

COMMUNIQUE

#140

A NEW LOOK FOR AN OLD FAVORITE — REMASTERING STAR TREK by Alex Rosenzweig, USS Avenger

In 2006, Star Trek—the original, no subtitle, though it's sometimes called “Classic Trek” or “The Original Series” and abbreviated TOS—turned 40 years old...counting, of course, from its first airing on NBC.

Over the years, many fans have wondered what the show might look like if it were done with modern special effects. After all, while the show's VFX (visual effects, for the uninitiated) work was top-notch in 1966-1969, effects technology has progressed by leaps and bounds, and what was completely impossible when TOS was created is now easily done today. In fact, there have been many efforts to portray the original technology of the Classic Trek era using modern artistic and VFX practices, ranging from gorgeous computer-generated renderings of the *Constitution*-class *Enterprise* to new film projects portraying the era of the Original Star Trek, such as “Exeter”, “New Voyages”, “Starship Farragut”, etc. There have even been several projects to explore the potentials for “redoing” the original Star Trek episodes themselves with new effects. A favorite, of course, is the effects-heavy and visually-dynamic episode “The Doomsday Machine”, which has been the focus of several projects, notably Darren Dochterman's “Trek Enhanced”.

But for all the interest in the question of new visual effects for Classic Trek, for many years the studio held aloof from the possibility. There were many arguments put forth for this, including a lack of profit to be made and a desire not to tamper with the original material. And, indeed, many of Star Trek's fans themselves feared any such project, concerned that some of the basic storytelling would be altered, as occurred when George Lucas created his Special Editions of the first three “Star Wars” films.

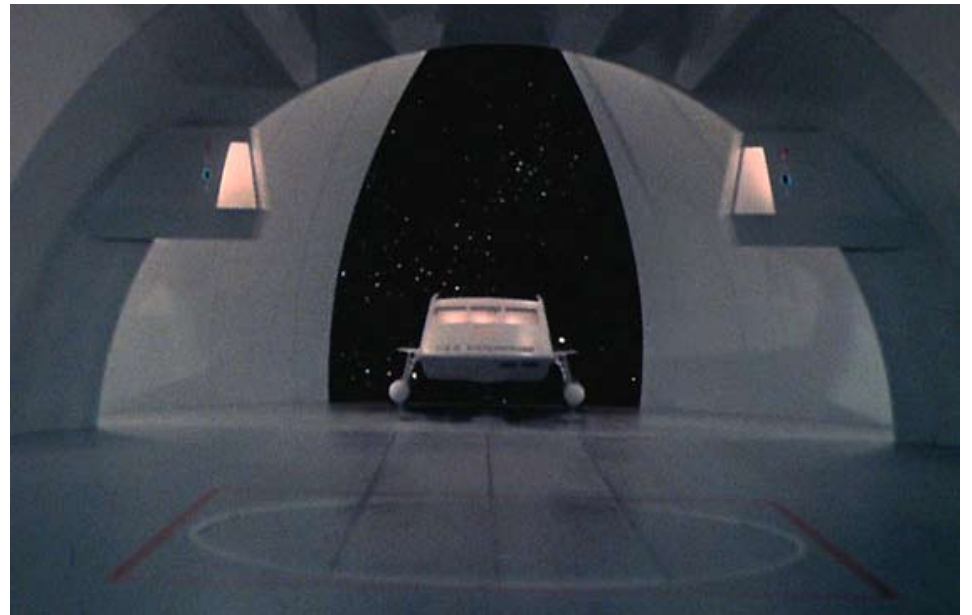
In 2006, however, that changed. Very quietly, early in the year, CBS/Paramount decided to embark on a project to update the visual effects for all 79 episodes of Star Trek, as well as to clean up and remaster the original live action footage, as well. The project—known as “Star Trek Remastered”, with new effects created by CBS Digital—was headed up by long-time Star Trek VFX designer and associate producer David Rossi, and including, as additional producers, Michael and Denise Okuda, whose history with Star Trek, at least in Michael's case, extends back to the mid-1980s. Rossi and the Okudas are also huge Star Trek fans, and were lured to the project in part because the studio assured them that it was committed to the idea that new VFX upgrades would remain absolutely true to the original material.

The project was announced to the public in August of 2006, a few weeks before the episodes were first set to air in syndication. “Trek Remastered” would replace “Star Trek: Enterprise” in the weekly syndication slots held by the latter show, with broadcast rights for “Enterprise” soon afterward being sold to the Sci-Fi Channel.

Fans were skeptical at first, with many hardcore purists looking on in terror at what they feared might arrive on their television screens. While some of the purists are still unsatisfied, preferring that nothing ever impinge on enjoyment of the show in its original form, what many other viewers discovered was that it **is** in fact possible to upgrade the original effects for Star Trek without betraying the artistic integrity of the original material. Indeed, it wasn't long before even some of the purist-types were commenting, “Well, if you're going to upgrade the effects, you don't have to be *quite* so conservative...” Still, there were a few problems to be ironed out in the earliest Remastered episodes. Notably, people were not fully happy with the look of the forward nacelle domes, and there were complaints that the ship looked too flat and “cartoony”.

As it turned out, there were a few reasons for the early complaints, and they were gradually but steadily addressed. Aside from the ubiquitous problems of not enough time to do everything desired, it turned out that the CG model of the *Enterprise* was giving the VFX team problems. Ironically, it was *too good*. It was so detailed that not only would most of the fine detail never be visible on the TV screen (even at high-definition), but it took so long to render that the team could only do relatively simple shots with it. A few months later, they created a new model of the ship. It was much less detailed, but was more accurate and allowed much more versatility in the effects created. It debuted in November 2006. One thing is for certain: these new effects clearly show

Cont. on page 18



The original shuttle bay sequence from “Journey to Babel” as it appeared in 1967



The same sequence from “Journey to Babel” remastered in HD

USPS 017-671

From The Editor...

By John Adcock, Editor-In-Chief

Welcome to the all-new CQ.

Beginning with this issue we've taken a whole new approach to what the official newsletter of STARFLEET should be. Our first priority is to put the "news" back in "newsletter". As a result, you're going to see stories on what's really happening inside STARFLEET. We're still going to report on regional events, chapter events, and the goings-on around the fleet that you are used to reading about in the CQ, but we're also going to report on Star Trek. After all, we are a collection of Star Trek fan clubs and the love of and for Trek is what unites us.

To celebrate this, we've taken the look and feel of the CQ in a direction indicative of what made Star Trek great; The Original Series. With Star Trek now available on television in a remastered, high definition form (see Alex Rosenzweig's fantastic Trek Remastered article on page 1), and with the announcement of the new film set during the Original Series time period, it's a great time to celebrate the original Star Trek in all its glory.

This month we're featuring "Star Trek Remastered" by Alex Rosenzweig of the USS Avenger. Alex's knowledge of the Original Series is unmatched in STARFLEET, and his article is a fantastic introduction to the remastered version of the show airing in syndication around the country.

As much as I enjoyed The Next Generation and Deep Space Nine, I've always felt that the Original Series had the best characters and told the greatest stories. The fact that we're seeing a resurgence in interest in the Original Series is incredibly exciting to me, and that's what being a Star Trek fan is all about.

Finally, we welcome letters to the editor. If you have a strong opinion on a Star Trek or STARFLEET related topic, need to get something off your chest, or just flat out disagree with what we've published, we invite any member to write to the editor. If your letter is well written, we'll run it, even if it's critical of the editorial staff and our policies.

This is a STARFLEET newsletter for STARFLEET members, and that's all of us.



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IC 2006 Aftermath

by Mark Anbinder, IC Liaison

One of the tasks put to me as IC Liaison in the Office of the Commander, STARFLEET, before I took the role of VCS at FADM Rickard's request, was to address the surprising failure of IC 2006 to live up to some of its obligations in the wake of last summer's International Conference in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, as of this writing, we still don't have a complete picture of what happened and why, but I feel it's important to share what we do know.

The problems fall into two areas: unfulfilled obligations to attendees and other STARFLEET members, and unfulfilled obligations to the charities that were to benefit from IC 2006 revenue. Both sets of problems arise from the event's apparent cash shortfall. As far as we can tell, IC 2006 did not take in enough revenue to cover all of its obligations.

One of the issues we face is that much of what we know is based on conjecture. The event's chair and primary organizer, FADM Michael Smith, has declined to respond to nearly all attempts to communicate with him about the situation by phone, e-mail, or postal mail. The IC treasurer apparently never had access to any of the event's accounts or financial records, so was unable to help.

What's the Situation? As a result of inadequate financial record-keeping and commingling of funds, it appears that moneys that should have been earmarked for specific charities were instead spent to cover operating expenses and shortfalls in the expected income. While funds that were laid out by STARFLEET to cover a required hotel deposit have been mostly repaid to the organization, we believe IC 2006 no longer has enough additional funds to cover remaining obligations. Money that should be going to charities simply doesn't exist, and money to pay for ordered merchandise and shipping it out is similarly not available.

As near as we can tell, IC 2006 took additional merchandise orders at the IC itself, and online in the weeks following the IC, with every intention of filling them. Due to a shortage of IC funds and/or other factors that we don't know about, it has taken much longer than expected for them to do so. We know that they had the challenge coins to fill orders for those items. We know they obtained the polo shirts and have filled some of those orders. We know they ordered the t-shirts but had not picked them up or paid for them yet. We have now obtained all of this merchandise, and sent the items to the members who ordered them.

I wish there were a single, complete explanation we could offer for these problems, but the one person with all of the answers isn't providing them to us. What we can only assume began with the best of intentions has ended up as quite a mess, and we're sorry for all of the frustrations that have resulted. I realize that many members have felt cheated by the delays in fulfillment of merchandise orders and a few anticipated refunds, and, as you can tell, we're doing our best to resolve all such problems to the extent we can.

Will the Charities be Paid? As with most charity events, the general plan at IC 2006 was to make donations to charities using surplus funds leftover after the expenses had been covered. In such an arrangement, if no money is left, the charity would get nothing.

However, in the case of IC 2006, there were also specific types of revenue (such as sales of door signs and challenge coins, and Pet Wall of Fame entries) that were specifically earmarked for charities. Even if there were no "extra" money leftover after covering expenses to go to the charities, the funds coming from these particular projects should have been set aside -- and, apparently, weren't.

We know that members very likely spent their money on these items expecting, if not in fact because, their money would go to the charities in question. So, we plan to see to it that donations are made to these charities.

Will Everyone Get their Merchandise? As I said above, we are doing our best to fulfill the orders taken but not filled by IC 2006. You probably saw my inquiries surveying the Fleet to determine what merchandise was still un-received. Based on the info received, including **Cont. on page 4**



IC 2006 Chair Mike Smith

IC 2006: The Real Truth

An Alternate Point of View Commentary by Emmett Plant

General Anbinder's appraisal of the IC situation, while quaint, twists the truth into an unrecognizable shape. From his perspective, all of the problems come from the fact that IC2006 just doesn't have all the money it thought it would, and this is why Starfleet members don't have the merchandise they have paid for, and also the reason why the charities haven't received donations. Hogwash.

Members of the current Executive Committee were informed of budgetary problems with IC06 by an IC06 staff member over four months before the event took place. This information was relayed and summarily ignored. During the planning of the conference itself, the Starfleet CS and CFO were to receive updates and records. This does not seem to have happened, and this is another red flag that was ignored. Two months after the conference, the Executive Committee received a financial report on the IC from the IC chair. Despite information from the IC Staff confirming that the report was wildly inaccurate and potentially fabricated, Starfleet CFO Pat Spillers used those numbers on Starfleet's annual form 990, filed with the IRS under the signature of the CS Les Rickard.

This should have been the final red flag, especially within an organization that remembers all too well what hell can and will be raised by the appearance of financial impropriety within its ranks. This should have been the point at which the Executive Committee took control of the situation, outlined a plan of action to the Admiralty Board, obtained a vote and resolved to make good on the promises that the IC made to the membership.

No dice. The next three months was spent fruitlessly attempting to get the IC chair to respond. Another three months in which Starfleet members hadn't received items they'd paid for, and another three months in which these members were given zero update on the unfolding situation. The Admiralty Board was officially notified of the situation on January 18th. While they have been aware of the issue for the past three months and occasionally discussed it, there has been no administrative action. Hope springs eternal.

At the time of this writing, April 8th 2007, there are still members that have paid for merchandise that have not received their merchandise, a refund, or any information on the status of either. It has been over eight months since people placed their orders.

But that's okay, says Mark. The Executive Committee that has ignored the red flags of IC06 and has done nothing in terms of accepting responsibility for the entire fiasco has seen fit to discuss new guidelines and promise more financial oversight into the management of the International Conference. An interesting position to take, especially as the current administration hasn't managed to enforce the procedures and guidelines already in place. Additionally, we're hearing this from the same person appointed by the CS to report issues on the International Conference to the Executive Committee.

There is an awful lot of hand-wringing on this issue from the EC. Some have said that it all comes down to oversight, and that changes will be made in the future. Others have said that changes must be made in how this potential oversight will be administered. Others have blamed much of this situation on the lack of oversight by the previous administration. There is a point to which these responses ring hollow, and that point was at least eight months ago.

I agree with Mark on one point -- We need to move on from the problems of IC06. The first step is not in placing blame, but admitting fault and accepting responsibility for mistakes. Only then can we move to the process of adapting IC financial procedures from a position of credibility, and not a moment before.

On a personal note, this stuff drives me crazy. A plan of action to solve this problem could have been put in place six months ago, and we'd be looking back at this situation with mere disappointment. Instead, we're dealing with responsibility issues over a conference that a mere fraction of our membership attended, leaving little room on the executive plate to provide the majority of the membership with new ideas for a stronger Starfleet.

Editor's Note: Letters to the Editor of an exceptional nature may be featured in "An Alternate Point of View". In addition, the Editor will occasionally ask someone with a differing opinion to comment on subjects important to the STARFLEET Membership.

STARFLEET CFO Removed From Office

A STARFLEET Press Service Report

On Sunday, April 15th, Admiral Mark Anbinder relieved STARFLEET Chief Financial Officer Pat Spillers of duty. Fleet Admiral Les Rickard had asked for Spillers' resignation only days before, but it was not forthcoming. In accordance with the STARFLEET Constitution, Article 6 Section 3, Fleet Admiral Rickard followed accepted procedure in relieving the CFO of her duties. Immediately thereafter, Commodore Liz Woolf of the USS Accord was named as the new CFO.



Ex-STARFLEET CFO Pat Spillers

More recently, questions have been raised regarding the STARFLEET financial report published in CQ #139. In the profit and loss statement (P&L), Spillers indicated that STARFLEET's expenses in CY06 were more than \$15,000 higher than the organization's income for the same period.

Upon review of the CY06 P&L, it appears that the lion's share of this loss was due to one department, the STARFLEET Quartermaster (QM). Interestingly, the QM is one of the few areas of STARFLEET other than Membership Processing that has the ability to generate a revenue stream. If not bringing in a profit, the department should be self-sustaining rather than a drain on STARFLEET's finances with a loss of over \$14,000.

Questions about Admiral Spillers' culpability in the IC06 fiasco have also been raised by members across the Fleet, primarily regarding IC06 chair Mike Smith's lack of financial reporting to the CFO as required by IC bid policy. Fleet Admiral Smith did not file a single report until June 2006, just prior to the actual event, a clear violation of STARFLEET policy. Admiral Spillers, when asked about Smith's reports in April and May 2006, claimed to be ignorant of the regulation, despite having chaired the previous year's IC. Exactly what report was used for IC06 when Admiral Spillers filed STARFLEET's IRS Form 990 in the fall of 2005 remains a mystery. Additionally, even though Fleet Admiral Smith's accounting for the IC 2006 finances were questionable, Spillers used those numbers for fleet's 990 in the fall of 2006.

It should be noted that Admiral Spillers could not have acted without the knowledge of the CS and VCS. For any expenditure to be made, two of the three (CS, VCS, CFO) must sign off on the purchase. If the CFO is the one making the request (as was the case when Spillers was Quartermaster), those expenditures must have been approved by the CS and VCS. In addition, the CFO provides monthly statements to the Executive Committee and Admiralty Board, and the Admiralty Board has its own Internal Auditor who reviews these statements. Despite this, no one on the EC or AB asked any questions about the accuracy of the reporting or reasons for these expenses. Not one member of either body seemed to notice that STARFLEET seemed to be in some financial trouble, spending far more than it was taking in. It is unclear if there was even a budget in place at the time, and if so, if it was being followed. It is also unclear when was the Constitutionally-mandated outside review of STARFLEET's books was performed, or by who. There is no available record of the results of those reviews, if they even occurred.

It should be noted that Admiral Spillers was very forthcoming with details of the financial status of the organization. She posted all records online, and reported as mandated in the CQ. There are less than three months remaining in STARFLEET's fiscal year (FY07). To date, the organization is showing a loss of over \$8,000. As we begin FY08, we will have the expenses of an election and transfer of the organization's equipment and materials to a new administration,

and there are indications that IC07 is experiencing financial difficulty as well. Ironically, the Quartermaster is now consistently showing a profit, which helps STARFLEET's bottom line considerably.

How many of these financial questions will be answered as we approach the end of the fiscal year remains to be seen. The Admiralty Board has, as of this writing, begun discussing some of the matters raised as a result of the failure of IC06.



New STARFLEET CFO Liz Woolf

IC 2006 Financial Mismanagement cont. From page 3

some material we obtained along with the polo shirts, we believe we have now finished filling those orders.

If this is the first you're hearing about this, and you have an un-fulfilled order of IC 2006 merchandise, please send me the details of your order and we'll see what we can do.

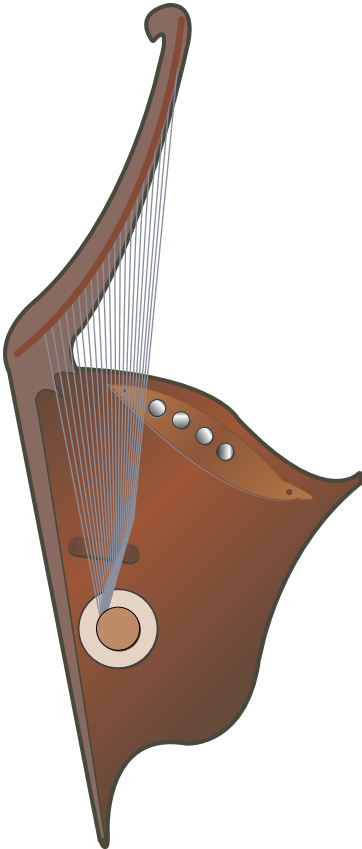
Will this Happen Again? Not surprisingly, IC 2007 and IC 2008 already face increased scrutiny as regards their event planning and financial management. STARFLEET's new Chief Financial Officer, Commodore Liz Woolf and I (in both my IC Liaison and VCS roles) are paying close attention, asking questions, and offering guidance to these groups as to our expectations.

The nature of the universe is such that we can't guarantee nothing will go wrong in the future. Simply put, we have to be able to trust our selected IC groups to responsibly run each event independently, with limited direct oversight. We can't babysit them; it wouldn't work, and even if it would, no one would put up with it.

But by making our expectations clear, by developing guidelines and reminding conference committees to follow them, and by holding these groups to the required reporting schedules, we can minimize the risk of future problems on this scale.

We also have to be prepared, in the event a group preparing an IC fails to meet STARFLEET's expectations for regular and forthright reporting, to step in and make changes. This would be a last resort, but one we'd have to consider in the event we lose confidence in an upcoming IC's ability to stay afloat on its own.

I'm grateful for everyone's patience as we worked to figure out the IC 2006 situation and come up with solutions to the solvable problems, and we're looking forward to putting the rest of this behind us. By all means let your Regional Coordinator know if you have any questions remaining about IC 2006, or contact STARFLEET HQ, and we'll look forward to seeing you at IC 2007 in Denver this summer!



United States Astronaut Hall of Fame to Induct Shuttle Commander, Mission Specialists

By Will Devine, STARFLEET Press Service

On May 5, 2007, three former astronauts will be inducted into the United States Astronaut Hall of Fame. Michael Coats, Steven Hawley, and Jeffrey Hoffman will be honored at the induction ceremony to be held at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The three men were selected by a committee of former NASA leaders, historians, journalists, and previous Hall of Fame inductees. The committee took into account the inductees' flight accomplishments and contributions to the success of the U.S. space program in other assignments. Eligibility requirements for inductees included having taken their first flight at least 20 years before the induction year, retirement from the NASA astronaut corps for at least 5 years, U.S. citizenship, NASA training, and having orbited the Earth at least once.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Michael Coats was a highly decorated naval aviator and test pilot prior to becoming an astronaut in 1979. His first mission was as pilot of STS-41-D in 1984, the maiden flight of the Space Shuttle Discovery. Here, the crew was able to activate a solar cell wing experiment, deploy three satellites, and earn the nickname "Icebusters" for removing ice from the orbiter with the mechanical arm. Coats was next selected to command STS-61-H, but this mission was cancelled after the Challenger accident. As commander of STS-29 in 1989, he led the crew in deploying a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite, experimenting with a space station "heat pipe" radiator, and taking over 3,000 photographs of the Earth. Coats' final mission was as commander of STS-39 in 1991, an unclassified mission for the Department of Defense. On this mission, the crew deployed, operated, and retrieved the SPAS-II spacecraft and conducted experiments with natural and induced atmospheric phenomena. He then worked in the private sector, including operating as Lockheed Martin's vice president of advanced space transportation, before being chosen as the 10th director of the Johnson Space Center in 2005.



