

# STARFLEET COMMUNIQUE

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2007 Year In Review #144

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  STARFLEET, THE INTERNATIONAL *STAR TREK* FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Changing of the Guard



### The Executive Committee Passes the Torch to the Next Generation

#### Inside:

Breakfast with Aliens  
STARFLEET "Down Under"  
Highlights of the Region 5 Summit  
The *USS Heimdal*'s 23rd Anniversary  
The Region 7 Conference  
The *USS Angeles* Goes Sailing  
And lots more...



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# "Quote" Trek

## TOS: "The Trouble With Tribbles"

**Scotty:** Laddie, don't ye think ye should...rephrase that?  
**Korax:** Ye're right...I should! I didn't mean to say that the *Enterprise* should be HAULING garbage. I meant to say that it should be hauled away AS garbage!

## STILL: The Search For Spock

**Sulu:** Don't call me "tiny."

## DS9: "You Are Cordially Invited..."

**Bashir:** There's nothing more romantic than a wedding on DS9 in the springtime.  
**O'Brien:** When the neutrinos are in bloom.

## TNG: "I, Borg"

**Picard:** You will assist us to assimilate this vessel. You are Borg. You will assist us.  
**Hugh:** I will not.  
**Picard:** What did you say?  
**Hugh:** I will not assist you.  
**Picard:** "I"?  
**Hugh:** Geordi must not be assimilated.  
**Picard:** But you are Borg.  
**Hugh:** No. I am Hugh.

## VOY: "Relativity"

**Seven of Nine:** The Borg once travelled back in time to stop Zephram Cochrane from breaking the warp barrier. They succeeded, but that in turn led the starship *Enterprise* to intervene. They assisted Cochrane with the flight they were trying to prevent. Causal loop complete.  
**Lieutenant Ducane:** So, in a way, the Federation owes its existence to the Borg?  
**Seven of Nine:** You're welcome.

## ENT: "Cease Fire"

**Trip:** I don't like pushing the engines this hard. The injectors are running at 110%.  
**T'Pol:** They're rated for one hundred and twenty.  
**Trip:** Yeah, and my underwear is flame retardant. That doesn't mean I'm going to light myself on fire to prove it.

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# Breakfast With Aliens

By Captain **Pamela Michaud**  
CO, *USS Ronald E. McNair*

Stardate: 200706.16

Breakfast with the Aliens was held in conjunction with the Aliens exhibit at the South Carolina State Museum that started February, 2007 and closed in September, 2007. The breakfast was for invited guests as well as anyone visiting the museum that morning who wished to eat breakfast with *Star Wars* characters and *Star Trek* re-enactors, as the Museum called us.

There was a trivia contest held during the breakfast with questions about *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* directed to the youngsters in attendance, as well as photo opportunities with the various alien races present. There



**Morning at the museum.** *USS Ronald E. McNair* officers man...er, woman the STARFLEET table during the Breakfast with the Aliens. Left to right: Cat Henry, Pamela Michaud, and Beverly Munib Photo supplied by Pamela Michaud.

were children dressed like Anakin Skywalker, Padme Amidala, and Buzz Lightyear. The 501st Legion had a few children dressed as Jawas and one as a Stormtrooper.



Alas, poor Yorick. I knew him, Horatio...a fellow of infinite jest. Boba Fett stands by to referee the Alien Skull Debate, featuring (seated, from left to right): Jedi Kermit, Stephen Scott, Keith Munib, Richard Heim, and Ray Seay. Photo supplied by Pamela Michaud.

STARFLEET Chapters from Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina were invited and enthusiastically said they'd be happy to assist with this event. Members from the *USS Appomattox*, *USS Star League*, *USS Alaric* and *USS Hornet* came, as well as members of the Maquis ship *MFS Intrepid II*. Since some STARFLEET members are also members

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of the Klingon Assault Group (KAG) as well as the Romulan Star Empire (RSE), the Rihannsu and Klingons were represented. Boba Fett, Rogue Jedi Kermit, Jawas, and a Twi'lek, as well as Stormtroopers from the 501st Fighting Legion of Stormtroopers (Carolina Garrison), and Dr. Who were there, as well as *Star Trek* based personas.

*USS Ronald E. McNair* members manned a recruiting table and were assisted by *Appomattox* crew members. This event showed people what STARFLEET is all about: people, no matter their sci-fi persuasion or passion, working together as a team and having fun. The "Let Me Help" motto embraced by STARFLEET International was alive and well at this event. Comments from many parents attending the breakfast,



Region One and havin' fun. The recruiting table was the place to be at the Alien Breakfast. Left to right: Keith Munib, Cat Henry, and Beverly Munib of the *McNair*, and Chuck Rayburn of the *Appomattox*. Photo supplied by Pamela Michaud.

as well as people touring the Aliens exhibit and museum, had nothing but praise for all involved. They remarked favorably about the professionalism of the *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* members, how they were more than happy to answer questions, pose for pictures or just play with the kids.

The museum was so happy that there was such a great turnout for this event and thanked all that attended and assisted with this endeavor. The *McNair* also wishes to thank everyone who made this a success.



Aren't you a little short for a Stormtrooper? Beth Wingo of the *USS Charleston* poses with some Stormtroopers of varying sizes, and also with a Jawa in the background. Photo supplied by Pamela Michaud.



Ah, to relax after a long day at the museum. Region One folks work hard and then they like to unwind. From left to right: Carolyn Peters and John 'Kiwi' Kane of the *USS Hornet* and Keith Munib of the *McNair*. Photo supplied by Pamela Michaud.



# The Southern Cross Shines

By Lt. Cmdr. **Kirok of L'Stok**  
*USS Southern Cross*

The weekend of the STARFLEET International Conference 2007 was of significance in Region 11 for an entirely different reason – the commissioning of the *USS Southern Cross*, the strongest signal yet of the resurgence of *Star Trek* fandom in Australia and New Zealand!

The fan base that the *USS Southern Cross* serves spans two nations, a distance greater than the breadth of the continental United States, yet with a fraction of the population. This tyranny of distance makes a correspondence chapter the most practical choice for us, but it comes at a price. No amount of online interaction can compare to meeting and enjoying each other's company in person. You can imagine, then, the immense anticipation with which we have been looking forward to our commissioning weekend when we would all finally meet face-to-face.



As with the IC, the action started with the arrival of interstate and international visitors at Adelaide airport on Friday. Two of our members from Newcastle in New South

Wales, Steve Latham and our XO, Wayne Smith, were the first in, to be met by Adelaide member Paul Woolard. The next to arrive were Chris Jacobs and our CO, Lt. Colonel Bruce O'Brien, who was met by Donna Reid, our head of Communications. Bruce & Chris had met up at Sydney airport where Bruce's international flight from New Zealand had come in.

Adelaide's weather was unseasonably clear and sunny (remember: August is late winter for us), and this was mirrored by the warmth of the reception given to the out-of-towners by the Adelaide members. This went far beyond arranging all the practical details of transportation and accommodation! Their open and friendly acceptance of people they had previously only known over the internet was heart-warming and inspirational!

