

#153

Jun/Jul, 2009

STARFLEET **COMMUNIQUE** ONLINE

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

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*Recruits Over 400
New Members
At Star Trek
Premieres
Around
The
World*



Movie reviews from your
Fellow members - some
loved it...some didn't.

STARFLEET Stampede Still Alive and Kicking



STARFLEET *Communiqué*

Issue Number 153, June/July, 2009

A newsletter publication provided for members of
STARFLEET, The International *Star Trek* Fan Association, Inc.

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The submission deadline for CQ #154 will have passed by the time this issue gets into members’ hands. The deadline for submissions for CQ #155 will be September 20.



A Flower, A Friend, A Spirit On The Wind

The past week or so has seen a lot of people that I've grown up with pass away: Ed McMahon, Farrah Fawcett, Michael Jackson, and Karl Maulden. But even though I grew up with them, I never got a chance to meet any of those well known celebrities. This past Sunday afternoon, I was informed that one of STARFLEET's own had also passed away...and I did have the honor of meeting and befriending him. Of all of those previously mentioned, Biff's death was the one that made me weep.

Biff was a small man, physically, but he had a big heart. He was not only a friend to me but to many other members of Region 17 and STARFLEET as a whole. In many ways, Biff was a big man, too. To me, he was not only a friend, but he also supported me as the Commander of STARFLEET and expressed that support on several occasions when he called me up, either to cheer me through a particularly tough time or to ask questions to clarify the rumors he'd heard.

I would have expected to see Biff at this year's IC—he did make as many as he could. He'll be missed.

To those of you who knew Biff as well, we mourn together. For those who never had the chance to meet Biff, I hope you have the opportunities to meet others who will enrich your lives as much as he has ours. Biff's passing reminds us of how precious our relationships with each other are. STARFLEET members are prone to embracing one another and, at least those who have been around for awhile, tend to "hug" when meeting their Fleet "family members."

To Biff: I'll get together with other members at the IC this year, and I'll raise a glass in your memory. I hope to see you "on the other side" someday. Farewell, old friend.

Sal Lizard, Commander, STARFLEET



When I say that Biff had to have been the sweetest, most considerate member of STARFLEET that I have ever met and that I was blessed to have him in my life, it would be an understatement. I don't remember the first time I met Biff; it seems like he has always been in my life.

For the women in STARFLEET that ever received a yellow rose from Biff (yellow roses are the color of friendship), that meant that he must have thought a great deal of you. He went to the ICs with a limited number of roses; when they were passed out, he was done.

For me, Biff was the person that I most looked forward to seeing at the IC's and Dinky Cons. You, too? I thought so. We had to have meals together, had to hang out with each other, and had to site-see together. There were times when people at the IC's thought we were an "item"; even when I had my husband with me, people thought we were an "item". I guess I would flatter myself to think he liked the thought.

Biff could write computer code. That may not seem like much to some of you, but to me, WOW! He wrote the Shuttle Web Page; he told me he wrote the START Manual. STARFLEET was the lifeblood of Biff. He was very determined that our CS, Sal Lizard, be given every opportunity to succeed, to be helped and not hindered.

As the RC for Region 17, I chose Biff as the VRC. Biff and I fit together so well that it had to be done. It was just a title, but as we spent so

much time in conversation, it seemed, well, the logical thing to do. We used to joke about the time we spent on the phone as it was always around an hour every single time. Together, we were the first Regional 17 team to have a budget, a regional newsletter, an awards team, etc. He was my link to Colorado. Mercy, the things that we heard about Colorado! Biff attended meetings at the IC, and I listened to him when he chose to voice his opinions. When he became RC of Region 17, I had hoped that he would be able to stay there and make more differences for the Region.

More recently, at the Denver IC, Biff said he always wondered why he was here; what was he was meant to do; where was he going. I have to say that when he said he was a Wicca, well, that was not what I thought he was going to tell me. Whatever. He was happy with this choice, very happy. After that, Wicca became the topic of all our conversations. I think that his teacher made him very happy.

Oh Biff! I keep the yellow roses you gave me on my TV to look at every day...always have, always will. Thank you for being my friend. Thank you for being a friend to all of us.

VADM Keira Russell-Strong, CO, *USS Alioth*



I wanted to extend a public thank you to Linda Kloempkin, Jon Lane and the entire EC for expediting my promotion nomination for Biff to be promoted to Rear Admiral. The certificate was express-mailed to me in time, and my wife bought a nice frame for it and we were able to present it to Biff's family, who were very appreciative.

There were about 20 of us that went to Seven Falls Park in Colorado Springs for the service, and Erik Johnson of the *USS Wind Spirit* coordinated the event. He played a rendition of "Amazing Grace" on a wooden flute that had most of us choked up.

We drank a toast of non-alcoholic, sugar-free Romulan Ale to Biff, and we stood in a circle and held hands while Erik played. We each took turns telling stories about Biff and the wonderful memories that we all had of him.

Members of the *USS Windspirit*, *USS Independence*, *USS Tiburon* and *USS Stormbringer* attended the event and afterward went to the Golden Corral for lunch and to continue talking about Biff, the Universe and Everything.

It was a very special day, and the weather was perfect. We all felt Biff's presence as we enjoyed the sun and the fellowship as we said goodbye to a great man and a fantastic friend.

Biff would have been pleased.

So thank you to Erik Johnson for coordinating the event, and thank you to Sal and the EC and Linda for putting his promotion request through in a mere 4 days from my asking to certificate in hand.

It was a wonderful, yet sad day. Biff will be missed and IC's will be a little less without him.

Admiral Johnathan Simmons, *USS Stormbringer*



He was what every member of STARFLEET should aspire to be: a friend.

I can't pinpoint the first time we met, but at every IC that I remember him attending, he was, for me, the "Flower Man."

It was his signature.

He brought bouquets of cloth roses and gave them to the women in attendance. For me, it was the only flower given for no reason other than a gesture of friendship, and it was something I anticipated every year.

He didn't know me from Adam's off ox, but he lifted my spirits and set the mood for a weekend of camaraderie. How can you be unhappy when someone gives you a flower?

I'm sure he's still passing out flowers, and I hope one day he'll give me another.

Thank you, Biff...for every flower you've ever given me.

Admiral Helen Pawlowski, CO, *Troubadour Station*



More sad news as we say "Good Bye" to another member of our STARFLEET Family.

Biff Bassett was a gentleman in the strictest sense of the word. I'll always remember him handing out flowers at the IC.

His smile and Friendship will be missed.

Save a carnation for me, Biff.

Admiral Marlene Miller, *USS Renegade*





NAME: SAL LIZARD
RANK: FLEET ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDER, STARFLEET
SHIP: USS ASGARD NCC-72402
REGION: 1, OHIO (USA)



COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Report from the Commander

Hi, all! I would, first, like to give my personal "Welcome Aboard!" to all our new members who have just joined STARFLEET on the heels of the incredibly-successful new *Star Trek* movie. As STARFLEET is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, I personally hope that you like what you find and that you will help us celebrate the next 35.

We have our International Conference swiftly approaching as I write this edition's column. All nominations are in for the Annual Awards, and the decisions are being made. I really enjoy getting the chance to recognize the hard-working members every chance I get. If you're not taking advantage of all the ways in which you can have someone recognized (promotion nominations and individual award nominations), then you should take another look around you. There's someone who deserves our attention and to be recognized for everything they do at all levels.

I'd like to take a brief moment to recognize Michelle Fanelli. She has most recently served as Region Three's Regional Coordinator. Michelle had to cut her term short a few months to take care of some personal issues that just wouldn't stay under control. Michelle is a great officer who's always stepped up

when the call comes. Please take care of yourself, Michelle, and I hope to see you around the Fleet again very soon. As such, R3 is currently undergoing an election to choose their next RC.

On a similar note, in my last report, I noted that Region Twelve was in the process of selecting its next RC. I'd like to recognize Jeff Higdon as winning that election. Congratulations, Jeff!

Additionally, Region Nine has found itself in need of an RC due to circumstances beyond their control. I'd like to thank Dai Rhys-Jones for service to the region and on the Admiralty Board. Until the Inspector General can get the selection process completed, I've appointed Guðjón Sigmundsson as the interim RC.

By the time you read this, our Quartermaster, Pete Mohny, will have his new home on the web <<http://qm.sfi.org/>> running for a couple of months thanks to the hard work of our web team. Let us know what you think. Also, don't hesitate to buy any and all the STARFLEET merchandise you can.

We're always on the lookout for more volunteers to help cover some areas in STARFLEET. Check out the personnel openings

on Teresa Remaly's personnel website <<http://qm.sfi.org/>> and see where you can help make this organization better than it ever has been.

One last thing: I had a blast getting to make and renew friendships in Region One and Region Fifteen at their summits in May. Both were loads of fun, and there's nothing more fun than helping recognize members in front of their regions and friends and families and getting to spend time just getting to know more of the membership and renewing old friendships. I really had fun going to the *Star Trek* movie with folks from all across STARFLEET because of the timing of the summits. I had the opportunity to watch the movie in a lot of different venues, from the regular movie screen to the IMAX experience. Two more years (at least according to the currently-published reports) and we'll get to go through all those recruiting efforts once again and have another fun movie to discuss for years to come.

I hope you had a great summer, and I also hope that I got to see you at the IC in Greensboro! And, if not, then start making your plans for next year's trip to Oklahoma!

OFFICE OF THE VICE-COMMANDER, STARFLEET

STARFLEET *Star Trek* Short Story Writer's Contest Complete

By Admiral Marlene Miller

Hello Everyone!

Well, the long wait is almost over! The first phase of picking the finalists in the STARFLEET *Star Trek* Short Story Writer's Contest is here.

During the Contest's run, we received 22 submissions from STARFLEET members spanning nine Regions: 01, 02, 04, 07, 08, 12, 13, 15, 17, and even one from a member unassigned to a region. One submission had to be disqualified because the author is not a member of STARFLEET.

Because there was a tie, we've chosen 6 finalists instead of 5. We've also named 3 Honorable Mentions as well as 1 Special Mention honoring our youngest author.