Michael Coats

Prior to becoming an astronaut, Steven Hawley earned a BA in physics and astronomy from the University of Kansas and a PhD in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of California, Santa Cruz. His first mission was the aforementioned STS-41-D with Michael Coats. This was followed by STS-61-C in 1986, in which Hawley conducted the first quantitative observations of the shuttle "glow" phenomenon (the side of the shuttle facing the atmospheric wind would display a bright orange glow) and viewed galactic gas clouds in ultraviolet. During STS-31 in 1990, he helped to deploy the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). Hawley returned to the HST in 1997 with STS-82, in which he operated the 50-foot robot arm during five spacewalks in order to retrieve, upgrade, and redeploy the telescope. His final flight was with STS-93 in 1999, where he served as the Space Shuttle Columbia's flight engineer, helped deploy the Chandra X-ray Observatory, and made ultraviolet observations of solar system objects. Hawley later worked as the deputy chief of the astronaut office and director of flight crew operations. He is currently the director of astromaterials research and exploration science at the Johnson Space Center.



Steven Hawley

His

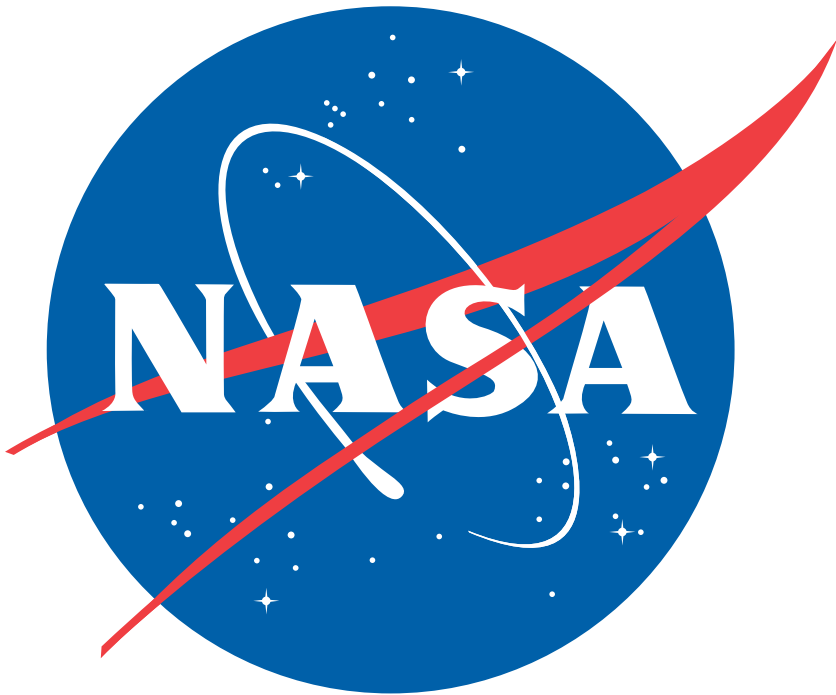
Jeffrey Hoffman received a BA in astronomy from Amherst College, a PhD

in astrophysics from Harvard University, and a MS in material science from Rice University. In his first mission with STS-51-D in 1985, he made the first unscheduled spacewalk in an effort to retrieve a malfunctioning satellite. Hoffman's second mission, STS-35 in 1990, was the first shuttle flight dedicated to astronomical research. He flew the ASTRO-1 ultraviolet astronomy laboratory, a project with which he had been involved since 1982. During STS-46 in 1992, Hoffman helped to deploy the European Retrieval Carrier (EURECA) and carry out the first test flight of the Tethered Satellite System (TSS), which were respectively joint projects with the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. His fourth flight was with STS-61 in 1993, where he made three spacewalks to service the Hubble Space Telescope. Hoffman returned to the TSS with STS-75 in 1996. On this mission, he made history by becoming the first astronaut to log 1,000 hours aboard the Space Shuttle. Hoffman later became NASA's European Representative in Paris and is now a professor in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Jeffrey Hoffman

The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame was conceived of by the six surviving Mercury 7 astronauts during the 1980s. It first opened in 1990 in Titusville, Florida outside of a gate to the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), and was operated jointly by the Mercury Seven Foundation and the U.S. Space Camp Foundation. The Hall of Fame is now part of the KSC Visitor Complex and boasts the world's largest collection of astronaut memorabilia and realistic astronaut training simulators. The Exhibit Hall features various spacecrafts, including a Mercury Sigma 7 capsule, a Gemini training capsule, and the Apollo 14 command module. With this year's three inductees, the Hall of Fame will honor 66 astronauts in all.



USS Challenger Becomes Proud Mothership to USS Britannic

By Bob Vosseller, STARFLEET Press Service

Farpoint Station was the launch point for the newest addition to the 7th Fleet. The USS Britannic officially commissioned at Farpoint on Feb. 18 during a ceremony at the Starfleet-Region 7 meeting that morning, and continued on with a special commissioning party held in the USS Challenger's hotel room at the convention.

Newly minted Capt. Wayne L. Augustson said, "On behalf of my crew, I'd like to thank all who were at Farpoint and for the support we receive at our commissioning! Much thanks to Joe Hoolihan for the (commissioning) cake; Beryl Washington and the Sovereign for the care package; and most of all to our mothership, USS Challenger and its crew."

Vice Regional Coordinator Beryl Washington (who also serves as CO of the USS Sovereign) presented Wayne a special Captain's goody bag complete with aspirin, toilet paper and other items he'll need during his many years of captaincy. The gifts were taken well and with many laughs.

The presentation followed a special commissioning ceremony that involved RC 7 Joe Hoolihan, Britannic mothership CO Adm. Bob Vosseller and ShOC Director Adm. Alex Rosenzweig. The ceremony was modeled after oaths seen in episodes of ST: TNG and ST:DS9.

The ceremony included several references of "well behaved" crew...so the mothership CO had to clarify to Wayne that he shouldn't use his mothership as a model pertaining to anything concerning a well-behaved crew.

During the evening party hosted by the USS Challenger, Wayne was presented a special plaque featuring a scroll officially designating the ship operational. A Christmas ornament featuring the new Galaxy II class ship was also given to Wayne, a gift from Adm. Vosseller.

Just to clear up any possible confusion, a Galaxy II Class ship does not have three nacelles and is not the same ship seen in "All Good Things." That was only a joke reference of Britannic's breach birth coming out of the hangar bay of the USS Challenger, which is a Galaxy Class ship.

Wayne added that "The commissioning party and the gifts were greatly appreciated and those memories will last a long time! It was an honor being one of your shuttles and the friendship and guidance you folks lent to us made our journey from shuttle to starship an enjoyable one! We

look forward to continued service, fun and friendship with our family, Region 7! We're indeed very proud to be a part of all this!"

Britannic was a model shuttlecraft. Wayne even insisted that despite the shakedown cruise scenario coming online following IC 2006, that they would remain a shuttlecraft in honor of the Challenger being their mothership. We appreciated that. The Britannic traveled from Long Island to the Challenger's Halloween party in October. Britannic was also represented at IC 2006 and Wayne even helped his mothership CO with some crash space during the second day of the conference. The ship is based in Lake Grove, New York.

One of their first missions as a newly commissioned chapter will be to represent the 7th Fleet and all of Starfleet and ST fandom at I*Con in March. We know they'll do the region proud!

Wayne is hardly a new face in fandom --He's headed other independent ST clubs and clubs affiliated with other organizations. Wayne was once head of a Klingon vessel. Most of his crew are also veterans of fandom and other ST clubs. We're glad they've come to make Starfleet their new family. They've already proven to be an asset to the 7th Fleet.

The running joke around the region is calling the Britannic the Brittanica..."No, we don't sell encyclopedias! Don't even ask," Wayne said.

We wish Wayne well, thank him for the generous gifts of special blue glass and etched drink glasses, and know the new chapter will have a long affiliation in R7 and in Starfleet.

Region 12 Member Has Successful

Liver Transplant

A STARFLEET Press Service Report

While awaiting the launch of the Shuttle Crown Victoria under the command of her son Robert Rogers, Lt. Cmdr. Sandra Littlepage was admitted to Integris Baptist Medical Center for a long-awaited liver transplant. She was taken into surgery at 0300 on the morning of April 20th, surrounded by friends, family and fellow Starfleet officers. The surgery was successful, and ended approximately nine hours later. At the time of this writing, Sandra is located in the ICU of Integris for a long and arduous recovery process. The crew of the Crown Vic ask that Starfleet members around the planet keep Sandra's safe and speedy recovery in their thoughts at this time. Any-one seeking more information or simply wishing to drop a note to Sandra are encouraged to do so by E-mailing ncc_3729@yahoo.com.



Díngo and the Baby

by Mark Anbinder, USS Accord

Call me cynical, but the first thing I thought of when asked to be a Monday morning mystery guest on the "Tommy and Rumble" morning show on FM99 (WNOR in Norfolk, Virginia) was the cute "Family Guy" episode when Brian and Stewie did a radio show together. (Last week, the producer got in touch with STARFLEET to line someone up, and I was the lucky one.)

Just as well I didn't tell everyone to tune in at 8:30 this morning for my live radio interview, since they called the wrong phone number and I ended up bumped to 9:30 instead. The DJs only get to find out who it is after they get the person on the line, right before they go on the air with him or her, though in this case the phone snafu meant they knew who I was an hour before getting me on the air.

It went about like you'd expect, with one caller being a jackass followed by a (pretty good, actually) Shatner impersonator, but considering the DJs had no time to prep for the interview, they handled it all quite well. I slipped in the Fleet web address, and mentioned there were chapters around the Tidewater region, so while it's possible a jackass or two will be a pest, more likely a potential member or two will say "Hm, good to know I'm not the only *Trek* fan around here," and track down USS *Maat*, USS *Jamestown*, or USS *Powhatan*.

Got a good radio station in your area that books a wide variety of guests for a few minutes of chatting on the air? Let them know you're available to talk about *Trek* fandom, STARFLEET, and what your chapter is up to!



Region 2 Announces Commanding Officer of the Year Award

A STARFLEET Press Service Report

Columbus GA – At the Region 2 Summit awards banquet held on March 10th, Captain Eric L. Watts received the 2007 Commanding Officer of the Year award for outstanding performance as commanding officer of the USS Republic. The Republic (NCC-1371) is a STARFLEET chapter headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

Commanding Officer of the Year is one of twenty-one regional awards presented at the banquet, which includes Chapter, Shuttle, Flag Officer, Enlisted Member and Junior Member of the Year, as well as awards for best newsletter and website.

Well-known in southeastern fandom as Dragon*Con's longtime Director of Star Trek Programming, Watts joined STARFLEET in 2005 and took command of the USS Republic in May 2006. Upon receiving the award from R2RC Jack Eaton, Watts said he was honored to have been recognized for his efforts by STARFLEET, and looked forward to sharing the award with his shipmates in Atlanta.

As the winner of the Region 2 Commanding Officer of the Year award, Captain Watts is automatically nominated by Region 2 for the STARFLEET Commanding Officer of the Year award, to be presented at this year's International Conference in August.



Captain Eric L. Watts (right) receives the STARFLEET International Region 2 Commanding Officer of the Year award From Regional Coordinator Jack Eaton



Captain Eric L. Watts (Far left) at work with some of his crew, promoting the USS Republic at a sci-fi and Fantasy mini-con in December 2006.

Region 2 Summit A Huge Success

By Jack Eaton, Region 2 Regional Coordinator

The annual Region 2 Summit was held the weekend of March 9th in Columbus, GA. My friends Jim Cozine, Cheryl Rogers and I piled in his car and drove up there. This was my first Summit as Regional Coordinator and I'm not sure if I'll ever catch up on the sleep I missed over the weekend!

The ride up was nice and, as always, spending it with friend makes it worth while. We all have the same twisted senses of humor, so each mile was joke after joke after joke. I got a kick out of noticing that we were driving along "Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway" somewhere in Georgia. Apparently, someone forgot to tell some people exactly how that little skirmish 140 years ago ended up.

The Summit is technically the Regional "working weekend". Friday night was the Regional Staff Meeting where our team had it's first chance to meet together face-to-face since the election. After that was a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament.

Saturday morning brought the official start to the weekend with the usual pomp and circumstance. We were lucky to have Dixie Halber there as our EC representative who brought with her a video greeting from VCS Mark Anbinder; who shall now be known in Region 2 as "The Big Giant Head".

I then went into a combined CO's and XO's meeting in which was discussed the major business of the Region including proposed changes to how the Region is run. It was a spirited two hours of debate and conversation out of which came some good work and proved once again how we here in Region 2 can get the work done without political drama.

More than anything, the Region 2 Summit is a family reunion. We get together to see old friends we only chat with online or email. There was the annual Dalmuti Tournament, panel discussions on fandom, online gaming and even Klingon self defense.

Just before the Awards Banquet on Saturday night we gathered outside the hotel in a small garden for what I am sure will be an R2 tradition, the "Final Mission Ceremony". An honor guard stood at one side of the garden holding an American flag in much the same manner as if they had just lifted it off a coffin. They proceeded to a spot in front of the crowd and stopped as Rear Admiral Danny Potts read off the names of Fleet members, friends and actors from the world of Star Trek who had passed on in the past year were read off. The honor guard folded the flag and Captain Larry Morris presented me the flag as RC. It was a solemn, simple and beautiful ceremony which left some in the audience with tears.

The Awards Banquet topped off the night. The room was decorated with a nautical theme tied in with the voyages of Christopher Columbus. Each table had a beautiful model sailing ship as its centerpiece and the name of a different Star Trek movie. At the end of the evening I went from table to table playing a trivia game asking a question from each of the movies and the winner took home the centerpiece.

"All Good Things..." so the saying goes, and Sunday brought our closing ceremonies. Through our card tournaments and charity auction we raised money for our own treasury and donated \$500 for PAWS, Inc., a local animal rescue league. The rescue league President, was so thankful for our efforts she volunteered to take our "cadet review" photo of all the attendees before we packed and left.

This was my first Summit as Regional coordinator and the six words I heard most all weekend were, "Jack, do you have a few minuets?" I was pulled aside to discuss chapter issues, personal conflict problems, teaching people how to use the Starfleet database, getting one piece of paperwork or another pushed through and political twists of one kind or another. There were three former RC's there this weekend who would only look at me and laugh all weekend long knowing that every moment of the weekend was theirs for a change.

The hotel staff was out of this world! I have been in scores of hotels all around the world and this was the first time I have ever felt so welcomed by a staff; and I mean ALL the staff. There was not one member of the housekeeping staff that didn't greet me with a warm and friendly "hello" of one

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May The Float Be With You...Decorating the Star Wars Rose Parade Floats

By Jon Lane, USS Angeles

Four o'clock in the morning, 42 degrees outside and not too much warmer in the large warehouse where dozens of float builders and hundreds of volunteers were working frantically to finish the two Star Wars floats before the nine o'clock judging.

Five o'clock in the morning, still dark outside, and it was time to fire up the diesel engine of the 55-foot-long float featuring the planet Naboo, covered with nearly 10,000 pounds of flowers and other organic material. The float started to move slowly toward the big door, only 18 feet high, being carefully directed by a small group of people communicating with the driver using walkie-talkies, since the driver could barely see anything.

The float represented nearly a year of work and planning, months of construction, and over 7,000 volunteer man-hours to decorate over the last week and a half...most of that within the last few days working around the clock. The float inched forward as hundreds of Star Wars fans—covered in glue and flower petals—held their breath, wondering if maybe the float might be just a teensy bit to tall and get caught on the top of the garage door.

As the towers of Naboo's capitol city cleared the warehouse door entrance and emerged into the parking lot, a small group of Star Wars fans shouted in unison: "The first transport is away!" and we all cheered.

But the journey of the Naboo float, and of its sister, Endor, began long before that chilly morning of December 31, 2006. Eleven and a half months earlier, the Grand Marshall for the 118th Annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California was named. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the first "Star Wars" film release, George Lucas would be the Grand Marshall to usher in 2007.

Shortly thereafter, the theme of the 118th Rose Parade was announced: "Our Good Nature." It was not yet February of 2006, but already plans were getting underway for making floats that would not be seen by the public until New Years Day of 2007, eleven months later.

Float designs were submitted and reviewed by the parade committee, and out of 200 designs, fewer than 50 were chosen. Festival Artists, a professional float builder located in Azusa, California, about 10 miles east of Pasadena, was hired by Lucasfilm to construct two floats, one featuring the beautiful landscape of Naboo, complete with towers, archways, and even five separate waterfalls. The other float would envision the forest moon of Endor, with trees rising 30 feet off the ground and Ewoks running around and swinging between the trees. Festival Artists was also hired by China Airlines to build a float for them and would also create the two Rose Bowl football floats for USC and the University of Michigan.

Designs and engineering specifications were worked on for the next three months, figuring out how to support the weight of the design and which elements might actually move independently on each float. While there is no limit to the height a float can be, there is a requirement that all floats must be able to lower themselves to no higher than 17 feet in just 25 seconds! And then they have to rise up again just as quickly. Why? Along the parade route, all the floats must pass underneath the 210 freeway, an overpass that is only 18 feet high. Any collision would disrupt the parade and ruin the experience for millions of people. Therefore, as part of the judging on each float, the 25-second "lowering drill" is executed for the judges to observe.

Starting in June, while almost no one was thinking about New Years Day, float chasses were being constructed, steel was being welded, hydraulics were installed, and aluminum wire meshes began to create the inner "skin" of the floats. Polyvinyl plastic liquid was sprayed over the wire and tested to make certain it could support the weight of a fully-grown person. By September, the main construction of the floats was complete, but things were just getting started!

Perhaps the most famous rule for Rose Parade floats is that every exposed surface must be covered entirely by something that was once alive and growing. Roses and other colorful flowers are obvious to see on the outside of floats, but look closer and you'll notice things like rice and millet, oats, split peas, lima beans, ground walnut shells, coconut shavings, dried orange slices, pieces of tree bark, and even whole potatoes! Most of that can't be put onto the float until the very last couple of days, otherwise flowers would wilt and other items would discolor (like coconut shavings turning from white to yellow after four days).

So the process of ordering all the live materials to cover the float has to be carefully timed. Growers have to plan their cycles months in advance so that they can pick and deliver a huge volume of a wide variety of flowers during the last days of December. Seeds and beans, which aren't perishable, start arriving in October.

This is about where I started to come into the picture. George Lucas had already invited the costuming fan club known as the 501st Legion to come march in the Rose Parade wearing their Storm Trooper outfits. Over 200 Star Wars fans from all over the world (including two from Starfleet—Damien Metz from Las Vegas and Max Cervantes from the USS Angeles here in L.A.) took part in the 5.5 mile parade route, practicing days before on the football field of Pasadena high school. It would be the largest organized, international assemblage of costumed Star Wars fans to ever take part in a public event.

At the same time as the 501st Legion was making their plans to travel to southern California, other local Star Wars clubs were trying to entice their members to volunteer to help decorate the floats. Turnout was decent, but ultimately, Star Wars fan organizer Rachel Miller expanded her invitation to the other local sci-fi clubs, including their friendly neighbors in the Star Trek community.

And that's how I came to volunteer. Rachel was trying to fill numerous 8-hour volunteer shifts starting on December 16 and continuing straight through till judging on the morning of December 31. Amateur photojournalist that I am, I signed up for two shifts: one of the first ones on December 17 so I could see how the floats looked before being decorated, and also for the very last shift, going from 3:00 a.m. until the final morning judging. Was I crazy? Of course! But I would be there to see the finished floats in all their glory.

The first volunteer session was, to be honest, pretty boring...and a little disgusting. The advantage was that I got to see and photograph the floats in a very early state without much of any covering on the outside. But because it was still two weeks early, few flowers had arrived yet. I ended up spending most of my time doing two things: sieving rice and uncorking vials. The rice-sieving was essentially just taking cup after cup of dried rice and passing them through a sieve to separate the larger grains from the really small, fine grains...each to be used for different purposes later on. Sound like fun? Well, it was actually infinitely preferable work to task number two.

That task involved preparing the plastic vials that would hold the roses. Tens of thousands of roses are used to decorate each float, but you can't just stick a rose onto a float and expect it to stay. The secret is special green vials that have pointy, serrated ends which ultimately will get pushed into foam core material on the floats, keeping the roses in place. The vials themselves are first filled with a mixture of water and flat 7-up and then stoppered with a rubber cork that has a small hole to let in the rose stem. The mixture of water and sugar helps the rose live a few days longer than normal. After the float is done with the parade and a few days of public display, all the vials are taken off, the roses are thrown out, and the vials are tossed into large metal storage drums, where they sit for the next 11 and a half months.

So imagine these tens of thousands of vials, each filled with leftover, gunky water and 7-up and rose juice! The problem is, the vials all still have stoppers on them, and those stoppers have to be removed so that the vials can be refilled and restoppered. So, along with dozens of other volunteers, we sat for hours, uncorking vial after vile vial, spilling out the leftover liquid, and dropping the vials in one container and the stoppers into another. Hours of that, but it was work that had to be done by someone. At least I could chat with the other volunteers about sci-fi and stuff, but now you understand why I preferred separating rice grains!

So now that I've thoroughly disgusted you, let me say that coming back two weeks later was an entirely different experience and infinitely more fun. Based on some of the e-mails I received from the Star Wars volunteers, it sounded like things were accelerating amazingly quickly as we approached New Years Day. More volunteers were showing up—not just sci-fi fans, but local school kids, friends and neighbors, scout troops, etc. And the floats were taking shape and changing almost hourly. So I decided to pull two shifts during the last two days. I showed up on Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. till about 4:00 p.m., left to have dinner and take a nap, and then got up again at 2:00 a.m. to return at 3:00 in the morning for the last shift!



Whereas my first day of volunteering two weeks earlier had maybe two dozen people show up, now there were hundreds, working on all five floats that were being decorated. The Festival Artists folks made a point to put the sci-fi fans on the two Star Wars floats, and asked who would be willing to climb up on scaffolding and who would rather work closer to the ground. I opted for ground level work...not from a fear of heights, but from a realization that, by the end of my second shift, I would be massively sleep-deprived and didn't want to be 15 feet off the ground at that point.

