MATE ROV COMPETITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEB 2026

MATE MASHUP

Kicking Off the 2026 MATE ROV Competition Season!

Hello MATE Community!

It's full steam — or better yet, full salt — ahead for our MATE global community! As teams focus in on building, testing, workshops are popping up around the world. Including the Pufferfish ROV Workshop coming up in Washington state that you can read more about below! We are also excited to share the 2026 Competition Resources page. This is where recently by our partners in Sweden, we've prepared for upcoming MATE ROV Competition regional events, and it's clear this season is moving in fast, and the momentum is building!

We have resources galore of 2026 competition manuals, fly through videos, parts lists, and more are available for you to dive into (just intended). If you haven't seen it yet, it's time to review the mission tasks and specifications, strategize, design solutions, and begin building! Keep an eye on the 2026 Competition Resources page for the latest updates.

We are so thankful for how much our MATE community has been sharing their progress, experiences, and wins with us via e-mails and social media (we love to tag us!). The more we collaborate and innovate together, the bigger and more impactful we can be, whether as a regional or global community.

And for our U.K. friends: we're excited to share that our Marine Technology Society colleague will be attending the Ocean Science Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland and Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England. If you'd like to share and would like to connect with our colleague, let us know. We'd love to see more of our MATE family here, visible across the pond!

With our World Championship registration to Canada and our first ever saltwater (and sweet!) mission, one thing is for sure: the season ahead will definitely be like none we've ever had before.

See you in the water!

Jill Zande
MATE Executive Director | Marine Technology Society (MTS)

(And everyone here at Team MATE!)

ROV RADAR

REMINDER: All Class Competition Manuals Are Now Live!

The wait is over! :)

The 2026 Competition Manuals for all classes are now LIVE! All versions are officially available in the preparations begin.

SCOUT | NAVIGATOR | RANGER | PIONEER | EXPLORER

Resources, Resources, Resources!

The 2026 Competition Resources are rolling out! Here's a recap of what's been released this month. Stay tuned for 2026 Competition Resources page for more updates as the season unfolds!

Parts Lists: EXPLORER | PIONEER | RANGER | NAVIGATOR | SCOUT

Prop Building Instructions: EXPLORER | PIONEER | RANGER | NAVIGATOR | SCOUT

CAD Models: Courtesy of Sweaborg: EXPLORER | PIONEER | RANGER

CAD Model of Environment: Courtesy of UNMO: EXPLORER | PIONEER | RANGER

Fly Through Video: EXPLORER | PIONEER | RANGER | NAVIGATOR | SCOUT

STAY AFLOAT

2026 World Championship Registration Is Open!

Reminder: the doors to the MATE ROV Competition 2026 World Championship registration are OPEN! Get ready to join us in beautiful Newfoundland, Canada, Canada from June 25-27, 2026. We can't wait to see you there!

Register for World Championship >>>

Book Your Hotel for the 2026 World Championship!

We've snagged some awesome rooms in St. Johns, Canada for the 2026 MATE ROV Championship! RUN DON'T WALK - book your hotel room today! Hotel rooms are limited and room prices are high demand and won't stick around for long.

Book Now >>>

MATE Makes a Splash at ACTE CareerTech VISION!

MATE ROV Competition Network Development Director Judy Patterson and SeaWATE Store Operations Coordinator Quinn Fellner recently represented MATE at the ACTE CareerTech VISION Conference, held December 8-12 in Nashville, Tennessee.

With more than 6,000 attendees, the sold-out conference provided an excellent opportunity to connect with Career & Technical Education (CTE) leaders, including administrators, department heads, curriculum specialists, and educators focused in K–12 programs. The team shared how MATE ROV supports STEM engagement and awareness of the MATE ROV Competition within CTE-focused communities.

Looking ahead, MATE is already planning to participate in the 2026 CareerTech VISION Conference in New Orleans, which will run concurrently with the WorldSkill Committee, Leadership & Technical Skills (LTS) and Technical Committee meetings. This upcoming presents unique opportunity to strengthen connections between educators and industry and continue building pathways from classrooms to the maritime workforce.

(NOT SO) HIDDEN TREASURES

Marine Technology Society Scholarships 💰

Each year MTS awards significant scholarship funding to undergraduate and graduate students who are accepted into or enrolled in full-time marine-related degree programs in marine science or technology engineering, or science.

Deadline: March 23, 2026.

Learn More & Apply >>>

MATE Floats!

Each year, the National Center for Autonomous Technologies (NCAT) and its maritime partners host the MATE Floats! Marine Technology Summer Workshop at the University of Washington. This hands-on learning experience for high school and undergraduate students focused on GO-BCC, float technology and ocean data science. The target audience is students who have little or no exposure to ocean technical colleges, but four year university students and high school seniors are welcome to apply. The 2026 Workshop will take place from August 17-21.

Deadline: April 10, 2026 (Priority) | May 1 (Final).