FINALISTS (alphabetically) and their stories are:

Darlene Topp -- "The Horta"

Gary Hollifield -- "KWA"

Jane C. Petrovich -- "Second Chance"

Lea Hepler -- "A Chance to Win"

R. Roger Bedford -- "Joy of Being Alive"

Samuel Pengraff -- "The Irony of Sacrifice"

HONORABLE MENTION:

Helen Pawlowski -- "Silence"

Michael A. Knight -- "And Straight on Til Morning"

Sherry Anne Newell -- "The Visitor"

SPECIAL MENTION:

Benjamin J.P. Hartwell -- "Arbiter"
 (Benjamin is a Cadet, age 15, and is our youngest author.)

Others (alphabetically) who submitted stories are:

Bill Williams -- "The Right Choice"

Dave Pitts -- "A Really Short Story"

Erik Johnson -- "King Rook Six"

Janek Kazimer -- "To Thine Own Self"

Kimberly Landen -- "Rubber Duck"

Larry K. Morris -- "Above, Below and Through"

Mary Bryson -- "Dauntless"

Peg Pellerin -- "Rain Man"

Shailendra Bade -- "Where Each Man Has Gone Before"

Shannon Davis-Villegas -- "A Day in the Life"

Timothy Maxie -- Alternate Realities: Call of Command

Two of the Honorable Mentions (Helen Pawlowski and Sherry Anne Newell) are members of the Annual Campaign as well as judges in the contest. Both were excited about writing and wanted to submit a story even though they knew they would not be eligible to be counted among the finalists.

All three of the Honorable Mention winners scored only a few points below the 6 finalists.

The 6 Best of the Best stories have been sent to *Star Trek* novelist, Mr. Keith R.A. DeCandido for final ranking. Once Mr. DeCandido ranks the finalists from #1 through #6 they will choose their prize in order of their ranking.

The finalists prizes are:

\$ 10 Gift Certificate for STARFLEET Quartermaster's Store

\$ 15 One Year STARFLEET Membership

\$ 18 Starfleet Padfolio

\$ 20 Set of Four *Star Trek* XI Burger King Collectible Glasses

\$ 20 Set of Four *Star Trek* XI Burger King Collectible Glasses

\$ 25 Flash Drive from STARFLEET Marines Quartermaster's Store

The Honorable Mentions will each receive a:

\$ 5 Starfleet Lunch Bag from STARFLEET Quartermaster's Store

Each of the participants will receive a Certificate.

Our fantastic judges received the stories without the author's name (where possible) and were tasked with reading each and every story...and assigning them a score. The scores were tallied to determine the top 6 entries.

JUDGES:

Alan Anderton

Alex Rosenzweig

Allyson M. W. Dyar

Helen Pawlowski

Larry Jones

Sherry Anne Newell

Without each of you, this contest never would have succeeded.

Thank you again and again!

And now we await word from Mr. DeCandido....





NAME: DAVE BLASER
RANK: VICE ADMIRAL
POSITION: VICE COMMANDER, STARFLEET
SHIP: *BOUNTY STATION* SFR-1301
REGION: 13, ONTARIO (CANADA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: FORMER REGION 13 COORDINATOR



VICE COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Report from the Vice-Commander

Lately a family member reminded me about what's most important in life.

He didn't realize that he was doing it. In fact, his intent was something else entirely. He was coming in to try and sell me on what his wife calls "whatever has caught his interest this week"--going on at me about how he is "trying to help us" and make sure we have money to retire on.

Retirement is something that has been on my mind lately, that's for sure. Recent events in the economy have kept it up on the forefront of my mind, given something that is happening with my father's retirement plan and how it may end up drying up well before his time.

So, what is it that is most important in life? Well, there's a whole dialogue in the movie *City Slickers* between two characters, Curly and Mitch, which really sums it up best (and, yes, it is deliberately censored, for the kids):

Curly: Do you know what the secret of life is? [*holds up one finger*] This.

Mitch: Your finger?

Curly: One thing. Just one thing. You stick to that and the rest don't mean ****.

Mitch: But, what is the "one thing?"

Curly: [*smiles*] That's what **you** have to find out.

It's a different thing for everyone. For me, it's been enjoying life, whether that be in spending time with friends and family, as I do from time to time, or flying, or just doing some fun things in STARFLEET.

I'd love to have said that I've spent a lot more time flying recently, but unfortunately, I haven't been able to. At first, it was the weather that was uncooperative, having 3 weekends in a row that the weather was awful (heavy rain, hail, strong winds). Then finances got in the way (with a lesson and ground briefing being nearly \$300 for a 2 hour session, it gets pretty pricey, and I had some home repairs which came higher up on the priority list--having dry clothes and a water pipe that isn't leaking in the house is a bit more important), and then finally just being crazy busy has all prevented me from flying.

But that's part of that "one thing," you sometimes have to prioritize things to enjoy life, to really make the most of Curly's secret of life.

When I think back on it, the "one thing" for that family member seems to be money, which probably all comes down to a case of wanting to feel secure. I don't entirely blame him. Who doesn't want to feel safe and secure in their life? But I do sincerely wish that he would eventually come to understand that the "one thing" for each person isn't always the same, and that everyone needs to have their own individual views and

thing that is their secret of life.

So, what's been going on with the VCS department? As always, members of my team will be talking more about the things that they're dealing with in their particular areas of the department, but here's a short synopsis of things that are happening:

The Annual Campaign--Our Short Story Contest is wrapping up with some very interesting stories having come in. Soon, our internal panel of judges will be finishing up and we'll be passing on the top 5 stories to our Guest Judge, *Star Trek* novelist, Keith R.A. De Candido. I've read a few of the stories myself and I think that it's going to be a challenging thing for our judges to select our winners.

The SFMC -- What can I say about the SFMC that isn't already said in either the "Attention on Deck!" section of the CQ or in the "AoD Extra!" that comes out on the in-between months? The SFMC General Staff continues to be a pleasure to work with and is receptive to questions or suggestions that have been brought to them, both by the members and by myself. These definitely are some great folks to work with.

As always, this is not an exhaustive list of the things that are happening or expected to be happening in the VCS department. All the best to each and every one of you in STARFLEET. I look forward to writing more for you again in 60 days!

ECAB Report

May, 2009 - ECAB Report

Questions and concerns about these or any number of other things happening in STARFLEET should be brought up with your Regional Coordinator first, as always.

AB Discussions and Votes

There have been a few topics of discussion which have been brought up before the AB over the last couple of months, here's a brief summary of those topics:

Membership Suspension of Scott Akers

The AB considered the case of Dennis Rayburn v. Scott Akers, discussing options for addressing the issues raised in the IG investigation and a possible membership suspension of Scott for his conduct in the matter. The matter went to a vote by the AB.

JAG Officer Replacement

With the vacancy left in the JAG office when Richard Jolitz resigned and chose to not renew his STARFLEET membership, the AB began discussing a replacement for the JAG Office, and continues to review several candidates. At the time of this writing, the AB has not selected a replacement.

Amendments to the Membership Handbook

There were a number of corrections that were proposed for the membership handbook, which were reviewed by the AB to

address areas that better reflected how STARFLEET was doing business or to correct information and make it more accurate. These changes were reviewed and moved for approval. At the time of this writing, the AB has not completed the vote to approve these amendments.

Motions Voted Upon

The full text and record of all votes can be found on the STARFLEET Historian's AB Resolutions web page at:

<http://historian.sfi.org/AB/>

AB09-06: Official Discussion List FAQ

Region 13 (Joe Sare) made the following motion: The AB accept the Official STARFLEET Discussion list FAQ, as submitted, and rule that they are enforceable by the list owner and their staff.

Region 5 (Cathey Fuller) seconded the motion.

Result: **Passed:** Aye: 11, Nay: 3, Abstain: 2

AB09-07: Membership Suspension of Scott Akers (Rayburn v. Akers)

Region 8 (Owen Swart) made the following motion: That the Admiralty Board suspend the membership of Scott Akers for the period of three years in response to the results of the most recent investigation by the Inspector General. This motion was seconded by Region 13 (Joe Sare).

Result: **Passed:** Aye: 9, Nay: 4, Abstain: 4

NOTE: Region 10's vote had come after the deadline for voting, resulting in a tie vote between those in favour and those opposed/not voted. As such, the Commander, STARFLEET as the Chairman of the Board voted to break the tie, confirming Region 10's vote in favour of the suspension

EC Discussions

EC continues to hold regularly-scheduled conference calls to discuss a variety of topics, such as:

A chapter name and NCC number combination request/appeal;
 Membership Renewal versus Membership Reinstatement;
 STARFLEET's Budget for the next Fiscal Year;
 Membership Drive Materials;
 The STARFLEET Quartermaster, shopping cart system and Spread Shirt online store;
 IC2009;
 Vic's Place appeals and the IG investigation regarding it;
 Member and chapter perks;
 Membership numbers since the release of *Star Trek*.

I won't get into the specifics of what was discussed regarding these topics, I'm sure that many of them will be addressed by the various departments in their own reports and articles. Talk to you again in 60 days!





NAME: MICHAEL STEIN
 RANK: COMMODORE
 POSITION: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, STARFLEET
 OTHER POSITIONS: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 SHIP: *USS JUSTICE* NCC-558
 REGION: 7, NEW JERSEY (USA)



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, STARFLEET

Report from the Chief Financial Officer

Greetings. Along with this report are the financial statements for the period ending, April 30, 2009 and Year-To-Date.

As noted on the Statement of Activities, our largest expenses year to date are the *Communiqué* Expenses, STARFLEET IC Expenses, and Quartermaster Supplies.

More detailed financial statements are available on-line for all members to view at the SFI Finance home page. Please sign in using your SCC# and password to access the members-only sections.

As previously mentioned in my last article, Joe Horton, our Fundraising Officer, resigned his position to pursue other fund raising activities. Therefore, I'm still looking for a new Fundraising Officer. Should anyone be interested in this position, please forward your real life and STARFLEET resume along with a cover letter to my attention at CFO@sfi.org.

The position of Tax Compliance Officer is also still available as well. Again, we really could use some help in this area. If anyone would like to work on the EC level and has some

Accounting or Finance background with some Sales Tax experience preferably, then please apply for this position. Please send your real life resume and STARFLEET resume along with a cover letter explaining why you would like this position to my attention at CFO@sfi.org.

Should anyone have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to send them to my attention at cfo@sfi.org. Either I or one of my staff will be happy to respond to your request as soon as possible.

