



As of 5/20/26

Saturday, June 6

Registration

8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Foyer

Morning Plenary

8:30 am - 9:45 am

International BC

TITLE: *The Shuttle Program: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

ASTRONAUT PANEL: Dr. Steven Hawley, Astronomer and former NASA Astronaut; Robert "Hoot" Gibson, former NASA Chief Astronaut; and Susan Kilrain, former NASA Astronaut

Moderator: Dr. Anthony Paustian, NSS Vice President of Marketing

Join astronauts Robert "Hoot" Gibson, Susan Kilrain, and Steven Hawley as we discuss their careers and NASA's space shuttle program in its entirety, including a number of behind-the-scenes nuggets that will surprise you.

Student Registration

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

International A

Registration for students in the NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest and the *Live in a Healthy Space* Design Competition.

NextGen Program

10:00 am - 10:45 am

International BC

TITLE: *Hubble Space Telescope and a New Golden Age of Astronomy*

FEATURED SPEAKER: Dr. Steven Hawley, Astronomer and former NASA Astronaut

MC: Holly Melear, CEO/Founder, STEAMSPACE Education Outreach and Cities in Space Events
When we launched the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) in 1990, we thought we had achieved the best we could do with telescopes from the ground. While HST was an impressive improvement in capability, we were able to substantially improve the ability of ground-based telescopes through the combination of space- and ground-based telescopes.

Exhibitors

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Atrium

Please visit the exhibitors and sponsors tables.

NSS Meeting

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Stevens (lower level)

NSS Chapters Assembly

Open to all conference attendees. Come and learn more about the NSS and NSS regional chapters.

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Morning Sessions

Mars

Beverly

10:00 am

Mars Robotic Exploration: Past, Present, and Future. Ken Ruffin (Didymos Consulting LLC)

10:15 am

Thirty Years Since Mars-96: Revisiting a Lost Mission of Extraordinary Collaboration and Ambition. Dante Sanaei (Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab)

10:25 am

The Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Mission: Science Results, Current Status, and Connections to Future Human Exploration of Mars. Dr. Jim Bell (Arizona State University)

10:45 am

NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation

11:00 am

From Mars-Express to Rover Missions. Dr. Bernard Foing (Space Renaissance International)

11:20 am

ISRU Extreme Cold Energy Storage for Mars: Iron Perchlorate-based Redox Flow Batteries with Deep Eutectic Electrolytes. Chris Liu (Charter School of Wilmington)

11:30 am

The Anthropian: A New Environmental and Geologic Era on Mars Characterized by Human Impact. Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute, Mars Institute, NASA Ames Research Center)

11:40 am

Six Arctic Winters: What the Pomori Castaways Teach Us About Surviving Mars. Dr. Erik Seedhouse (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)

Space Elevators

Amphitheater (lower level)

10:00 am

Laser Power Beaming to Climbers on the Space Elevator. Larry Bartoszek (International Space Elevator Consortium)

10:20 am

Solar Power for Space Elevators. Dr. John Knapman (International Space Elevator Consortium)

10:40 am

Microwave Power Beaming for the Space Elevator. Avery Davis (National Space Society, Tucson Chapter)

11:00 am

Discussion. Moderator: Larry Bartoszek (International Space Elevator Consortium)



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Space Ambassadors	
10:00 am	
10:30 am	
11:00 am	
11:30 am	
LaunchPad	
10:00 am	
10:04 am	
10:12 am	
10:20 am	
10:28 am	
10:35 am	
10:43 am	
10:51 am	
10:59 am	
11:06 am	
11:14 am	
11:22 am	
11:30 am	
11:37 am	
11:45 am	
11:53 am	
11:58 am	

Statler (lower level)
 Satellites, Spectrum, Sustainability: The Outer Space Treaty in Today's Strategic Orbital Environment. Claire Nalda (Johns Hopkins University)
 Don't Wait for the Future, Help Us Build It! Gary Barnhard (Xtraordinary Innovative Space Partnerships)
 The Top Ten Challenges to the Economic Development of the Moon. Jim Plaxco (NSS Space Ambassadors)
 The Glen Hills Space Journey. Lalitha Murali (NSS Space Ambassadors)