The weekend's events started with a casual meet-and-greet where the group grew larger and, as the night wore on, more relaxed and sociable as Steve set a steady pace on the beers!

*Continued on the following page...*



**Crew "mates" from Down Under.** The *USS Southern Cross* is commissioned in Adelaide in South Australia. From left to right: (back row) Wayne Smith, Bruce O'Brien, Liam Smith, Alec Donnon, Chris Jacob, Gary Amor, and Bruce Mutter; (middle row) Lexie Currie, Paul Wootton, Louise Hup, Wendy Brokensha, Matthew Tuting, Michelle Lockie, Julie Amor, Robert Fisher, and Sandra Mutter; (front) Josphine Fisher and Thomas Mutter. Photo by Stephen Latham.



**Continued from the previous page...**

Saturday it was down to business as the crew descended on the Adelaide Writer's Centre in the middle of town and pitched in to create the setting for the day's meetings and ceremonies.

It had been hoped to make the event into a truly international event by having an Internet linkup with the IC in Denver, but this was not to be. As it was, despite the efforts of our Engineering department, Robert Fisher and Paul Woolard, and our hard-working XO, Wayne, the room proved to be an impenetrable black spot for WiFi. Luckily, we had prepared some material beforehand as a fallback plan and were able to show a number of video and audio messages from ranking officials in STARFLEET International and *Star Trek* fan productions in the US and the Netherlands.

This was still a bit of a blow for those of us who could not be there and had been looking forward to a webcam hookup. However we--myself and Erik Stubblefield and two of our associate members in America, Gunny Kiwi Kane and Jayden Tyronian, XO of the *USS Chicago*--cracked a 'virtual' bottle of champagne over the bows of the *USS Southern Cross* as we chatted on the aether.

Meanwhile, back at the Writer's Centre, the CO was entertaining the crew with talks on the STARFLEET Marine Corps, uniforms, and medals before commencing with the promotions and awards to those crew being honoured. Wayne, our indefatigable XO, was promoted to Commander, Chris Jacobs, Graeme Smith and Paul Woolard became Lieutenant Junior Grade, Liam Smith went up to Second Lieutenant, and Wendy Brokensha was promoted to Petty Officer First Class.

The newly promoted Wendy and Paul also gained Chief Officers Commendation awards along with Lieutenant JG Alec Donnon and Lieutenant JG Robert Fisher for contributions to their divisions and the chapter. The

it gave Bruce the opportunity to announce that Erik had been chosen as the SFA Red Squad Team Leader for 2006! Whilst this was a significant honour for Erik and the chapter, Bruce had more good news: the *Southern Cross* had, in fact, got a total of four of its members selected to Red Squad 2006 - Erik was to be joined by Commander Wayne Smith, Lieutenant JG Josephine Fisher and First Lieutenant Lexie Currie! An amazing personal achievement for each of them and something that all the crew can take pride in.

Later that afternoon, after the official commissioning events had been finished, it was on to the house of Darren and Donna Reid, where the members and guests were treated to the finest hospitality and some great food provided by various crew until late into the night.

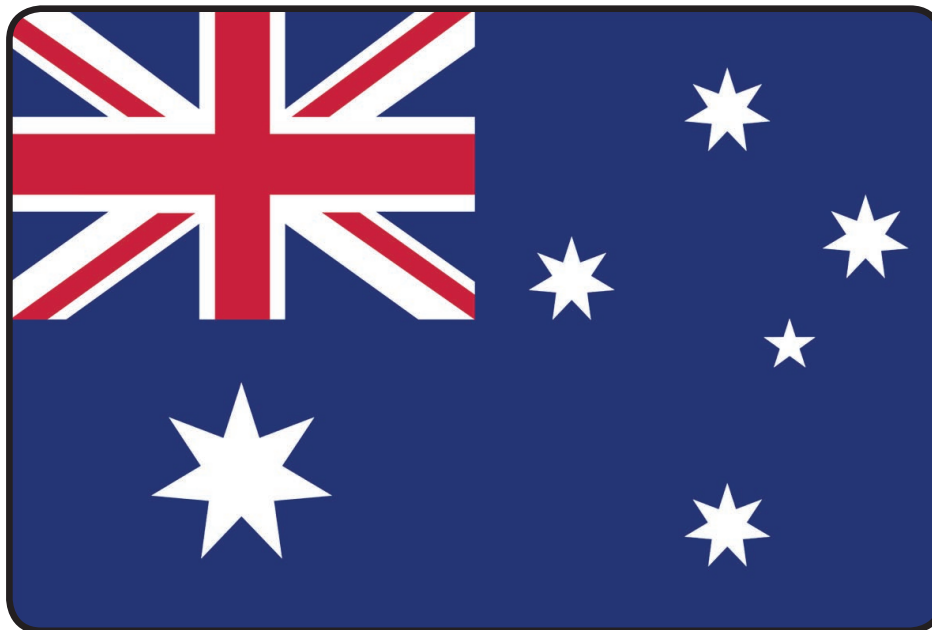
inaugural Ship's Service Award was presented in absentia to Lieutenant JG Donna Reid who, because of illness, unfortunately could not be present for all the events that she had worked so hard to make a reality.

Fortunately, the broadband blackout was lifted long enough to be able to contact our American

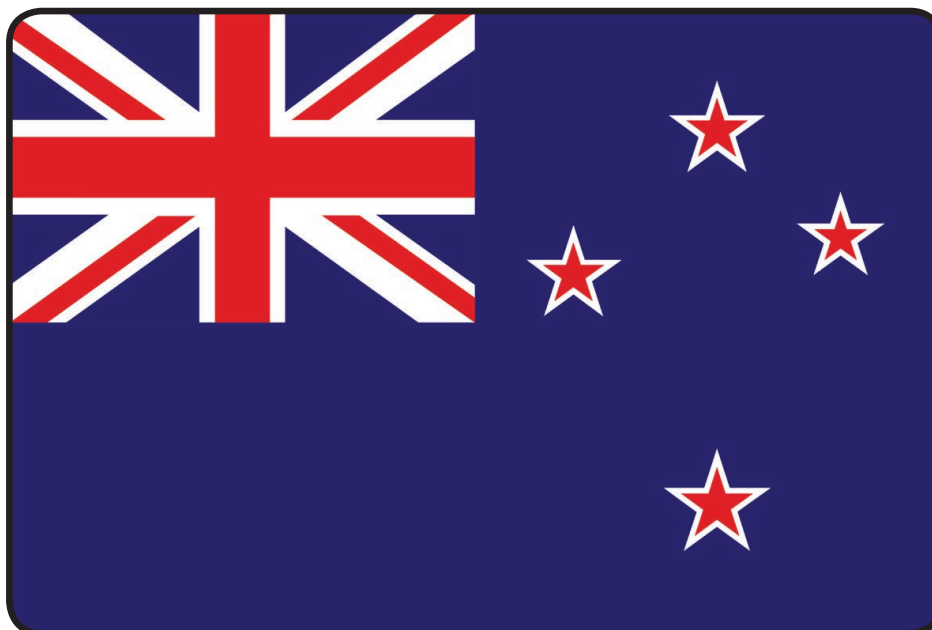
The final day, Sunday, dawned clear and fresh for visitors and crew to rest and recuperate. The highlight of the day, though, was a science Away Mission to the planetarium at Lake Mawson. Not normally open to the public, it was specially booked by the Adelaide members. Dinner that night was at the local pub, then back to the Fisher's, Robert and Josephine's.