STARFLEET International Statement of Financial Position April 30, 2009	
	Total
ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	
CD General Fund A Risk Free	\$ 5,062
CD General Fund B	16,507
CD SF Scholarship Fund B	1,079
IC 2008	1,275
IC 2009	4,802
International Conference Odd	50
International Conference Even	500
Main Bank Account	8,913
Petty Cash SF QM	42
Petty Cash SFMC QM	(0)
SF Scholarship Fund A	5,154
SFMC Marines	2,372
SFMC Scholarship Fund	1,989
Total Bank Accounts & Petty Cash	\$ 47,746
Other Current Assets	
Deposits	-
Prepaid Other	-
Total Current Assets	47,746
Total Assets	\$ 47,746
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued expenses	1,329
Total current liabilities	\$ 1,329
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	1,000
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	38,042
Net Income	7,374
Total Equity	46,417
Total Liabilities And Equity	\$ 47,746

STARFLEET International Statement of Activities July 2008 - June 2009						
	July-Dec 08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	Year To Date
Operating Revenues:						
Membership Dues	\$ 16,735	\$ 3,269	\$ 2,556	\$ 2,382	\$ 3,697	\$ 28,639
Scholarship Funds	2,717	137	224	472	2,795	6,345
Quartermaster Sales	4,846	722	233	2,912	215	8,929
STARFLEET Int'l Conference	2,034	655	370	-	2,925	5,984
Other Income	473	-	-	105	-	578
Total operating revenues	26,806	4,783	3,384	5,871	9,632	50,476
Operating expenses:						
Communiqué Expenses	4,576	4,376	2,866	495	1,702	14,014
Membership Package	2,679	1,235	190	581	158	4,843
Quartermaster Supplies	6,525	927	410	369	71	8,302
STARFLEET IC Expenses	7,472	-	22	500	2,414	10,408
Scholarship Awards	1,984	-	-	-	-	1,984
Bank Charges & Fees	903	117	119	116	279	1,533
Election Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment & Software	-	365	(124)	-	-	241
Legal Fees	330	-	-	-	-	330
Insurance Bond	553	-	-	-	-	553
Licenses & Permits	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	333	-	76	353	131	893
Transition Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Office Expenses	2,119	482	71	469	410	3,550
Total operating expenses	25,355	7,020	3,558	2,413	4,755	43,101
(Loss) / Income	\$ 1,451	\$ (2,236)	\$ (175)	\$ 3,458	\$ 4,877	\$ 7,374





NAME: BOB VOSELLER
RANK: ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS CHALLENGER* NCC-1676-D
REGION: 7, NEW JERSEY (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: 2007 REGION 7 CO OF THE YEAR, 2004/2007 REGION 7 STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR



0707-76-16

Interview with Fox 5 “Good Morning, New York”

STARFLEET members proved once again that *Star Trek* fans are an enduring breed. On the morning of May 7, members of the *USS Challenger* teamed up with members of the *USS Abraham Lincoln* for a special event.

The release of the new STAR TREK film brought the Fox 5 “Good Morning, New York” program to the Orchard 10 Cinemas on Route 37 in Toms River, New Jersey to interview members of the *USS Challenger* to get their review of the new film.

Challenger CO, Admiral Bob Vosseller (me), and Operations Chief Captain Ken Diehl joined some STARFLEET members of the *USS Abraham Lincoln* based in Rockland County, New York for the early morning interview.



GOOD DAY NEW YORK. FOX 5 REPORTER ANNE CRAIG DID HER LIVE FEED WHILE SITTING IN THE COMMAND CHAIR REPLICA SUPPLIED BY THE *USS CHALLENGER* FOR THEIR THEATER RECRUITMENT DRIVE. PHOTO BY BOB VOSELLER.

Leyla Fayyaz, a producer for Fox 5 “Good Day New York”, was seeking out *Star Trek* fan club leaders and contacted me earlier in the week. Originally, they hoped to have had two locations, one in New York and one in New Jersey. But by Thursday afternoon, they decided to go with one location, and they chose Toms River.

Commander Keith S. Shikowitz, new member Andrew Serman, and Communications Chief Steve Worth made the 90-minute trek from Rockland County, NY to Toms River, NJ, arriving in time for the 6 a.m. setup by the morning news crew at the theater.

We had arranged to have a display of *Star Trek* memorabilia at the theater for the weekend promotion of the film, and that included a replica of the captain’s chair from the original *Star Trek* TV series.

The *USS Challenger* formed in 1988 and has promoted each *Star Trek* motion picture since the 1989 release of *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*. Members of the group wore *Star Trek* uniforms at the theater for the promotion that ran from May 7 to May 10.

We want to thank the management of the theater that let us fill part of their lobby and for opening up the theater early on Friday morning.

Fox reporter Anne Craig, wearing a borrowed Starfleet uniform, interviewed the club members about their strong devotion to the science fiction saga and asked me, as I’d had the chance to see the film a few days earlier, what I thought. She also asked me about how *Star Trek* brought me together with my wife Emily, whom I met at a *Star Trek* convention.

“We are excited about this film that brought it back to its roots from the very beginning with the first adventure of the original *USS Enterprise* crew,” Ken Diehl told the reporter.

“It was a well-cast film with a gripping story,” I added, “It has brought new excitement to those who are fans of *Star Trek*, but non-fans will enjoy it as well.” Anne had her own questions about aspects of the film. She was a lot of fun during the interview and sat in the command chair for most of the segment.

The *USS Challenger* is involved in a variety of activities, including community service projects, convention trips, and were among volunteers at the opening of the *Star Trek*



ARMED FOR RECRUITING! THE COMBINED CREWS OF *USS CHALLENGER* AND *USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN*, LEFT-TO-RIGHT: BOB VOSELLER, ANDREW SERMAN, KEITH SHIKOWITZ, KEN DIEHL, AND STEVE WORTH. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY BOB VOSELLER.

Exhibition at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. The group holds monthly meetings every first Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Seaside Heights Community Center in Seaside Heights. The group’s website is www.usschallenger.org. The club can also be reached via e-mail at beamaboard@aol.com.



COMMANDER KEITH SHIKOWITZ POSES IN FRONT OF THE STARFLEET THEATER DISPLAY WITH FOX REPORTER ANNE CRAIG. PHOTO BY BOB VOSELLER.





NAME: LINDA SMITH
RANK: ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: USS HEIMDAL NCC-1793
REGION: 1, VIRGINIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: FORMER REGION ONE COORDINATOR

0108-93-17

Star Trek: Just a Movie?

What a WONDERFUL *Star Trek* movie, and what a wonderful opportunity for STARFLEET chapters to recruit and be a "presence" in theaters all over the country. My chapter, the *USS Heimdal*, joined the *USS Ganymede* (the latest chapter the *Heimdal* is sponsoring) and the *USS Appomattox* to share theater space in Lynchburg, Virginia both Friday and Saturday of opening weekend for *Star Trek*. We had wonderful displays, and moviegoers seemed to enjoy and appreciate our presence there. All three chapters were well represented, which included sixteen *Heimdal* members (my chapter, so I know more about us).

I recently heard someone say, "*Star Trek* is just a movie," and I've been thinking about that ever since. I'm sure many people who were lined up to see *Star Trek* on several screens in Lynchburg and all over the country this weekend felt that way. But they also enjoyed an action adventure that was fast-paced and exciting and had characters that they were in some way familiar with. If you are a die-hard *Star Trek* fan, you appreciated a wonderful movie plus all the subtle nuances that laced the film throughout, harking back to *Star Treks* past ... and loved it. I thought it was one of the best *Trek* films so far.



APPOMATTOX CREW (LEFT TO RIGHT): ALAN PROVO, JOHN SPROUSE, MARGARET GRUNWELL, AND CHUCK RAYBURN. PHOTO BY WILLY SMITH.

So back to that comment, "*Star Trek* is just a movie." To many it is, but it's far more than that if anyone cares to think about it. Using my chapter as an example, we got our chapter together in 1983. In 1984, we launched as a shuttle, and in 1985 went to starship status. In 1985, we had our first chapter fundraiser --an on board ship auction in August of that year--and we raised \$50. WOW! In December of 1985, we adopted our first charity: a local Social Services welfare child, and we paid for his Christmas gifts. We donated that entire \$50, but it felt so good to know we'd made Christmas possible for a child who otherwise would have had none.

In the 25 years since the *Heimdal* launched, we've continued every Christmas to adopt a Social Services welfare child, increasing our donation amount as we became more successful at fundraising. Over the years, we've also widened our scope to include 10 charities that we support on an on-going basis. We've sent 2 students to Space Camp and are sending our third in July of this year. In 25 years, we've fed numerous discarded animals in shelters, made Christmas happen for 2 welfare kids and 2 senior citizens each year, come to the aid of hurricane victims, supported the Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis Fund in memory of one of our members, cared for families in need through the Salvation Army, presented timely public service programs

to the community, and become a caring presence in our area. And that's just the *Heimdal*.

All over STARFLEET, chapters are helping feed people, giving kids wonderful holidays, caring for animals, educating their communities, and MAKING A DIFFERENCE. And all of this has happened for 25 years with the *Heimdal*, longer and ongoing with other STARFLEET chapters, and just beginning for new chapters starting out with our organization.

So here's the thing ... is *Star Trek* just a movie? No, certainly not...not to STARFLEET chapters and the communities in which they reside and serve. Without *Star Trek*, STARFLEET would never have been born. And without STARFLEET and our caring chapters, it would be impossible to guess how many kids would not have had Christmas, or how many animals would not have been kept long enough to be adopted into good homes, or how many families would have gone unfed or natural disaster victims left alone to fend for themselves. Looking at all we do, my answer to that question, "*Star Trek*: just a movie?" is an unequivocal NO. And when I sit in a theater being thoroughly entertained and excited by the latest *Star Trek* film, I know for my chapter and the many chapters of STARFLEET, I'm not just watching a movie. I'm sitting in the midst of the reason so many people and beings have been helped throughout the years...something that would have been impossible if *Star Trek* were "*Just A Movie!*"



HEIMDAL CREW (LEFT TO RIGHT): CATHY TOUNA, GLENDA BLANKS, JAY LINDSAY, LINDA SMITH, KAREN DELANO, AND WILLY SMITH. PHOTO BY GEORGE FLANIK.



GANYMEDE FOLKS (LEFT TO RIGHT): CHRIS CARR AND GEORGE FLANIK. PHOTO BY WILLY SMITH.