Dallas
 Introduction. Dr. Shawna Pandya (International Institute for Astronautical Sciences)
 Moon Runnings: Rehearsing Humanity's Future on the Moon through Simulation and Serious Games. Dr. Claire Nelson (Space Futures Forum)
 A Rock and a Hard (and Cold) Place: Risk-Informed Choices in Lunar Sampling and Site Planning. Dr. Caitlin Ahrens (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the University of Maryland)
 tbd
 Questions
 Pathogenic Engineering, Salutogenic Architecture: A Critical Framework Approach for Space Habitats & Interiors. Stephanie Brick (Salutogenic Design & Consulting Group)
 Who Governs the First Settlements in Space? Michelle Hanlon (Air and Space Law at Ole Miss)
 Orbital Hospital. Phnam Bagley (Organization for Space Medicine, Engineering and Design)
 Questions
 First Step: Sustainable Orbital Biological Additive Manufacturing. Bryan Kuklinski (Orbital Construction Pioneers, Inc.)
 tbd
 Could We Terraform the Moon? Key Steps to Get There. Joseph Pelton (Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space)
 Questions
 Human Science on Mars: Exploration and Discoveries on the Red Frontier. Dr. Jim Bell (Arizona State University)
 An Oasis Above the Inferno: An Integrated ISRU Proposal to Change the Venus Settlement Equation. Ben Sullivan (Chemical Engineer)
 Questions
 Closing Remarks. Dr. Shawna Pandya (International Institute for Astronautical Sciences)

Student Activities
 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Continental B
 Ethics Round Table with NSS SpacEdge Education. Three sessions: 11:00/12:00/1:00.

Student Activities
 11:30 am - 3:00 pm

Fowler (lower level)
 Neuron Strike presents Space Cybersecurity Joint Incident Response Workshop for middle and high school students. Two sessions: 11:30 and 1:50.

Lunch
 12:00 noon - 1:50 pm

International BC
 TITLE: *From the Shuttle to Commercial Space — Our Future in Orbit*
 FIRESIDE CHAT: Michael López-Alegría, Former NASA Astronaut / Chief Astronaut, Axiom Space and Rod Pyle, NSS Director of Communications, Space Author, and Editor-in-Chief, *Ad Astra* Magazine
 Presenting of the NSS Arthur C. Clarke Award to David Brin, Astrophysicist and Novelist
 MC: Gabriel Rothblatt, Executive Director, U.S. Space Walk of Fame Foundation
 Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, National Space Society

Poster Session
 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
 (International A closed during lunch: 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm)

International A
 Contest students' posters on display with the student presenters representing entries in the NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest and the *Live in a Healthy Space* Design Competition.

As of 5/20/26

Saturday, June 6

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	
Mars	
2:00 pm	
2:20 pm	
2:30 pm	
2:40 pm	
2:50 pm	
3:00 pm	
3:10 pm	
3:20 pm	
3:30 pm	
3:40 pm	
3:50 pm	
4:00 pm	
4:10 pm	
4:25 pm	
5:10 pm	
Space Elevators	
2:00 pm	
2:05 pm	
2:25 pm	
2:45 pm	
3:05 pm	
3:25 pm	
3:40 pm	
4:00 pm	
4:20 pm	
4:40 pm	
5:00 pm	

Afternoon Sessions

Beverly

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Report on "A Science Strategy for the Human Exploration of Mars." Dr. Lindy Elkins-Tanton (University of California, Berkeley)

Human Space Missions and Space Weather Risks. Dr. Gerald Rabl (Manhattan University)

Building Mars Habitats with In Situ Materials. Melodie Yashar (AENARA)

Multi-Sensory Virtual Simulations of Mars Exploration. Bryan Versteeg (Spacehabs.com)

Haughton-Mars Project: Mars Time-Delayed Human Exploration Mission Operations Protocols. Reef Collins (Mars Institute and University of Central Florida)

Distributed Electrical Propulsion UAV Using Blown-Lift for STOL on Mars. Aryan Senthilkumar (Northview High School)

Pressurized Rovers for the Moon and Mars: Requirements and Design from Synthesis of Past Studies and Field Exploration Experience. Rachel Long (Mars Institute and University of California, Davis)

Pathways on Mars: Preliminary Pressurized Rover Traverses from Noctis Landing to Explore the Stratigraphy of the Noctis Giant Volcano. Scarlett Hartzman (Mars Institute)

Mars Tethered Balloon Imaging and Laser Range-Finding Navigation and Mapping System for Future Robotic and Human Exploration. Leonardo Gámez Cuéllar (Mars Institute and Tecnológico de Monterrey)

Red Planet, Green Future: Defining Durability of Coconut Coir for Plant Growth in Simulated Perchlorate Stressed Martian Regolith. Sindhoora Vemula & Ananya Ram (NSS North Texas Chapter)

Will China Beat Elon to Mars? Art Harman (The Coalition to Save Manned Space Exploration)

Don't Forget Mars! Dr. Douglas Gage (XPM Technologies)

NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation

Panel: Moon to Mars: Thinking Ahead. Dr. Lindy Elkins-Tanton (University of California, Berkeley), Dr. Jim Bell (Arizona State University), Dr. Bernard Foing (Space Renaissance International), Dr. Douglas Gage (XPM Technologies), and Keith Cowing (NASA Watch). Moderator: Dr. Pascal Lee (National Space Society).