The evening of the last day was spent having a final chat over coffee, bouncing a few ideas and questions around before farewells were said as flight times approached.

All in all, the weekend was a resounding success! Even those things that didn't exactly go right, such as the internet hook-up, served a purpose in that there is a determination that next time we'll get it right! For there definitely will be a next time! In fact, many more next times as we take the time to re-strengthen the bonds that make us a great ship.



Australia's flag displays the stars of the constellation known as the Southern Cross (which is the brightest constellation visible from the southern hemisphere).



New Zealand's flag, almost identical to the Australia flag, also displays the Southern Cross.

member, Lieutenant JG Erik Stubblefield, who was at that time in a tent in the wilds of North Carolina. This was doubly fortunate, because



# My Personal Experience at the Region 5 Summit Meeting (RadCon 2007)

By Lieutenant **Prasith Kim-Aun**, DMD  
Chief Medical Officer, *USS Thermopylae*

\*\*\* Start of Transmission \*\*\*

Stardate 1070207: The crew of the *USS Thermopylae* has been feverishly preparing the ship for its first maiden voyage since its commissioning as a “ship of the line” on Stardate 1070128. Gone is the life as a shuttle, ahead of us the challenges as a full-fledged ship.

We are planning on attending the Region 5 Summit Meeting located in Pasco, Washington, on planet Earth in the Sol sector. Hmm, “Pasco” – what in the world is “Pasco?” Sounds more like food... So, I actually made the effort to pull out my star charts to find this odd little place – and I found it! Geez, this small spot on the map far, far away from any major outposts should be the place of great importance?

Anyway, Chief Engineer Lieutenant Ed Mattison has spent most of his time realigning the dilithium crystals, calibrating the long range sensors, and replacing damaged bio-neural gel packs of our *Intrepid*-Class ship. Poor guy, but a man’s got to do what he’s got to do!

Well, the meeting will be a big event, and our CO, Captain Cathey Fuller, has made it very clear that at least we senior officers have to show up in our formal dress uniforms! Yep, captain’s orders...

[... fast forward...]

Stardate 1070215: The Region 5 Summit Meeting is going to be one of the biggest and most important away missions for me, second only to our “*Star Trek* 40th Anniversary” away mission where we augmented the security personnel of the SciFi Museum for high profile characters such as Walter Koenig, George Takei, Nichelle Nichols, Jonathan Frakes, and Garrett Wang in Seattle, WA.

Therefore, I am somewhat excited about this trip tomorrow. But because of a medical conference, I have informed my CO that I would take a shuttle on my own to rendezvous with everyone later at the summit meeting.

Stardate 1070216: The shuttle trip was relaxing and even the “Snoqualmie Pass” nebula, which is infamous for its sudden ion storms during this time of the year (in the form of snow storms, heavy rains, or hails), was in a “good mood”. Crewman Recruit John Bender and I took turns flying the shuttle, which was not much of an effort because it was set to auto-pilot most of the time. His wife Marissa, my wife Ji, and my daughter Charlene accompanied us during this uneventful 4-hour trip.

[... fast forward...]

Stardate 107017: Today was the big day! I could feel the tension rise as members of all Region 5 ships entered the room! According to Regional Coordinator Rear Admiral Nat Saenz, every single ship of Region 5 was indeed represented in today’s meeting, and this has not happened for the last six years! How is that for my very first summit meeting! The Region 5 “ships of the line” consisted of the *USS Crusader*, *USS*

*Daniel Soule*, *USS Rubicon*, *USS Thermopylae*, *USS Wildhorse*, *USS Antares* (all six representing Washington state), *USS Destiny* (representing Oregon), CM Russell (representing Montana), and *Greywolf Station SFR-501* (a *Jupiter*-Class Space Station representing Idaho). All commanding officers or envoys of their respective ships were formally introduced upon their entrance into the conference room.

[... fast forward...]

The award ceremony was definitely the most exciting part for me! Our ship was without exaggeration a smashing success! During the commissioning ceremony, we reaped one award after the other as the atmosphere became frantic, filled with the cheers and applause of the crowd (especially from our crew, of course)! During the ceremony, many of us were left speechless – literally! It was also wonderful to have support from our Klingon allies Captain Be’Taj (Robyn Meadows), Commander ChonBey (Steve Greenfield), and Lieutenant Jessah (Jessie Huber) from the KAG Demon Fleet vessel *IKV T’Mar*.

It all began quite “harmless” with the delivery of a beautiful MSD (master systems display) by Science Officer Lieutenant Commander Rose Mattison and

*Continued on the following page...*



Oooo, ahhh, pretty! Rose and Ed Mattison present a beautiful side-view cutaway of the *USS Thermopylae* to her CO, Captain Cathey Fuller (front), at the beginning of the Region 5 Summit in February, 2007. Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.



Continued from the previous page...

Chief Engineer Lieutenant Ed Mattison, which left Captain Cathey Fuller “speechless.”

The lack of words continued with Commander Peter Christian who (to his surprise) was finally promoted to Captain after being a commander for 16 years! He wore his exclusive VOY marine’s design when Regional Coordinator Rear Admiral Nat Saenz congratulated him on his promotion.

And for the second, but not the last time, Captain Cathey Fuller was rendered speechless again when Captain Peter Christian handed over the *Thermopylae*’s own ship plaque, exclusively crafted and signed by Scott Nakada, the propmaster for “Star Trek – Of Gods and Men.”

The rows calmed down a little bit as the ceremony continued with promotions of the *Thermopylae* crew. Major Joe Fuller was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Lieutenant Commander Rose Mattison to Commander, Lieutenant Ed Mattison to Lieutenant Commander, little old me from Lieutenant Junior Grade to Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Junior Grade Vickyjeanne Sheppard to Lieutenant.

The “Chief of the Boat,” Petty Officer First Class Tod Sturgeon, delivered the “Plank Owner” certificate to Captain Cathey Fuller with a magnificent self-created design.

As a final “good-bye” to our mothership, the *USS Rubicon*, Captain Fuller handed BGN Patrick McAndrew a souvenir. It was a metal cast helmet

(the symbol of our ship) that was directly imported from Greece with a note saying “Thanks, mom!” BGN McAndrew was obviously very touched, and hey, after all, we were really well-behaved kids!

All this was just a short prelude of what was about to happen. Awards kept pouring into our ship. First, Lieutenant Commander Joe Fuller received

upon again to accept the “Star of Valor” award on behalf of our Gunnery Sergeant Jerome “Gunny” Stoddard who was not able to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. Yes, Gunny, we sorely missed you!