NAME: JONATHAN LANE
RANK: COMMODORE
POSITION: CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS, STARFLEET
SHIP: USS ANGELES NCC-71840
REGION: 4, CALIFORNIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: FORMER XO, USS AVENGER NCC-1860; FORMER SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, REGION 7;
DESIGNER OF THE AWARD-WINNING USSANGELES.COM WEBSITE; CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE 2005 REGION 4 CONFERENCE



CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS, STARFLEET

Communications Report

What a Difference a Year Makes

In preparing my annual Communications Departmental report to the STARFLEET membership, I went back to last August when I took over as Comm Chief and read a bunch of saved e-mails. Which e-mails? Complaints. Gripes. Frustrations. Angry rants. There were quite a bunch. And while the EC hasn't solved all of the problems we had last year, it's amazing how many issues have been addressed and, in many cases, solved.

I'll concentrate primarily on those complaints and problems that the Communications Department had a direct role in solving. Let's dive right in...

The STARFLEET Communiqué

I am pleased to say that, since issue #148, five issues of the CQ have been published, none of them later than two months after the previous one (which is our schedule). I am still trying to trim off a week or two from that two-month schedule to make up for the one-issue of lateness left over from early 2008. In other words, our most recent April/May issue came out in June, arguably a month or more later than the cover date would suggest. I'm working to nudge the release date a little closer to the cover date, but it really does take about two months to finish a full issue. Even so, we've managed to trim off about two weeks so far from our initial eight-week deficit.

Print quality was a completely different challenge. Starfleet has been using the same Oklahoma-based printers for over 10 years, getting a CQ on newsprint. But I wondered: would it be possible to go to magazine format, full color, and keep ourselves within budget? Our Oklahoma printers didn't have magazine presses, so I called around. After getting 17 different price quotes from the redwood forests to the gulf stream waters, and even from overseas in China, I discovered that we're actually getting one hell of a deal from the Oklahoma guys! The cheapest bid I got for an issue was more than double what we're paying now. The most expensive was 9 TIMES more! So we obviously needed to stick with newsprint. But, oh, that messy ink came off on your hands every time you touched a copy of CQ.

Well, it turned out that all we needed to do was ask our printers for better paper. (That simple? Yeah.) Moving from standard newsprint to Hi-Brite paper made all the difference, and you can see it in the higher quality of the CQ from #149 onward. I also discovered that we had more color pages to work with than just the front and back covers and the center spread. Instead of 4 color pages per issue, we had 12. Turns out we were paying for 8 color pages that we weren't using! But the best news of all was that these discussions with our printer resulted in them offering STARFLEET a 20% discount if we signed a one-year contract (so they could order all our paper for the year in bulk and pass the savings on to us). After more than 10 years, what's

one year more? So we signed the contract and are now paying LESS than before for better paper and more pages of color! How about that!

One of the biggest complaints I read from last year was members calling for there to be more *Star Trek* in the CQ. Now, to be fair, we've got 16 active regions, over 200 chapters, and over 3,700 members, most of whom submit articles about their own activities. We've also got a lot of STARFLEET "business" content to include--like the EC reports, staff listings, and the "Attention On Deck" Marine section. Even so, I'll admit that I, too, wanted to see more *Star Trek*. So in late September, I brought a motion before the EC to start including *Star Trek* imagery in the CQ again--not just logos, but cast member photos and episode and movie stills. For about ten years, STARFLEET had been avoiding using such images for fear of getting a cease and desist order from Paramount. Meanwhile, countless other *Trek* clubs and websites were plastering Paramount's intellectual property all over the place...without even a single slap on the wrist. We were the only one out there "behaving ourselves," and it seemed the time had come to finally come back inside and enjoy the party with everyone else. I also began to ask members for more *Trek*-related submissions to include. And so *Star Trek* returned to CQ.

EC Communication with the General Membership

Remember when virtually no one from the EC would tell members anything (not just Sal Lizard, but virtually the entire EC)? A year ago, members felt like most major decisions were being made behind a curtain, that member concerns were not being listened to at all, and that the EC cared and shared little about what was going on with anyone other than the EC itself. This needed to change.

One of the first things I did after taking over as Comm Chief was to create the Regional Relay Officer program. Although STARFLEET has an official Announcement list and a Business Discussion list, these two online chat boards reach only a few hundred members. Most regions have their own chat lists, though, and the outreach to members is much more vast when those lists are included. Now, some RCs were already forwarding messages from the Announcement-L to their regional lists, but others weren't. However, by appointing a Regional Relay Officer (RRO) in every region, we created a new line of communication between the EC and the member. Sometimes the RRO was the RC himself or herself. Other times, it's been a helpful member that could take on some of the work that the RC would no longer have to worry about.

In the last ten months, nearly 60 individual announcement messages from the EC have been e-mailed to the RROs. That averages out as 1 to 2 messages each week! From a starting point of virtually no outward communication from the

EC toward the membership to weekly messages is a pretty good improvement. What's more, the RROs have been instructed to forward important messages from their own lists to the EC if the RRO and/or RC feel the message is important enough to warrant EC attention. So the relay could go both ways and, thus, the lines of communication between the EC and Joe Member were increased and strengthened.

The SFI.org Website

One of the challenges facing the STARFLEET website was the lack of a reliable Webmaster. This changed in January when one humble member stepped up to volunteer for this challenging position. Not wanting to get involved in Fleet politics, this member asked to remain anonymous and became known simply as "Webmaster X". (And contrary to some conjecture--no, Webmaster X is NOT Dave Lowe. Indeed, they live in two different states.)

Armed with a competent Webmaster, Computer Operations teamed with Communications to rebuild the SFI.org website from scratch. Part of the reason for the teamwork is that the Comm Chief (me) happens to be an Internet Information Architect and Usability Specialist professionally. As such, I worked closely with CompOps Chief John Halliday and Webmaster X to architect the site, defining three primary types of users: the veteran member, the new or casual member, and the non-member thinking about joining. The new site structure would allow each of these user types to easily find what they most wanted or needed. Armed with the "blueprints," Webmaster X proceeded to create some wonderful graphic design and assemble the entire website using the Joomla Content Management System.

After four full months of planning, designing, and building--during which time Webmaster X probably wanted to throttle me on numerous occasions--the new STARFLEET website was unveiled in early April, a full month before the new movie was released. Feedback was almost unanimously positive (how often does THAT happen in this club!), and by the time the *Star Trek* film came out, the news media was finding our site through search engines and contacting us first because, as many reporters told me personally, we looked like the most professional and well-organized of the *Star Trek* fan clubs out there. Traffic to our website tripled when the new site was unveiled, and tripled again when the movie came out.

The hope is that this new sfi.org website will stay updated more frequently and accurately than the last version because every piece of content only appears in one place. And new content can quickly be added into appropriate categories, rather than being tossed in randomly somewhere.

Now, the Member Database...that's a completely different story that I will let John Halliday tell.



Declining Membership

This item and the next are siblings. At our lowest point, Fleet strength declined by about 10-12% from the numbers that existed when Sal Lizard took office. But why? Did people not like Sal? Did people not like the political infighting? Or was it another reason altogether?

To help get to the bottom of this mystery, Communications set up the Alumni Outreach Program, directed by Fleet Captain George Ann Wheeler of the *USS Debraak*. AOP was different from Recruitment and Retention. AOP dealt with members who had already left STARFLEET. With help from then-Vice Chief of Communications Rob Kitson, Annie Wheeler created a friendly e-mail that could be sent to members who had expired and not renewed. This e-mail did two things. First, it invited the member to rejoin STARFLEET in an unpressured way. Second, if the member did not want to rejoin, it asked why not, hopeful that getting feedback from them would help us improve the STARFLEET experience. Responding was completely optional.

In late 2008, after being given a list by Member Processing Administrator Matt Ingles of members who expired between January and September of 2008, Annie and Rob sent out over 800 e-mails. The vast majority received no response, which was not unexpected. However, about 100 former members did respond... and here's what they said.

Fifty renewed. Just like that! They had forgotten or else had run out of money, but after getting the e-mail, they came right back to STARFLEET. Of the other responses, the most common reason for not renewing was economic. The recession hit hard, and suddenly \$15 was a lot of money. However, a number of these respondents (close to 12) said that they intended to rejoin just as soon as they had enough money to spare. The next most common reason for leaving: loss of interest. This was either a loss of interest in *Star Trek* itself (remember, the new movie was still 7 months away and no ads or trailers had aired yet) and/or a loss of interest in their chapter's activities or people. And at the bottom of the list was politics. A few people had gripes against the current administration in particular, but just as many folks said they just didn't like the politics in general and had no specific problem with the Lizard administration.

Two months later, Computer Operations managed to work around the glitch in the member database that was preventing renewal notice e-mails from being sent out. Sending manual reminder e-mail to expired members seemed to help with the member drop quite a bit, as did the growing enthusiasm for the new movie. However, there are still STARFLEET members that don't renew, and this summer, AOP plans to send out another batch of e-mails to members that have expired over the last six months and see if we can bring a few of them back this time, too. And if not, let's ask them why they left.

Supporting Recruitment

So we addressed the problem of non-renewing members, at least somewhat, but what about recruiting new members? By late last year, it was looking like little to nothing was being done to prepare STARFLEET to capitalize on the media blitz that would accompany the new *Star Trek* movie release.

After an admittedly late start, STARFLEET's public relations department awoke from hibernation as Admiral Brandt Heatherington took a more active role as PR Director. After researching options for national Press Releases, Brandt hooked STARFLEET up with PRWeb, and we issued our first-ever national Press Release in March, 2009. This was, in many ways, a test of the process. The Press Release did okay, but not great, in terms of getting us exposure. But this was valuable information, because our next Press Release would be the biggie. Released just a few weeks before the movie, we decided this time to use the highest of

the four levels of service offered by PRWeb (instead of the second lowest, as we did the first time). And the second Press Release was a huge success, getting much better coverage but also utilizing the top tier service of PR Web to increase STARFLEET's ranking on search engines. By the time the movie came out, any Google or Yahoo search for "Star Trek Fan Club" would result in STARFLEET's site link at or just under the top of the list...making it easier for both fans and the news media to find us.