So I was assigned to the back tower of Naboo. The tower was already covered with crushed walnut shell to give a sandstone-like appearance. And little rectangular areas were covered with rose clover to look lighter and millet to look darker, implying small stones making up the tower. My job was to add more rose clover and millet, making the "stones" pop out in a more three-dimensional way. This involved spreading lots of paste with a brush. (There were two types of glue that people were using: the kind that comes off your hands and the kind that doesn't. Fortunately, I used the first kind, although it doesn't come off of clothing, I discovered.) Once pasted, I then had to come up with creative ways to get a box of loose grains to stick to a vertical surface!

Other tasks included placing flowers (including roses!), carrying stuff (including roses and other flowers), and cutting the petals off of flowers of different colors. Joining me in these tasks was USS Angeles member Laurie Michnal and her new husband Jason. I hadn't known she'd volunteered, but we ran into each other on the back tower of Naboo as Laurie was assigned to do some beautiful detailing of the back tower archway. The three of us chatted as we worked and took our lunch break together. Laurie and Jason were only doing the earlier shift, but it was great to catch up with them and hear about their wedding.

When I left in the afternoon, the energy was frenetic and the floats were really starting to look finished. I couldn't imagine there was all that much more work to do. Boy, was I wrong!

Returning at 3:00 a.m., I discovered there were still over a hundred volunteers, and the floats had undergone an even greater metamorphosis. Areas I had thought were done when I left were now covered with even more colorful foliage. Folks had added tons more roses of all different varieties. Wreaths were laid over columns, and everywhere I looked, it seemed people were adding more and more flowers.

Despite anything you might have heard about Southern California weather, we do have winter, and the overnight temperature in Azusa dropped into the low 40's. Most of us wore sweaters and sweatshirts under jackets, and we took turns warming our hands and ourselves under a few precious heat lamps set up around the warehouse. But there wasn't much time to rest, the clock was ticking ever closer to the 9:00 a.m. deadline.

There was still a lot of detail work to be done; even one of the steps leading up to the back tower of Naboo had needed a little touch up work where someone had tripped. At about 4:15 a.m., a fork-lift raised two huge statues onto the front of the Naboo palace float. At 4:30, workers started taking down the scaffolding and clearing the way for the floats to leave the warehouse.

At 5:00 a.m., the Naboo float was the first to emerge from inside, amidst cheers from the crowd. Shortly thereafter, with its trees folded down to lower its overall height, Endor was through the out door. (Yep, I shouted that pun out loud.)

As the dawn's early light cast a dim red glow over the night sky, I could see the colors truly emerging from these two amazing floats. And still work continued. The Endor trees were raised back into place. The Naboo waterfalls were turned on and tested.

At about 6:00 a.m., four little people (dwarves) arrived, and they would be put into Ewok suits. Shortly thereafter, a local Star Wars fan who had constructed his own droid replicas arrived with R2-D2 and a C-3PO costume. And what Endor float would be complete without Chewbacca, who posed for pictures with some of the volunteers.

For the Naboo float, a former Rose Queen would play the part of Queen Amidala, while a pair of Jedi Knights stood as her protector. The sun had come up, and there seemed to be less and less left to do, as we made way for the actors who would be on the floats to practice what they would do for the judges. This included Chewbacca growling, C-3PO moving robotically, and best of all, one of the Ewoks actually swinging from tree to tree!

And finally, the moment came. It was 9:00 a.m. and the judges had arrived. The volunteers and

other curious onlookers who had wandered into the parking area as the morning wore on were herded to the sides, allowing the judges an unobstructed view. They would have two minutes to examine each float, timed to the second by a person holding a bell. It rang once, and a silence fell.

Then the music started playing, first the John Williams' Endor forest music (the background theme music; not the annoying Ewok song) as the Ewoks ran around the float, swung from the trees, and the Droids and Chewbacca greeted the judges at ground level. Then the music shifted to the majestic Naboo palace theme, as the Queen and her royal court and protectors stood proudly and the waterfalls danced over abundantly-colored flowers. The sun was perfect, and a clear-blue sky allowed for light to play across both floats so that they almost glowed with an inner brilliance.

And then it was all over. The bell rang again, and the judges finished their inspection. The results would not be announced until just before the Tournament of Roses Parade the following day. The actors got down from the floats and out of their costumes. The Festival Artists people began preparing the floats for their ten-hour trip to Pasadena. The volunteers were thanked sincerely and invited back next year.

I was out of camera film and quite exhausted. Looking at my watch, I could see it was nearly 10:00 a.m., and I had about an hour's drive to get back home...where I finally took a very long nap before getting ready for a late New Year's Eve party. The following day, I woke up late to watch a recording of the entire Tournament of Roses Parade, eager to see the Star Wars floats and procession of Storm Troopers.

And how did we do with the judges? Well, I am proud to say that the Lucasfilm Star Wars Floats, designed and built by Festival Artists and decorated by hundreds of hard-working volunteers, received the Tournament Special Trophy. I'm not entirely certain what that is, but it doesn't matter. The true magic was in helping to create this amazing moment. The final floats may have lasted only a few days, but to know I was a part of this special piece of science fiction history... that memory will last a lifetime.

Region 2 Summit Report cont. From Page 7

kind or another. When most time you either get a grunted hello or they don't even look you in the eye, it was refreshing to be treated as if each member of the staff was genuinely happy to have me there as a guest in the hotel. The banquet staff took care of a problem quickly and quietly. The desk staff remembered names and then there was Anna.

Anna was this little ole German lady who is a server in the restaurant. She has worked at the hotel longer than anyone and looks to be somewhere between 70 and 240 years old. At 4 foot nothing she scurries around the dining room filling glasses and bringing clean silver wear with a smile and her soft, gentle grandmotherly voice, "Sure, honey. I'll get that for you right away" in her clipped accent. She looked down at my bear feet slippers and said that "they look sexy!" How can you not love a woman like that!

After a Dead Dog Party at a nearby Chinese Buffet we headed out around 2PM which didn't get me home until almost midnight. Of course, I HAD TO watch the current Battlestar Galactica episode and get myself up for work the next morning. That lasted until about 11:30 when the fatigue turned my voice into a deep growl and my eyes threatened to permanently stay shut. I left work and slept for another 6 hours.

I can hardly wait for next year!



Mirror, Mirror On the Wall, Who Is the Most Ruthless Of All?

By Dave Lowe and Kirylyn Dreamer, ISS MacArthur

The Mirror Universe conjures up visions of a militaristic, fascist society, where conquest is the norm, discipline is brutal. Officers move up in rank by assassination. The Empire takes what it wants, and lays waste to anyone that stands in their path of domination.

There are some chapters of STARFLEET that have chosen to “play” in that universe. Do we really kill off officers of the chapter to advance our STARFLEET careers? Of course not! We are not REALLY bloodthirsty savages, we just pretend to be.

There was only one episode of the Original Series that took place in the Mirror Universe. However, several novels, comic book series, and other speculative works have expanded the Universe for fans.

Then, the folks at Paramount, the producers of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, decided to do a crossover into the Mirror Universe. In the five episodes of DS9 that took place there, it was established that the Empire had been defeated by the Klingon-Cardassian Alliance at some point.

Unfortunately, canon sources did not give an EXACT timeline of Imperial history. It is said after the events of the Original series episode “Mirror, Mirror” (2267), Spock becomes commander-in-chief of the Terran Empire and implements several major reforms, turning the Empire into a more peaceful and less aggressive power. Prior to the full enactment of these reforms, Terran Empire forces occupy Bajor. Spock’s reforms leave the Empire unprepared to fight against the Klingon-Cardassian Alliance. The Alliance conquers the entire Terran Empire, enslaving the Terrans and Vulcans. This would take place some time between 2267 and 2370. That’s an over 100 year gap where there is no information on the Mirror timeline.

So in a “modern” *Star Trek* timeline, currently the year is approximately 2382, there is no Terran Empire. Not anymore, anyway. So what fun is that? How are these “Mirror” chapters playing in this sandbox?

There are several possibilities. Either the chapter’s fictional storyline takes place in a time BEFORE the fall of the Empire, or they have gone against the history that the “canon” *Star Trek* has established for the Mirror Universe.

One problem with alternate timelines and parallel universes in *Star Trek*, it has been established that there is an infinite number of “quantum realities” based on every decision that we are presented with. In the episode “Parallels” of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, Worf was being transferred around between realities due to exposure to some sort of space anomaly. Data said in that episode, “I believe the quantum fissure is a fixed point across the space-time continuum. A ‘keyhole’ which intersects many other quantum realities. For any event there is an infinite number of possible outcomes. Our choices determine which outcome will follow. According to a theory, everything that can happen do happen at some quantum reality. Worf ponders that somehow he has been shifting from one to another. When Worf’s shuttlecraft came into the fissure, its warp engines caused a small break between the quantum realities. Worf was thrown into quantum flux. He immediately shifted into another realities.”

In the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* episode “Yesterday’s Enterprise,” the act of heroism performed by the *Enterprise C* at Narendra III was the catalyst that prevented two decades of war between the Federation and the Klingon Empire. The act of returning the *Enterprise C* to the battle, with the alternate Tasha Yar aboard as Tactical Officer, the timeline in the “primary” universe was skewed to include the birth and rise to power of Sela within the Romulan Empire. Jean-Luc Picard made the decision to repair the timeline, however that repair had repercussions in their own future as well.

In the *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* episode “Past Tense,” Benjamin Sisko, Julian Bashir, and Jadzia Dax go back in time to 21st Century Earth and change history. In the future that resulted, the Federation, the *Defiant*, and life as they were aware of it did not exist. They were forced to correct the timeline in order to return to their reality. Also, in the Original Series episode “City on

the Edge of Forever,” McCoy’s tampering with the timeline also caused the Federation to never exist. They also had to repair the timeline to return to their reality.

In *Star Trek: Voyager*, the episode “Year of Hell” depicts a race of beings known as the Krennims that have a time weapon. With a discharge of their ship, they can eradicate entire species from existence. Each time the Krennim captain tried to restore the timeline, races would come and go, at different levels of influence, technology, and power in the current universe.

So following this theory that there are an infinite number of quantum realities, it is possible that the Mirror Universe that is depicted in The Original Series episode “Mirror, Mirror” and the Mirror Universe as seen in *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* is NOT the same reality at all. Only one possible outcome among infinite combinations.

Following this logic, the fictional storyline that the ISS *MacArthur* follows takes a different path altogether. We have accepted the canon storyline of a defeated Empire. But we added a few twists of our own to make our story more plausible.

With the imminent defeat of the Empire becoming a strong reality, some time between 2267 (The TNG novel *Dark Mirror*) and 2371 (The beginning of *Star Trek: Voyager*), ruling houses of the Empire began a retreat from Imperial worlds. They went into exile, with a few dozen starships, into the Badlands area of the Alpha Quadrant.

While in the Badlands, ISS *Voyager* (in 2371) is taken to the Delta Quadrant by an entity known as the Caretaker. *Voyager* learns of the power of the Array, and engages the Caretaker, defeating him, and gaining control of the Array.

With this new found technology, the exiled Imperial Fleet transports to the Delta Quadrant by the Array to continue their exile.

During the years 2371 - 2378, the Imperial Fleet encounter multiple species in the Delta Quadrant. Most are no match for the superior technology of the Empire, and they quickly become a strong power in the Delta Quadrant. With new found allies the Kazon, the Hirogen, and with technology taken from Borg ships, the Imperial ships began to refit and improve their technology. The Empire establishes shipyards, and begins to rebuild.

Some of the technology acquired included slipstream technology from Species 116. This quickly extended the range of Imperial ships tremendously. This drive, combined with the Caretaker’s Array, could provide the remnants of the Empire an advantage when they decided to make an attempt to reconquer the former Empire back in the Alpha Quadrant.

Meanwhile (2370 - 2375, on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*) in the Alpha Quadrant, a new Terran Rebellion was forming in the Bajor sector. Based on Terok Nor, the mirror Benjamin Sisko, and later “Smiley” O’Brien, successfully defeat forces of the Alliance, including the capture of the Klingon Regent.

In 2380, the exiled Imperial Fleet begins reconnaissance missions into the Alpha Quadrant via the Caretaker’s Array. Over the next two years, multiple sorties are launched, escalating to a full scale war with the Klingon-Cardassian Alliance. Several key systems under Alliance control have fallen back into the hands of the Empire.

It is now 2382. The ISS *MacArthur*, one of the original ships to transition into the Delta Quadrant, has arrived in the Alpha Quadrant to investigate Terok Nor. Intelligence believes that the station is under Rebel control. Will the rebels join the New Empire? Or will they fire on the *MacArthur*?

You can keep up with the adventures of the ISS *MacArthur* on our website at <http://rpg.issmacarthur.com> and some of the facts used in this article were taken from Memory Alpha, the *Star Trek* Wiki located at <http://www.memory-alpha.org>.



Freezin' For a Reason: The Stone Trek Trio Triumph During 14th Annual NJ Polar Bear Plunge

By Bob Vosseller,
STARFLEET Press Service

Boldly plunging where 3,000 other plungers also went, USS Challenger Chief Med Officer Dave Singleton, USS Avenger Security Chief Cmdr. Pat Barnes and I took part in the 14th Annual NJ Polar Bear Plunge held in Seaside Heights NJ on Feb. 24.

We were cheered on by a number of our fellow Challengers and Avengers for the plunge for an event that raised \$750,000 for the cause of the Special Olympics. This marked our third year in doing this plunge after two years of plunging in Maryland with our fellow chapters in Region 7. This has become a sector project in Region 7 and thus far only crazy crew members of the Avenger and Challenger have been doing the actual plunging. Between the three of us, several hundred dollars were contributed towards that \$700,000 total.

What made this year's event especially fun (if you can actually classify jumping into 34 degree water temperature as fun) was Patrick's enthusiasm in creating a special them and costumes for the event. provided Patrick adapted the theme and costumes from www.stonetrek.com think ST Classic colliding with The Flintstones.

Together, the three of us raised several hundred dollars for the cause of the Special Olympics. Each year I say "why am I doing this? Each year I approach the cold water and scream and each year I vow never to do it again. That said however, it felt great AFTER the actual dip (of which the Stone Trek Trio went in TWICE) and once we were actually changed, warm and somewhere we could have some hot food...which in this case, was a local Wendy's. I carried in the silver painted plunger complete with a tiny polar bear tied to it which was Challenger's gift during the very first polar bear plunge that we took part in in Maryland five years earlier. The Starfleet banner was also on hand for numerous photo ops.

"It was my honor and privledge to make the outfits for my friends and fellow and 'Fleeters. I'm glad they enjoyed them so much. This is my fourth plunge in three years. (I WILL plunge again next year!!!) I am also grateful to everyone who donated money and supported our efforts this year," Barnes said.

"We had a great time but I can't believe I did this again, that makes three years in a row for me and two years before that we went to Maryland," Singleton remarked. Plunge supporter Challenger Science officer Annie Slonski watched the plunge for the first time. She commeted that "the plunge was GREAT! We, the spectators, had a wonderful time!! I know that the intrepid trio of plungers, Bob, Dave and Patrick enjoyed the publicity they garnered and they looked terrific in their Stone Trek outfits! Patrick, you did a fantastic job on the costumes!"

"I checked out the site that inspired the costumes, www.stonetrek.com, and it's really very clever and funny. Watch the cartoon, Episode 9, because it blends not only the Flintstones with Star Trek, but Star Wars, a dash of 2001, and even Ren & Stimpy thrown in for good measure," Slonski added.

"The after-meal at Wendy's was fun, too! We all got warm and had a chance to relax and be out of the wind, which was what made the day so cold. According to our plungers, the air temp was 30 and the water temp was 34," Slonski said.

The Challenger and Avenger weren't the only SF ships to have members plunging for a good cause. Former Avenger and current ISS Deliverance member Tony Lopes commented that "our plunge in Louisville was a LOT colder than even the veterans of this plunge were used to. The water was a balmy 35 degrees, and it was really windy. It physically hurt going into the water. Unlike the New Jersey plunge, we jump off of the backs of boats. Believe me, having 5 feet of the cold nasty Ohio River over your head kinda takes your breath away!"

It was great to get together, swap stories and check out the many photos that were taken of the day's insanity.

Star Wars Museum Tour: Once Is Not Enough For Southern California Fleeters

By Jackie Bundy, USS Angeles

The idea of visiting the *Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination* exhibit at the California Science Center as a crew was so popular that we did it twice!

Saturday, Feb. 24th those who could met up did so, right outside the IMAX Theater. Those members that Saturday didn't work out for gathered on Sunday, Feb. 25th to see the same movie and exhibit. Two missions, double the fun—and fun it was for both groups.

We got word through Larry Barnes that Commander STARFLEET Les Rickard was here in Southern California for a few days of MP training before heading to Texas for more training. Les is in the Navy Reserves.

Then it's off to Kuwait until he is deployed to Iraq. He expects to be on duty in Iraq in about the beginning of April. We will, of course, be adding Les to our list of package recipients.

Les happened to have a day of liberty that Saturday and wanted to meet some of the crew he didn't already know and since I was closest I picked Les up at Port Hueneme in Ventura and he joined us for the afternoon at the museum. The exhibit was really cool and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Attending Saturday were—Janice Willcocks, Gloria Rodriguez and newlywed Laurie Michnal with her handsome new hubby Jason. Welcome to the gang Jason!

Rounding things out were Gary Sandridge, Steve Simon, Les and myself. Boyd Harmon joined up with us for dinner, but more on that later.

Sunday attendees were Jennifer Cole, Dave Mason, Goldie Frankel and her fiancé Robert, who is a Next Gen fan. Welcome to the crew Robert!

Both groups first we saw the IMAX presentation of "Destiny in Space" narrated by Leonard Nimoy. It is apparently an older movie, but as I'd not seen it before it drew me right in. The camera shots from the space shuttles point of view were spectacular.

Then we headed for the exhibit where we saw all kinds of fascinating things like the shooting models used in the various movies. Props, costumes, make-up and a whole host of incredible things. "Wow a Wookiee has big feet!" Gary exclaimed, and he took a picture to illustrate his point that you can see at the ships web site www.ussangeles.org

Many of the exhibits were interactive and I personally got a big kick out of seeing the speeder Luke used on Tatooine in STAR WARS IV: "A New Hope". It was the one used for shooting, and if you looked underneath you could see the wheels.

The atmosphere was great and the exhibit extremely well laid out. What definitely enhanced the whole experience were the folks in costume. These members of the 501st, a local Star Wars fan club, have volunteered their time on the weekends throughout the exhibits run. Our own Max Cervantes is donning this Boba Fett costume for his exhibit appearances.

After spending a lot more time than we expected exploring the exhibit we were all ready to sit down and enjoy a good meal so we settled in at a wonderful little restaurant Steve knew of just a few blocks away called The Two Nine where Boyd Harmon caught up with the rest of us.

We filled our bellies and relaxed and talked about our day over a leisurely meal before heading off home in our various directions. It was a very special and memorable day in every way.

Word from the Sunday attendees is that they had an incredible time as well. Check out all the fun in the Away Mission logs at www.ussangeles.org

SETI At Home: The Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence

By Stephen Richards, USS Challenger

In 1982, the world fell in love with a movie directed by Steven Spielberg called E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial. In the movie, Elliot a 10-year-old boy discovered ET a visitor from another planet, and the child would come to help ET find his way home. In the movie a phrase was coined because ET wanted to try and reach his home planet to let them know he was left here, and to send help. The phrase was "ET Phone Home"

The question now -- Is ET trying to call us back?

In 1995, a project was launched called SETI or Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Its goal is to detect intelligent life outside of Earth. One of the approaches is known as Radio SETI. Which uses radio telescopes to listen for a narrow bandwidth radio signal from space. Such signals are not a natural occurrence on earth so if it was detected it would provide evidence of extraterrestrial technology. In other words to listen for ET Calling us to let us know he got home. And when he is coming back

These narrow bandwidth signals consist primarily of noise (from celestial sources and the receivers electronics), and man made signals such as TV stations, radar, and satellites
Previous radio SETI projects have used special-purpose supercomputers, located at the telescope, to do the bulk of the data analysis. In 1995, David Gedye proposed doing radio SETI using a virtual supercomputer composed of large numbers of Internet-connected computers, and he organized the SETI@home project to explore this idea. SETI@home was originally launched in May 1999.

The radio signals are picked up by large radio telescopes around the world. These are the phone receiver by which we are trying to hear ET.

One such telescope is located in Puerto Rico, the Arecibo radio telescope, which is a huge "dish" that is 305 m (1000 feet) in diameter, 167 feet deep, and covers an area of about twenty acres. The surface is made of almost 40,000 perforated aluminum panels, each measuring about 3 feet by 6 feet, supported by a network of steel cables strung across the underlying karst sinkhole. It is a spherical (not parabolic) reflector.



Suspended 450 feet above the reflector is the 900 ton platform. Similar in design to a bridge, it hangs in midair on eighteen cables, which are strung from three reinforced concrete towers. One is 365 feet high, and the other two are 265 feet high. All three tops are at the same elevation. The combined volume of reinforced concrete in all three towers is 9,100 cubic yards. Each tower is back-guyed to ground anchors with seven 3.25 inch diameter steel bridge cables. Another system of three pairs of cables runs from each corner of the platform to large concrete blocks under the reflector. They are attached to giant jacks, which allow adjustment of the height of each corner with millimeter precision.

How does the SETI@Home project work? Using the computing power of the modern home computer such as yours and combining this with many other home computers and servers throughout the world. Scientist can now be able to process the recorded sound bytes from space at a faster rate. Downloading a program from the webpage <http://setiathome.berkeley.edu/> allows your computer to download these sound bytes and using the normally idle power of your computer these sound bytes are processed using a Varsity of mathematical formulas which filter out the normal man made noise and look for the noise that could be a signal from space.

There are four types of signals being looked for which could be considered an event. Spikes are radio waves occurring at single frequencies that are strong enough to be distinguished from general noise.

