

MATE ROV COMPETITION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUG 2026

MATE HOME

REGIONAL LS

EVENTS

RESOURCES



MATE MASHUP

The 2026 MATE ROV Season May Be Over, But the Journey Is Just Beginning

The 2026 MATE ROV Competition season has officially wrapped, but the excitement, inspiration, and momentum from this year's World Championship are still going strong. After months of designing, building, testing, troubleshooting, and teamwork, students from around the world came together to put their skills to the test—and celebrate everything they accomplished along the way.

From regional events across the globe to the 2026 World Championship in Canada, the 2026 competition season showcased the incredible creativity and determination of the MATE community. Every team brought its own unique story to the competition, but all shared the same drive to learn, solve problems, work together, and push the boundaries of what's possible with underwater technology.

And while the competition may have ended, the connections made and skills developed through MATE will continue to make an impact well beyond the pool. Students leave the season with more than technical experience—they take with them the confidence to tackle complex challenges, the ability to collaborate as a team, and a deeper understanding of what it means to turn an idea into reality.

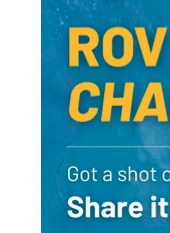
This month, we're taking a look back at the people and moments that made the 2026 season so special, while also looking ahead to what's next for MATE. From gathering with Regional Coordinators in Federal Way, Washington, to visiting the site of the 2027 MATE ROV World Championship, the next chapter is already taking shape.

Thank you to every student, educator, mentor, volunteer, Regional Coordinator, sponsor, and supporter who made this season possible. We're proud of what this community accomplished together—and we can't wait to see where the journey takes us next!

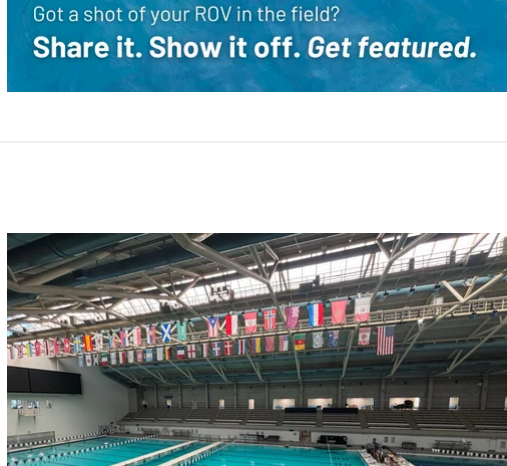
Jill Zande

MATE Executive Director | Marine Technology Society (MTS)

(And everyone here at Team MATE!)



STAY AFLOAT

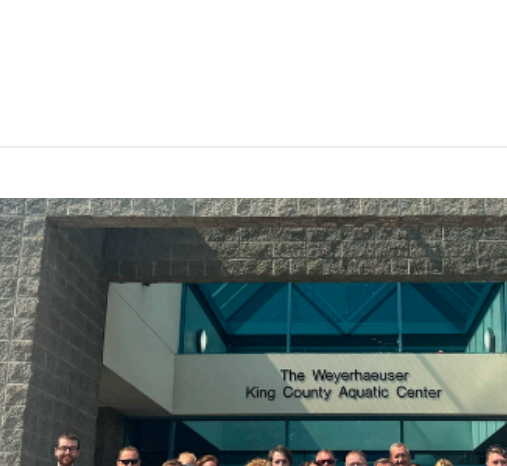


MTS ROV Photo Challenge

The MTS ROV Photo Challenge is back - and we want to see who can capture the most epic ROV moments from the MTS community. From poolside practice runs to those picture-perfect mission successes, every shot tells a story. Now's your chance to show the world your ROV in action!

Submission deadline: October 30, 2026

[Learn More and Submit Your Photos Here >>>](#)



2027 MATE ROV World Championship Site Visit Recap

The MATE ROV team recently visited Federal Way, Washington, to tour the site and begin planning for the **2027 MATE ROV World Championship**. The visit was an exciting opportunity to explore the facilities, meet with local partners, and get a firsthand look at the space that will soon welcome teams from around the world. See more in *What's on Deck* below!

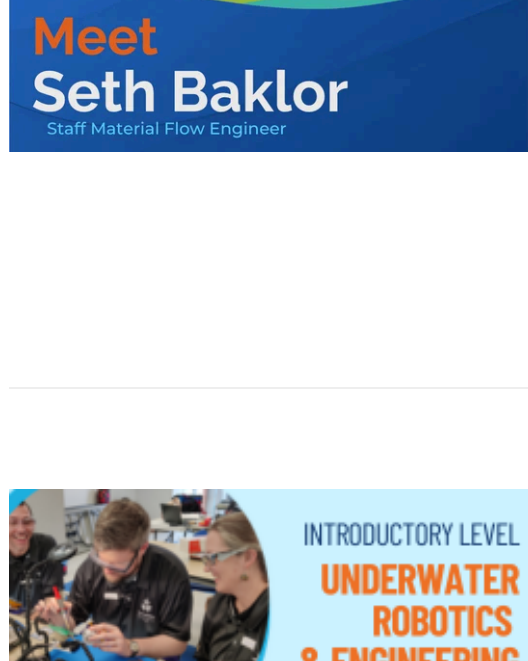


MATE ROV Regional Coordinator's Meeting Recap

Earlier this month, the MATE ROV Regional Coordinators gathered in Seattle, Washington, for a productive in-person meeting focused on strengthening the competition and supporting the teams, educators, and volunteers who make it possible. Coordinators shared ideas, lessons learned, and best practices while also taking part in professional development activities (they built SeaMATE ROV kits and sensors!) and looking ahead to the upcoming season. It was a great opportunity to connect, collaborate, and build momentum for another exciting year of MATE ROV!