A second piece of the recruitment puzzle came from the CQ. During the talks with our printer, I discovered a disturbing fact that I didn't know about. Each issue, we were paying for 3,000 copies of CQ but sending out only about 2,000 to members. We were keeping another 100 or so in reserve in case a few got lost in the mail, but nearly a thousand copies of each issue (that we were paying for!) were being tossed into the recycling bin. The reason for this was that, like most printers, ours has a minimum press run of 3,000. And the truth was that we had nowhere to store 1,000 extra CQs issue after issue. So they were tossed.

Still, I didn't like this one bit. We realized there was money in the STARFLEET budget to ship the extra CQs to the Quartermaster to sell to chapters for recruiting efforts. Unfortunately, the shipping costs from Oklahoma to Alabama (where the QM is located) added a cost that made purchasing the extra CQs uneconomical. And what was worse, after two issues of CQ didn't sell well, the QM was running out of storage room...and it looked like these issues would be thrown away anyhow, only this time in Alabama instead of Oklahoma.

But then we thought of a great idea: a CQ lottery. Each issue, we would draw names randomly of chapters who wanted extra CQs for recruiting. Each winner would get 100 free CQs (no charge for shipping--we would simply ship them from Oklahoma directly to the winners instead of to the QM). The new lottery was a big success. Nearly 30 chapters signed up for the first drawing, and 9 winners received a box of 100 newsletters just prior to the movie release. The second drawing already has 40 registered entrants.

Finally, under the guidance of Dave Blaser and with design help from Christina Sievers, STARFLEET also released, just prior to the movie premiere, a STARFLEET tri-fold brochure ready to photocopy. Several chapters used this for local recruiting, including handing out 150 at the red carpet premiere in Hollywood.

Explaining the Legal Fees

Perhaps most controversial of all the complaints were the questions being asked over and over again about why STARFLEET had needed to hire a law firm, how much had been spent, and what we received for our money. Although Sal Lizard promised multiple times to explain everything to the membership at large, the months went by with no explanation forthcoming.

I came into the position of Comm Chief from the outside, and I was one of the many demanding answers. I soon learned, though, that the reason for the silence wasn't sinister or nefarious at all. Instead, the task of explaining the legal expenses was simply overwhelming, and no one knew where to start. We had indeed gotten a lot for our money, so much so that explaining it all didn't lend itself to either a quick or simple response.

Still, the work of answering the questions needed to be done, and after a few delays due to the holidays and ice storms in the northeast, I was finally able to sit Sal Lizard and his Chief of Staff Sam Black down for two recorded phone calls lasting a combined five hours. With Sal's answers in his own words, I proceeded (with some help from an anonymous volunteer) to transcribe those five hours into a series of articles intended for the CQ. So far, there have been two segments published, totaling nine full pages combined, with another 90 minutes or so of interview still to transcribe. It's a huge task (and I no longer have my volunteer!).

Whether you like the answers Sal gave or you don't, the fact remains that this information needed to be shared with the membership. Too much money (over \$9,000) was spent from STARFLEET funds for members not to be told the specifics. So the complaints may now focus on the whether or not we should have gone to the lawyers in the first place, if we got our money's worth, and what should be done about legal services in the future. But at least there are now facts out in the open to argue about. A year ago, the complaint was a total lack of information and communication. Now, finally, there are answers instead of silence.

Improvements Everywhere You Look

I recently received an e-mail from an old friend of mine from within STARFLEET complaining about a number of things. I asked jokingly, "So, am I doing *anything* right?" This member replied, "I don't really know. I stopped paying attention to most things going on in the club. I don't read the CQ or follow much of anything beyond my chapter."

And I realized that, for many people in the club, this might be the case. Out of sight, out of mind. Of course, the CQ and the new website are very visible aspects of what's going right at the moment in STARFLEET...almost everyone sees the obvious improvement in those. But there's so much more, if you just look around. I realize that the Sal Lizard administration had a rough start, and half of the original EC members left or were replaced in less than a year's time. But the current EC team is one of the strongest I've seen in over a quarter century of being in STARFLEET. Early mistakes were made, to be certain, but the mark of a good leader and team is the ability to identify mistakes, correct them, learn from them, and not make them again. And that's very evident in this EC.

To be sure, there are still lingering traces of resentment out there to Sal and his EC (although significantly less than a year ago). And let's face it, some mistakes are still being made. We're all only human, and you can't please all the people all the time. No EC in STARFLEET's long history was ever universally loved for its entire term. But what's amazing is, if you do take the time to actually look around, you'll see that this EC is quietly, competently, and confidently building an incredible new infrastructure within this organization...as strong as or even stronger than it's ever been before. It's not just the Communications Department; it's CompOps and the Academy, ShOC and Ops, and even our renewed Financial stability. It's everyone coming together, great volunteers on the EC, AB, and beyond giving their all for this club that we love.

So if you're like my old friend who "stopped paying attention," you might not have noticed one of the most impressive renaissances in the history of STARFLEET. But it's out there, my friends. All you have to do is look (and maybe read just a few pages of the CQ). STARFLEET is on top again...and it's okay to be proud to be in this club. I know I am.

As a postscript, I would like to say a special thank you to my own winning team. First, Prasith Kim-Aun continues to do a top-notch job on CQ layout issue after issue. He's fast, reliable, hard-working, agreeable, and very talented. Second, there's my Vice-Chief of Communications, Dennis Rayburn, who is always ready to lend a hand (and I appreciate him handling the newsletter awards this year). Special shout-outs to Brandt Heatherington, Annie Wheeler, George Flanik, Alex Rosenzweig, and Gary Hollifield, Jr...all of whom are essential parts of the Comm Team. And finally, a sincere expression of gratitude to the anonymous and humble Webmaster X, who stepped up to take on a job that almost no one wanted, did that job expertly well, and continues to make frequent updates to the website on an almost daily basis. If you haven't checked out sfi.org lately, trust me, you should. My sincere thanks to all of these wonderful volunteers.



0411-19-17



NAME: JERRY TIEN
RANK: REAR ADMIRAL
POSITION: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
OTHER POSITIONS: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS EAGLE* NCC-1719
REGION: 4, CALIFORNIA (USA)



CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, STARFLEET

Operations Report

Greetings, everyone. I am very happy to announce the following chapters commissioned since last issue of *Communicué*:

USS Aurora (R5), Seattle, WA
 CAPT Brian Pickett
brehmh@gmail.com

USS Blackheart (R7), New Castle, DE
 CAPT Emmet Plant
tetrisblock@gmail.com

USS Hecate (R7), Pittsburgh, PA
 FCAPT David W. Ferber
angelsy1@yahoo.com

USS Leonidas (R4), Apache Junction, AZ
 CAPT Jonathan Krieger
lahcommander@mchsi.com

USS Pride of Baltimore (R7), Glen Burnie, MD
 COMM Gary M. Ensey Jr.
gmensey@aol.com

USS R'uustai (R4), Las Vegas, NV
 CAPT Krystal Rubenstein
captain@ussruustai.net

In addition to the chapters listed above, many new chapters are still ramping up. If you are looking for a new (or different) chapter, please check them out. This leads us to my next point: remember Chief of Communications, COMM Jon Lane, announced that we saw a very strong growth in recent weeks – nearly 10%? I hope these new members sign up for chapters and enjoy a much richer experience in our organization. Believe it or not, you have over 200 choices. Note: you don't have to join just the nearest chapter. There are many correspondence chapters that welcome members regardless of their locations. Even our "meeting" chapters may have correspondence members. Don't be shy—ask them if you are not sure. For a complete listing, you can use the Chapter Finder, Vessel Registry, or even look through the chapters listed on regional

pages. Just follow the links at www.sfi.org. This is also a great time for all those commanding officers trying to expand their chapters or even just to bring the chapters up to minimum crew strength. Virtually every region had a healthy increase of new, unassigned members. Talk to your regional coordinators to find out more about unassigned members in your regions. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at ops@sfi.org.

On a different note, we are quickly approaching this year's STARFLEET International Conference. Many members are working hard to make this great event a success. I want to do my part to help, too. Therefore, I am planning a panel on ShOC/Ops items of interest, such as chapter launch, chapter management, recruiting, and so on. Rather than a lecture, I hope this will provide a chance for new and experienced members to exchange ideas, tips, and more. Suggestions are always welcome. If you can't attend IC this year, please send me

your ideas so we can pass them on to other members.

For those members who can't attend Fleet events in person, we try to bring these events to you electronically. We are also working on other aspects of fleet operations to make use of the Internet to improve our operating efficiency. This includes online Vessel Registry Requests and so on. We have developed functional specifications for some of these. To make these features a reality, we need your help. If you have experience with PHP/MySQL programming, please contact COMM John Halliday at CompOps <compops@sfi.org> as soon as possible. We can definitely use your help implementing these new features in the SFI Database.

In closing, I hope everyone is having a great summer. See you at IC 2009!

0311-88-18



NAME: JOHN HALLIDAY
RANK: COMMODORE
OTHER ALIAS: COMMODORE SORAK
POSITION: CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS, STARFLEET
SHIP: *USS ARK ANGEL* NCC-1886
REGION: 3, TEXAS (USA)



CHIEF OF COMPUTER OPERATIONS, STARFLEET

Computer Operations Report

Greetings from CompOps.

It has been a very busy two months since my last report, and I am now able to report progress in CompOps on a number of projects.

CubeCart

CubeCart is the new online commerce system that we recently finished configuring with all the STARFLEET Quartermaster products. When you have a chance, I highly recommend that you check out the new site: <http://qm.sfi.org/>

Some of the features of the new system include a shopping cart, automatic calculation

of shipping and handling based on real-time access to a the USPS web service, notification of new orders to our Quartermaster and Financial office staff, and the inclusion of a PayPal interface that makes it very easy to pay with your PayPal account (or just use your credit card if you don't have a PayPal account—no PayPal account is needed).

New Website--Success!

During the month of May we were careful to track statistics regarding traffic to the new website. We expected high traffic during the film release but...WOW. Look here: Website statistics for May, 2009:

(Figures in parentheses refer to the 7-day period ending May 17 2009 at 3:22 AM.)

Successful requests: 1,194,048 (574,110)
 Average successful requests per day: 74,640 (82,015)
 Successful requests for pages: 225,958 (109,014)
 Average successful requests for pages per day: 14,124 (15,573)
 Failed requests: 36,630 (1,944)
 Redirected requests: 319 (12)
 Distinct files requested: 57,205 (5,586)
 Distinct hosts served: 12,268 (1,032)
 Data transferred: 24.71 GB (12.05 gigabytes)

Average data transferred per day: 1.54 gigabytes (1.72 gigabytes)

Each unit () represents 3,000 requests for pages or part thereof.

week beginning	#reqs	#pages
April 26, 2009	88,330	18,684
May 3, 2009	52,2204	96,145
May 10, 2009	582,179	110,806

Busiest week: Week beginning May 10, 2009 (110,806 requests for pages).