Just a few minutes later, Captain Cathey Fuller was left speechless again when she received the “Newsletter of the Year” award. I was totally perplexed when I was called to accept the “Officer of the Year” award! It was certainly a very humbling moment, which left me speechless!

Possibly one of the proudest moments for our Commanding Officer happened when Rear Admiral Nat Saenz called upon her again to receive the “Shuttle of the Year” award – and this was hopefully the last time that she stood speechless. It was a raving moment for our crew that filled the room with an ear-numbing cheer. Rear Admiral Nat Saenz was so impressed with our ship that he called it the “best shuttle in Fleet!” That’s a great compliment! I guess we did pretty well, huh?

[... fast forward...]

The meeting allowed me to become especially acquainted with those who regularly posted on the R5 list such as RC Rear Admiral Nat Saenz, VRC David Kania (who was promoted from Fleet Captain to Commodore), and Rear Admiral Lea Morgan (who received the “Shield of Valor” and “Distinguished Service Medal”). Other award recipients included Admiral Chris Wallace (R5 Letter of Commendation), Captain Jan Barnett-Robbins (Distinguished Service Medal), Captain Diana Maloy (Distinguished Service Medal), Lieutenant Junior Grade Wayne Yocom (Distinguished Service Medal), Brigadier Norman DeRoux (Distinguished Service Medal), Captain

Continued on the following page...



**Plaque build-up.** Newly-promoted Captain Peter Christian presented the second gift to the *Thermopylae*: an elegant commissioning plaque to commemorate the shuttle’s journey into full starship-ness (starship-hood? starship-ity?). Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.

the “Legion of Valor 2006” on behalf of the 503rd MSG, but there was not a lot of break for him because he had to step forward again after a few moments to receive his “Cross of Valor” award which left him speechless this time. Not much time for a nap, though, because he was called



**Please accept this parting gift.** *Thermopylae* Captain Cathey Fuller (left) gives a “going away present” to her mothership CO, Patrick McAndrew of the *USS Rubicon*. Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.



**Greece is the word.** So here’s a close-up of that *Thermopylae* gift, a cast metal helmet imported directly from Greece. It included a note saying “Thanks, Mom.” Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.



**And...what’s with the helmet thing anyway?** For those of you wondering, here’s the *Thermopylae*’s chapter logo, complete with ancient Greek warrior helmet in the center.



Continued from the previous page...

Dona Rae Colbert (CO of the Year), Captain Craig Martin (Sword of Valor), and Commander Trina Kamp (R5 Letter of Commendation).

[... fast forward...]

Stardate 1070218: My shuttle ride was pretty rough because we did hit a small ion storm in the “Snoqualmie Pass” nebula on our way back. Navigation controls had to be switched from auto-pilot to manual. Those folks were indeed right who warned us about this treacherous area in space!

So what’s the bottom line of my action-filled weekend? Right now, I am sitting in my chair, and it dawns on me what difference a few good leaders can make to bring out the best in their crew. After being with STARFLEET for only a year and the *USS Thermopylae* for roughly the same amount of time, I have come to appreciate the leadership of our CO, Captain Cathey Fuller, with her firm but diplomatic and encouraging way to approach

people, and Lieutenant Commander Joe Fuller who in his jolly, proactive, and acknowledging manner takes care of our Marine department. It is this kind of leadership that will attract and motivate others to voluntarily contribute their time and energy to the smooth operation of the ship so that everyone can have fun and enjoy the gatherings. In real life, it means that a simple but honest “Hey, good job!” or a reassuring pat on the shoulder or just a smile – all in a non-confrontational atmosphere – allows people to thrive and blossom and be so much more productive than pointing fingers and unleashing derogatory comments in a power hungry environment. As a member of other clubs, I have seen this happening way too often, and people don’t seem to take notice of this destructive climate.

In this regard, I’m actually glad that RC Rear Admiral Nat Saenz and VRC Commodore David Kania are leaders and role models of Region 5. They have greatly impressed me with their openness, friendliness, and humility, and have given me another reason to join next year’s summit meeting.

And then there is IC 2007 in Denver – a main “playground” for Fleeters from all around the world! If my experience with my first summit meeting is of any indication, then it can only get more exciting to listen and learn from the “Big Kahunas!”

>> Computer: Make a note to book a seat with a \*warp-capable\* transporter next time! <<

In hindsight, our awards were not a result of a few smart and mighty individuals, but an effort of the entire crew. Of course, our ship was not the only one to receive awards, but to me, the sheer amount of them is a reflection of the integrity and unity of the ship. I am very happy and proud to be a part of it. But as always, with “greatness” comes responsibility – so no more firecrackers in someone else’s backyard, I guess...

Let’s see what the following months will bring, now that we have successfully passed our challenges as a shuttle.

\*\*\* End of Transmission \*\*\*



And the Oscar goes to... In addition to getting promoted to full Lieutenant, Prasith Kim-Aun (left) is presented by his RC, Nat Saenz, with the Region 5 Officer of the Year award. Photo by John Bender.



Just wanted to say “planks.” Tod Sturgeon (left) presented his CO, Cathey Fuller (center) with this “Plank Owner” certificate. RC Nat Saenz is standing on the right, and we’re sorry but we don’t know the name of the dapper gentleman who is seated. Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.



Pip, pip, hooray! Rose Mattison (right) gets a promotion and a pip to full Commander by her CO, Captain Cathey Fuller. Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.



Raise shield...of valor, that is. Lea Morgan (center) displays her Shield of Valor, one of two awards she won at the Summit. Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.



# Around the Fleet...



**Don't forget your towel.** Jennifer Cole shows off the latest in 23rd Century drying apparatus at the annual USS Angeles pool party in Oxnard, CA. Photo by Gloria Rodriguez.



**Marine uniforms are so cool!** Major Joe Fuller displays his Cross of Valor Award, received at the Region 5 Summit in Washington State. Photo by Prasith Kim-Aun.



**And Captain Spock makes three...** Larry and Kathy Whately stand by the standee at the Heimdal anniversary party. Photo supplied by Linda Smith.



**T'Pring all grown up!** Keira Russell-Strong (aka Vice Admiral T'Peira) takes a picture with Mary Rice (left) who was the little girl shown in Spock's photo of T'Pring in the TOS episode "Amok Time." At Mountain Con 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah, Mary told the story of how she had chicken pox and a fever the day the photo of her as T'Pring was taken, giving her the very serious facial expression of a Vulcan child. Her five seconds of fame. Photo by D. Justin Taylor.



**They grow up so fast!** No longer a shuttle, the USS Thermopylae commissioned as a full starship at the Region 5 Summit in February, 2007. Pictured from left to right: John Bender, Ed Mattison, Tod Sturgeon, Robert Brown, Cathey Fuller, Joe Fuller, Rose Madison, Vickyjean Sheppard, Angelina Christian, Peter Christian, and Prasith Kim-Aun. Photo supplied by Prasith Kim-Aun.



