

Chicago Society for Space Studies

Spacewatch Newsletter August 2025

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CSSS Meeting Sunday, August 24, 2025: *Asteroid Mining*

The August CSSS meeting will be a presentation by CSSS's own Larry Bartoszek who will give his presentation on **Asteroid Mining**. Larry's presentation will be followed by general discussion.

Doors open at 12:30pm and we encourage people to arrive before the start of Larry's presentation at 1:00pm.

This meeting is free and open to the public so be sure to invite friends and family.

Asteroid Mining Program Details

When: 12:30pm Sunday, August 24, 2025 (presentation begins at 1:00pm)

Where: Rasmussen North Meeting Room (on the 2nd Floor)

[Schaumburg Township District Library](#)

130 South Roselle Road

Schaumburg, IL

Meeting details are on the website at [Asteroid Mining Program](#)

CSSS News

CSSS Receives NSS Chapter of the Year Award at 2025 ISDC

At the 2025 International Space Development Conference, Chicago Society for Space Studies (CSSS) was presented with the NSS Chapter of the Year Award during a Thursday night banquet award ceremony. Accepting the award for CSSS was CSSS President Jim Plaxco.

Full story at [CSSS Receives NSS Chapter of the Year Award](#).

CSSS Speaker Larry Bartoszek Receives NSS Activist of the Year Award at 2025 ISDC

Larry Bartoszek, a CSSS member and a key member of the CSSS Speakers Bureau, was presented with the NSS Space Activist of the Year Award at the 2025 NSS International Space Development Conference. Larry, who was elected to be Vice President of the International Space Elevator Consortium, will be our speaker at the August CSSS meeting where he will give a presentation about asteroid mining.

CSSS Supports the Goddard 100 Student Contest

CSSS, through the volunteer efforts of several of its members, is actively supporting the Goddard 100 Student Contest. The contest commemorates the 100th anniversary (March 16, 1926) of Robert Goddard's launching of the first liquid fuel rocket in Auburn, Massachusetts. For more, see [The Goddard 100 Student Contest Celebrating A Century Of Rocketry](#)

Call for Submissions of Articles and Essays

Chicago Society for Space Studies is seeking articles, book reviews, essays, and personal observations on the development of the space frontier. Examples of possible subjects include:

- Advanced technology concepts
- Artemis program
- Asteroid mining
- Cislunar activities
- Commercial space activities, aka newSpace
- Historical missions
- Human Missions to Mars
- ISRU
- LEO development
- Lunar bases
- Mars bases
- Analysis of NASA programs
- O'Neill orbital space colonies
- Planetary defense
- Planetary exploration
- Propulsion systems
- Space development
- Space settlement
- Space solar power
- Space stations
- Space tourism
- Space transportation

To submit your article, send it to **Jim** at chicagospace.org. You will be notified once your submission has been received and will be kept informed on publication progress.

This call is also on our website at [Call for Submissions for Space Articles and Essays](#).

Join the CSSS Commercial Spaceflight Group on Facebook

If you are interested in newSpace or commercial space, please join the CSSS Commercial Spaceflight group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/commercial.spaceflight/. The purpose of the Commercial Spaceflight group is to discuss developments in the commercial space sector. This includes launch services, space tourism, commercial space stations, ISAM, SSA, and relevant government policy and regulatory issues.

Spacewatch Subscribers: Please Become CSSS Members

CSSS Spacewatch has many subscribers who have never become members of our organization. By becoming a member of the Chicago Society for Space Studies, you will strengthen our organization and be eligible to participate in member-only events.

Becoming a member is simple and takes only a couple minutes. Just click on the link and fill out the form. [Become a CSSS Member Now](#).

New On CHICAGOSPACE.ORG

Space Piracy Preparing for a Criminal Crisis in Orbit Book Review

A book review of *Space Piracy Preparing for a Criminal Crisis in Orbit*, a non-fiction book that addresses the threat of criminal activity on the final frontier has been published on the CSSS website.

Be sure to check out the review at [Space Piracy Preparing for a Criminal Crisis in Orbit Book Review](#).

Space Solar Power: Marketing Versus Math

A recent headline on livescience.com is *China plans to build enormous solar array in space – and it could collect more energy in a year than all the oil on Earth* which is quoting a Chinese scientist who claims that *"The energy collected in one year would be equivalent to the total amount of oil that can be extracted from the Earth."* This article examines that claim.

Read [Space Solar Power: Marketing Versus Math](#).

Space News

New GAO ISAM Report

In July, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report titled *In-Space Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing: Benefits, Challenges, and Policy Options*. Quoting from the announcement:

Space is increasingly important to the daily lives of Americans, to the economy, and to national defense. The number of active satellites in space providing critical services increased from 1,400 in 2015 to more than 11,000 in 2025. An additional 18,000 or more are projected to be launched by 2030, according to market analyses. In-space servicing, assembly, and manufacturing (ISAM) technology has the potential to improve current satellite capabilities and to open new capabilities, such as orbital debris removal, space-based solar energy, larger space telescopes, and human deep-space exploration. In 2022, the Office of Science and Technology Policy published a national strategy and an implementation plan to guide federal ISAM activities. The plan named various agencies, including the Department of Defense (DOD) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), to lead these activities. DOD and NASA have spent more than \$2 billion developing in-space servicing demonstration missions over the past decade, according to agency documentation and officials. Other countries are also developing and demonstrating ISAM technologies.

The full 53 page report can be downloaded from the announcement page at

<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-107555>.

National Space Society 2025 Roadmap to Space Student Art Contest

The National Space Society is again holding its Roadmap to Space Student Art Contest, which is international in scope. One major modification is that this year the Club for the Future will be a key cosponsor of the contest. The Club for the Future is a non-profit organization founded by Blue Origin with the mission of inspiring and mobilizing future generations to pursue careers in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) for the benefit of Earth. A key program of the Club is its Postcards to Space project.

Full contest details are available at nss.org/nss-roadmap-to-space-art-contest/.

This Issue's Quotation

" We should have positive expectations of what is in the universe, not fears and dreads. We are made with the realization that we're not Earthbound, and that our acceptance of the universe offers us room to explore and extend outward. It's like being in a dark room and imagining all sorts of terrors. But when we turn on the light --technology-- suddenly it's just a room where we can stretch out and explore. If the resources here on Earth are limited, they are not a limited in the universe. We are not constrained by the limitations of our planet.... As children have to leave the security of family and home life to insure growth into mature adults, so also must humankind leave the security and familiarity of Earth to reach maturity and obtain the highest attainment possible for the human race. "

Nichelle Nichols, The Future is Now, 1981

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the National Space Society

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