Fireside Chat with Dr. Harrison H. "Jack" Schmitt (Apollo 17): From the Moon to Mars. Moderators: Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute, Mars Institute & NASA Ames Research Center) and Rod Pyle (National Space Society)

Amphitheater (lower level)

Introduction and Welcome. Dr. Dennis Wright (International Space Elevator Consortium)

Modern-Day Space Elevator Architecture. Dr. Peter Swan (International Space Elevator Consortium)

Space Elevator Environmentally Friendly Notion Explored. Dr. Steven Griggs (Space Railway Corporation)

Comparative Ownership Models for Modern-Day Space Elevators: International and U.S.-led Approaches to Governance. Aolani Gonzalez (Yale University)

Tether Materials: Solving the Tensile Strength Paradox for Graphene Laminate. Adrian Nixon (International Space Elevator Consortium) and Dr. Dennis Wright (International Space Elevator Consortium)

NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation

Accelerating the Future: Competitions Scaling Space Access. Mordy Friedman (World Space Elevator Competitions)

Space Elevator Dynamics and Simulation. Dr. Dennis Wright (International Space Elevator Consortium)

Energy Efficiency: Energy and Power Requirements for a Heavy Lift Space Elevator. Dr. Steven Griggs (Space Railway Corporation)

Could We Terraform the Moon? Key Steps to Get There. Joseph Pelton (Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space)

Panel: Space Elevators for Space Settlement



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Space Ambassadors

- 2:00 pm Space Renaissance for All. Dr. Bernard Foing (Space Renaissance International)
- 2:30 pm Island Zero. Jerry Stone (NSS Space Ambassadors)
- 3:00 pm The Future of NASA and Commercial Spaceflight. Ken Ruffin (NSS Space Ambassadors)
- 3:30 pm Powering the Space Elevator. Larry Bartoszek (NSS Space Ambassadors)
- 4:00 pm Enhancing the STEM Pipeline: The Wolfpack CubeSat Development Team. Kevin Simmons (NSS Space Ambassadors)
- 4:30 pm Five Key Artificial Intelligence Systems for the Space Farm. Bryce Meyer (NSS Space Ambassadors)
- 5:30 pm Presentations to Local High Schools. Stevan Akerley (NSS Space Ambassadors)

Rothblatt Competition

- 2:00 pm **Dallas**
2026 Martine Rothblatt Space Settlement in Our Lifetime Business Plan Competition.
Moderator: Gabriel Rothblatt, Executive Director, U.S. Space Walk of Fame Foundation Inc. and National Space Society Board of Directors
Lunar Economy Simulation — A Modeling Platform for Lunar Economic and Governance Experimentation. Michael Castle-Miller (Beacon, NY)
Solar-Microbial Intelligent Lunar Energy System (SMILES). Sathesh Raj V. Periasamey (Malaysia) and Florence Pauline Basubas (Philippines)
SolVita Gardens — A Modular, Automated Food-Production Platform. Jonathan Pickering and Shaun Mungall (Edmonton, Canada)

Spaceports

- 2:00 pm **Stevens (lower level)**
To create a truly impactful and memorable environment for attendees, the Spaceports session is being completely reimaged as an Interactive Community Round-Table Forum.
Tony Boone (City of Sierra Vista), Jared Freedman (Orbital Bridge LLC), Andrew Nelson (RS&H's Aerospace Practice), Khalia Padilla (Imagine Engine Studios), Annette Parks (Zeno Power Systems, Inc.), and James Anthony Wolff (Greenspoon Marder LLP). Moderator: Robert Katz, CEO and Executive Director of the World Innovation Network

NextGen Program

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

International BC

TITLE: *Building Off-World: Habitats on the Moon and Mars*
 FEATURED SPEAKER: Melodie Yashar, Space Architect, Founder, AENARA
 MC: Holly Melear, CEO/Founder, STEAMSPACE Education Outreach and Cities in Space Events

Networking Reception

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

International A

Join us for an open reception that includes a cash bar and appetizers.
 Reception sponsored by the International Space Elevator Consortium (ISEC)

Dinner

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

International BC

TITLE: *Apollo 17's History in the Dust*
 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Harrison H. "Jack" Schmitt, Apollo 17 NASA Astronaut
 Presenting of NSS Apollo Legacy Award to Dr. Harrison H. "Jack" Schmitt
 Presenting of Rothblatt Space Settlement in Our Lifetime Prize
 Presenting of NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest Grand Prize Award
 MC: Col. Karlton D. Johnson, USAF (Ret.), NSS Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, NSS Board of Governors

Party

9:30 pm - 12:30 am

International A

Come dance at the Saturday Night Party. Don't miss the fun!