# Remember to send high-resolution digital images of your Chapter or Region's best events to: [cq@cq.sfi.org](mailto:cq@cq.sfi.org)

(make certain you include captions, names of people in the photos, and credit the photographer)



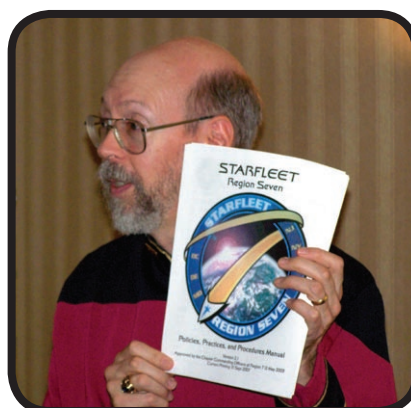
**What's black and white and red all over?** Biker Scouts TB 932 and TK 1444 are joined by USS NcNair members Candice Johnson (as the Twi'lek Jedi), and Mike Henry as Tovix. *Photo supplied by Pamela Michaud.*



**Smooth sailing.** The *Lady Washington*, the ship that served as the nautical *Enterprise* in "Star Trek: Generations", sails into southern California. The USS Angeles crew was there for the event. *Photo by Gloria Rodriguez.*



**Not quite Daigon Alley.** At the annual USS Alioth yard sale, Julia Ann Bateman (front left) shows off the "Wands" that she created, joined by Richard & Lynnette Knox. *Photo by Keira Russell-Strong.*



**Here's how we do it Region Seven.** RC Joe Hoolihan shows off the new R7 Handbook at the Regional Conference. *Photo supplied by Region Seven.*



**Hangin' in Salt Lake.** Three members of the shuttle *Devron* (l-to-r) Matthew Keener, XO Alan Thompson, and CO Jeffery Beckstron. *Photo by D. Justin Taylor.*



**G'day, moits.** USS *Southern Cross* CO Wayne Smith and XO Bruce O'Brien stand proudly as STARFLEET officially returns to the "Land Down Under." *Photo by Stephen Latham.*



**Welcome back, Potter.** To promote the final "Harry Potter" novel, the Knight Bus traveled to Los Angeles. *Photo by Gloria Rodriguez.*

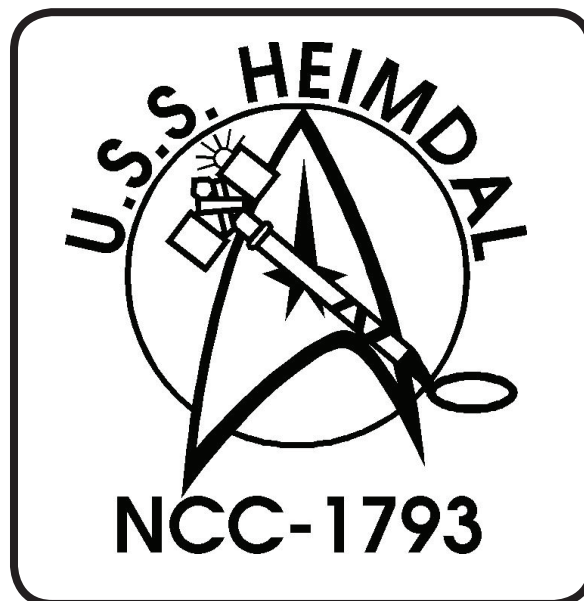


# USS Heimdal NCC-1793 Celebrates 23rd Anniversary

By Admiral **Linda Smith**,  
CO, *USS Heimdal*

On April 28th, the *USS Heimdal* celebrated her 23rd year as a STARFLEET chapter. The celebration took place at Ryan's Family Steakhouse in Lynchburg, Virginia with 34 people attending, including seven visitors. Four of those visitors have since joined STARFLEET and the *Heimdal* following the party.

Ryan's private dining room was decorated with stand-ups of *Trek* captains, an inflatable *Enterprise* flying above the crowd, STARFLEET and *Heimdal* flags, and a large poster celebrating the *Heimdal's* recent recognition as Region One's Chapter of the Year, 2006. Decorations also included a tribble theme. A jar of tribbles invited guests to guess the number inside for a prize, and a poster listed everything known



and not known about tribbles. Tickets for door prizes were drawn throughout the evening, and first prize consisted of a free STARFLEET membership, won by longtime member, Jeanne Wilson.

Following dinner, the group was entertained with an original film

presentation, "The Tribble Whisperer". Written, produced, and presented by Linda and Willy Smith, Carl and Bonnie Davis, and George Flanik, the film was the high point of the evening and opened to rave reviews! The entire chapter membership was included somewhere in the film, which brought laughter from the crowd throughout the presentation. Everyone had a wonderful time.

The *Heimdal* began her STARFLEET career as the shuttle *Asgard*, attached to the *USS Jamestown*, in 1984. Going to starship status April 15, 1985, the *Heimdal* has spawned 14 shuttles, several Region One Regional Coordinators and Regional Division Chiefs, has won numerous Fleet and regional newsletter and chapter awards, and is recognized within her community for her charity work, which has been on-going.

*Continued on the following page...*



**Working the room.** Chief Science Officer Willy Smith (left) mingles with the anniversary party crowd. Photo supplied by Linda Smith.



**Hey, y'all.** CO Linda Smith (far right) greets new *Heimdal* members (left to right) Brian, Cathy, and Matt Touna. Photo supplied by Linda Smith.



The following is an excerpt from the *Heimdal's* newsletter, "The Rainbow Connection":

### "The Tribble Whisperer" Opens to Rave Reviews

On April 28, 2007, a world movie premiere opened to a select audience in Lynchburg, Virginia. "The Tribble Whisperer" was a surprise presentation at Ryan's Family Steakhouse and Dinner Theater shown to *Heimdal*/Science Fiction on the evening of the club's 23rd anniversary.

"The Tribble Whisperer" is the product of an obscure production company, Fly on the Wall Productions. The company actually has several well-known earlier accomplishments among their credits. From 2003 through 2006, Fly on the Wall has produced slide shows for *Heimdal* anniversary parties. Perhaps their most well known and well loved production, however, was "Filk Salet", the filk/rock/rap traveling musical company that brought the house down at the *Heimdal's* 2005 anniversary celebration and has been in popular demand coast to coast since that time. The troupe is currently on international tour.

A cast of thousands (and the tribble, Esmey) has brought "The Tribble Whisperer" nods of acclaim from *The New York*



*Times* film reviewer Evan Stevens who gave the production 4 stars and 4 thumbs up. *People* Magazine temporarily moved Britney Spears to the inside of their publication in order to grace the cover with "Tribble Whisperer" co-stars Jeanne Wilson and Esmey. Ms. Spears could not be reached for comment, but the Hollywood rumor mill speculates that she was in seclusion as the issue went to press, contemplating publicly shaving her eyebrows AND her legs!!!!

Following the private premiere of "The Tribble Whisperer" at the *Heimdal* event, Fly on the Wall reports being unable to keep up with demand for the film. Theaters nationwide have been inundated with fan demands that "Wild Hogs, Dream Girls and The Queen" be pulled immediately from the theaters in order to run "The Tribble Whisperer" on all available screens...at Lynchburg's Movies 10, also known as The Dollar Movie, that would be all 10 screens simultaneously.