So basically, the new website is a huge



success. We have been contacted by some high-powered companies, both news agencies and businesses, who have commented that they decided to contact us because of the professional look of the site, not because they had 'heard' of us before. We are very pleased with the way the new site is shaping up and how it is attracting people to our association.

We do plan to continue to find ways to improve the user experience on the website. Some things to look for soon are a new interactive map to help find a chapter near you, more advertising, news articles, we have added a twitter page, and now link to videos on the YouTube site that are relevant to our organization and its members. Also, check out the Commander, STARFLEET's blog by going to www.sfi.org, then choosing 'News' and selecting 'Fleet Admiral's Blog'.

New Discounts

We have some new discounts available and

are getting new ones on a regular basis. We recently partnered with Motel 6. Use the Corporate Plus ID # (545646) plus your STARFLEET Member Card at the desk at any Motel 6 to get a discount on your stay. Even better, every time you use the ID to get a discount, STARFLEET also gets a 5% 'rebate' sent to us.

For those traveling to Pennsylvania, you can get 20% off the VIP package for *Star Trek: The Exhibition Hotel & Ticket Package* at the Philadelphia Marriott downtown.

Check out these and other benefits exclusive to STARFLEET members at www.sfi.org. Go to the 'About Us' tab and select 'Membership Perks' to see more.

Membership Up

Member numbers have increased incredibly over the last few weeks. At one point we had added over 500 new members since the beginning of May.

Member Web Application

Most of you refer to this as the "Member Database," but that always rankles when I say that. Databases are tables and data. Our web application is just that, a web application.

When I started familiarizing myself with things in December, I said to a number of people, foolishly perhaps, "I'll put together a new Requirements Document in a couple weeks..." as a prelude to re-writing the entire Member Web Application. I feel certain that previous CompOps Chiefs over the years have said similar grandiose things but I fell into a common trap for developers coming on the scene of a new project for the first time. We always seem to want to re-do everything to fit our own style and preferences. This is especially true when we have a lot of expectations, some of which come from outside but mostly from within. The transition to a new system is still in the works, but is

now proceeding at a 'reasonable' pace. Requirements are still being gathered to cover the functional requirements of each of the modules of the web application, but the database design is currently nearly complete.

We have plans to include an online VRR system, SFMC reporting capabilities, a more sophisticated but easier-to-use user interface, and much more.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions for CompOps. Please also keep in mind that we are still looking very hard for experienced PHP developers. If you have such experience, we could really use your help in CompOps!

compops@sfi.org

888-SFI-TREK x707

0112-96-717



NAME: WARREN PRICE
RANK: REAR ADMIRAL
POSITION: CHIEF SHAKEDOWN OPERATIONS, STARFLEET
OTHER POSITIONS: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: USS PROVIDENCE NCC-71796
REGION: 1, TENNESSEE (USA)



CHIEF OF SHAKEDOWN OPERATIONS, STARFLEET

Shakedown Operations Report

Greetings, STARFLEET.

I am hoping all of you have enjoyed the summer so far. I have.

I am happy to announce the following launched chapter-in-training: Welcome the *USS FireFox* to STARFLEET. This is a meeting chapter and is currently based in Ozark, Arkansas. For info on joining this ship, please contact Commander Chris Tolbert at

cptcmt@hotmail.com

Please remember that you have a source available to you if you want to start a new chapter. It is called the START2007 Manual. It can be downloaded from STARFLEET's website in the documents section.

Biff Bassett was our webmaster for both the ShOC site under SFI.org and ShOC's standalone site. Biff worked hard to keep them updated, and you should think of Biff when you take a look at the ShOC sites.

Vice ShOC, Admiral Alex Rosenzweig, has resurrected an old program that wasn't put into effect some years ago. It is called the Accelerated Shakedown Program. Below is a small portion of what it is all about.

Accelerated Shakedown Program

If one reads the START Manual, one sees that, as part of the shakedown, a group is expected to get certain things done. Well, if a group came into the shakedown with some of those things already done, or with certain characteristics already in place, what if we could establish that those would be equivalent to a reduction of time for the shakedown?

For example, a shakedown period might be reduced if a group could demonstrate...

- CO and/or XO already passed OCC.
- Group already has a newsletter/publication.
- Group already has bylaws/constitution/manual/promotion system/etc.
- Group was a former STARFLEET chapter within the past 5 years.
- Group was a former STARFLEET chapter within the past 10 years (but more than 5)... this would be equivalent to less of a time-savings, since a group older than 5 years will need time to get re-acclimated to changes in the organization.
- Group has been in prior existence for 1-5 years.
- Group has been in prior existence for 6+ years.

Then we set an absolute minimum of a 5-month shakedown, and using the above (or other) criteria, once we set time equivalents to them, time could be reduced from the full 9 months down to the 5-month minimum, depending on which criteria the group fulfills when the shakedown starts.

It is our expectation to implement this program as we launch new chapters. To view the full details visit the ShOC web site.

Department of Technical Services

The decommissioning of the following vessels and their names are now listed as on-hold, as per standard protocol, pending any decision to reactivate those vessels:

USS Renaissance NCC-63100 (*New Orleans-Class* Frigate)

USS Thunderwolf NCC-1653 (*Constitution-Class, Acheron-Subclass* Heavy Cruiser)

Additional releases of names for those vessels having left STARFLEET can now take place, the requisite 6-month waiting period having passed. Therefore, names now available following chapter withdrawal from STARFLEET and 6-month waiting period:

USS Battleborn

Advanced Starship Design Bureau

MGEN Joost Ueffing is reviewing a proposal to include the *Diplomat*-class design used in the fan-film "Operation Beta Shield" as an option in STARFLEET.

Office of Technical Information

OTI has seen continuing use, providing reference materials and answering questions of a technical and background nature.

Schematic Artist

Work continues on the *Saladin*-class, *Cochise*-subclass destroyer existing.

Feel free to contact me, my door...er, email is always open.

Rear Admiral Warren Price
CO, USS Providence NCC-71796
Chief of Shakedown Operations, SFI R1

E-Mail: shoc@sfi.org

Mailing Address:
315 Highway 220
Cedar Grove, TN 38321





NAME: PEG PELLERIN
RANK: ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDANT, STARFLEET ACADEMY
OTHER POSITIONS: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SHIP: *SS IAN FLEMING* SFR-1501
REGION: 15, MASSACHUSETTS (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: FORMER CO OF *USS EQUINOX*; FORMER OTS DIRECTOR; FORMER DEAN OF THE INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP



COMMANDANT, STARFLEET ACADEMY

Academy News

Greetings from the great Halls of Learning, STARFLEET Academy!

Members have asked and we have delivered.

For those of you who haven't heard, we now have a course checklist. That's right; several members wanted to know if SFA could produce a checklist of all the courses available so they could either just take a look or download. Some individuals wanted something that showed the courses with a way to check them off as they completed them.

Thanks to our Coordinator of Support Services, Greg Staylor, for creating the list and our webmaster, Jayden Tyronian for placing it on the home page of SFA website, we now have that available to all SF members.

All that members need to do is go to the SFA website <http://academy.sfi.org> and there the member will find this course checklist in two areas: the "Quick" links or the "Course Catalog" link. The "Quick" link will get you there immediately (guess that's why they call it "Quick") and at the "Course Catalog" link, just click on the link and to the left is the course checklist that one can click onto.

This is a complete list of the STARFLEET Academy's active courses at the time of creation, which is noted in the header of that particular page. It is not an application and cannot be used to request courses. It is a reference for the personal use of members, such as a check off of courses you have taken or courses you may want to take in the future.

Pass the word along. Enjoy!

Promotions

CONGRATULATIONS to the following SFA personnel on promotions received:

Glen Diebold to Rear Admiral
 Ros Haywood to Fleet Captain
 Jay Hurd to Fleet Captain

From the desk of the Coordinator Academic Services: ADM Carol Thompson

We average 726 graduates a month. This is averaged from the time period August 1, 2008 to March 31st, 2009. With the addition of a new College, the College of SpecOps Training, and the addition of a number of new courses to Survival Studies, College of Intelligence in the Media, Institute of Science Fiction Studies, and an upper-level math course, that average should rise over the summer.

The new SFA College that opened in April, Special Operations Training,

Directed by Glen Diebold had 200 courses taken during the opening month. Whew! Check it out!

The Institute of Foreign Affairs will present the College of the UK later this summer and we just acquired a writer for the College of Cuba. The IOFA will have a greater presence as we recruit writers and directors from outside the USA. This institute is designed to give people of all countries a better understanding of the cultural differences within STARFLEET.

From the desk of the Awards Director: BDR Scott Anderson, Sr.

March Boothby's

Amethyst 700
 Sean Niemeyer

Amber 550
 Glendon Diebold

Trilithium 500
 Josephine Fisher

Platinum 450
 Gary Hollifield, Jr.

Zirconium 400
 Jan Sleigh

Dilithium 300
 Nancy O'Shields

Latinum 200
 Joseph Fuller
 Ricardo Garcia

Gold 150
 Jeremy Skelton

Silver 100
 Peter Yohe

Bronze 50
 Willis Burhans
 Jeffery Higdon
 Bran Stimpson
 Jeffery Triz
 Cory Whorton

April Boothby's

Opal 800
 Sean Niemeyer
 Wayne Smith

Pearl 750
 Larry D. French, Sr.

Amethyst 700
 Scott A. Anderson, Sr.

