



## John P. Shoffner

Born in Fairbanks, Alaska into a US Air Force family, John Shoffner's primary interest has always been with space, the stars and aviation. At the age of seven, John formed a young astronauts club with friends in his hometown of Middlesboro, Kentucky. The young aspiring astronaut closely followed the missions of Mercury, Gemini and Apollo, and he conducted his own astronaut training camps where he built space capsules and control rooms from cardboard boxes and paper barrels.

John continued his pursuit to become an astronaut by receiving an appointment to the US Air Force Academy in 1973. But, as he puts it, "I was a bit too free spirited at the time to adapt to the military lifestyle." John returned to his hometown and eventually founded a company during the early days of the fiber optic telecommunications industry where he developed and patented multiple processes for materials and methods involving the placement of fiber optic cable. The company became a world leader with operations in over 13 countries. John retired from the company as CEO in 1997, and the company remains a world market leader today.

A pilot since the age of 17, John has over 8,500 flight hours holding ratings of Commercial, Instrument, single-engine, multi-engine in land and sea aircraft and helicopter, along with multiple type ratings in ex-military jets and high-performance radial engine aircraft. An airshow pilot of nearly 30 years, John is the owner of Republic Thunderbolt P47D 'Wicked Wabbit', a well-known and popular vintage WWII fighter aircraft. It is one of less than a dozen remaining airworthy today.

As an athlete, John has many years of competition in multiple sports including water skiing, cycling (crossing the US in 18 days without support), white water kayaking, hang gliding, skydiving and base jumping. John met his wife and partner, Janine, of 21 years in the sport of skydiving where they competed regularly around the US making over 3,000 skydives and base jumps together.

In 2012, John turned his attention to motorsports and, with Janine, formed J2-Racing, an endurance racing motorsports team based at Germany's famous Nürburgring race track, where the team regularly competes in the top GT3 class, driving the Mercedes AMG GT3. John with J2-Racing have many class wins and podium finishes in the well-known NLS (former VLN) endurance series and ADAC 24 Hour at the Nürburgring and across Europe in the International GT Open series.

When not competing, John lives and trains in the US, Germany and Portugal, where he pursues personal projects related to health, fitness and longevity.

John is honored and excited to now have the opportunity to fly to space. He will serve as mission pilot with Commander Peggy Whitson on the Ax-2 mission. While on the ISS, John will learn how to translate terrestrial single-cell genomic methods to an orbital science process in collaboration with global leader 10x Genomics. He has already begun training as the Ax-1 backup pilot.