GUIDING THE ROVolution



Alumni Highlight: Seth Baklor

Seth was one of the many MATE alumni volunteering at the 2026 MATE ROV World Championship! Competing from 2008-2012, Seth started the Explorer Class team at Purdue University! Hear how MATE helped shaped Seth's career path and why he still comes back to MATE competitions today!

"Nothing has had a greater impact on my professional life than my experiences with MATE. It is also where I grew my closest friendships."

[Learn More about Seth and Other MATE Alumni >>>](#)

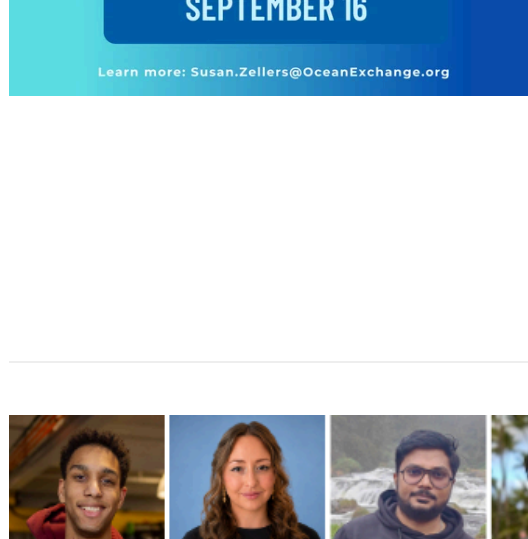


Upcoming MATE ROV Academy Workshop

Ready to bring underwater robotics into your classroom or STEM program? Join the MATE ROV Academy and Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary for a free professional development workshop September 25–26, 2026, at the University of Wisconsin in Sheboygan, WI.

Participants will gain practical experience with underwater robotics and activities they can bring back to their classrooms, homeschools, or STEM clubs using the [Pufferfish ROV Kit](#) or comparable components.

[Learn More & Register >>>](#)



\$40,000 in Funding Available!

MATE teams—this is a great opportunity to take your work further!

[Ocean Exchange](#), one of MATE's flagship programs, has officially opened applications for the 2026 Collegiate Call for Solutions.

If your team is developing innovative solutions, whether inspired by ROV design, ocean data, aquaculture, or beyond, this is a chance to gain visibility and connect with leaders across the ocean enterprise.

Deadline to Apply: September 16, 2026

[Learn More & Submit >>>](#)



Congratulations to the 2026 MTS EMERGE Recipients!

With our largest cohort yet, we are excited to welcome the 2026 EMERGE participants (several of whom are former MATE competitors)! Each year, MTS proudly supports the growth and development of emerging professionals in the field of marine technology through the [EMERGE Program](#). We are excited to introduce this year's participants, who have exhibited outstanding dedication and a strong commitment to advancing marine technology. Interested in becoming an EMERGE participant? Applications open next year for the 2027 cohort!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2026 EMERGE RECIPIENTS >>>](#)



SEAS THE DEALS



Coming Soon to the SeaMATE Store: New Ways to Explore, Observe, and Learn

Exciting new technology is surfacing at the SeaMATE Store! This fall, two new products will give MATE teams even more ways to enhance their ROVs, collect real-world data, and build the technical skills that power underwater exploration.

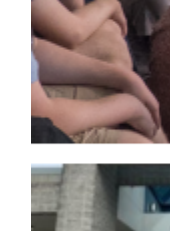
Advanced Underwater Camera Kit:

Designed with MATE teams in mind, the Advanced Underwater Camera Kit includes a USB camera in a waterproof aluminum housing designed for easy camera access. Whether you're in the pool testing or on deck competing, it'll help you see it through. *Coming Fall 2026.*

Barracuda Temperature Sensor:

The Barracuda Temperature Sensor is a new add-on kit designed for your Barracuda ROV Kit and built to integrate with the Arduino and LCD display already included in your kit. You'll be able to start collecting real temperature data on every dive. *Coming Fall 2026.*

[LEARN MORE >>>](#)



WHAT'S ON DECK

The 2027 MATE ROV World Championship Location



We're excited to announce that the 2027 MATE ROV World Championship will take place in Federal Way, Washington, USA at the [Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center](#)! After a recent site visit, we're already looking ahead to welcoming teams, educators, mentors, volunteers, and supporters from around the world to the Pacific Northwest. The last time the MATE World Championship was hosted here was in 2018!

The 2027 World Championship will be the next exciting chapter in the MATE ROV journey, bringing the global MATE community together to celebrate innovation, teamwork, and the incredible underwater technology skills developed throughout the season. The 2027 competition season is also the 25th anniversary of MATE!

We can't wait to see you in Federal Way in 2027. Stay tuned for more details as we begin preparing for another unforgettable World Championship!

Save the Date: The 2027 MATE ROV World Championship is June 24-26, 2027!