Topaz 650
 Bill Rowlette

Garnet 600
 Glendon Diebold

Amber 550
 Josephine Fisher

Trilithium 500
 George Ann Wheeler

Platinum 450
 Donald Dobrin
 Douglas W. Mayo

Diamond 250
 Ricardo Garcia
 Oliver Savander

Latinum 200
 Jeremy A. Skelton

Gold 150
 Marie Anderson
 George Parker
 Scott C. Schaller

Silver 100
 Cory Whorton

Bronze 50
 E. Jerry Beaulieu
 Aaron Horner
 Jay Hurd
 Roy Willis



KLINGON WARRIOR ACADEMY

BGN Larry French, Director
1742 Broadway Avenue
Pittsburg, PA 15216-1809
kmoghjih@gmail.com

Welcome to the Klingon Warrior Academy! These courses are an in-depth study of Klingon Culture, Military, Government, Language, and Technology. Hopefully, these courses will cause you to embrace the warrior spirit. These courses have a manual but may still require the student to have access to the *Star Trek* episodes, "Star Trek Encyclopedia", "The Klingon Dictionary", and other readily-available reference sources on the *Star Trek* universe with the ability to research the Internet for information



necessary to complete the courses. The 300 and 400 level courses are designed for those that have embraced the Klingon warrior spirit and want to show their worthiness of being an exceptional warrior. If you find an outside source other than the KWA Manual, please list your references. *Qapla'!*

COLLEGE OF FEDERATION STUDIES

RADM Anne F. Bellenger, Director
1255 Mystic Rd.
Avon Park, FL 33825
cyclist2@strato.net

The Mission of the College of Federation Studies is to provide STARFLEET Membership the opportunity to increase their knowledge of the *Star Trek* universe for entertainment. The College is open to all members of STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association.



COLLEGE OF INTELLIGENCE IN MEDIA

ADM Carol Thompson, Director
PO Box 135
Ester, AK 99725
Betazoid@mosquitonet.com

The College of Intelligence in the Media (CIM) resides in the Institute of Intelligence and Espionage. The College contains exams for Intelligence movies (SIM) and TV series (SITV).

You won't find *James Bond* here because Bond, James Bond is a College all its own. You won't find one-man shoot-em-up films that pretend to be about the spy trade but lack believable procedures, motivations, and technology.

What you will find are films that demonstrate how the game of Intelligence and Espionage is played, as portrayed by movie-makers. You will find old movies developed during the Cold War and new movies produced as recently as 2008.

Some of these movies are inspired by famous authors such as Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*, *Patriot*

Games, and *The Sum of All Fears*, to name a few. Others are well-written, in-depth original movies, like *Thirteen Days* and *The Recruit*. Still others are light-hearted in nature, but still present good information, like *Cody Banks* and *Gotcha*.

Exams may be taken via email or by the increasingly-popular Fully Automated Course system (FAC) in which you take the exam online, where it is graded and a diploma generated for you to print out. I am automatically notified of your results, and I input your grade into the SFI database.

The College is located on the STARFLEET Academy website at <http://www.acad.sfi.org/courses/intel/cim.shtml>.

Courses are free if taken online or by email.

Upon closing for this issue of the CQ, I want to leave you with something I read which made me realize that no matter how dark things may be due to our poor economy, poor health, etc., there is always one thing we can count on... "When it is dark, you can see the stars." (an old Persian proverb)

Admiral Peg Pellerin
SFA Commandant



NAME: GEORGE FLANIK
RANK: COMMANDER
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: USS GANYMEDE NCC-80107
REGION: 1, VIRGINIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: OTS WITH HONORS; 2007 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE COMMENDATION FROM USS HEIMDAL

USS GANYMEDE NCC-80107



0114-07-801

Ask "Deep Trek" - # 005

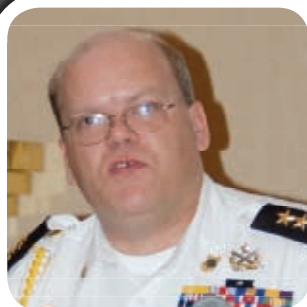
Normally, "Deep Trek" watches movies on DVD or satellite. I did not realize how long it had been since he'd gone to a movie theater. He thanked me for getting him out for that. The sound was loud enough that he said that, had he still been a smoker, he would have put rolled-up cigarette filters in his ears to knock the level down a few decibels.

He liked the action. He followed the twists in the story line. He liked Nimoy's role as the elder Spock, but did remark on how Nimoy had aged since when he saw him on the TOS set. He liked the new actors playing the traditional roles, especially Bones and

Scotty. He got a lot of laughs from Simon Pegg's role and thought he had Scotty's character nailed dead on. As for Chris Pine, "Deep Trek" thought Pine got Shatner's arrogance right but added a flavor of his own to it.

"Deep Trek" wondered why the writers chose to "outright destroy" Vulcan. He wondered why Engineering had all the tanks and plumbing, like a chemical factory. He liked Bruce Greenwood's portrayal of Christopher Pike very much. Aside from these details, he thought the story was good and fast-paced.





NAME: JOHN ROBERTS
RANK: MAJOR GENERAL
POSITION: COMMANDANT, SFMC
OTHER POSITIONS: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: USS ANASAZI NCC-62001
REGION: 17, NEW MEXICO (USA)

1715-01-620

STARFLEET Members Care for One Another

Another Intangible Member Benefit

We all talk about how STARFLEET is a family, and many of us have seen it proven true firsthand. My latest proof of this statement came on the morning of April 17, 2009. On this morning, at about 8 a.m. MDT, I and my Chief of Operations (and good friend), Philip Dillard, were involved in a rollover accident on I-25 northbound at about mile marker 50 in Colorado. We hit a slick spot on a bridge over a drainage culvert and Phil lost control. We rolled about 1.25 times while spinning and came to rest in the median ditch on the passenger side. Fortunately, the most serious injuries were a broken metacarpal on Phil's left hand and severely strained Trapezoid and Pectoral muscles on my left side...as well as cuts, bruises, and other such injuries on both of us, more seriously for Phil. We'll heal. I wanted to take a moment and tell you all about the selfless, courageous, and overwhelming offers of help from our fellow STARFLEET members in Colorado.

When it was obvious that Phil was okay and would heal, albeit slowly and with much pain, I began to worry about how we would get to Denver for the convention (Starfest) that we had been headed to at the time of the accident. I called my XO, Laurie McFarland, but her family was worried about her driving with the weather being as ugly as it was (Denver got about 14" of snow that Friday and Saturday), and rightly so; the weather was horrible and not conducive for driving. I had also contacted Bran Stimpson of the *USS Tiburon* in Denver and Joe Hinson of the *USS Qual'at* (soon to be *USS Independence*) in Colorado Springs. Bran was in an appointment and could not leave. Joe offered to come get us and take us to Denver, or at least Colorado Springs if the road to Denver was closed when we got there. Joe's other half, Carol Stewart, cleaned out their truck, and they drove the two hours to Walsenberg, CO to pick us up at the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center.

After they arrived, in better weather, Joe and Carol actually took the time to drive us to the impound

yard where the truck had been towed and helped us recover as much of our personal belongings as possible. As we headed north to continue on to Denver, Joe and Carol also stopped at the accident scene and helped us salvage even more personal belongings that were left on the road, including Phil's cell phone and other items. We then

he slowed as we went on. We then stopped so Phil could get his prescription pain medication before finishing our trek.

It is not often that we find friends and acquaintances that are so willing to give huge amounts of their time and put themselves at risk for another. Joe and Carol did that; Bran Stimpson and Laurie McFarland were willing to do that. Bran gave us a ride to the Airport on Monday morning, taking a couple of hours out of his busy schedule to help us get home. We don't find people like this very often in our lives. If you know of people like this, make sure they know how much you appreciate them and their efforts on your behalf and do everything you can to repay their selfless acts of kindness...either to them or to someone else in their name.

Knowing that words cannot ever express how much Phil and I appreciate the assistance we were given, but wanting to show my gratitude and give them recognition for their selfless acts, I issued the following awards as a result of the events of Friday, April 17, 2009:

Leader's Commendation:

Laurie McFarland
 Joe Hinson
 Carol Stewart
 Bran Stimpson

Meritorious Unit Citation

888th Marine Strike Group

Naval Unit Citation

USS Independence

Wounded Lion Award:

Philip Dillard

Words and a few awards are never enough for the kindness shown to us by these great people. Here, in front of everyone in STARFLEET, I want to say, just one more time:

THANK YOU!



PHILIP DILLARD'S TRUCK AFTER THE ACCIDENT. PHOTO BY JOE HINSON.

proceeded north to complete our interrupted trip. Just north of Colorado Springs, the weather got ugly and, in deference to Phil's and my shattered nerves and destroyed confidence in icy conditions,



NAME: GARY TELECSAN
 RANK: FLEET CAPTAIN
 POSITION: STAMPEDE COORDINATOR
 SHIP: USS MAAT NCC-1794
 REGION: 1, VIRGINIA (USA)



0116-94-17

STARFLEET Stampede Not Dead!

Archaeologists Find Famed Charity Buried in Virginia!

Dr. Phlox Finds Pulse After All These Years!

Chesapeake, Virginia, dateline today's stardate --Archaeologists from the famed Richard A. Galen Institute for the Advancement of Really Old Things made a startling discovery yesterday: the STARFLEET Stampede is not extinct!

"We was on the track of the Lost Colony of Roanoke and had just stopped fer lunch," Dr. Reginald Coelacanth, GED, BS, MS, PhD, PDQ, VSOP, chuckled between bites of a Gervanian ostrich-egg salad sandwich. "And there we was, a-sittin' underneath a tree and a-kicking at the dirt, and all of a sudden, thar she was! It were the durnedest thing!"

Cyndi Trowel, senior graduate assistant for RAGNAROT on the dig, was the one who first noticed things at the roadside rest stop weren't quite what they seemed.



"I was checking on my foundation over by the drinking fountain," she bubbled, "And I saw what looked to be a pile of pretty colored papers on a picnic table. I never dreamed they'd be stamps! Who would be looking for such a quaint old thing as stamps at a rest stop along the old US 17 in the Great Dismal Swamp?"

RAGNAROT publicist Dr. Mandy "Paleo" Lithik issued a statement later that same day:

"Scientists from RAGNAROT today made the most significant rediscovery in mankind's history of charitable activities. The partially fossilized remains of what was once the STARFLEET Stampede were uncovered in the backwoods of Chesapeake, Virginia, along with the partially fossilized

remains of the Coordinator, Fleet Captain Gary Telecsan. I am very excited to relate that, along with the coordinator and a few fragments of published guidelines, our team of highly educated philatelic experts uncovered a really big box of "stamps" (*paperus philatelicus*) and the remains of a contract to sell them to a company whose descendant is still extant to this day. Sadly, there are not enough "stamps" in the box to make it worthwhile for our scientists to send them off just yet, but now that we've recovered the program, so to speak, we have high hopes of bringing this long-thought-to-be-extinct species back from the brink through a captive breeding program.