Gaussians Radio signals from a distant transmitter should get stronger and then weaker as the telescope's focal point moves across that area of the sky. Specifically, the power should increase

and then decrease with a bell shaped curve (a gaussian curve). Gaussian curve-fitting is an excellent test to determine if a radio wave was generated "out there" rather than a simple source of interference somewhere here on Earth, since signals originating from Earth will typically show constant power patterns rather than curves. The Gaussian test is only applied for frequency resolutions greater than or equal to 0.59 Hz.

Triplets are a set of three equally spaced spikes. The SETI@home screensaver tests for triplets by looking at every pair of spikes above a certain threshold power. It then looks for another spike precisely between the two spikes. If one is found, a triplet is logged and sent back to Berkeley.

Pulses our alien neighbors may not be sending out a nice, even tone for us to detect. They may be sending a series of spaced pulses—a more economical use of power. For all frequency resolutions greater than or equal to .59 Hz, the SETI@home screensaver searches for repeating pulses and triplets.

If you are interested in being a part of this search for ET you can visit <http://setiathome.berkeley.edu> and download the program called BOINC, which will allow you to search for ET. Along with SETI BOINC also allows you to run other projects such as the ones listed at <http://boinc.berkeley.edu/projects.php> these projects cover a wide range of fields of interest such as Mathematics and strategy games, Astronomy/Physics/Chemistry, Biology and Medicine, Earth Sciences.

If you ever wondered what you could do to help maybe find a cure for cancer, predict climate change, find ET here is your chance to use your computer when it's just sitting idle.



USS Powhatan Loses Valued

Crewman, Friend By Roy Sesler, USS Powhatan

A quiet individual that truly loved to serve others has passed from us. Robert Armstrong was quiet in his speech but not in his deeds. Robert was more than just a loving husband and father. He set a shining example of how a man should live his life.

Bob served his country in many different positions through three conflicts, WW II, Korea and Vietnam retiring from both the US Navy and Civil Service. He was always helping others, performing ever task or assuming any responsibility that was asked of him. In addition to serving as President of the Brotherhood at Congregation of BethEl he was constantly using his FCC amateur radio license to help others as a lifelong member of the American Radio Relay League, Emergency Coordinator for Chesapeake Va. and serving as a member of American Red Cross Disaster Action Teams for hurricane victims up and down the east coast.



Bob was 79 but stayed young by giving of himself to help others. He opened his home and heart to help foreign exchange students or anyone that needed his help. He is sorely missed by his friends, shipmates and everyone that was fortunate enough to know him.

The Stamp

Original Science Fiction By Alexandra Milholland, Region 4

November 21st, 2042

There was something wrong. There shouldn't have been anything wrong. My credit was impeccable. I'd been working with my firm for the past year, which was longer than anyone else in my department. I have been unbearably polite since I walked in the door, and I'd tipped well at the bar. My clothes were terribly appropriate, my hair looked fine, and I'd been giving the I-think-you're-great handshake all evening. There was nothing wrong. There must have been some kind of mistake.

There was no mistake, something was definitely wrong, and I knew that it was going to take at least another three minutes of Mr. Gottlieb's accusatory tone to find out what it was. These three minutes didn't have the common decency to be in a row. They were thirty seconds here, ten seconds there, while Mr. Gottlieb ran in and out of the room. He was a very busy man.

Gottlieb needed no job title, mainly because nothing that makes any sense would apply. He was more than a maitre 'd. He was a concierge. He was a butler. A steward. He was a rainmaker that made things right. If you needed it, he got it for you, or found a way to make sure it found its way into your hands. With Mr. Gottlieb in charge, your dining experience would be one that would be completely unforgettable. You will be gleefully separated from an obscene amount of your money, and you will smile when you get the bill from your credit firm.

For all his magical powers, Gottlieb wasn't a big guy. He wasn't short, but he was very thin, almost gaunt. When I walked in with my friends, I wondered how someone could stay so thin working for the most exclusive restaurant in New York City, but I've finally figured it out. He stays trim by having conversations with hundreds of people, ten seconds at a time.

I had assumed that my friends were still in the atrium, pretending to be concerned about my absence. If they looked concerned, I wouldn't be surprised. They were probably concerned that my absence meant that they wouldn't be seated. I take that back. It's not that I wouldn't be surprised if they were concerned about not being seated, it's that I wouldn't blame them one bit if they were. Cecilia wasn't just the most exclusive restaurant in New York City. Cecilia was probably the most exclusive restaurant of all time. There were stories about how hard it was to get a table. I probably wouldn't have made it into the atrium if it weren't for Paul. Paul was a genius.

I would like to tell you that I was helping Paul in the lab when he came up with the Stamp. I would like to tell you that I was there when he got the patent. I would like to tell you that I was there when he met his wife, just a week after she'd appeared on the cover of no less than twenty fashion magazines simultaneously. But none of that stuff is true. What's true is that I was there when Paul became the Milkinator.

We were what, fifteen? Paul had most of a half-pint of whole milk in his mouth, and Lindsay McRae was walking past our table in the fabled Ross Middle School lunchroom. Lindsay was a very nice girl. She was very sweet, very kind, and it was not her fault that she looked like Twisti from the old 'Twisti's Knot' kids show. I've always been good at doing voices, and my Twisti was a classic. I turned to Paul and whispered il'm gonna get me some lunch, bay-buhi in the Twisti voice. Somewhere between 'lunch' and 'bay-buh,' Paul lost it. There was milk everywhere. Lindsay never heard me, but I'm certain she suspected something when the tidal wave of dairy flowed from Paul's face. She might have been ticked, but as far as I'm concerned, that's all right. The milk episode was the day that Paul and I became friends, and it's been gravy ever since.

I know, I know. It's a *food* story. It's always food stories with Paul, because of the Stamp. How many stories about chess masters aren't about chess, or aren't somehow related to their perceived intelligence or lack of social skills? You create the Stamp, you get food stories told about you. Sorry, Paul.

I've got about twelve of those 'Time' magazines sitting around my apartment, with Paul smiling on the cover. I'm not a crazy stalker or anything, I'm just really proud of him. You've got pictures of your kids in your wallet, I've got old magazines in my bathroom. The article in the mag covers all kinds of crazy stuff about where Paul grew up and how he spends his vacation time. I guess they just assumed that their readers wouldn't get it. Instead of telling people about the Stamp, they just

assumed it would be cool to say 'Hey, look at this scientist. He's really cool and is going to save a bazillion lives. It doesn't matter how, just adore him anyway.' I guess it worked, so I can't really find too much fault with it.

It's really not all that hard to grasp. Paul took me out to lunch one day and explained it to me, and it took about thirty seconds. The Stamp is a way to identify food.

I don't mean 'This is an apple.'

I mean 'One of the apples in this pie was picked on August 21st from Happy Valley Orchard in Sedona, Arizona. It was packed by the Happy Valley Picker's Union Local 156, and it was sold to the Midwestern Apple Growers Coalition, where it was sold to a group of Fairway Supermarkets in the Tri-State region of the Delaware Valley.'

If someone eats bad food, the guesswork is gone now. If you've got food poisoning, the Stamp will tell you (or your neighborhood coroner) where everything you've eaten comes from. If three people go to the emergency room while they're hurling their guts out, the Stamp can identify the commonality between what they ate, where they ate it, and where that food has come from. It makes things a lot easier for everyone that eats food. Chinese restaurants have gotten a lot better about re-using food than they used to be.

That used to be a racist thing to say, by the way. The Stamp has confirmed for an entire world of take-out fans that a lot of Chinese food places aren't on the level. On the other hand, the Stamp has virtually stamped out every single fern bar in the known universe. I don't know what it is, but it looks like the restaurants with the worst health violations employ white kids from the suburbs. I don't know what that means, apart from 'stop eating in strip malls.'

Mad Cow Disease was never a big deal, but with the Stamp it means that a lot less people are going to get sick from it than they used to. Commonality between sick people and the ability to get it all synched up in a medical database means that maybe three people die from food-borne infection every year. The best thing you can do to avoid food-borne infection is to wash your hands. The second-best thing is to make sure that your food has the Stamp on it.

Which it undoubtedly does. Everything does. It has to, or you can't sell it, and no one sells food on the black market anymore. It's a pride thing to a lot of people. If some country gives foreign aid to another nation in food form, you can bet your bottom dollar that the Stamp on that food says something like 'This grain was donated to your backwards nation by the kind-hearted taxpayers of the United States.'

I could have used a grain shipment; I was getting hungry. Out in the atrium, before the overtly efficient Mr. Gottlieb brought me back to his private office, I was on my third beer. Cecilia is weird that way. Most places you go home after work, you take a quick shower, you change into 'night clothes,' meet up with friends and head out. Not at Cecilia. At Cecilia, you leave work early and do all your nighttime prep while they're still running soap operas on the television. You show up at around 4:30 in the afternoon, and you're brought into the atrium where you drink and mingle for about two hours. I was trying to take it slow, but I figured it wouldn't be too long until dinner. I didn't realize that I would be sitting in this office for forty minutes. I should have brought the beer with me.

Gottlieb finally came back.

"Sir, I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave."

"Well, you just did ask me to leave, but you don't seem afraid."

"Please, sir. Just this way."

He motioned toward the door. I didn't stand a chance.

"What seems to be the problem, Mr. Gottlieb?"

Cont. on page 30

Commander, STARFLEET: From the Center Seat

Fleet Admiral Les Rickard

Greetings members of STARFLEET!

It's been a crazy several weeks since I left home for pre-deployment training as I begin my active duty service with the US Navy. My first step was processing in California, and I want to thank the USS *Angeles* folks for taking me out for some fun while I was in their neck of the woods! It was nice to hook up with some Region 4 folks and I appreciate their hospitality.

Unfortunately I just haven't had much time for fun for the last few weeks, in training in Texas. We've hardly had any time off at all, and since I left my laptop in North Carolina for this stretch, I haven't been able to keep up with my email. Sorry if you've gotten some bounces from me, it's not that I don't want to hear from you! Thanks to everyone who put me on digest on their mailing lists so there wouldn't be quite as much mail.

Back at the Ranch

I knew there wasn't going to be much time for STARFLEET during the weeks in training, so a few thank you's to my VCS Mark Anbinder and my Chief of Staff Greg Trotter, who've been working together to take care of STARFLEET Headquarters. As I said last time, we're all working together as one STARFLEET HQ. Mark and I are going through all of STARFLEET, one department or EC member at a time, and figuring out what's working and what's not, so we can make some improvements over this year and get Fleet back in shape.

News Overseas

Congratulations to Captain Owen Swart, who has been named as Acting Regional Coordinator for Region 8. VCS Mark Anbinder took care of getting Owen approved by the Admiralty Board while I was busy, so thanks, Mark! Admiral Mike Urvand is going to be a mentor for Owen as he gets the hang of things on the AB. Around when you read this, I'll be on my way to Region 8 myself!

More on e-Commerce

Congrats to CompOps for getting the STARFLEET Database moved successfully a few weeks ago, and for getting the e-commerce tools up and running at long last. Thanks again to the database team and the rest of CompOps for putting in all the overtime to get this working! Last week we saw the first batch of renewal memberships come through the new system, and everything looks great.

What this means for you is that if you're renewing your membership online, you'll know right away if your credit card transaction is OK, or if there was a typo, or if your card's been declined for some reason. In other words, you'll know before you close your browser whether you've renewed successfully or not. That means our MP team and CFO folks won't have to spend their time chasing down declined cards to get a different payment method.

After we test this for a little while with renewals only, it's going to be opened up to all online memberships, and soon, other online payments throughout STARFLEET.

Tough Love

Last time around I talked about how I support my Operations Chief, Admiral Johnathan Simmons, and his efforts to help Fleet chapters that have continued to stay under strength month after month. Well, just a few weeks later, Gumby was able to announce that four chapters worked at it and he was able to return them to Deployed Status. Kudos to USS *Alpha Centauri*, USS *Oberon*, USS *Thor*, and USS *Tikopai*, and good luck to all the other chapters that are working on getting back up to strength.

And the IC

Mark's still doing double duty right now, as IC Liaison to the CS in addition to his new VCS job. I'm not going to let him tell you who it is yet, but the IC selection process is over for the 2009 IC,



Fleet Admiral Rickard reveals the secrets of the Batcomputer to son Zachary and stepdaughter Riley

and you'll have to come to Denver for the official announcement during this year's IC!

In Closing...

Last time I announced that Heather and I are expecting a baby this fall, and lots of people sent their congrats. I can't tell you how much all your support means to us! Thank you all for your kind words and your notes while I've been away. Heather and I, and of course Zachary and Riley, appreciate it!



Region One RC Bill Herrmann and Fleet Admiral Rickard relax at the R1 Summit

Vice Commander, STARFLEET: From the OFF-Center Seat

Vice Admiral Mark Ambinder

Two Months Later

What an interesting couple of months it's been! When I wrote the column you read in *Communique* 139, I'd just been appointed to a second tour of duty as Vice Commander, STARFLEET, by Fleet Admiral Les Rickard. Looking back now as the end of March approaches, I can say it's been a whirlwind several weeks of learning about how STARFLEET operates in a new era.

Naturally, things haven't changed *that* much since I stepped down a little over two years ago, but just enough has changed that I've had to ask many questions of many fellow Fleeters. My thanks to everyone who's taken a moment to patiently explain something that they understand inside and out, and to those who've generously offered their time to help me serve you.

It's all in the Timing

Making this process even more challenging is that I'm not learning just the latest incarnation of my own job, but also how to keep things running smoothly in the Office of the CS. Les departed for the first phase of his deployment soon after I stepped in, which meant I very quickly needed to rely not only on my own staff, but also on Les's. Special thanks to CS Chief of Staff Greg Trotter, who's provided a constant stream of information and answers as I needed them.

We've also both gotten to talk to Les several times over the last few weeks, thanks to phone, the occasional e-mail, and of course a stream of postal mail. Have you written to Les? As I write this, there's no point in my providing his training address, as he won't still be there by the time you get this *CQ*. So, drop me an e-mail and I'll be happy to provide Les's current mailing address at that time.

Around the Office

As I reported in the last issue, Robin Van Cleave has stepped down as Youth/Cadet Services Director in the Office of the VCS, and it's time to take applications for that post. If you're interested and you believe you're qualified, please contact VCS Chief of Staff Michael Klufas (at vcs-cos@sfi.org) or me (at vcs@sfi.org) about the job. We need someone with a clear background in working with kids in some capacity, a knowledge of or willingness to learn about the legal requirements and ramifications facing STARFLEET as we work with our younger members, and a dedication to providing an informational resource to chapters and regions looking to set up their own programs or make appropriate arrangements for their events.

Since that column, we learned that Trey Isquith would be stepping down as International Charities Coordinator. Trey has been doing this job since I was last VCS, so I'm very grateful to her for her longstanding service to the organization in its philanthropic efforts! Again, please contact Michael or me if you're interested and qualified. We're looking for a staff member willing to coordinate STARFLEET's several charitable programs, making sure the information about each is readily available to those who'd like to participate, and reporting on progress and successes to me and to the Fleet as a whole.

In both cases, if you're interested in the job, we'd like to see some real-world experience in those areas, as well as experience at the chapter or regional level before you take on a major role at the Fleet level.

Visiting the Fleet!

One of the fixtures of my *Communique* columns in my past stretches on the EC was always my travel season report! This year, I missed the Region 2 Summit in Georgia by a week and about 150 miles; I was in Atlanta for my cousin's wedding the previous weekend, but that just didn't help. Thanks to the miracles of modern technology, and some good, old-fashioned sneaker-net, I was able to visit Region 2 via video. Thanks to Dixie Halber for bringing my video greeting along!

The one Fleet event I'm *certain* I'll be at this year is the International Conference in Denver. See you there? It'll be my eleventh IC in a row — not a record, by any means, but I'm still pleased to

keep my string going.

Of course, I'm also hoping to make it to some additional regional and chapter events, and if you'd like me to try to get to yours, please make sure you tell me the details! I can't come if I don't know about the regional summit or conference, chapter anniversary party, or other event.

Well, OK, there's one more event I *know* I'll be at, and you should be, too! It's the 17th annual USS *Accord* Watkins Glen Weekend, and it'll be the last weekend of September 2007, in Ithaca and Watkins Glen, in New York's Finger Lakes region. It's a weekend of hanging out, a relaxing hike through natural gorge trails, and good food with friends.

Regardless, I'm hoping to have an opportunity to see many Fleet folks in person throughout this year! Not everyone has the time or finances to do lots of distant traveling, but I hope you'll take the opportunity, if you're able, to get on the road at least once this year to attend an event beyond your chapter's city limits.

Get in Touch

As always, the best way to get in touch with me is via e-mail at vcs@sfi.org. You can also often find me on the FleetChat IRC network with the nickname "MHA." Or, flip to the directory in this issue for other ways to get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you if there's any way I can be of service.



STARFLEET Operations: Fleet Status

Admiral Johnathan Simmons

Buried here in the semi-back pages of the CQ, tirelessly mulling over endless MSRs and chapter information changes, Operations is still hard at work helping chapters and creating many new things for our chapters to use in their quest for FUN!

Here is what the OPS department is up to recently:

Fleet Status

As of March 23, 2007 we have 3851 members and 228 chapters of STARFLEET.

New Commissionings

Please join me in welcoming the following newly commissioned chapter into the ranks of STARFLEET...

USS Mars – R1 – Commodore Peter Lutz, Commanding

January/February 2007 Reporting

We've had great response from the Fleet on reporting, and it just keeps getting better. The reporting for January 2007 is 88% on time. The reporting for February 2007 is 89% on time. That's a full 8-9% increase over DEC 2006 (80%) when I first took over OPS. Simply fantastic! Thanks to Junior Vice Chief of Operations Commodore Steven Bowers for his outstanding service in keeping track of all those MSRs!

NEW! Perfect Quarter Awards

Starting this month, if you file your MSR consistently *on time* over a three month period... your chapter will be placed on the Perfect Quarter List for that period. If you chapter makes 4 perfect quarters in a row, your chapter will receive a special commendation from Operations at the International Conference. MSRs must be on-time to be counted. On-time means received either through the DB or via email or snail-mail no later than the 5th of the month. Each commendation will be listed in the CQ, listing chapter, MSR reporting officer (if different from CO) as well as what region your chapter hails from.

Correspondence Ops

Admiral Michelle Fanelli, Senior Vice Chief in charge of Correspondence Operations reports that we now have 43 Chapters and 3 Chapters in Training. Total of 46 Correy groups. Out of 43 chapters, 40 reported in, Training groups, 2 out of 3 reported in.

Vessel Registry Information

To clear up some confusion, we use the information in the DataBase to produce the Vessel Registry. So it is very important that you keep your information in the DB as up to date as possible. I ask all of you to please check the DB and make sure your information is current.

Help Wanted: Director of Chapter Support Service

OPS still needs someone with a lot of motivation and "outside the box thinking" to head up the Chapter Support Services department. If you are interested, please send me an email to ops@sfi.org.

Song Competition Update

I have my first submission for the competition! Be sure to send your song entries to gumbysan@gmail.com for inclusion in this year's competition. Enter as often as you like... Winners will be judged by popular vote of the membership on the sfi.org website. You will need to register on the website in order to hear the songs and vote for your favorite. Winners will be announced at the upcoming 2007 STARFLEET International Conference in Denver. Winners need not be present to win. If you have any questions, email me at ops@sfi.org.

That's it for this issue... see you next time with more updates and information from STARFLEET Operations!

STARFLEET Communications

Commodore Dixie Halber

Things have been busy here at STARFLEET Communications. A lot of changes have occurred in the last 60 days and you're going to see some new and exciting things as a result.

First of all I want to announce a change in the CQ staff. John Adcock has agreed to come in as the CQ managing editor. John is going to be managing and handling all aspects of CQ production and is bringing a new vision and energy to our premier publication. It's a huge undertaking and I'd like to thank John for taking it on. I know we'll all be pleased with the result.

In the meantime, between CQ runs, I discovered that Neal Fischer had been quietly working with STARFLEET webmaster Larry Barnes to create the premier edition of a new podcast, STARFLEET Update (available at www.sfi.org) Neal brings a wealth of real world media experience to the department. Based on his excellent performance on air and his media experience, I've decided to create a new department within Communications and have named Neal my Vice Chief of Media. Along with the current podcasts, Neal is going to be working on video and web based CQ content. He'll be working closely with Larry to bring new content to the STARFLEET website. Expect great things from this new department.

I want to remind you all about CQ deadlines. They are the 25th of every odd month. In the past, we've allowed this to be a pretty soft deadline in order to accommodate as many submissions as possible. Unfortunately that lends itself to production delays. So now we're going to keep this has a hard deadline. Get your submissions in by the 25th of the odd month in order to insure publication in the next CQ. I know it's going to be hard for some people but it will allow us to get the CQ out in a timelier manner and I think that will be best for us all.

And on the subject of the CQ, I wanted to remind people to let me know if you're not receiving your CQ. Sometimes I hear from people who have been a year without their CQ! This is not the way things should happen. Let me know as soon as you're missing an issue and we can track down what's going on. The best way is to use the HelpDesk (located at www.sfi.org), click the link on the left hand side that says "Member HelpDesk" and open a ticket. You can also e-mail me at comm@sfi.org. There are a lot of reasons CQs go missing and I try to stay on top of it so that every member gets their copy. Of course the best way to assure that you get every issue is to make sure that we have your correct address. If you move, don't forget to let us know!

That's all for now from Comm. See you in sixty.

Financial Report

Commodore Liz Woolf, STARFLEET CFO

I'm still getting settled in here at the CFO's office, but I'd like to thank everyone who expressed their support and congratulations (and condolences!) on my appointment. I'm excited to be here, and looking forward to serving STARFLEET in this capacity.

