded in what we know of science today, limiting our speculation to what we

believe to be in the realm of realistic possibility.

Watch "Lunar Mining, Processing & Refining"

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## ***2023 Space Conferences and Events***

<a href="#"><u>ISS R&amp;D</u></a>	Jul 31 - Aug 3, 2023	Seattle, WA
<a href="#"><u>International Space Elevator Consortium 2023 Conference</u></a>	Aug 12 - Aug 13, 2023	Chicago, IL
<a href="#"><u>IAC</u></a>	Oct 2-6, 2023	Baku, Azerbaijan
<a href="#"><u>ASCEND</u></a>	Oct. 23-25, 2023	Las Vegas, NV

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# **CHAPTERS REPORT**

By Robin Scott, NSS Member

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**National Space Society of Australia (NSSA)**



**Mercury 13**  
Image Credit: NASA



**Human Computers**  
Image Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Kerrie Dougherty, Senior Heritage and Outreach Officer of the Australian Space Agency, presented "[Females of the Final Frontier: Celebrating Women in Space](#)" to the [NSSA](#). Dougherty gave an outstanding chronological survey of the progression of women in science fiction film and professional space industry roles. It is well worth your time to watch.

As early as 1933, women helped design solid fuel rockets. By WWII and because of cost effectiveness, women were hired as "human computers." After the war, women were widely hired to compute for the aerospace industry for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which later became NASA.

The first female into space, Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova was launched in 1963 where Russia focused their female astronaut selection criteria on the applicant's ability to parachute separately because of their capsule's hard landing system. Later in the US, through the privately funded Woman in Space Program, Dr. Randolph Lovelace II showed that women successfully underwent the same physiological screening test as the men selected for project Mercury. Yet NASA held fast to their criteria that astronauts must be graduates of military jet test-pilot programs. U.S. women were able to become astronauts when the Navy and Army in 1974 and the Air Force in 1976 permitted women to fly in the United States Armed Forces, and when the Space Shuttle program offered Mission and Payload Specialist positions.

Russia, U.S., Canada, Japan, Italy, France, Great Britain, South Korea, and China have been credited for female astronauts, and women have held extensive positions throughout the space industry. Now on the Artemis 2 mission, a woman will venture to the Moon for the first time.

Watch "Females of the Final Frontier"





## BOOK REVIEWS

By David Brandt-Erichsen, NSS Director

Space books keep us informed, stimulate our imaginations of the future of human space travel, and make excellent gifts. Check the links at [NSS Reading Space](#) to read over 400 reviews, listed alphabetically and by author, of nonfiction, fiction, and children's space books.

NSS READING SPACE - BOOK REVIEWS





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