Fly on the Wall is amazed at the response to their latest production. A Fly on the Wall spokesperson promises to attempt to keep up with demand for the film but also assures *Heimdal* members that "The Tribble Whisperer" will be available to them at any time...on demand...should they wish to see it again.

## Star Trek As You've Never Heard It Before

By Captain **Dana Marshall**  
CO, *USS Daniel Soule*

Imagine if you will, being taken to lunch by an old STARFLEET member who has this young man with him. When you're at your table, you're introduced to Eugene (Rod) Roddenberry, Jr. Then Rod asks you to head a project where scripts from all episodes of all series (TOS, TNG, DS9, VOY, and Enterprise), and the movies would be read and converted to audio format for the blind, and for those who can't visualize something, but when they

HEAR it, they can visualize it. Wow! What a mind blower! Meet the son of Gene Roddenberry, and suddenly he wants YOU to head a project that will take YEARS to complete.

Scripts will be read like a Monday morning read-through, and will only include minimal special effects and editing of flubbed lines. There will also be a blooper reel to download, as well. You have not lived until you're sitting next to Commodore Keith Marshall, playing Captain Winter (Final Draft Script), and he says "Engage!" just like Patrick

Stewart, in a test run of "The Cage". Took us several minutes to quiet down from the laughter.

This project, which encompasses 800+ hours of episodes, is a daunting one. But I'm prepared to see it through.

If you are interested in participating in this venture--and yes, even if you don't live in Region 5, you can participate, via recording your voice in high quality (CD quality)--contact Captain Dana Marshall at [hearingtrek@roddenberry.com](mailto:hearingtrek@roddenberry.com).



# A Pirate's Life for Us

## (Region 7 Conference Report)

By Admiral **Bob Vosseller**  
CO, *USS Challenger*

It's hard to believe it took so long for a Region 7 Conference to adopt the theme of "Pirates"... given that for many years members of STARFLEET 7th Fleet ships held "Pirate Parties" at Shore Leave. While those parties have become the stuff of legend, the *USS Edinburgh* hosted this year's R7 Conference last fall. Joe Dorfner served as chairman of the conference and is also the CO of the ship, sector chief of Maryland/Delaware, and heads the 7th Brigade of the SF Marines.

The conference allowed for members like Joe, R7 Chief of Staff and *USS Britannic* CO Captain Wayne Augustson, and *USS Flying Fox* CO Angel Avery to don some pretty snappy pirate costumes during the weekend.

Part of the programming included screening the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films, among others. The weekend's fun included the usual banquet and awards presentation.

The conference included representatives of ships from across



the region including the *Matrix*, *Ascension*, *Adamant*, *Avenger*, *Challenger*, *Sovereign*, *Richtofen*, *Asimov*, *Matrix*, *Justice*, *DeBraak*,

*Britannic*, *Top Gun* and *Flying Fox*. Hopefully I didn't miss anyone. This was the week that the *USS Blackheart* launched for its training cruise, but unfortunately they couldn't join us. This was ironic, since the *Blackheart* was a chapter which had been part of the region years ago and featured a pirate theme and which recently reformed. Then presidential candidate Joost Ueffing was our out-of-region guest and who also contributed to our discussion during the CO's meeting.

It wasn't all just fun and games, though. Vice Admiral Joe Hoolihan introduced the updated and approved version of the Region 7 Handbook, presented a number of commendations to some staff personnel, and later, during the COs' meeting hosted by VRC Vice Admiral Beryl Washington, we all had a frank discussion about the problem of cyberbullying on STARFLEET lists and on the Region 7 list. Commanding Officers and representatives present agreed with Beryl that better moderation needed to be observed and better Internet behavior needed to be followed by those on the list.

*Continued on the following page...*



'Cause I'm a rockette, man. The Region 7 Recruitment Team (left to right): Mike Allen, Bob Vosseler, and Mary Ann Puglise. Photo supplied by Region 7.





**I'm too sexy for this conference.** R7 Chief of Staff Wayne Augustson models the latest in shipboard fashions. Photo supplied by Region 7.

## Continued from the previous page...

Our RC also warned us that at times STARFLEET and our region have experienced too much pessimism, and that we needed to all focus on why we joined STARFLEET and our respective chapters, and what we could all do to make our experience in fandom more enjoyable. That discussion seemed to ring true with a lot of those assembled who expressed the need to explore new multi-chapter and regional events and to look to the future with some optimism.

As NJ Sector Chief and Region 7 Recruitment Officer, I stressed the need for our region's chapters to tie in the upcoming *Star Trek* film with recruiting projects and to utilize the media to get the message out that *Star Trek* fandom was far from dead. I also congratulated the *ISS Lexington* on its 15th Anniversary that was held later in the year, and plugged the *Challenger's* 20th anniversary party that will be held on October 11, 2008 in Monmouth County, N.J.



**Working a regional conference can be punishing.** James Pugliese (left) prepares to bring swift justice to the guilty, while wife Mary Ann Pugliese sits down to get some actual work done. Jay Ansky is in the back. Photo supplied by Region 7.



**One of our favorite vices.** Vice Regional Coordinator Beryl Washington addresses the crowd. Photo supplied by Region 7.

and there was a good turnout for the STARFLEET Marine meeting during the weekend.

During the opening ceremonies, I recall shooting a bug with my pirate water pistol which brought back memories of a conference held back in 1995 in New Jersey where I had to shoot a cockroach with my mini-key chain phaser. But when that wouldn't work, I had to smash it with a flyer featuring the picture of a controversial STARFLEET president of the time. It seems some things never change, and that the 7th Fleet sometimes is caught in a temporal loop.

Everyone expressed having a good time, and Joe Dorfner and his staff, which included his lovely wife and crew, were commended for the conference. This year the region won't be holding a conference due to R7 once again being the site of the International Conference in Ithaca, New York. As to what theme the 7th Fleet adopts for its next regional conference, that is anyone's guess. But we're all sure that whatever theme it has, it will be a blast!

The *USS Britannic* hosted a pirate role playing card game





*Photos by Dave Mason*

*Boyd Harmon and Gloria Rodriguez went aboard the Hawaiian Chieftain for a battle with the Lady Washington. At right, a crew member in a period costume works with the sails.*

*The Lady Washington fires shots at the Hawaiian Chieftain during a mock battle.*

*Photo by Gloria Rodriguez, who was aboard the Hawaiian Chieftain*



# Shields up!

**‘Generations’ ship goes into battle in Long Beach, Calif.**

**By Cmdr. Dave Mason**  
*USS Angeles*

LONG BEACH, Calif. — The crew hustled across the deck and up and down masts to unfurl the sails. The boatswain, who supervised work with the sails, shouted her orders, and the crew repeated her words, yelling in unison to confirm each task was being done. Aye, aye!

The crew members hustled. They had to hurry.

The enemy was near.

Down on the deck, another crew member loaded a cannon. Perched on another deck just above him, the captain steered the ship by turning a large wheel. He gave the order to fire.

Boom!