Over the next several weeks I'll be taking the time to review STARFLEET's current financial position and work with the EC to create and finalize the budget for Fiscal Year 2008, which begins on July 1, 2007. Any deviations from that budget that arise in FY2008 will be reviewed carefully and critically, and I will always ensure that the EC and AB have the full financial picture in mind when making these major decisions.

Looking ahead, I look forward to continuing the track record of regular financial reporting set by my predecessor and keeping the members up to date on our finances. I'll be working with Wayne and the Academy folks on some fundraising plans to get more money into the scholarship fund to enable us to give our members more money for their educations. I'll also be working with our IG, Ray Brown, on securing STARFLEET's annual CPA review of our books and records.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any problems or questions. I can be reached at cfo@sfi.org. You can also find me on the Fleetchat IRC network, using the exciting nickname of "Liz".

STARFLEET Academy

Commodore Wayne Killough, Jr.

The Staff at the Academy have been working non-stop on new projects. First, we are in the final stages of designing an Academy Degree Program, that would give students a track of courses (similar to regular college) for them to receive a degree from STARFLEET Academy. Another hot project right now is an Academy Athletics Department. This would involve a mixture of exams and hands-on experiences to give students a chance to earn a 'letter' in their sport/activity. Keep an eye out, as there will be more in the very near future about both of these projects. If you would like more information about these projects, or would like to be involved in one, please contact me at academy@sfi.org.

The Boothby Awards Program is in full-swing! This process is now online. At least once a month our Awards Director, Truman Temple, monitors new Boothby winners from the Database. He logs new Boothby recipients into the Database with their new Boothby level, then passes the list of names on to Scott Anderson. From there, Scott creates the Boothby certificates, and distributes them. I would like to personally thank Truman and Scott for their hard work in helping get this program back up and running, and for keeping it running efficiently.

The Academy would like to thank the SFI Database Team for implementing a process to where Chapters and MSGs can have their Vessel Readiness Certification Program (VRCP) and Marine Unit Readiness Program (MURP) certifications logged into the database. For more information, please contact Carol Thompson at vicesfa-admin@sfi.org.

We are still looking for a new Director of Electronic Services (Webmaster). Below are the responsibilities/qualifications for this position:

- Has working knowledge of HTML, PHP, CSS, and SQL (prefer 2 or more years of experience)
- Knows a little about Flash as some new courses are being created using flash (This is not required)
- Has working knowledge of graphic design (Doesn't have to be a great artist but can at least make the simplest of images)
- Has completed or will be completing OTS, OCC, & FOS within 90 days.
- Ability to do updates to site in a timely fashion (typically 24-48 hour or less turn-around time).
- Be willing to help in designing a new SFA Website to meet the needs of SFA Staff and SFI Membership
- Other duties could be asked of him in the future to meet the needs of the SFI Membership

Scholarship time is upon us again, and there have been some changes to this year's Scholarship Process. First, the new deadline for Scholarship Applications is May 15th. This deadline will now better fit most College/School deadlines. Announcements will be ready on July 1st. Second, we are looking at making two payment installments for the scholarships: half for the Fall Semester and half for the Spring Semester (unless the School you are attending is not separated into Semesters). This will help ensure that the scholarship is spread out for the entire year. For more information on the Scholarship Program, please contact Director Sam Black at scholarships@sfi.org.

The Administrative Staff would also like to congratulate some of our own for recent promotions:

- Darlene Topp - Commander
- Michael Vermoesen - Commodore
- Christopher Esquibel - Rear Admiral
- Glendon L. Diebold - Brigadier General

Institute of Alien Studies

We have two new Colleges within the Institute of Alien Studies. The first is the Cardassian Orientation College. This is an in-depth look at the Cardassian Union, it's people, and way of life. The other is the Romulan Orientation College. This covers all aspects of the Romulan Star Empire, from physiology to the Tal'Shiar. For more information on either College, please contact their Director, Carol Thompson, at vicesfa-admin@sfi.org.

Institute of Foreign Affairs

We would like to announce that the new College of Down Under (study of Australia and New

Zealand) is now open for business. For information on this new and exciting College, please contact Director Jayden Tyronian at jayden_tyronian@greatsouthernland.org.

Institute of Intelligence & Espionage

The Colleges within the Institute of Intelligence & Espionage have received quite a few new courses. Both the College of Intelligence Operations and the College of Military Intelligence have received new additions for the membership. For more information, please contact their respective Directors:

- College of Intelligence Operations - Glendon L. Diebold - ussniagara@adelphia.net
- College of Military Intelligence - Carolyn Zimdahl - czimdahl@ussbortas.org

Institute of Leadership Studies

The STARFLEET Officer's Leadership College has received a new exam: 112-SFMC (thanks to Truman Temple). All but two 100-level exams are now live and ready to go (106-ShOC and 108-CFO are still being designed). For more information, please contact me directly at robynhunter@mchsi.com.

There has been a change in the grading procedures for Officer's Training School (OTS) and Officer's Command College (OCC) here at the Academy. Instead of OTS and OCC following the current grading scale, these two exams are now strictly on a Pass/Fail grading system. If you took either exam and have a Distinction or Honors on your grade, you will not loose this grade. This is not a retro-active change...this is a going-forward change. For more information, please contact their respective Directors:

- Officer's Training School (OTS) - Jill Rayburn - jazdan@teslastation.org
- Officer's Command College (OCC) - Marlene J. Miller - marlene@cboss.com

Institute of Military Studies

We are pleased to announce two new Schools within the College of Survival Studies: the School of Terrorist Operations and the Escape Pod School. The School of Terrorist Operations takes you through multiple Terrorist Organizations, their history, beliefs, and actions. The Escape Pod School is designed for members to learn more about proper procedures and technology surrounding Escape Pods. Also, within the College of Survival Studies, new courses were added in the existing Schools. For more information on either School, please contact their Director, Glendon L. Diebold, at ussniagara@adelphia.net

Institute of Science & Technology

The College of Archaeology & Anthropology is open and ready for business. The School of Archaeology is now available for students, while the School of Anthropology is still being finalized. For more information, please contact Director Barbara Paul at fuzzywolfpaws@bellsouth.net.

Institute of Science Fiction Studies

The Institute of Science Fiction Studies is always looking for new additions. If you are interested, please contact Dean Truman Temple at hstrymir@yahoo.com.

Course Development

As always, the Academy is looking for new additions. This can be new Ideas, Courses, Schools, Colleges, Institutes, Staff, etc. If you have an idea for a new College, a new School within a current College, new exams within current Colleges/Schools, etc., please feel free to contact us. There is a new email set up for Course Development: sfa-cd@sfi.org. This email address will contact all members of the Course Development Team in one shot. We can't wait to hear from you on your new ideas!





The Orion starship in the original episode was just a ball of light



The new and improved Orion starship in HD

Trek in HD Cont. From Page 1

that Matt Jefferies's classic *Enterprise* design holds up remarkably well, even after 40 years.

Although obviously a great deal of focus has been on the *Enterprise*, due to the ship's role as almost another character on the show, the new opticals have certainly not been limited to shots of that ship. Other ships, both Federation and non-Federation, have received the upgrade treatment, too. The *U.S.S. Constellation* in "The Doomsday Machine" no longer looks like a plastic model kit (which of course is what it was!), and the wrecked condition of that vessel is even more frightening now. The planet-killer itself retains the "cornucopia of doom" look, overall, but it now looks more realistic, and more menacing, with a new effect to show the energy within its "maw". The *Botany Bay* looked much more convincingly like it had been in space for three centuries, with hull-weathering and exterior wear-and-tear. The Orions even received a new ship for "Journey to Babel", complete with a whirling aft propulsion armature to echo the "spinning star" effect used in the episode's original VFX. The Gorn got a new ship, as well, though it was only seen far in the distance, a choice made to reflect the fact that we never got a close look at that ship in the original version of "Arena". Indeed, according to producer Michael Okuda, there are a number of shots that may remain in fans' imaginations, simply because the original episodes never included them, and to do so now would change the pacing and artistic flow of the episodes, something the "Star Trek Remastered" team is loath to do.

In addition to ships, we have seen new planet shots, landscapes, shuttlecraft, and many more. Notable shots so far have included a brand new hangar bay for the *Enterprise* in "Journey to Babel" and "The Doomsday Machine" (and alert viewers might note that the bay's size relative to the shuttlecraft inside it is now much more accurately scaled); subtle detailing on the matte of the lithium cracking station on Delta Vega in "Where No Man Has Gone Before"; an improved background of the Janus VI mining facility in "The Devil in the Dark"; a brand new matte of the *koon-ut-kal-if-fee* arena in "Amok Time", viewing it from the air with a Vulcan city behind it, looking very much like (and possibly intended to be) the city of ShiKahr as seen in the Animated Series episode "Yesteryear"; a brand-new matte of the city of Mojave in the Pike-era sequences in "The Menagerie"; an upgraded version of the Starbase 11 landscape from "The Menagerie"; a shot of Argelius II from orbit in "Wolf in the Fold" that includes the lights of cities on the planet's night side; and so many others. Even in episodes in which there were just a few VFX shots, the team from CBS Digital has worked to raise the bar and add greater realism and depth wherever possible.

Interestingly, while the new visual effects have gotten the lion's share of attention on "Star Trek Remastered", the new versions also have another thing going for them. The old episode prints have themselves been digitally...umm...remastered, cutting through years of fading and wear to bring out some of the original colors that haven't been seen in literally decades. Watching the new versions of the episodes, one is struck by just how bright and vibrantly colorful a show Star Trek is, and by how well it still works today, even in our current age where "gritty realism" seems so much more in vogue. It's also a fascinating experience to get a fresh look at how much detail and care went into the show's design and production, detail that had almost been lost to time but is now accessible once again to old and new audiences.

With all of this, the question does come up... Why do this project after all this time, and after so many years of apparent disinterest on the part of Paramount? Perhaps the recent resurgence of interest in TOS? Well, that might have been a reason, but it likely wasn't the dominant one. Likely it's much simpler. It's pretty clear that the old prints and old VFX would not hold up nearly as well with the new high-definition video technologies. Thus, if TOS were to remain viable in the new media markets, it would need a cleanup and upgrade, anyway. Given that, a facelift for the visual effects makes sense in context.

Overall, it seems like the project has done well. Produced by enthusiastic artists who love Star Trek, "Star Trek Remastered" has remained creatively true to the Original Series, while still introducing new effects that will hold up in the 21st Century and upgrading the original footage to bring out detail and color long having been unavailable to the audience. Monetarily, it seems to have done as well as or better in its timeslots than the episodes of "Enterprise" it replaced, and in many markets has even been competitive with new syndicated material. Not bad for a 40-year-old series! If there's been any down-side, it's that in many markets the show has aired in the wee hours of the morning, and many potential viewers simply aren't seeing it. If you fall into this category (I do, too, in the New York market!), I'd encourage you to verify which local station is carrying Star Trek and contact them to request a timeslot more accessible to viewers. In the meantime, TiVo or DVRs or other such recording devices are a huge help. However you do it, I do recommend checking out these "new" episodes. It's worth the look!

As a postscript to all this, it should be noted that CBS/Paramount is planning to roll out the remastered episodes on DVD starting late this year. Expect them on combo-disks, with both standard and high-definition content.

STARFLEET UPDATE: A New Podcast For STARFLEET Members by Larry Barnes, Webmaster, sfi.org

One of the many benefits of creating so many great member services over the internet is its immediacy. In years past, academy courses and membership information was weeks of back and forth mailings through the postal service. Now, with many services online, it simply is a few mouse clicks away. This type of instant information access has created a need for new methods of getting that information to you faster. With this in mind, we have created a podcast called STARFLEET Update. STARFLEET Update is released every few weeks. Created in the form of a news radio show, we talk about all the latest news in STARFLEET, as well as general Star Trek and Sci-Fi. We even put in a little non sci-fi news that may be of interest to members. Interviews are also a big part of the show. Each podcast will contain an interview with a major

person in the STARFLEET community. Hosting each podcast is Neal Fisher, who is Vice Chief of Communications in charge of Media, and Larry Barnes who is Webmaster of www.sfi.org. In future podcasts, there may be additional co-hosts as well as a few special roundtable discussion sessions with a large group of members. If you have ideas or feedback on STARFLEET Update, please email webmaster@sfi.org with your comments.

To access each episode of STARFLEET Update, simply point your web browser to www.sfi.org and click on the latest episode.

Around the Fleet...

Special thanks to Mark Ambinder, Jon Lane, Bob Vosseller, and the crews of the USS Angeles, USS Bondar, and USS Alioth For thier photo contributions



Jon Lane works on the back tower of the Naboo Palace Float before the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade



The Finished Naboo Palace Float heading down the street



Another shot of Les and the crew of the USS Angeles, this time with thier Favorite droid



Dave Singleton, Patrick Barnes and Bob Vosseller in thier Stone Trek costumes at the 2007 Polar Bear Plunge



Richard Heim addresses the R1 Summit crowd, not realizing he has a strange growth on his forehead



Bob Vosseller models the new OFFICIAL Headwear of the USS Challenger



USS Accord was well represented at the 9th annual Chili Cookoff in downtown Ithacas on February 17th



Les Rickard with Gary, Steve, Jackie, Jedi, Laurie, Gloria and Janice of the USS Angeles and thier Jedi protector



Heather Johnson recieves a promotion to ensign at the general meeting of the USS Bondar



Will Devine of the USS Accord recieves his promotion to Lieutenant Cylonel From Accord XO Alan Rose



Keira Strong, and judge Capt. D. Justin Taylor after Following a writing contest award ceremony hosted by the USS Alioth

Computer Operations

Commodore Susan Ueffing

Being from the South, it's been good to see the snow finally melting. With melting snow comes Spring and new growth, and CompOps is no exception.

Database

After lots of hard work by our outstanding database and web team, we have completed the move of the STARFLEET Database over to its new home. This hosting site promises to be much more reliable than our previous site, with better customer service. Many thanks go to Mike Dugas, Danny Potts, Robin Smith and Larry Barnes. Without them this wouldn't have been possible, and I do appreciate them. Thank you.

With the new host, more changes have taken place, primarily the way you would normally access the database. Some URLs our members were using will no longer be valid. The easiest way you can access the database is by using the link through www.sfi.org or going to <https://database.sfi.org>. All other methods of accessing the database are currently deprecated.

e-Commerce (Thanks to Danny Potts for providing this information)

With the move to our new host, we also implemented another service that has been in the works for a while: E-commerce.

We're using the term 'e-commerce' in the clinical sense. What this means is that no STARFLEET hands will be involved in your credit card transactions from this day forward. The STARFLEET database will be completely separate from the processing of your credit card.

For those of you using PayPal, you're already used to this procedure. When you go through the Renewal pathway in the database, there comes a point where the database launches you out to PayPal, and you have PayPal do all the transaction processing for you. Once done, PayPal returns you into the STARFLEET Renewal pathway, and notifies STARFLEET of the completed transaction.

With e-commerce, your credit card transactions will follow the same path. And when I say 'the same path', I mean it. PayPal also has the ability to accept credit cards without the need for a PayPal account, something which makes e-commerce for STARFLEET a reality.

When you reach the point where you're used to seeing the prompts for the Credit Card information, you'll instead be launched into PayPal, where you can choose 'Pay by Credit Card.' PayPal will prompt you for your credit card information, run the transaction, and then will notify STARFLEET of the payment and drop you back in the STARFLEET system.

Again, you do not have to join PayPal to do this. So, the big question: Why are we doing this? There are several reasons:

- 1) To increase the security of your online transactions with STARFLEET. In this new model, STARFLEET will never see your credit card information.
 - 2) To increase the reliability of the data we receive. The current system just captures what you type. Because PayPal will process the card information directly, there are checks and balances built in that will make sure all the information that is entered is correct.
 - 3) To speed up your membership processing. With the old process, a credit card transaction through STARFLEET required the CFO office to enter in the information manually into a credit card machine. That could take time and if there was an error in the information it would take longer as the CFO office would have to track down the member and get the correct information to enter in.
- With PayPal handling the approval of the charge, it takes away that time a person could potentially spend in the queue waiting to be processed.
- 4.) To improve membership processing overall. I'm certain our CFO will agree that processing Credit Card information takes a large amount of time that could be better spent on other areas of customer service in STARFLEET. Having PayPal take over the approval step just increases the speed at which all members can be processed.

Now with e-commerce we've made the change first to the renewal pathway. We haven't made the change yet to the New Member pathway. Why? Basically, it's the failsafe approach... If this process can be further improved, we'd like to 'try it out' on our existing members, who can make suggestions for improvement. Once it's working as smoothly as we can make it, we'll change over the new member pathway so they too will start using e-commerce.

It'll be a little odd the first time you go through the renewal, but we hope everyone at least agrees that moving the Credit Card processing step out of STARFLEET internally is better for everyone involved.

sfi.org

Our webmaster will be speaking on this in this issue of the CQ, but in partnership with Communications we have introduced STARFLEET Updates. This podcast will be featuring news, interviews, and other useful information that our members can use. Please read Larry Barnes' article for more information.

As always I'm always available for questions via email at CompOps@sfi.org or you can reach my Vice-Chief Mike Dugas at ViceCompOps@sfi.org.

Shakedown Operations

Rear Admiral Jerry Tien

In the last issue, I mentioned we had a large group of chapters finishing up their training program. I am happy to announce we had some new launches:

USS Antares (R5), BDR Russ Garrison - Meeting chapter based in Kennewick, WA.

SS Genesis (R14/11), CMDR Gary Amor - Correspondence chapter based in Adelaide, Australia.

On the commission side, USS Mars (R1) just finished its training cruise. This means another full chapter serving the Liberty, KY area. If you are looking for a ship in Kentucky, please contact COMM Peter Lutz at petelutz@peoplepc.com.

We are getting some inquiries to start new hapters in several regions, such as R4 and R12. I hope we can have some solid progress on those to report by the next issue. On the flip side of the coin, any chapters interested in sponsoring new chapters should also contact me so I can refer new chapters to you.

At ShOC headquarters, we work with regional ShOC officers to provide the local feedback. They are an indispensable part of our training program. I'd like to welcome some new regional ShOC officers:

R1: VADM Roger Scritchfield

R4: RADM Dave Pitts

Both are poised to help us bring up new chapters in their respective regions. I urge everyone in these regions to contact them if you are interested in starting a chapter. They can help you find support chapters, explain the requirements and so on. I think you'll find the launch process proceed much more smoothly with their help.

As for the ShOC HQ staff, we are currently seeking some additional schematic artists to help us with ship nd station schematics. This will allow us to service your requests faster, as well as handling greater caseloads. These individuals will work for the Office of Schematic Artists (OSA) and report to the Department of Technical Services (DTS). If you have experience with this type of work, please contact me (shoc@sfi.org) or ADM Alex Rosenzweig (dts@sfi.org) at your earliest convenience. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. We'd love to get more of the design schematics done so folks can have a better idea about those specific classes.

Speaking of services, we are working on some upgrades in the STARFLEET Database system to enhance the chapter management and vessel registration processes. These changes had to wait for the e-Commerce upgrade to complete, as some of them may leverage those upgrades. I will report on the progress in the upcoming CQs.

Communiqué Election Issue Submission Guidelines

By John Adcock, CQ Editor-In-Chief

As 2007 is an election year for STARFLEET, the CQ once again is producing a special election edition this summer. CQ #142 will have a special section dedicated to each slate certified as a candidate by the STARFLEET Inspector General, and any constitutional amendments sent to the general membership by the Admiralty Board.

In order to ensure impartiality by the CQ editorial staff, the following guidelines are in effect for any team certified as an official candidate:

- 1) Submissions must be made to the following email only: cqeditor@gmail.com. Note that this is different from the standard CQ submission address. A confirmation email will be sent by the CQ Editor upon receipt of the submission, and copied to Election Coordinator Jerry Tien (election@sfi.org). No other submission methods will be allowed.
- 2) The deadline for election submissions is 11:59PM (Eastern Daylight Time) on August 1, 2007. While the list of candidates will officially be announced on July 16th, we encourage perspective candidates to get their submission in as early as possible, preferably by the standard CQ deadline of July 25, 2007 or even earlier. Any submissions received after the deadline will be returned to the sender, and will not run in the election issue. Please make a careful note of the date and time. There will be no exceptions, and no extensions for any reason.
- 3) Candidates are encouraged to contact the CQ editor ahead of time to discuss the number of pages (one or two) that they will be using, to allow the CQ staff to properly plan the issue. Remember, the August 1st date is after the standard CQ deadline, so the CQ staff will be waiting on any candidate that waits until the last minute. In addition, waiting will only deprive candidates of any time needed to correct any problems that may arise.

- 4) All submissions must be in the following format:
 - PDF files only. No other file type will be accepted.
 - Files must be complete and all fonts and graphics must be embedded.
 - Submissions must be a minimum of one page and a maximum of two pages. Each page is to be 11" x 13" with half-inch margins. The CQ will publish as many pages as need to include all election material, but in no case will any team be allotted more than two pages.
- 5) If for any reason a submission does not meet the minimal guidelines as outlined, the submission will be returned with an explanation why. Election Coordinator Jerry Tien will be copied on all return correspondence to candidates or members of their teams.

As of the publication of this article, no one on the CQ editorial staff is planning to run for CS or is a member of any perspective election slate. In the event that any member of the CQ editorial staff should become a member of a candidate's team, full disclosure will be made. Should a decision of a subjective nature need to be made regarding election content submissions, that decision will be made by Election Coordinator Jerry Tien. In addition, Jerry will decide in which order content runs in the election section of CQ #142.

Each candidate team is encouraged to present its material in the best way possible, and provide an example of what they are capable of within the current CQ format. Should content of a questionable nature be submitted, it will be forwarded to the Election Coordinator for a decision.

If there are any questions about the election issue and the guidelines above, please contact CQ Editor John Adcock at cqeditor@gmail.com.

