



1
00:00:01,730 --> 00:00:07,200

The next threesome headed for the International Space Station includes two men who never dreamed

2
00:00:07,200 --> 00:00:13,900

they would fly in space, and one for whom being a cosmonaut is a family tradition.

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00:00:13,900 --> 00:00:18,400

Doctor Steve Swanson was born in Syracuse, New York and moved with his family a number

4
00:00:18,400 --> 00:00:23,369

of times before ending up in Steamboat Springs, Colorado as he entered his teens.

5
00:00:23,369 --> 00:00:29,499

It's a beautiful place, love the mountains, I love the area, and, uh, when I grew up there

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00:00:29,499 --> 00:00:34,460

it was definitely like a half agricultural ranching community and half resort, and it

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00:00:34,460 --> 00:00:36,070

was a great combination.

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00:00:36,070 --> 00:00:41,030

He stayed at home for college, got his Bachelor's Of Science in Engineering Physics at the University

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00:00:41,030 --> 00:00:47,039

Of Colorado, but then went to Florida Atlantic University to get his Masters Of Applied Science

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00:00:47,039 --> 00:00:48,820

in Computer Systems.

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00:00:48,820 --> 00:00:53,539

At that point he considered his options, and the job of astronaut seemed to have what he

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00:00:53,539 --> 00:00:55,160

was looking for.

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00:00:55,160 --> 00:00:59,809

After a year working as an engineer in Phoenix he got a job as an engineer at the Johnson

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00:00:59,809 --> 00:01:05,260

Space Center's Aircraft Operations Division, working on the Shuttle Training Aircraft while

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00:01:05,260 --> 00:01:09,100

earning his Doctorate in Computer Science from Texas A&M.

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00:01:09,100 --> 00:01:14,840

He was chosen for the astronaut program in 1998 and made his first flight in 2007 on

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00:01:14,840 --> 00:01:18,690

a mission to deliver a truss segment to the International Space Station.

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00:01:18,690 --> 00:01:24,160

Swanson made two spacewalks on that mission, and two more on a 2009 shuttle flight that

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00:01:24,160 --> 00:01:28,480

delivered another truss segment to outfit the station to perform its mission.

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00:01:28,480 --> 00:01:32,010

We're going off now, we're trying to get science better, we're also trying to find

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00:01:32,010 --> 00:01:36,500

maybe a, a place that we could go to, uh,

to maybe, you know, get resources off the

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00:01:36,500 --> 00:01:37,500

moon.

23

00:01:37,500 --> 00:01:38,500

We could go explore Mars.

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00:01:38,500 --> 00:01:42,720

All these kind of ideas are things I think
as human nature we just have to do

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00:01:42,720 --> 00:01:47,860

Alexander Skvortsov was born in Schelkovo,
near Moscow, because his father's job—as

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00:01:47,860 --> 00:01:52,960

a cosmonaut—brought the family to Star City,
a town with no maternity ward.

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00:01:52,960 --> 00:01:57,250

But soon after his birth Skvortsov's father
left the cosmonaut corps, and the military

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00:01:57,250 --> 00:02:00,120

took the family to Morshansk.

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00:02:00,120 --> 00:02:07,880

And I still love the town, a very big quiet
river, a wonderful nature, wonderful forests,

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00:02:07,880 --> 00:02:09,130

very good people.

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00:02:09,130 --> 00:02:13,920

I like that town and I have, there are a lot
of people who graduated from high school with

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00:02:13,920 --> 00:02:16,299

me, my classmates, still live there.

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00:02:16,299 --> 00:02:22,440

After high school Skvortsov set out to fulfill his dream of being a cosmonaut, like his father.

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00:02:22,440 --> 00:02:27,290

After he completed study at the Stavropol Air Force Pilot and Navigator School, he spent

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00:02:27,290 --> 00:02:32,409

seven years in the National Air Defense Force before studying at the Military Red Banner

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00:02:32,409 --> 00:02:34,239

Air Defense Academy.

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00:02:34,239 --> 00:02:39,689

Skvortsov graduated the academy in 1997, the same year he was selected for the cosmonaut

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00:02:39,689 --> 00:02:40,689

corps.

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00:02:40,689 --> 00:02:46,019

He spent six months on the International Space Station in 2010, including serving as station

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00:02:46,019 --> 00:02:49,060

commander for Expedition 24.

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00:02:49,060 --> 00:02:53,329

After he returned to Earth he finished his studies at the Russian Academy of Civil Service

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00:02:53,329 --> 00:03:00,400

to become a lawyer, and he retired from the air force as a colonel in 2013.

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00:03:00,400 --> 00:03:10,580

It is an enormous joy to look down to Earth,
and we really want to see Earth always looking

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00:03:10,580 --> 00:03:16,219

as beautiful as we see it from space, a blue
planet with wonderful nature

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00:03:16,219 --> 00:03:21,329

Oleg Artemiev was born in Riga, the capital
of Latvia, where his military officer father

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00:03:21,329 --> 00:03:22,629

was stationed.

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00:03:22,629 --> 00:03:27,540

But the family soon moved to Kazakhstan, to
the town now known as Baikonur, when Artemiev

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00:03:27,540 --> 00:03:29,140

was a small boy.

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00:03:29,140 --> 00:03:33,480

Although he lived in the place where people
were launched into space, he wanted to be

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00:03:33,480 --> 00:03:34,480

a sailor.

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00:03:34,480 --> 00:03:35,480

Cosmonauts?

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00:03:35,480 --> 00:03:39,739

...we always thought of cosmonauts as the
people that we always have to go meet and

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00:03:39,739 --> 00:03:40,849

greet.

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00:03:40,849 --> 00:03:45,730

They would pull us out of the activities that we actually enjoyed, they would line us up

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00:03:45,730 --> 00:03:50,079

along the road and make us wave little flags to greet them.

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00:03:50,079 --> 00:03:54,840

After high school Artemiev went off to train as a sailor, but when that didn't work out

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00:03:54,840 --> 00:03:59,819

he went to the Tallinn Polytechnic Institute and graduated into a job as an electrician,

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00:03:59,819 --> 00:04:03,540

but soon left that to join the Soviet army.

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00:04:03,540 --> 00:04:07,880

After two years in the service he went to Moscow and was admitted to the Bauman Technical

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00:04:07,880 --> 00:04:13,120

University, where he earned a degree in low temperature physics and technology; that got

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00:04:13,120 --> 00:04:17,880

him a job at the Rocket Space Corporation Energia, where he worked building and testing

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00:04:17,880 --> 00:04:24,100

space vehicles, including preparing the International Space Station's Zvezda module for launch.

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00:04:24,100 --> 00:04:30,570

He was selected to start training as a cosmonaut in 2003; in 2009 he participated in the Mars-500

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00:04:30,570 --> 00:04:36,820

experiment, along with future cosmonaut Sergey Ryazanskiy, on his way to preparing for his

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00:04:36,820 --> 00:04:38,670

first spaceflight assignment.

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00:04:38,670 --> 00:04:49,950

I hope that my small contribution will help those who will eventually make a first step

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00:04:49,950 --> 00:04:57,070

on the surface of Mars or touch an asteroid, bring something good back, maybe even see

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00:04:57,070 --> 00:04:58,720

some extraterrestrial life.