Learn More & Apply >>>

Glider Technology Summer Workshop

From June 8 – 12, the MTS Glider Technology Summer Workshop will be held on campus at Scripps Oceanography, providing participants real-world training in piloting and programming gliders to navigate the ocean, learning mission planning and data analysis from experts, and exploring how ocean gliders support climate science and marine research.

Deadline: March 20, 2026.

Learn More & Apply >>>

ROV and Sonar Workshop

From June 15 – 19, the MTS ROV and Sonar Workshop will be held on site at Northwestern Polytechnic Gallup. This week-long program is a hands-on introduction to the fundamentals of ROV and marine systems. Participants will log time on research vessels, and collect data using ROVs, sonars, and other sensors while learning multiple applications of these technologies.

Learn More & Apply >>>

MTS San Diego Internships

The Marine Technology Society (MTS) San Diego Section Internship Program provides a unique opportunity for students to work closely with industry professionals, researchers, and innovators in ocean technology and science. The program is open to any high school, undergraduate, or graduate student currently enrolled in an accredited institution.

Deadline: March 20, 2026.

Learn More & Apply >>>

Community College Innovation Challenge

The Community College Innovation Challenge (CCICs) is led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is a national competition where community college student teams, working with a faculty or administrator mentor, use science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to innovate solutions to real-world problems; participate in an Innovation Boot Camp; and compete for cash awards.

Deadline: April 3, 2026.

Learn More & Apply >>>

GUIDING THE ROVolution

MATE ROV Academy: Introductory Robotics & Engineering Design

This workshop is designed to help participants understand the engineering design process through hands-on underwater robotics. Participants learn the fundamentals of ROV building and engage in interactive lectures, hands-on labs, and collaborative activities that can be easily integrated into classrooms or after school programs.

LEARN MORE >>>

SEAS THE DEALS

TYPC FRAME NOT INCLUDED

Meet the Kits: AngelFish ROV Kit Deep Dive

If you're looking for a hands-on way to introduce engineering, robotics, and teamwork to young learners, the SeaMATE AngelFish ROV is where confidence—and curiosity—begins. Designed specifically for elementary and middle school classrooms, homeschool co-ops, and short after-school programs, AngelFish is a true beginner kit that turns big STEM ideas into achievable, exciting wins.

We've broken down everything you need to know to get started with the AngelFish ROV kit at the blog linked below. Here are the highlights:

Who it's For:

- First-time ROV students looking to build their foundational robotics skills
- Perfect for introductory classrooms or short after-school clubs

Key Skills Learned:

- Circuits
- Soldering
- Teamwork

Highlights:

- The AngelFish Kit is reusable, providing the ability to re-practice and hone in on skills — or to share with other students.
- Can include optional soldering wires
- Estimated assembly time: 6 - 12 hours

What Comes Next:

- Moving into our Pufferfish ROV Kit, which combines these foundational beginner skills with intermediate ones!

READ FULL STORY >>>

SEAFARING SPONSORS

Thank you to Oceaneering International!

Oceaneering International has been a truly invaluable partner to the MATE ROV Competition. They have provided steady support throughout the MATE ROV Competition's growth over the years, showcasing just how much they value creating opportunities for aspiring and upcoming marine technologists. Because of their support, our competitors always are able to take part in the collaboration, innovation, and creativity that defines the MATE ROV Competition. We are so grateful to them for their support!

Learn More >>>

WHAT'S ON DECK

The MATE ROV 2026 Competition is in Full Swing!

Spring will be full of events as we head full speed towards the MATE ROV Competition 2026 World Championship — so be sure to keep checking in as important dates and deadlines are announced!

Upcoming Events

April 4: Pakistan Regional | REGISTER
April 15: Scotland Regional | REGISTER
April 16-17: Red Sea Regional | REGISTER
April 18: Florida Regional | REGISTER
April 23-25: Egypt Regional | REGISTER
April 24-26: Northern Gulf Coast Regional | REGISTER
April 25: Monterey Bay Regional | REGISTER
April 25-26: ROV Regional | REGISTER
May 1: Quebec Regional | REGISTER
May 2: Appalachian Highlands Regional | REGISTER
May 1-2: Gray's Reef Southeast Regional | REGISTER
May 7: Newfoundland & Labrador Regional | REGISTER
May 8: Oregon Regional | REGISTER
May 9: Coastal Carolina Regional | REGISTER
May 9: Texas Regional | REGISTER
May 16: Great Lakes Regional | REGISTER
June 19-21: World Championship - Alpena, Michigan | REGISTER

More regional dates and registration coming soon!

Stay On Board with MATE ROV 2026!

As the MATE ROV Competition progresses, make sure to keep checking in throughout the beginning of 2026 — we will be posting dates and info for regional competitions regularly!

2026 SEASON UPDATES >>>

(831) One Grande Circle, Suite 105, WATSONVILLE, CA, 95076, United States