EC/AB Report

By Michael Klufas, Chief of Staff to the VCS

Two housekeeping matters before we begin the report:

You may have noticed that there was no ECAB report in CQ139. Not only did I miss the deadline, I simply forgot about it. By the time I — or anyone else — realized it, there was nothing we could do. So this report will catch up on about three months' worth of Executive Committee/Admiralty Board activity.

In my last report (CQ138), I noted that Region 6 Coordinator Mike Urvand discovered that a group not affiliated with STARFLEET was using graphics that incorporate logos from STARFLEET regions 2 and 3. I also noted that then-Region 4 Coordinator Ed Nowlin sent a warning letter to the website owner/designer. To clarify, Ed communicated with this group only on behalf of Region 4 and not on behl of the entire Admiralty Board, the Executive Committee, or STARFLEET itself.

Since the last report, the Executive Committee has seen some changes. In late January, Mark Anbinder replaced Sal Lizard as Vice Commander, STARFLEET. Some AB members raised concerns about this change and the reasons behind it, but the discussion was short-lived.

Fleet Admiral Les Rickard announced that, in his role as a United States Navy reserve officer, he would be deployed to Iraq for about a year, but plans to remain Commander, STARFLEET through the end of his term (December 31, 2007). Les was sent to training in mid-February; while he's in training, Mark Anbinder is also serving as acting Commander, STARFLEET, and will do so until Les' training phase is complete. Once Les is in Iraq, he expects to have better email availability and will be able to remain in his position full-time.

Computer Operations Chief Susan Ueffing appointed former Region 13 Coordinator Mike Dugas vice-chief. Communications Chief Dixie Halber appointed John Adcock as vice chief of Communications for Publications, and as editor of the Communiqué.

Owen Swart, Commanding Officer of USS Dauntless, has been appointed the Acting Regional

Coordinator for Region 8. Members of the Dauntless — the only chapter in Region 8 — approved Owen as the region's representative (per AB resolution 99-01, which governs the selection of a regional coordinator for a region with just one chapter). In this situation, a senior member of the AB serves as a mentor for the new RC, and Region 6 Coordinator Mike Urvand has agreed to do so for Owen Spiteri. A VoC normally takes place over a 30-day period; this one is expected to conclude on or about April 18.

In addition, Les announced that Chief of Shakedown Operations Jerry Tien would serve as the 2007 Election Coordinator. Normally, this role would fall to the Chief of Communications, but since she has been asked to serve on a potential campaign slate, Dixie Halber cannot serve as Election Coordinator. When the Comm Chief cannot serve in this role, it devolves to the next EC member willing and able to serve.

In the last few months, the Executive Committee and Admiralty Board discussed or dealt with the following matters:

Following up on the 2006 International Conference, STARFLEET members were asked to contact Mark Anbinder (who also serves as the IC Liaison for the office of Commander, STARFLEET) if they had ordered items and never received them. Based on two separate, incomplete reports provided by IC2006 Chair Mike Smith, Les was able to put together a basic financial report to share with the ECAB. Several items bought by attendees have been delivered. Mike has been sent emails and letters requesting full information, bank statements and financial books, but has not provided this info as of this writing. It has also come to light that the IC2006 treasurer did not have access to the financial books; registration information was used to try and compile some of the financial information.

There have also been discussions about whether, or how, to pursue Mike's past financial obligation to STARFLEET (an old cell phone bill that hasn't been repaid). The consensus has been to hold off on any pursuit of this matter until the IC2006 matter is resolved. In the wake of the financial issues surrounding IC2006, there were also discussions about how financial issues are being handled by IC2007 and IC2008. Both group are up-

NASA and Star Trek: The History of the Future

By Scott Akers, Jaxon Information Institute

“That was one small step for a man, a giant leap for mankind.”

And NASA accomplished the goal, the promise that President John F. Kennedy made to the American People, actually to Humanity. A promise that was fulfilled not in his lifetime, but for many of us, in our lifetime. Since then many Starfleet members have gone on, and many have since been born. But NASA’s vision and mission has affected all of us as individuals, and a club, and as fans of Star Trek, if for no other reason by how it has affected Star Trek itself.

Much has been written how Star Trek has affected NASA, how the original show gave vision to NASA scientists, engineers and astronauts of the 80s, how TNG affected those of the 90’s and since. But now we will do a quick look how the vision, JFK’s vision influenced the Star Trek of the 60’s, the 70’s, the 80’s and beyond.



The Original Series: Had several references both direct and obliquely to NASA. In the first episode broadcast, “Charlie-X” Captain Kirk refers to UESPA, which we later learn stands for the United Earth Space Probe Agency. While not exactly NASA, it is not but a short leap from the National Aeronautics & Space Administration to UESPA, which Kirk claims is the authority over the USS Enterprise.

Shortly thereafter, the Enterprise was thrown back into the 1960’s in orbit over Earth. There they encounter a United States Air Force Captain John Christopher. Though concerned over returning Christopher to Earth, with his knowledge of the future. Kirk was forced to find a way to do so, as his son Shaun Geoffrey Christopher commanded the first successful mission to Saturn, while no specific agency was mention this would have been before the Charybdis Mission (below) indicating that it was still a NASA mission. Kirk once again mentioned United Earth Space Probe Agency, (not using the acronym, and explained it as a united service to the USAF Captain Christopher.



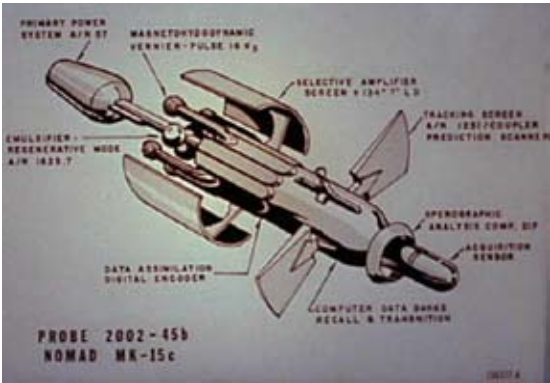
The mission patch of the First Earth-Saturn probe, on display in the 602 Club

The next blast from the past “Space Seed” featured the SS Botany Bay, carrying our favorite genetic superman, Khan Noonian Singh and his merry band of augments. While there was no direct link to NASA, they had to get the Botany Bay from somewhere, the Khan Books by Greg Cox, have Gary Seven appropriating the then unnamed ship from a secret US Government agency, and then placing the Augments in suspended animation for a trip to a star 100 light years distant. In the Voyager episodes “Future’s End” Rain Robinson has a display of a model of the DY-100 (the Botany Bay) with strap on booster on desktop as a decoration, a sign that while not necessarily part of NASA, knowledge its existence was no longer top secret.



This episode was later followed by “The Changeling”, where the

Enterprise encountered ‘NOMAD’, originally launched by NASA in 2002, later encountering and merging with Tan-Ru, its initial programming was corrupted and had to be convinced to destroy itself by Captain Kirk. The probe was build by a Jackson Roykirk, more of who we will learn of later. Though unheard of by the general public, the Nomad Program was probably a sister to the Voyager Unmanned program of NASA, but as it was secret, probably with military or intelligence aspects. Much of the Department of Defense’s budget including their space missions came under control of the Office of Force Transformation led by the late Admiral Cebrowski, and by 2002, they were funding and launching missions from Vanderbilt and Cape Canaveral that were not open to the public.



Ensign Mayweather had a model of the Nomad in his quarters aboard the NX-1 Enterprise

Finally the episode “Assignment Earth”, where we not only meet Gary Seven, but get to see the inside of a NASA Launch Center. Gary is a human who ancestors were removed from Earth some 6000 years prior to his mission by some unknown agency, and then sent back to follow up on the disappearance of two other such agents. Finding that they had been killed in an auto accident, he assumed their mission to prevent the destruction of Earth by nuclear war. Intercepted by the Enterprise, he spent as much time evading Kirk and Spock as he did trying to save Earth. Finally after convincing them to trust him, Seven used the advanced technology in his office to destroy the launched rocket and thus convince the nuclear powers that Orbiting Weapons Platforms were a very bad idea.

The only reference to NASA that was found in Star Trek: The Next Generation was the in the second season episode “The Royale”, in which the Enterprise finds debris in orbit around the planet Theta VIII, of the Theta 116 system, that is determined to be of Earth Origin. Notable on the debris was insignia of bearing the United States Flag with 52 stars, and the logo of NASA.

Through the course of the episode, the Enterprise-D crew determines that the debris belonged to the Charybdis mission, the third attempt for a manned mission beyond the Solar System. Launched on July 23rd 2033, The Chabrydis’ mission was four fold:

- Survey of deep extra solar environment to distance of 100AU
- Interaction of solar magnetic field at heliopause;
- Long-duration crew habitation;
- USAF electric-fields experiment module adaptability study (interagency co-op program)

Nearly 5 years later on February 7th, 2038, NASA lost telemetry with the Charybdis, when the ship accelerated prematurely out of the solar system at twelve times solar escape velocity. A subsequent rescue mission by the “Jacob” was unsuccessful. Unknown to NASA the Charybdis had been contaminated by an alien lifeform that infected and killed all of the crew except for Colonel Stephen Richey, the mission commander. Out of a sense of guilt the aliens created an artificial environment for Richey to live out his days modeled after a book he had with him, “The Royale”.

During the Star Trek: Voyager episode “One Small Step”, the Voyager finds an Earth space craft drifting in the Delta Quadrant. It was determined that Ares IV was part of Terra’s early attempts to reach Mars with a manned Mission. Launched in 2032 under the command of Lieutenant John Kelly with crew members Rose Kumagawa and Andrei Novakovich as a mission of the International Space Agency with communications being assistant by NASA in Houston, TX.

While Kumagawa and Novakovich, Kelly circled the planet maintaining communications between

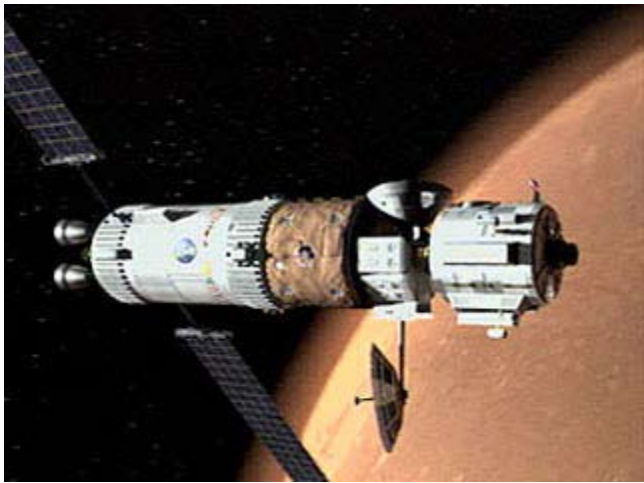
the planet and Earth, on October 19th, tragedy struck. A fast moving spatial anomaly, in effect a graviton ellipse exited subspace, enveloped Ares IV, and then reentered subspace, eventually depositing Ares IV in the Delta Quadrant. NASA only knowing that the ship had been lost,



declared Kelly lost, almost derailing the Mars Missions Program. In actuality Kelly survived at least ten more days, keeping log entries the whole time. Three Hundred and forty-four years later the USS Voyager found the Ares IV, and was able to recover the lost logs, giving Lt. Kelly his final tribute for his sacrifice.

While we have seen how TOS, TNG and even Voyager have had multiple NASA references, First Contact, Metamorphosis, Enterprise, Henry Archer and Zephram Cochrane are notable in the complete absence of any reference to NASA, though UESPA and later Starfleet are mentioned often. NASA as an organization did have some modest influence on Star Trek, but NASA's real

world accomplishments, and even more, its promise for humanity of being able to accomplish much more has been an inspiration not only for future pilots, engineers and scientists, but also for Star Trek writers, actors and we the fans. We the fans of Star Trek and members of Starfleet carry that inspiration throughout our experience in Fleet and perhaps in our lives.



Ares IV Command Module as it orbited Mars

The following websites and books were used to gather information for this article.

www.startrek.com
www.memory-alpha.org
www.wikipedia.org

The Star Trek Concordance by Bjo Trimble
The Star Trek Fiction Companion by Jeff Ayers

The Jaxon Information Institute is dedicated to providing an unbiased and complete history of STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. (SFI). The Jaxon Institute is not officially sanctioned by or affiliated directly with STARFLEET. For more information, please visit the Jaxon Institute at www.jaxoninstitute.org



EC/AB Report cont. From page 21

to-date with financial reporting. Region 4 Coordinator Chrissie Killian also expressed concerns about how the finances of IC2005 were reported on STARFLEET's tax filings (IRS Form 990) and asked for additional information/clarification, which has been provided by Chief Financial Officer Pat Spillers (who served as chair of IC2005).

The Rayburn/Grant Appeal: After Sal's dismissal as VCS in January, ShOC Chief Jerry Tien presented a report on the deliberations of committee hearing the appeal of Dennis Rayburn and Scott Grant on the suspension of their memberships on allegations of improper activities during the 2004 election cycle.

The appeals committee indicated that there were significant issues with the investigation and that the investigation "was not in full compliance of (the) STARFLEET Constitution." As a result, the Admiralty Board voted to vacate the actions taken against Dennis and Scott, as well as retired Fleet Admiral Mandi Herrmann, by a 15-0-1 vote (Region 14 abstained).

The STARFLEET database was moved to a new hosting location in mid-February. After some issues that delayed processing of new memberships and renewals, as well as the availability of the database at its new location, it is now fully back online with all links reestablished from the STARFLEET website.

In response to a question raised by Region 20 Coordinator Ray Spiteri, there was a discussion regarding correspondence chapters and their regional affiliations (by rule, these chapters belong to the region where their commanding officer resides). While no conclusion was reached and there is no plan to change the rules regarding chapter-to-region affiliation, the discussion branched into several areas, including the possibility of allowing chapters to be classified into "regions" based on interests (e.g. classic Trek, Next Generation, roleplaying, etc.).

As always, if you have any questions about these matters, please contact your regional coordinator.



ATTENTION ON DECK!

The Newsletter of the STARFLEET Marine Corps

Project: Rebirth

By Brigadier Kyle J. Wolf Sr.

In 2355 the Starfleet Marine Corps (SFMC) introduced the newest branch, the M.E.C. H.A. (Mechanized Enhanced Combat Heavy Armor) Branch. The Mecha Branch is comprised of mechanized anamorphic battle vehicles, usually called 'giant robots.' Marines, who are called mechajocks, pilot these 'giant robots'. Working alongside the Aerospace Branch and the Armor Branch, the three (3) branches make a formidable tactical force on the battlefield. As with all things technology, and more so with the military development, changes, updates, upgrades, and new developments increase the corps' ability to perform and accomplish their tasks. The Mecha Branch is no different in that regard. As of 2375 Project: Rebirth was launched. What is Project: Rebirth and what does it mean for the Mecha Branch?

Project: Rebirth involves the Third Generation of mecha design. As of Project: Rebirth there are three (3) generations of mecha concepts. The First Generation of mecha were the concepts beyond the initial test units, the initial first mass production run. The First Generation units were designed around weapon systems/platforms rather than by unit concepts, which meant that the functions were based upon the weapon systems and not the unit design. The First Generation units were not completely stable systems. Form and function did not match weapon and concept, and nor did piloting take any advantage of any union between form and function. Over all though, the First Generation units performed their tasks and showed a working and functioning branch.

The Second Generation stabilized the units and enhanced their designs and functions. Mecha units were based upon unit concepts rather than by weapon systems or platforms. Since unit design was based upon concept, the unit functions were created with the design in mind and the design dictated the weapon systems/platforms used. The unit concepts placed a union between form and function, which allowed the pilots to better operate their units. The connectivity of pilot and machine brought more stability and balance to the units. The increase in stability and design balance allowed for more functionality out of a mecha concept, the more uses for a unit could be achieved.

The Third Generation further defined the functions and the systems of the units. The unit concept and the weapon concept were incorporated into the unit design concept. The unit functions were updated, increased through the combining of the unit concept with the weapon concept, which added more functionality to the unit. With more functionality the connectivity of pilot and machine also increased. Designs were even more stabilized and balanced, and allowed for multiple purpose applications. Since the Third Generation used Second Generation concepts, the increase in functions and systems followed a natural course.

The different generations mark the different points of design levels. The generational levels detail the technology used within the units, as well as, what was used for the concept. At the time a unit concept is created, the current level of technology is used within the design. Since time between unit concept and production run can be lengthy, technology that is used in production runs could be as much as five (5) years behind current system designs. Only moderate technology updates/upgrades, those not requiring a redesign of the concept, are incorporated into a unit concept design. Larger updates/upgrades, those that require a redesign of the concept, are left behind for unit upgrades or new production runs.

The various generational levels mark the time periods of the various mass production runs. The time of a mass production shows the level of technology used, as that is what was used during the conceptualization period. By using the current and existing

level of technology instead of relying on new technology, the production runs were more financially feasible. While the actual level of technology used within a production unit may be as much as five (5) years behind current levels, the systems were readily available, repairable, and reliable as they have already been through tests and operational periods. Production runs have an operable life span of five (5) to ten (10) years. Therefore the generational levels indicate when a mass production run's operable time is over and a new one (1) is needed.

Specialty Units are made on demand and are the only exception to mass production runs, where several design concepts are produced at the same time, and to generational level markers. The Specialty Units are produced as soon as the concepts and tests are completed. Mass production runs are done when unit upgrades are needed, such as the time when units are to be phased out of service. The reason units are mass-produced is so that the needed numbers of units are available when called upon for duty. The mass production runs are the start of the generational level and the Third Generation is no different.

The Third Generation was nick named Project: Rebirth. While the production runs between Generation One and Generation Two unit designs were completely different, the runs between Generation 2 and 3 used existing concepts. By using existing concepts, the engineers were able to build upon tested and functional systems. This kept costs down, as the concepts were partially done. Since the production used existing, but upgraded and updated, unit concepts, the title of Project: Rebirth was thought appropriate, especially since the old concepts were essentially were being reborn.

The key feature to the project was modularization. Modularization is the defining characteristic of Project: Rebirth, even though updated technology is also incorporated into the new designs. The idea of modular design was first thought of during the Second Generation run and partially used, but not to its fullest potential. Modularization allows for the interchangeability of parts within a given system. A module is a standard unit, a self-contained interchangeable section(s) that is arranged in flexible and easy constructed parts that can be replaced without affecting any remaining systems/parts. The primary modular concept used within the Second Generation units was that of sectional sections, as such as the torso and leg units. A rather broad view and use of modularization, but it did show the possibility of increasing effectiveness through its use and inclusion. Some of the weapon system/platforms was also made into modular designs called weapon pods, where pod is another name for a modularized component.

The main characteristic of modularization is the ease of using replacements parts. By making units with modular concepts in design, unit repairs were made easier to effect, quicker as less time was required to simply replace a given unit, and cheaper since a system was replaced with an existing component and the broken unit was either sent in for repair, scrap, or salvage. When a team is on the battlefield, time becomes the essential factor for completing missions and even just surviving. The less time a mechanic needs repairing a given unit is the less time it is out of service. The majority of mecha components should be modular in design to allow for better upgradeability, repair, cost effectiveness, and time used in maintenance and the Rebirth units take this notion into their vary being.

While certain parts of a unit can be destroyed, other parts can be salvaged to make a working unit. This is a basic concept of modularization. Since modularization allows for interchangeability of parts, and therefore system parts can be swapped out at any given time for either repair, replacement, or upgrade, it stands to reason for interchangeability not only within a give unit, but also along the lines of several unit designs. With modularization along the line of the mass production line, parts of different units can also simply be swapped out or with. This allows for better salvage

ability of good working systems and parts. Instead of leaving a crippled unit behind, destroying it so the enemy does not get it, the parts can be reused. This keeps the number of downed units low by increasing the number available after given losses. This allows for an increase in mission achievement, the mission being completed.

Another feature of modularization is the cost, or rather the lower costs associated with it. Military budgets are always under review and are usually being cut in some form or another. By first allowing for an increase in salvaged parts, this means the cost of maintenance and repair, not to mention construction, are lowered. The less that systems need to be manufactured, the lower the cost of a given run. Additionally, with modularization there is less training in special and multiple systems, thereby allowing for more repair and maintenance time on given and used systems. Since similar working systems will run through a production run, mechanics are able to maintain more units per person.

Along with the increases from body design, through conceptualization, there is an increase in the piloting ability of the mecha-jocks and their availability of piloting. The number of systems within a unit that are limited through modularization, the more availability of pilots there will be do to less specialization. The more unique systems to a single unit design the more need for specialized pilots, which increased the number of pilots needed within the program/branch. Losses of pilots, while always felt greatly, were felt greatly with the addition in the fact they were specially trained within a given unit and there were no replacement pilots. Therefore, pilots either had to be specialized in multiple units, which made the jockeys vary rare, or missions were placed in jeopardy due to the loss of a given pilot or two (2). With modularization and standardization, pilots are able to pilot additional units without needed specialized training per unit; rather the training was focused upon systems operations. This change in training focus allows pilots to concentrate on their piloting skills more. The concentration on piloting skills over mechanic configuration and operation allows a pilot to work on tactics and to get a better ‘feel’ for the unit. Overall, this increases the pilot’s general abilities with the unit.

With increased piloting ability also comes increased engineering and mechanical abilities. By using standardization through modularization, repairs and general maintenance requires less time and less specialization, just like the jockeys. The vanguard are able to spend more time working with standard systems through out a given run rather than working with a single or even a couple of systems, which limits their abilities, creativity, and usefulness. Just like pilots being able to pilot multiple units, so too can engineers and mechanics work on multiple units per person. Additionally, with updates and upgrades in technology, R&D is able to provide up to date technology for current units through their engineers and mechanics. This allows units to keep as current as possible based upon their design availability for incorporation of the new technology. Therefore, as technology changes, so too can mecha units and with out the need to do complete over hauls or redesigns, which leads to production runs.