Fellow USS Angeles members Gloria

**Continued on the next page**





From left, USS Athena member Marya Banniza and USS Angeles members Boyd Harmon, Dave Mason and Gloria Rodriguez arrive in the Long Beach Harbor in California to see the Lady Washington. Worf walked the plank of this ship in "Star Trek: Generations."  
Photo by Mandy Ison

### Continued from the previous page

Rodriguez, Boyd Harmon and I plugged our ears as we sat on the Hawaiian Chieftain during its attack on the Lady Washington.

The Lady Washington fired back — fortunately, it was just smoke and sound. The mock battle continued relentlessly during a joint USS Angeles and USS Athena away mission Jan. 28, 2007, at the Long Beach Harbor.

The day began peacefully with a journey through the nearby Aquarium of the Pacific.

Mandy Ison, Commanding Officer of the Orange County, Calif.-based USS Athena and an Angeles member, and Marya Banniza, who at that time was the Athena Executive Officer, joined Gloria, Boyd and me at the aquarium. We saw fish of all colors and sizes, otters who love to swim quickly on their backs, sea life with fantastic camouflage skills, tiny sea dragons, baby sharks still waiting to emerge from their pods and an octopus.

After lunch at the aquarium, we walked to the dock and learned we couldn't board the Lady Washington despite our reservations. The reservations gave us a ticket, but the choice of the ship, the Lady Washington or the Hawaiian Chieftain, depended on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Lady Washington was filled before we could go on it.

We had wanted to be on the Lady Washington because that was the ship on which Worf (Michael Dorn) walked the plank in "Star Trek: Generations." The Grays Harbor, Wash.-based ship has appeared in other movies including "Pirates of the Caribbean." We made it to sea by boarding the Hawaiian Chieftain. Each year the ship accompanies the Lady Washington on its annual trek down and up the West Coast. The modern sailing ships were designed to resemble the classic tall ships of the high seas.

The battle tickets weren't cheap, but a crew member explained the money helps to pay for education programs. The crew sails the ships for schoolchildren on weekdays.

The wind was light, but it still was amazing to see nature's gusts blow the ship across the harbor. (The ship had an engine, which the captain used after the battle.) We sailed past the permanently docked Queen Mary and saw a cruise ship. And it felt like an adventure as the large crew of young women and men, all in historical costumes, constantly furled or unfurled sails. At times, the crew broke out in song.

Throughout the afternoon, the two ships kept firing their cannons at each other. After the smoke cleared, the question remained which ship had won the battle. "It depends on which captain you ask," a Hawaiian Chieftain crew member said.



Photo by Gloria Rodriguez  
A member of the Hawaiian Chieftain crew fires the cannon at the Lady Washington.





From the Office of the

## Commander, STARFLEET



Ladies and Gentlemen,

As of January 1st, a new administration has taken over STARFLEET. I had the opportunity to talk to Sal New Years Eve, wish him well and extend any assistance I could to him and his team.

As I said, congrats to Sal and team and good luck. I am sure they will step up and make positive changes for STARFLEET. Change happens and is good for any organization - STARFLEET included. While I may not always agree with everything done I respect the administration's attempt to do what's best for STARFLEET from inside HQ.

When I learned I was going to Iraq I initially was convinced I was going to be stepping down. But, after talking to the EC and others whom opinions I respect, I felt that I could finish the term. So I made that decision and, for fair or foul, I lived with it. By no means was I as effective as CS while overseas and I have certainly made my share of mistakes and errors during this administration. For those I apologize to those they affected as well as to the membership for any lapses in leadership that occurred. I have certainly come out the other end of this knowing what my strengths and weaknesses are. I hope to serve the Fleet and my Region in the future in some way and look forward to that day.

To my team thank you. It was pretty difficult for all of you while I was in Iraq. Mark and I essentially acted as one person doing the job of running Fleet during my time overseas. Without the steadfast service of Mark Anbinder and my Chief of Staff Greg Trotter I doubt we could have completed the year. I echo those words on behalf of the rest of the EC. Thank you so much to Gumby Simmons, Dixie Halber, Wayne Killough, Liz Woolf, Jerry Tien and Susan Ueffing. Without a team willing to come together and work so hard under such difficult conditions I would have folded a long time ago.

Many thanks to the members of the Admiralty Board for their service and willingness to work with me and the team during the last year and a half, especially during the time I was away in Iraq. You made, what could have been a difficult time, very bearable in getting that work done with the AB.

A special farewell to the soon to be retired Admiral Brad Pense. Brad and I have grown to be very good friends since my first term as CS. He is training to be a Peace Officer in the State of Texas so our brotherly bond continues to grow. You will be missed on the AB I know and the AB will have to work hard to fill the gap left by your retirement. I am sure that your successor will do an admirable job taking over and my best wishes

to Michelle. Brad, I'll make sure to leave you a rocking chair open on the porch so we can chat about the old days.

Thank you to the members. I received a lot of support in the form of letters, postcards, emails and such from a lot of members during my time in Iraq - and after I returned home. I would not have been able to do what I did and work for Fleet as well without the support of the membership.

Finally, a thank you to my family. Heather, Riley, Zachary and the new addition Tucker "Trip" Rickard. Their love and support kept me from tossing in the towel more times than anyone knows. I love them all so very much and am glad to be able to spend more time with them.

Ladies and Gents, it has been a pleasure serving you and, while I am a little saddened at not being able to serve Fleet any longer I will say retirement as CS is something I am looking forward to. I will continue to serve as Chair of the 2009 International Conference in Greensboro NC.

Otherwise, you just never know what the future holds.

Goodbye, Farewell, Amen.





From the Office of the

## Chief of Shakedown Operations Command, STARFLEET



I think we are all relieved the fleet election is finally over. This year's election brought forth more teams than we have seen in quite some time. Four teams with four different approaches to make a better fleet. In case you didn't sign up for the election mailing list, you really missed lots of lively discussions! It was definitely an action packed six months for me. Kudos to all four teams for staying in the game to the end. That's the spirit.

Fortunately, while the election campaigning was going on, many folks kept working on their new chapter in the middle of this excitement. We launched the following chapters since last issue of Communique:

USS Atlantis (r10/11)\* CMDR Jayden Tyronian,  
jayden\_tyronian@thunderdownunder.org  
USS Hecate (R7), FCAPT David Ferber,  
angelsy1@yahoo.com

\* currently deployed in Region 11

In addition, the following chapters are scheduled for commissioning in December:

USS Antares (R5), BDR Russ Garrison,  
zero355@hotmail.com  
USS Genesis (R11), CMDR Kieran Bock, co@  
ussgenesis.com

You probably noticed the increased activities in Region 11 recently. Thanks to ever increasing availability of global communications, we can work with these regions better than ever. At this point, we have not just one or two, but three chapters operating out of this region. I am definitely hoping this trend continues and we can develop an even greater fleet presence there.

In addition to launching and commissioning chapters, we also have a number of new technical publications for fleet members. If you don't

see what you need on fleet document centers, please don't hesitate to contact the Department of Technical Services (dts@sfi.org) to see what's available. We also welcome your feedback of new ideas & suggestions for technical services.