This all leads to an increase in design effectiveness. The better and more opportunity to update, or even fix, a system allows for more operable and available systems and units. By removing a specific component that is modularized, the less danger and damage to additional systems is lessened and the specific system’s primary function(s) can be better examined. System dependability due to specialized systems per concept is switched to System Inter-dependability due to multiple system concepts per run.

The updated systems through designed modularization allows for easier and further upgradeability. With both the use of standardized systems and parts, and with interchangeability, both through the use of modularization, makes for retrofitting a unit easier and cost effective. Whole units no longer have to be scrapped, phased out, or even mass-produced in mass runs. Minor or simple construction changes to a given unit design can be made and incorporated through the run. This allows for continued research into working, tested, and available technology through current working systems. As stated above, time is a factor into the operation of the branch. It takes time to construct whole units; time to repair them; time to maintain and upgrade them; therefore, when changes in technology come out, they can be incorporated into the current design models with little trouble and without ordering a new production run. Additionally, unit technology is no longer outdated by the time it is placed into a

working unit.

Modular design also leads to better testing, confirmation, and analyses of upgraded technology. While upgraded systems are tested prior to being incorporated into a working unit design, field tests show better results on the functionality of the upgrade. Therefore, systems used within the field will show both their positive and negative points quicker and more accurately. Upgrades can be ‘tweaked’ from the input gained through the field use without requiring a recall of a unit or design. Also, updates to upgrades can be implemented through the same process and still maintain current systems readiness. A system can be confirmed with the existing systems and with the pilot. How an upgrade will actually function with existing systems will be better determined through direct observation. Usability by the pilot will also be determined and any input on how the upgrade operates will only serve to increase the functionality of the upgrade. Systems analyses can lead to better system implementation within units. Survivability is increased because of availability of current technology and improved systems. More effective units means better mission success ratios.

Project: Rebirth is the name given to the Third Generation run of mecha concept designs, which uses modularization to increase the effectiveness and abilities of the units and the people working with them, while keeping costs at reasonable levels of operation. By taking the concepts introduced in the Second Generation of mecha and implementing modularization, the Second Generation of mecha are given a rebirth of life into their aging concepts and designs. Therefore, Project: Rebirth not only implies revitalization just in the units themselves, but in the whole branch as well. Project: Rebirth is the next step in mecha evolution.

Commandant’s Report

John Roberts, Commandant, SFMC

Bank Account Information

We started the month of January with a balance of \$887.99. We had deposits of \$22.50 and no withdrawals. This left the SFMC account with a balance of \$910.49 at the end of January.

We started the month of February with a balance of \$910.49. We had deposits of \$187.36 and withdrawals in the amount of \$16.00 (a monthly maintenance fee which was incorrectly deducted from our account and will be refunded on our next statement). This left the SFMC account with a balance of \$1,081.85 at the end of February.

International Muster 2007-Have you registered yet?

Denver. The first ever SFMC Mess Night (Friday night), friends, fun and SFMC Programming Track during Saturday Afternoon. If you are interested and want more information, please visit the IC 2007 website at www.ic2007.org. If you have ideas for program you want to see at IC/IM, contact the IC staff or the SFMC General Staff and we’ll see what we can do to help make it happen if possible. I hope to see many of you there in Denver, it promises to be a fun weekend.

Now is the time to register for IC and the Mess Night Banquet (as well as the other meals being hosted at this year’s International Conference.

Even if you have already registered for the IC, you can still go to the website and add the Mess night Banquet or any other meal/merchandise you want to purchase and pay for it online. It’s never too late to “buy early and buy often.”

Complaints about SFMC Staff

I want to take a moment and speak to this issue in case any of you have concerns that have not been properly addressed. If you have issues with any member of the GS or their staffs that you cannot resolve with the staff member privately and desire assistance in resolving the issue, please follow these steps:

1. Try to resolve the issue with the staff member privately
2. If assistance is needed or desired, contact the GS member who oversees that staff

Cont. on page 28

Commandant’s Report cont. from page 27

member for assistance (if a GS member is the person involved, please proceed to step 3) and try to resolve the issue with their assistance

3. If the issue still cannot be resolved or you get no response from the GS member, send your request, detailing the problem and the steps you have taken, to both myself and the Deputy Commandant, and we will try to help you resolve the issue (if the problem involves a member of the GS’ staff, a courtesy cc of the email to that GS member is a good thing as well).

Please remember, we want the problem to be resolved at the lowest level possible. However, if problems cannot be resolved easily, the GS is here to help and we will try to assist as best we can. However, please note, we may not be able to resolve every problem to your satisfaction, nor may it be possible for us to even get involved, depending on the problem.

SFMC Historian

Do you have an interest in history? Do you like to write fiction? Then the SFMC wants you! We are looking for an SFMC Historian. This person would be charged with creating the SFMC History, based upon the information in the MFM and other SMFC publications and then “filling in the gaps.” You would report to the Commandant of the SFMC and have almost unlimited creative control (it must still be approved and fit in the already established histories). You would also need to work closely with the STARFLEET Historian to make sure there were no contradictions in the histories.

Minimum Qualifications for this post are:

- 1. Be a member in good standing of STARFLEET and be, at least, a member of the SFMC Reserve;
- 2. Have passed OTS and PD-10 (OCC and PD-20 are preferred);
- 3. Have regular and reliable email access;
- 4. Have the ability to write clearly and creatively within accepted guidelines.

Still interested? Then here is the application procedure. Write a fictional history for the SFMC Mess night Manual (will be uploaded to the SFMC website in the next few days) detailing the history of the SFMC Mess Night in the same basic manner as the modern day military histories contained in Appendix A of the current draft are written. The history you create must cover the period of time from 2100 to 2261 and should include anecdotes and stories such as those contained in the earlier histories of the modern day military.

Original Series era Uniform ideas?

Do you have an idea for an Original Series uniform variant for the SFMC? Send your idea (with graphics) in a format similar to what is listed in the MFM form our current uniforms, to the Deputy Commandant and myself for review. Who knows, you may be able to claim credit for a new uniform for the SMFC.

What do YOU want from the SFMC?

We have announced several changes and plans for the SFMC over the last several months. Generally, these have been well received. However, the members of the General Staff have received very little feedback about what you, the members, would like to see from the SFMC General Staff.

If you have ideas you think we should take a look at, please let us know. You can reach the members of the General Staff as follows:

SFMC Commandant: dant@sfi-sfmc.org
SFMC Deputy Commandant: depdant@sfi-sfmc.org
Sergeant Major, SFMC: sgm-sfmc@sfi-sfmc.org
Forces Command: forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org
Training and Doctrine Command: tracom@sfi-sfmc.org
Information Command: infocom@sfi-sfmc.org

Remember, we are here to serve you and your needs. We can’t do that without your input. Help us make the SFMC even better.

DepDant’s Report

Aaron Murphy, Deputy Commandant, SFMC

We are well into the New Year and with summits season is upon us. Recognition is being heaped upon personnel across the fleet. The Corps is no different. With the International Conference just a few months away, we are starting to gear up for the SFMC Honor Awards. Brigade OICs have already started issuing Valor Awards to deserving Marines or will be within the upcoming months.

The 2007 SFMC Honor Awards recognize exemplary achievement covering the period of time between IC2006 and IC2007. In order to give the General Staff sufficient time to judge the award nominations, the deadline for nominations will be Sunday, 01 July 07 at 23:59 CDT. Nominations may be submitted e-mail or snail mail, but they must be in my hands by the deadline. Postmarks don’t count. Nominations should be sufficiently detailed to cover the nominees’ achievements in detail. Remember, the marine in question is up for an award that several other marines of equally exemplary qualifications. OICs, it’s your job to convince us that your nominee deserves to get one of the highest awards that the organization has to offer. Don’t send in three or four sentences and expect that to cut it.

As you may or may not know, one of my responsibilities is for compiling and representing marine proposals to the General Staff. I have recently archived all mail from the 2006 calendar year. I have a few odds and ends left to tie up, but for the most part, all SFMC business that I am aware of has been dealt with. If you have submitted a proposal to me for consideration and have not heard back about it, please send me an e-mail and I will look into it or resubmit it, if necessary. If you have new proposals for things that you would like to see in the SFMC, send them my way and it will get pushed forward.

With the lack of any substantial content concerning the SFMC in official Star Trek canon, we have always had to step up to the challenge and create or theorize our role in the universe. At no point in our history is that sort of dedication and creativity more necessary than now, with no new Star Trek on the air and no new movies until Christmas 2008, as well as other Sci-Fi vying for attention. This is *your* Corps. We, as the General Staff, need your input and contributions to keep moving forward, growing as an organization. Fiction, course materials, the vision that the members of the Corps would like to see. The leadership can build what it foresees should be the SFMC’s future, but if it is not what the marines in the trenches accept as the role of the marines, no one will follow it and we will splinter.

Be part of the experience. Be active. Don’t just be along for the ride.

FORCECOM Report

Linda Olson, Forces Command

I understand that there is a rumor running loose that I have stepped down as CO of Forces Command. May I state for the record that I LOVE my job. I enjoy learning what is going on in the various Brigades, Battalions, and Units of the Corps. I Love directing requests for awards to the proper awarding authority, and for the few that I actually bestow, I greatly enjoy doing so. I enjoy somewhat less the reading of massive resumes and making a choice between equally qualified persons who want to place their heads on the chopping block of SFMC in a position to have a target painted on their backs. I also am not really thrilled about dealing with the petty complaints and politics that are always part of the daily life of any organization, but I would not step aside for that alone. When I no longer feel that I can do the job and do so to the standards that I require of myself and those who serve the membership under me, I will step down.

Now that is taken care of, lets move on to other more interesting things. Speaking of resumes, I am accepting several at this time. Anyone interested in the position currently vacant of DCO Forces Command please send your real life and

STARFLEET resumes to me at ST_Dragonlady@msn.com. At the time of this writing I have received resumes from about 12 very qualified persons. I will endeavor to make a decision and hopefully be able to announce it in the next CQ.

I am also accepting resumes for the positions of OIC for the following brigades: 3rd, 7th, and 13th. Anyone residing in these areas who might be interested in the position is encouraged to go to the website and read the manual found under the policy and procedures section of FORCECOM. If you are still interested after reading the manual please send your resume to the address above.

I am not certain that I have made the formal announcement of the opening of the 11th Brigade and the 8th Brigade, so here goes. Please welcome the 360th MSG Spirit Riders attached to the USS Dauntless OIC Phillip Kern. This unit opens the 8th Brigade as they are based in Africa. Also welcome the 377th MEU The Thunder from Downunder, OIC Bruce O’Brien located in New Zealand. This unit opened the 11th Brigade several months ago, and has been doing very well.

There seems to be a bit of confusion surrounding the Commandant’s Campaign Ribbon and when it is awarded. This is a ribbon given for work to promote charities or causes that are selected by the sitting Commandant. The main charities have always been the Special Olympics and the Toys for Tots. We expanded the program to include similar programs in the countries that do not actually have these two programs. If you are interested in having a charity listed for your country please send the particulars of why you feel that the charity deserves the distinction of this ribbon to me and I will forward it to the General Staff for consideration. We have already designated a charity for England I believe. Last year John Roberts added the hurricane relief efforts as worthy of this ribbon. If a member of the Corps aids any of these organizations they merely have to send the information to the Brigade OIC by means of the unit and battalion reports. The Brigade OIC should then include the name of the person and the actions used to qualify for the award in their report. When I receive the individual’s name and qualifying actions, I add them to the list that I maintain for the ENTIRE YEAR. At the end of the year (generally early January) I send the list to the Commandant for his approval and announcement. So if you were reported from February 2006 to December 2006 as having complied with the requirements for the award, you would be announced as receiving the award when the announcement is made. If your name appears in the report after December even if the actions were done in December, your name will not appear as having been awarded the ribbon until NEXT January’s list comes out, unless the Dant sees fit to amend his already published list for 2006.

I would also like to mention that this is an INDIVIDUAL award. If the name of the individuals are not listed in the report, the award can not be given. You CAN NOT merely state that the 674th MSG participated in the Toys for Tots Campaign for 2006. You must state that Wade Olson participated by collecting and delivering toys for the Toys for Tots Campaign. This gives us both the name of the person qualifying and the actions which made qualifying possible. This is one ribbon that I would like to see every marine wearing. It is one very real way that we can make our world a better place to live. Please remember that there is a six month deadline for most SFMC awards. This means that the name and qualifying action must be submitted within 6 months of the time that the action occurred in order to be awarded. There are a few exceptions but not many.

If you are unsure if an action is worthy of an award, please send the description of the action to me and I will do my best to help you decide if it is worthy and for which award it should be submitted. Please remember to keep your submission to my email address within reason size-wise as I am still on dial up connection and extremely large files fail to load before the server disconnects me.



TRACOM Report

Joost Ueffing, Training Command

Greetings from the SFMCA. It’s nice to see the snow melting off the parade ground and I look forward to the graduation ceremonies starting in a couple of months. And as we change classes, we also continually change here within academy HQ as well. Here is a look at what’s happened during February and March:

Staffing

TRACOM wishes to welcome onboard our new staff members to the fold:

- Scott Anderson as the new director for the Infantry Branch
- Joe Fuller as the new Brigade Training Officer for the 5th Brigade
- Scott Akers as the new director of the Professional Development and Leadership Development branches

I want to thank all three of them for accepting these positions and look forward to their work with the SFMCA.

Course Development / Support

New with the MD branch: Cross Credit for MD-25 For SFA students who have completed the Aerospace Medicine (including the Basic Doctorate - which is a compulsory course for SACOM). They will be given credit for MD-25: Aerospace Medicine Course as long as they have met ALL of the pre-requisites for MD-25. Upon meeting the pre-requisites, the SFA student will just need to inform the Medical Branch Director (by normal application) and the SFA student will immediately be granted credit for MD-25. Prerequisites for MD-25:- include completion of AE-10, 20, and AE-25 or 30, and MD-10 and MD-20.

For SOM-SFMCA students who have completed MD-25 will be given credit for Aerospace Medicine Specialty provided they have PASSED Basic Doctorate from SACOM. After which the Director of SACOM will award them cross-credits for Aerospace Medicine Specialty.

For both these cases, the scores reflected on the database for the relevant courses will be exactly the same for the other. For example PASS for MD-25, PASS for Aerospace Medicine Specialty. HONORS for Aerospace Medicine Specialty, HONORS for MD-25.

Current Revision Cycle

It’s that time of year again when TRACOM will be starting our manual revision cycle. This cycle isn’t going to be as heavy since we did a major revision last year, so this revision will mostly be correcting spelling or grammar, adding additional segments to the manuals due to additional tests being added to a branch, etc. We are also working on test revision as well during this period.

SFMCA Colleges

In early February we also added the SFMCA colleges into the database so that they are now part of a student’s record. Any student who feels they qualify for any of the colleges can contract myself or Sean for confirmation and inclusion. Information on what courses are needed to qualify can look in the 2006 version of the TRACOM Policy Manual, available for download off <http://www.sfi-sfmc.org>

Projects In The Works

As reported earlier, TRACOM is currently working on finding an online testing solution that the SFMCA can use to make things easier for both students and staff. A solution has been identified and is currently being evaluated. It’s an online, open source software solution called Moodle (www.moodle.org). Now, I do caution that this software has not been chosen yet, we are only testing it right now. This testing will continue for an indeterminate amount of time, primarily because we want to be absolutely sure this would be able to fill our requirements. If it doesn’t look like it will then we won’t invest more time customizing it and will look elsewhere. That’s a wrap for this issue of the AOD. As always, my door is always open at tracom@asi-sfmc.org. Feel free to drop a line if you have a suggestion or comment you wish to make.

INFOCOM Report

Wade Hoover, Information Command

What's going on? It's been a busy time in my offices for the past few months. Between getting used to my new work schedule, and maintaining the SFMC site, as well as leaving time for my family, my free time has dropped dramatically.

So, what have we been working on for the site? Well, by the time you read this, the SFMC Quartermaster should have a store front online. This store will allow for real time tracking of inventory, as well as making it easy to pay via pay-pal for purchases. We are also working on a Wiki for the SFMC. This Wiki would be used to allow you, the members of the SFMC, contribute to the history of the SFMC, and allow holes in the history to be filled. It can also be used by the individual units to build their histories.

There have been some issues with reports not getting where they should. So, I'm working on going through the report script to make sure that all E-mail addresses are correct, but I need the help of each Brigade OIC. In order to make sure the data is correct, I need each Brigade OIC to send me a list, broken down by Battalion, the E-mail addresses for everyone that should receive reports. This list should be sent to webmaster@sfi-sfmc.org.

Mike McGowan has agreed to take over posting of news items to the SFMC website. I welcome Mike, and thank him for his service to the SFMC.

SGM-SFMC Report

Marie Wilson, Sergeant Major of the Corps

NCO newsletter

As I have reported many times before, I have been trying to work towards an NCO newsletter. The template I have ready, and initial response to the idea was very good, however, actual response for articles, even ideas and suggestions, for the newsletter were very low. Therefore, at this time, myself, and those NCO's who did express an interest in writing articles, it would be great if you could put them together for this 'AOD' section of CQ. If, and when, there is a greater demand, and increased articles, I shall look at producing a separate NCO newsletter.

NCO Reporting

The NCO reporting guidelines are nearing completion. We have looked at including an NCO section with OIC reports that are sent to Major General Linda Olson. Obviously OIC's will need to make that section clear so that it can be pulled from the reports and sent to myself. Another possible idea is a separate NCO report interface. This would be the far easier option in the long-term, especially on MGN Olson's part. These are of course ideas, and I am keen to hear peoples thoughts on them. In the meantime, for those NCO's already filing reports to other Departments, I would be perfectly happy to be cc'd into these as well.

It all helps to keep me up-to-date on what the NCO's of the SFMC are up to. For those that aren't, and wish to file a report, there is the following reporting schedule:

Individual NCO reports are due on the 20th of every odd numbered month to the MSG/MEU Senior Marine NCO. MSG/MEU Senior NCO reports are due on the 1st of every even numbered month to the BN NCOIC. BN NCOIC reports are due the 7th of every even numbered month to the BDE SGM. BDE SGM reports are due the 21st of every even numbered month to the SGM/SFMC.

To be included in the reports are the following:

- Awards issued/earned by NCO's
- Awards requested for NCO's
- Courses taken by NCO's
- Activities in past 30 days
- Activities planned in the next 30 days

Promotions within NCO ranks, and NCO commissioned as Officers
Comments/Suggestions/Problems

The report forms can be found here, http://www.zianet.com/jdkern/sgm/NCO_form.htm But, please don't use the online form, it is not working at this time.

NCO Website

This moves me nicely on to the NCO website, to which, the new report forms will be uploaded, along with the NCO reporting guidelines. The idea of the dedicated NCO website is a one-stop resource site for NCO's. Idea's for what people may like to see on such a site are of course welcome.

Brigade SGM

I have began trying to make contact with BDE OIC's to inquire on whether the position of Sergeant Major of each Brigade is currently filled, and to try and work on staffing that position, if not. The Brigade SGM is a fundamental link in not only the NCO COC, but also a link in the communication network. They are my point of contact within each Brigade, and the link for regular NCO communication channels, in which information can be cascaded both up and down. So, BDE OIC's if your without a SGM, feel free to make contact with me, I can assist in helping staff the position, define what role the SGM plays within the Brigade. NCO's, if an NCO position is vacant within your Brigade and/or Unit, contact your Unit OIC and/or BDE OIC, take a look at the job specifications. Your OIC might now know of your interest if you don't make them aware.

Listserv's

Just as a reminder, we do have two listserv's for the Enlisted member. The NCO list serv, and the Warrant Officer list serv.. The NCO listserv is now hosted on the SFMC server. For those not already subscribed, you can do so at the following webpage: http://mail.sfi-sfmc.org/mailman/listinfo/nco-l_sfi-sfmc.org

The Warrant Officer listserv is on Yahoo, to subscribe to this list serv, send a mail to wo_sfmc-subscribe@yahoo.com. These listserv's are not only open to the Enlisted member, but also those interested in the NCO Corps.

As before, you can reach me at sgm_sfmc@sfi-sfmc.org as well as within the Corps Channel on IRC whenever my computer is on, and the following IMs:

- IRC - jerasarine
- Yahoo! - jerasarine
- AIM - jerasarine
- MSN - co@nx20.org.uk
- ICQ - 47602978

I may not always be at the computer, but I do check it periodically, so drop a message, and I'll get back to you. As always, my door is always open.



Officer or NCO?

Marie Wilson, Sergeant Major of the Corps

What is the difference between an Officer and NCO? What are the duties and responsibilities of an Officer? What are the duties and responsibilities of an NCO?

Simple questions, and perhaps defining the differences, and roles, of both the Officer, and NCO, within the Military Forces of today is a relatively easy task. In fact, those of you that have served, or continue to serve, within your own countries Armed Services have experienced first hand these differences/roles. But what about within STARFLEET, and the SFMC?

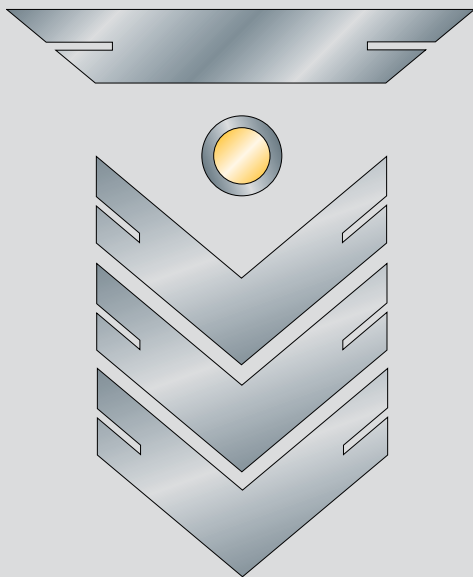
It is often said that NCO's are 'the backbone of the Military'. There is a beautiful article written by SGM Kevin Stuart, who is/was Division Medical Operations Center Sergeant Major at Camp Casey, Korea. SGM Stuart defines this "backbone" as 'the stabilizer and critical link of the 'Army''. He states 'the NCO Corps is the strength and heart of our great organization. In summery, this metaphoric term, "backbone" implies that we (NCOs) are the strength, stabilizer and lifeline of the Corps. But, and yes, there is a but... Within our FLEET, the NCO's make up no more than a few vertebra. No-one can argue the 'Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honour, Integrity, and Personal Courage' of these NCO's, but we are few and far between.

Why are there so few NCO's within FLEET? Why, when the Armed Forces of today are made up mainly of Enlisted personnel, is STARFLEET toppling over with Officers? The simple answer is members aren't aware that they do not have to accept Officer commission upon completing OTS. When I first joined STARFLEET I was an NCO, yet, upon completion of OTS was quickly promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. In my early days in FLEET I didn't know that I didn't have to accept that commission. But the choice is there. Every member has the option of commissioning as an Officer, or remaining an NCO and moving up through the Enlisted ranks, before, if they wish, becoming an Officer.

Remaining as an NCO does open doors, as there are both courses are awards that have been set aside for NCO's that Officers are not eligible, or given credit for. There are also many vacant positions with units and Brigade's for NCO's, as there just isn't currently enough Enlisted personnel to fill these slots.

So, if I've caught your interest, and you would like more information on how to participate in SFMC as an NCO please feel free to contact me at sgm_sfmc@sfi-sfmc.org ... And remember...

Officer or NCO? The choice is yours...



Spotlight on the Corps

John Roberts, Commandant, SFMC

This month's Spotlight interview featurers BDR Mike Dethlefs, the 17BDE OIC and OIC of the 898MSG.

Name: Mike Dethlefs
Rank: Brigadier
Position(s) Held: OIC, 17th Brigade, XO USS Tomahawk
Unit: 898th MSG "The Flying Medicine Men"
Brigade: 17th
Chapter: USS Tomahawk

What do you do in "real life"?
I'm an assistant manager and projectionist at a movie theatre. I also perform Dinner Theater.

How long have you been a member of STARFLEET? The SFMC?
9 years for both

What is your favorite Star Trek episode? Why?
Devil's Due. I like the character of Ardra and the whole con-artist on a planetary scale angle.

Who is your favorite Star trek Character? Why?
Q. Gotta love the snide arrogance and godlike powers!

Why did you join STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc?
Way way back in the Misty Dawn of Time...(1991), I belonged to a group that was a chapter of IFT. I left because they were getting a little too serious about their Trek (starting to demand that people be addressed by their rank, that sort of thing). A friend told me about SFI, and I decided to give them a try...and the rest, as they say, is history.

Why did you join the SFMC?
I wanted to try something different. (Besides, I look better in Salt and Peppers than in a 'Fleet uniform ;))

What do you like most about the SFMC? Why?
More of a laidback, we're here to have a good time and not take ourselves seriously attitude.

What would you like to see changed in the SFMC?
More inter-unit activities. (Difficult I know given the distance between units in this region, but it would be nice to see some these people more than twice a year at Cons.)

What would you like everyone to know about your unit?
The 898th is one of the best units in the Corps (*puts horn away*). Seriously though, this unit is some of the best people I've ever had the pleasure to work (and play) with, and I'm proud to call them friends.

If you could be any cartoon character, who would you like to be and why?
Freakazoid. It would be the perfect outlet for my Inner Craziness!

If you could command any vessel in the Star Trek universe, what would it be and why?
The USS-Relativity. Two words: TIME SHIP!! ;)

What do you like about being a BDE OIC?
Being able to help shape things on more than an individual level. Also, being able to recognize people for their efforts with awards.

Where Every Lifeform Knows Your Name: Re-Introducing the FleetChat IRC Network

By Allyson Dyar, Chief Network Administrator, Fleetchat IRC Network

Fleetchat has been around since 1999 and if you haven't checked us out, what's your excuse?

Mike Smith recently handed over the reins to me and I thought it was time to re-introduce everyone to the wonder that is IRC chat one of many forms of communication that STARFLEET members utilize.

If you have a PC, you can use a dedicated IRC client such as mIRC (<http://www.mirc.com>). Mac users can use the IRC client snak (<http://snak.com/>).

Our server information:

destiny.fleetchat.org (Direct IP Address: 209.178.198.91)
karma.fleetchat.org (Direct Address: 198.145.45.5)

All connection ports are 6667, and detailed instructions are located here:

<http://www.fleetchat.org/servers.html>

We also have a web IRC java client available if you have problems connecting and need help or don't wish to install a dedicated IRC client:

<http://javaserver.fleetchat.org>

Please note, however, that the javachat client we use doesn't like the Mac computer, so you may have problems using it.

When you are online, help can be found in the channel #fleetchat, where you should find at least one or two IRC Operators (folks with @ in front of their nicks) to help you. You can always pop

The Stamp cont. From page 13

"You understand that Cecilia isn't for everyone, sir. Our guests are discriminating, and I regret to inform you that you do not qualify."

"My credit is fine. I've got six stars. No problem."

"It's not your credit, sir."

"What is it?"

For the first time ever, Gottlieb looked angry. On second thought, it wasn't really anger. It was disappointment. It was the same look I got from every teacher that said I was a bright young man, and I would go far in life if I would just apply myself.

"High fructose corn syrup," he spat.

"Pardon me, Mr. Gottlieb?"

"High fructose corn syrup. It's in your system. We know. Your waste indicates a high concentration of high fructose corn syrup. It's all right here in the report."

Gottlieb handed me a small scroll of paper with a piece of silk wrapped around it. I opened it up. My name, my picture, and a detailed list of the things I've eaten over the past three weeks, where I bought it, how I ate it, and when I ate it. I knew how they knew. The reason you show up early was so they could determine what kind of food you eat when you eventually use the facilities.

The Stamp. It rattled me out. I'd been eating leftover hallowe'en candy all week, and someone who eats candy bars is not the kind of person Cecilia deigns to serve.

I called Paul in the morning. He's probably still laughing.

into #starfleet, our busiest channel, if no one in #fleetchat can give you immediate assistance.

In addition, we have an email mailing list for announcements pertaining to the FleetChat IRC Network. You can subscribe to the list by pointing your web browser to:

<http://lists.fleetchat.org/mailman/listinfo/ircstatus-l>

Or you can subscribe via email. Send an email to:

ircstatus-l-request@fleetchat.org and in the subject put "subscribe"

Subscribing to this list will keep you informed and up-to-date on FleetChat IRC status and information and is highly recommended.

Our channel owners and users guide is a good source to check if you're an IRC newbie:

<http://www.fleetchat.org/channelguide.html>

as well as our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

<http://www.fleetchat.org/faq.html>

Come and join us -- you'll have a great time!

Operation Sweet Freedom by Liz Woolf, STARFLEET Awards Director

STARFLEET has a long, proud history of caring for our armed forces overseas. Operation Eagle has provided this kind of support for years, as has the Overseas Coupon Program. With Fleet Admiral Les Rickard heading off to join the effort, along with other STARFLEET members currently serving, the issue has struck close to home for many of us.

In the months to come, I'm sure Les and our other members overseas will be inundated with care packages, letters and postcards from 'Fleet members. The Awards Department has decided to do its part to add to that bounty, and we hope that you'll join in.

I'm proud to announce "Operation Sweet Freedom," STARFLEET's first (as far as I know!) cookie baking contest. Members who want to join in will bake batches of cookies to send to FADM Rickard. Les and his unit will carefully test and sample them, and let us know who should be declared STARFLEET's premiere cookie baker! This is obviously a tough job for them, and we're thankful that they've agreed to this arduous task.

What do you do if you want to participate? Contact me and I'll provide you with everything you'll need to know. Depending on participation and interest, I may assign people specific blocks of time so that the shipments are spread out more evenly. You can find some great tips for shipping cookies overseas online, and I'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

The winner will be announced at a later date, and Les has promised to pick up a special exclusive prize for the winner. You can reach me at awards@sfi.org or Liz Woolf, 105 Signal Hill Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871-2548.





DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WORLD PREMIERE EVENT

THE MUSIC OF STAR TREK WITH THE DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

THE DSO REQUESTS AN OFFICIAL STARFLEET PRESENCE

**Be transported to the final frontier as the
Dallas Symphony Orchestra boldly goes where NO orchestra has gone before.**

**Presented for the FIRST time,
experience the music of STAR TREK LIVE!**

**Narrated by John De Lancie
"Q" from Star Trek: The Next Generation & Voyager**

June 5-6, 2007 at 7:30 PM

**At the Meyerson Symphony Center
Dallas, TX**

**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
Tickets starting as low as \$35.00**

**(For Seating Chart please log on to DallasSymphony.com)
Discount tickets available for groups of 10 or more**

**To Purchase Tickets Please Contact
Jason Loft at 214-871-4054 or j.loft@dalsym.com**



International Conference 2007: Reaching New Heights in STARFLEET

By Admiral Johnathan Simmons, IC 2007 Public Relations

The clock is ticking... Have you registered yet?

STARFLEET Region 17 and friends continue working hard to bring you the 2007 STARFLEET International Conference and SFMC International Muster! As you know by now, the event will be held in sunny, scenic Denver, Colorado from August 10th through the 12th at the luxurious 4 Star Adam's Mark Hotel.

Want to know more about Denver? Located at the base of the Rocky Mountains, Denver is one of America's most beautiful cities. Denver has the tenth largest downtown in the U.S. - a bustling area centered around a mile-long pedestrian promenade that is lined with outdoor cafes. Down every street there are mountain views with a 120 mile long panoramic view. Downtown Denver is home to three new sports stadiums, 300 restaurants, a restored historic district filled with 90 bars and brewpubs, a collection of museums, a performing arts center, a variety of galleries and shopping and even a unique downtown amusement park, Six Flags Elitch Gardens. It is also the location of the 2007 STARFLEET International Conference!

OUR GOAL

Our goal is to reach higher and farther in making the 2007 International Conference a highlight in STARFLEET history. Denver is, after all, the Mile-High City, and we will strive to make each and every aspect of TREK 5280 a "mile"-stone for future IC's to reach for.

We believe that the IC should be more than just a meeting of the EC/AB, and in many ways it already is, but our goal is to use it to expand STARFLEET. With several guests in the works, IC 2007 will be a great recruiting tool. With our programming and facilities we will make this a Fleet-wide event that will reach new heights in STARFLEET.

This IC will offer many unique activities... read on!

LATEST NEWSFLASHES... MAY 2007

REGISTRATION UPDATE

So far, we have 85 members who have registered for this IC. Have you?

HOTEL REGISTRATIONS

We are using the **PASSKEY** service for registrations. **Do not** call the hotel directly. Please call **877-642-9212** or use the **REGISTRATIONS** link by going to: <http://www.ic2007.org/dhotel.html>. If for any reason you experience a problem, please contact Jennifer Scott at 720-270-2975 and she will personally see to it that you get taken care of.

ICbay

ICBAY is LIVE! ICBay is the official online auction! All items posted before the IC are for the purpose of offsetting IC costs, thus allowing more of the charity auction funds to be used for charity. Donated items for the charity auction or ICBay are accepted. For more info, surf over to <http://www.ic2007.org/cgi-bin/icauction/auction.pl>

CHARITY AUCTION

Donate your items for our special charity auction. All proceeds from the charity auction go to benefit the National Jewish Medical Research Center.

GUEST LIST

Tim Russ is appearing and will be catering to our members. We have others planned, but we can't tell you who they will be until they are confirmed. Want to know who will be appearing at the International Conference? Check out the list at <http://www.ic2007.org/hic2.html>. There has been some consternation over the possibility of the guests taking precedent over the members. We assure that this will not be the case. While we will have guests at the International Conference... OUR MEMBERS WILL BE THE STARS.

SURVEY

We want to know what YOU want in an IC... Take the online survey here:http://www.ic2007.org/survey.php?name=Survey_628

FEDERATION BALL

Dance the night away with our very own formal ball.

MARINE MESS NIGHT

On Friday night of IC, the SFMC will host its first ever Mess Night. The Mess Night or dining-in is a formal dinner for members of a military organization or unit. It provides an occasion for officers to meet socially at a formal military function. The purpose of a Mess Night or dining-in is to recognize individual and/or unit achievements or any events that are effective in building and maintaining esprit de corps to include saying farewell to departing officers and welcoming new ones. A Mess Night or dining-in may also be held to honor one or more distinguished visitors. It is important to emphasize that a Mess Night or dining-in should be viewed as a manifestation of association rather than a mandatory formation for all parties. The required for the SFMC Mess Night is Either formal Dress Uniforms (SFMC or Fleet) or comparable civilian attire. If you have any questions on the Mess Night, please contact John Roberts at dant@sfi-sfmc.org.

SFMC INTERNATIONAL MARINE MUSTER

On Saturday afternoon, the SFMC Marine Muster will be held. This year the Muster will feature a few panels to cover topics of interest to the SFMC membership. Panels are still being decided upon and amore complete will follow in the next few months. If you are interested in hosting a panel during the Muster, please let John Roberts know at dant@sfi-sfmc.org. Space is limited so please contact him soon with any ideas for panels you may have.

GREAT IC STUFF STORE

A Full line of IC2007 Merchandise is available for purchase. Polo shirts, Cloisonné Pins, Travel Mugs and Messenger Bags are just the tip of the iceberg! More great IC items including the official IC Mascots will be added soon. To order... go to <http://www.ic2007.org/hic3.html>

IC FORUMS

Discussions are happening on the IC website forums. Got a suggestion? An idea? A question? Head on over to <http://www.ic2007.org> and click on the FORUM link at the top of the page. We want to hear from you!

PANELS, PANELS & MORE PANELS

Would you or your chapter like to host a panel? Panels and Workshops are now being scheduled. We're planning a multitude of panels from discussion panels to demonstration panels, costuming panels and workshops are on the agenda. If you'd like to host a panel, please contact our Programming Chair, Wayne Snyder at programming@ic2007.org. You can also register a panel by visiting the website and clicking the SCHEDULE tab.

PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING

The Official IC2007 "Reaching New Heights" Program Guide is now in the planning stages. If you require advertising space, please contact our Design Chair, Christina Sievers at design@ic2007.org.

WEBSITE ADVERTISING

We have web banners and other promotional logos on the IC2007 website. Please feel free to post one on your chapter's website.

MORE ADVERTISING

We are heading into Summit Season for the Fleet. The IC 2007 Design Staff have created PDF files of registration forms and flyers to put on your regional summit tables. You can get these by simply contacting our Design Chair, Christina Sievers at design@ic2007.org.

CHARITY POKER TOURNAMENT

Like to play that dead man's hand? Got an Ace up your sleeve? We will be hosting a poker tournament for charity with some fabulous prizes. All proceeds will go to charity, so one hand you're gambling, but on the other hand, you're not. And it all goes for a great cause. Texas Hold 'Em seems to be the game of choice. Multiple tables available. Contact our gaming chair, David Horst at gaming@ic2007.org for more information.

WE NEED YOU

Want to Help? We can always use an extra hand. Any help anyone has to offer is gladly accepted and appreciated. If you'd like to volunteer for IC2007, contact the IC Co-Chair, Bran Stimpson at bran@ic2007.org

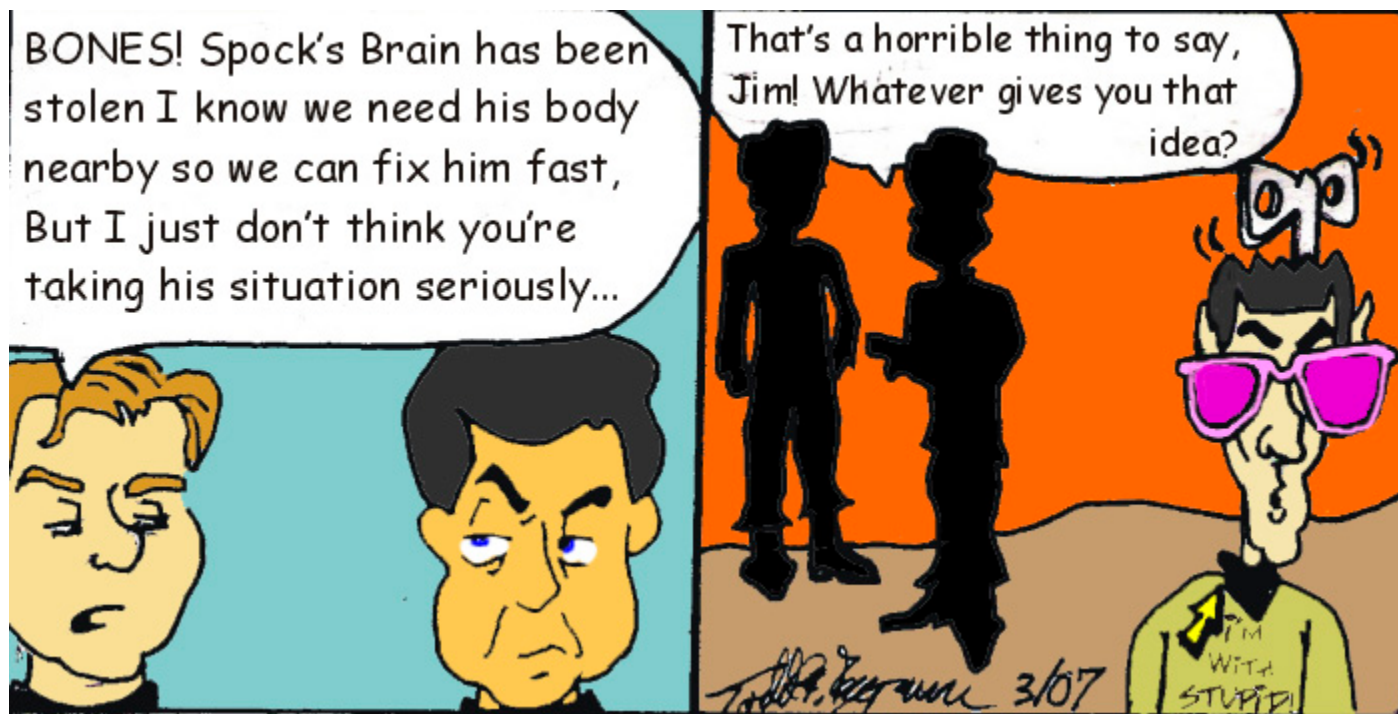
AWAY TEAMS

There are many attractions within a short driving distance and even walking distance too! Your IC2007 TEAM is planning away teams for guided tours and group rates for certain attractions. These will be announced in upcoming press releases. Listed below are some of these attractions:

- **Colorado Rockies Baseball Game** (By popular request)
- **Denver Mint Tour** (By popular request)
- **Wings over the Rockies** (Air & Space Museum complete with an X-Wing Fighter from Star Wars)
- **Denver Museum of Nature & Science**
- **The Denver Zoo**
- **16th Street Mall** (Shopping and Food and Much, Much More)
- **Six Flags Elitch Gardens Amusement Park**
- **Casino Excursion in the mountains**
- **Caving and Hiking Expeditions**
- **Pike's Peak and Cheyenne Mountain Expedition**
- **Whitewater Rafting Excursion**

These are just to name a few of the attractions that are within about an hour's drive! Go to the website and take the online poll and tell us what YOU want to do!

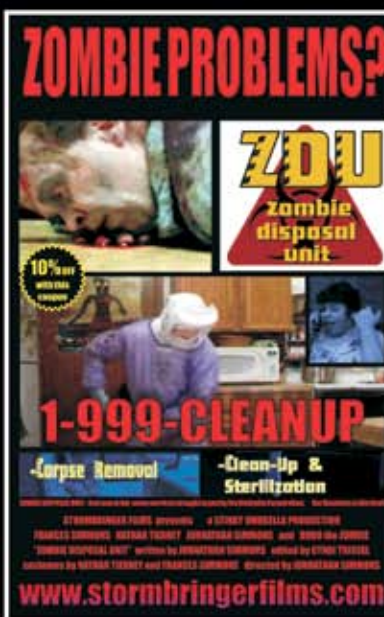
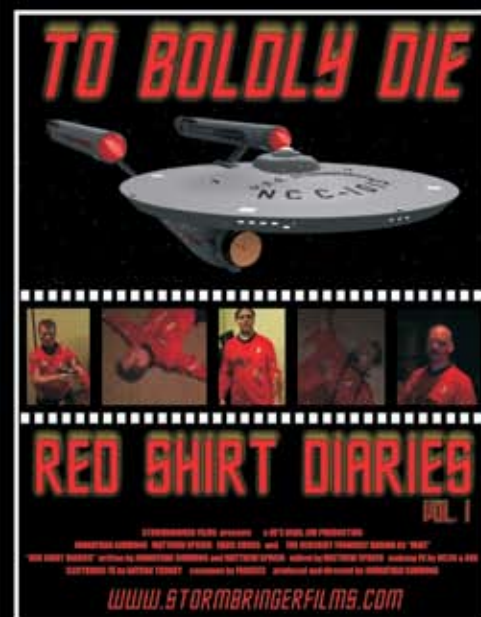
THE TRIBBLE'S LOG



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Are You "Ready To Go?"

www.ic2007.org

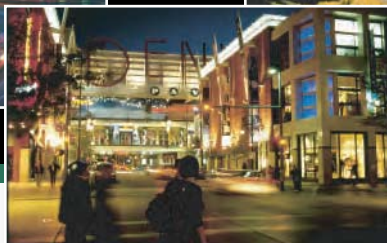
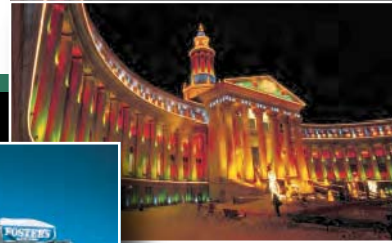


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FEATURED GUEST

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"Tuvok"

Star of Star Trek: Voyager