Well, folks, this has been an incredible 5-year mission for me. Sure, there were some challenging times, but overall the experience greatly outweighed the bad. I especially want to thank Mike Malotte, Mandi Livingston and Les Rickard for the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee. Also, I want to thank all the people who offered suggestions, criticisms and help along the way. I had a wonderful time working with people on all levels of fleet, solving problems, watching new chapters spring up from various regions sometimes even bringing dormant regions back to life. I hope we managed to make quite a few people's dreams come true the dream of leading a STARFLEET chapter. Of course, I also had some really great staff at HQ and regional level that made a smooth shakedown cruise possible.

So what's next? I hope to continue serving fleet in some other capacities. With a new administration, there are many staff positions opening up. If you haven't volunteered for any fleet positions before, I urge you to check the organizational chart and see what you can do to help. There will be some hard work, but it can be a very rewarding experience. Some of the experience might even apply toward your regular jobs.

In closing, best wishes for the incoming administration and happy holidays everyone. See you around the galaxy!

## ECAB Report

Since early October, the Executive Committee and Admiralty Board have discussed a number of matters, including:

- STARFLEET's filing of a three-month extension on its IRS Form 990. There was a discrepancy between the number submitted on last year's Form 990 and the number produced by the financial books. Chief Financial Officer Liz Woolf and members of the Rickard administration were planning to discuss this matter with former CFO Pat Spillers in order to reconcile the numbers before filing a new IRS Form 990.
- The demise of Region 20. Region 20 coordinator Adi Jones allowed his membership to lapse this summer and also asked that his chapter - the USS Saratoga - be decommissioned. The only remaining chapter, the USS Icarus, had no assigned STARFLEET members as of mid-November.
- A personnel matter involving possible financial improprieties in Region 1.

In addition, the following personnel changes (independent of election transition) have occurred:

- Ray Brown has resigned as STARFLEET's Inspector General and has been replaced on an interim basis by Robert Westfall.

As always, if you have any questions about these matters, please contact your regional coordinator or chapter's commanding officer.



# An Exploration of Newfoundland's Science Museums

By Rear Admiral **Richard Heim**  
CO, *USS Alaric*, RDC Sciences, Region One

At the end of May, I traveled to St. John's, Newfoundland, for a geophysical conference. While there, as is my custom when traveling, I visited three science museums: the Newfoundland Science Centre, the Fluvarium, and the Johnson Geo Centre. The third one is my favorite, and I'll discuss it in a moment. But first, the other two.

The **Newfoundland Science Centre** was established in 1993 as a non-profit charitable organization within the Murray Premises in downtown St. John's, with exhibits geared for small children to spark their interest in science at an early age. According to their charter, their mission "is to 'spark curiosity and inspire interest and participation in science and technology' through the presentation of interactive exhibits, informal education programs, and the delivery of province-wide outreach programs." They have a small selection of clever exhibits that explain basic science principles in simple terms a child can understand. Hands-on exhibits include astronaut space gloves and a plasma ball and several others. They have a cool solar system model hanging from the ceiling, a StarLab planetarium show, and many other exhibits. For information online, visit <http://www.nlsciencecentre.com/>

The **Fluvarium** is a world-class freshwater interpretation center run by the Quidi Vidi Rennie's River Development Foundation (QVRRDF). The word "Fluvarium" comes from the Latin for "windows on a stream."

The QVRRDF was formed in 1985 by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to clean up Rennie's River, which had become terribly polluted. The river is now so clean that people can fish from it again. The foundation has a mandate to promote freshwater education and restore and enhance the Rennie's River watershed.

I found the highlight of the Fluvarium to be the nine large underwater windows which provide visitors with a panoramic view beneath the surface of Nagle's Hill Brook as it flows past the building on its way to Long Pond. Most of the fish you will see through the Fluvarium windows are Brown Trout (*salmo trutta*) who are very inquisitive about the humans looking at

them. I think they love to have their picture taken! You're able to study the life cycle of the fish, from spawning to adulthood.

Other exhibits focus on river ecosystems and include fossils and geologic eras, glaciers, urban watersheds, bogs, freshwater mammals and bugs, amphibians, and a cool display on composting. The displays are geared toward children, but are good for adults, too. The Fluvarium passes 10 to 12 thousand school kids per year through the Aqualab education program. For online information, visit <http://www.fluvarium.ca/>



**The iceberg cometh.** Here's something you don't see every day...unless you live in Newfoundland in eastern Canada. Rear Admiral Richard Heim poses for a picture with a huge iceberg sailing past in the distance. *Photo supplied by Richard Heim.*

I found the **Johnson Geo Centre** to be the most exciting of the three science museums in St. John's. The first thing you see as you descend to the lower exhibit level is a scaled display of the solar system hanging from the ceiling. The colorful orbs dwarf everything else in the Reception Hall and are most impressive. The Geo Centre was conducting classes for schoolchildren while I was there. The classes I eavesdropped on included geology, minerals (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks), and renewable vs. non-renewable resources.

Based on the province's unique and truly remarkable geological history, and its contribution to scientific knowledge, the Geo Centre's purpose is to establish and promote Newfoundland and Labrador as "Earth's Geological Showcase." The building was dug into the geologic strata of the island so that one wall

of the Centre is natural solid rock. You can see and touch geologic layers that are 550 million years old, promoted as:

- 450 million years older than the Rocky Mountains!
- 350 million years older than the Atlantic Ocean!
- 300 million years older than the First Dinosaurs!
- 150 million years older than the First Land Animals!

Exhibits discuss volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks, minerals (with samples you can touch), fossils, geological time, some meteorology, ice ages, and plate tectonics. They have anthropological exhibits that display and discuss archaeological samples of skulls, partial skeletons, DNA, and the history of the rise of civilization. In addition, they have lots of astronomy and space science displays.

Perhaps the exhibit I found most fascinating was the "awe-inspiring Stellarium, showing the 250 closest stars to our own star, the Sun." The Stellarium is a box – a cube about 3 feet big on an edge – that had LEDs representing the stars. A recording discussed features of the nearest stars, with red marker LEDs lighting up to highlight each star's 3-dimensional position relative to the Sun. The stars that were mentioned included Alpha Centauri, Barnard's Star, Sirius, Procyon, Altair, Fomalhaut, Vega, and the Pollux/Castor binary. The Stellarium is so cool!

The Geo Centre is heated geothermally through holes drilled over 500 feet into the rock. Using heat pumps, they circulate fluids that heat or cool the entire building.

Other displays in the Geo Centre include the ExxonMobil Oil and Gas Gallery and The Titanic Story. For more information, go to their web page at <http://www.geocentre.ca/>

And now a special treat. St. John's is the most eastern city in North America. It's also located pretty far north, at latitude 47 degrees North. The weather was quite cold while I was there, with daily lows around freezing and highs in the lower 40s F, or about 10 degrees colder than normal. Sea ice was still locked around the north end of the island, a day's drive north of where I was. On the last couple days I was there, an iceberg floated past St. John's and ran aground just a few miles south of the harbor. Pictures of icebergs are nice, but seeing one up close and personal – for real – is most impressive!