"But we need your help. Please scour your own waste recyclers, old, disused desks, and stacks of unopened galactic junk mail. Who knows? You may have important representatives of this endangered species lurking anywhere, and your contribution to our efforts to bring back not only the *paperus philatelicus* but the entire STARFLEET Stampede could be the one that gets us back over the top!

"Read the attached guidance, but don't let it limit your contribution! Any and all stamps are welcome. Send them to 439 Honey Locust Way, Chesapeake, VA, 23320. And remember to use stamps when you drop 'em at your ship's post office!

STARFLEET Stampede Alive and Well and Living in Virginia

First off, many thanks and a hearty "Well done!" to the *USS Jurassic* (Sharon Russell) and the *USS Heimdal* (Willy Smith), both of whom recently sent in some dynamite donations. The *Jurassic* sent in 3900 stamps, about 1 pound 10 oz on paper, and the *Heimdal* about 1 pound 4 oz. And congrats to *USS Renegade*, just in from a patrol out to the Neutral Zone. They've sent in 1.3 pounds of pure dilithium in the form of US Postage Stamps. Bravo Zulu, *Renegade*!

Some time back, *USS Kitty Hawk* out of Raleigh, NC, led by Elaine and Larry Pischke, sent in almost 15 pounds of stamps, all of which are being processed as I write this. My own ship, the *Maat*, has chipped in another pound and a half. All of these donations are measured, including the paper the stamps are on.

I have over 4 pounds of paper ready to sell at this moment, and parts of another 5 pounds in the works. I am hopeful of being able to finish those four pounds and get off a package this spring to redeem for cash.

Please take a moment to sort through your mail each day and separate the stamps. It only takes a minute, and when you have a small pile, mail them to me at the following address:

Gary Telecsan
 439 Honey Locust Way
 Chesapeake, VA 23320

The Stampede accepts all stamps. It is not necessary to trim neatly to any standard. You can just rip off the corner of the envelope, or postcard, or the section of the parcel, which holds the stamps. The **ONLY** requirement for me to sell them is that the stamps be undamaged. If you are careful when you tear or cut the stamp from the envelope, it will be acceptable to my buyer. If you have a question about a particular stamp, please just send it along and I'll do the triage here. For your information, my current buyer requires almost all stamps "off paper"--that is, soaked. He then buys by the



pound. It takes between 4000 and 8000 stamps to make a pound. Send in what you have! I am also willing to open hailing frequencies with any prospective buyers out there--if you know somebody, or a have a friend of a friend who is in the business, email me at numbah2@aol.com. I'd love to hear from you!

The last thing I'd like you all to keep in mind is that, when you mail stamps to me, if you will use stamps, they will be included as well. Using UPS or another delivery service is fine, but if you're mailing, ask the clerk for stamps! (Photos supplied by Gary Telecsan.)





NAME: JAMES MICHAEL OLSON
RANK: CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
POSITION: COMMANDER ASSAULT GROUP
SHIP: USS RIVERSIDE NCC-1818
REGION: 6, IOWA (USA)



0617-18-18

Meanwhile, Back in Iowa...

The *USS Riverside* NCC-1660 Region 6 chapter in Riverside, IA, helped celebrate the new JJ Abrams movie, *Star Trek*, by joining the residents of the City of Riverside in a special event: Paramount Pictures' invitation-only "Sneak Peek," on Wednesday May 6, 2009.

The monthly meeting unit of the *Riverside*, the Lobo Flight Crew, dispatched several crewmembers to attend. This included Commander Assault Group (CAG) CPO JM Olson, unit XO PO1 Mike House, Unit Chief PO2 William Van Brunt, and Ship's Ambassadors-at-large Brad Smith and Liz Robinson.

A number of the *Riverside* crew rode in a special limousine convoy from Riverside to Iowa City's Sycamore Cinema, where the screening was held. Riverside Area Community Club President Carol Riggan, who had invited the *USS Riverside*



PART OF THE CARAVAN INCLUDED THE USS RIVERSIDE NCC-1818, THE OFFICIAL FLOAT AND CIVIC STATUE OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE'S TREK CONNECTION. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KERRY SULLIVAN.

to participate, was hostess at the screening. Arriving at the theatre, the Riversiders in the Lobo Flight Crew were treated to interviews from many local media outlets, including the local Fox, two NBC, and one CBS affiliate TV Stations, and four local papers. About 15% of the crowd was in uniform, and the rest were largely Riverside citizens proud to get their day in the *Trek* sun.



LEFT-TO-RIGHT: CPO JM OLSON, PO1 M'HAUS OF VULCAN (AKA MIKE HOUSE), PO2 WILLIAM VAN BRUNT, AND AN UNIDENTIFIED RIVERSIDE RESIDENT IN UNIFORM. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KERRY SULLIVAN.

Also attending was

the 2009 Trek Fest Grand Marshall, Steve Miller, who in 1985 convinced both Riverside, IA, and Gene Roddenberry to let Riverside become the "Official Future Birthplace of Jame T Kirk." Both he and Riggan spoke before the screening and then everyone got their *Trek* on. They urged all to attend Trek Fest in June, with special guests Nichelle Nichols, George Takei, and the returning Walter Koenig. (For more, see: www.trekfest.com.)

Because this is an "alternate reality," James T Kirk ended up NOT being born in Riverside, but his mom brought him home to her brother's house, and he grew up there. And a certain sleek new starship everyone knows turns out not to be built in orbit or in San Francisco, but in the Starfleet Riverside Ship Yards! I guess the City of Riverside's town sign will now have to read: "ORIGINAL Future Birthplace of James T Kirk, and THE birthplace of the Starship ENTERPRISE!"



AFTER THE SNEAK PREVIEW OF STAR TREK 11 IN IOWA CITY. LEFT-TO-RIGHT: ORGANIZER OF THE RIVERSIDE TREK FEST AND PRESIDENT OF THE RIVERSIDE AREA COMMUNITY CLUB (RACC) CAROL RIGGAN, USS RIVERSIDE'S CPO JM OLSON, AND THE USS RIVERSIDE'S SHIP'S AMBASSADORS-AT-LARGE BRAD SMITH AND LIZ ROBINSON... REPLETE WITH ALIEN RELIC COLLECTIONS ON THEIR HATS (SPONGEBOB DOLLS). PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KERRY SULLIVAN.

The movie is simply one of the best reboots in recent film. Not a rehash--it is a wiping of the slate, a well-thought-out fresh start. Like *Casino Royale*, this film hits the mark in many ways--giving the stereotypical nitpick Trekkie their quota of "yes, got this right--that one too," and the newbies' reactions of, "Wow, Dad, I didn't know this was cool!" The time travel element, though loathed by many Trekkers and Trekkies alike, still is part and parcel of *Star Trek*--and good to see that Leonard Nimoy wasn't just a walk-on.

For the *USS Riverside* and for the City of Riverside, the reboot tweaked and paid homage to Riverside in almost the same breath.



SIGN UP FOR STARFLEET! THE USS RIVERSIDE SET UP A VERY NICE TABLE DISPLAY AT THE THEATER SHOWING STAR TREK. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KERRY SULLIVAN.

In all, a very satisfying film, and a plain old good-time summer popcorn flick too.

After the film, several Trekkers gathered at a local Truckstop (making it a Trekstop?) for dinner. The patrons of the cafe were really respectful, truly interested in how the film went--but no spoilers! We in the *USS Riverside* and the Lobo Flight Crew believe in the Trekkers' Prime Directive: "Do not interfere with another being's enjoyment of *Star Trek*. See it for yourself, and THEN we get to nitpick and have fun." Gene Roddenberry would have been proud of the film...and also in how JJ Abrams' production showed appreciation for a town in Iowa that supports and puts forward the spirit of IDIC, and *Trek* Fandom.



NAME: MARGARET GRUNWELL
RANK: REAR ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMPUTER OPERATIONS
SHIP: USS APPOMATTOX NCC-75001
REGION: 1, VIRGINIA (USA)

01-18-01-750



The *Star Trek* Premiere in Lynchburg, Virginia

In March of 2009, after our meeting, Chuck Rayburn and Alan Provo of the *USS Appomattox* contacted the Carmike Theaters in Lynchburg, VA to see if we could recruit members for STARFLEET when the *Star Trek* movie opened.

By May, we had learned that the movie would open at the Carmike 8 and that we and two other local chapters could come recruit members. Working with Oneil Woolfolk and Ashley Farringer the *USS Appomattox*, members agreed to furnish props in the lobby to promote the upcoming *Star Trek* movie, including our large *USS Enterprise* promotional ship to hang from the ceiling. We were also asked for our members to wear uniforms (if we had them) or chapter shirts.



USS APPOMATTOX MEMBERS CHUCK RAYBURN, ALAN PROVO, AND JOHN SPROUSE IN THE CROWD ON THE LEFT (JOHN FACING THE CAMERA) WITH MEG ROACH IN THE FOREGROUND AND MARGARET GRUNWELL BESIDE HER IN THE BACKGROUND ON THE RIGHT. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY MEG ROACH.

Friday May 1st, a table supplied by the theater and two more supplied by the *USS Appomattox* were set up by John Sprouse and Margaret Grunwell. The tables were covered with a 'space' pattern material with our *Star Trek* collectible ships on top and two murals. On Saturday, May 2nd, starting in the afternoon and with more props to share, Chuck Rayburn, John Sprouse, Alan Provo, Meg Roach and Margaret Grunwell manned the table to promote *Star Trek* and STARFLEET as folks came through for *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. The theater asked to have the ships on display during the week leading up to the *Star Trek* movie premiere and that the management and staff would keep an eye on the display. During the week, the CO's of the *USS Appomattox*, *USS Heimdal*, and *USS Ganymede* were interviewed by the local newspaper.



USS APPOMATTOX MEMBERS ALAN PROVO, MEG ROACH, AND DALE LAWSON IN FRONT OF ONE OF THE MURALS. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY MEG ROACH.

We got a call Thursday May 7th that we were wanted for the two showings of the *Star Trek* movie that night. The article about the groups was featured in the newspaper. Zach DuBose, Margaret Grunwell, Meg and Jayson Roach, and John Sprouse arrived to man the table for the two shows. Some more items were added to the display for people to look over as they waited to go in to their movie.

Friday, May 8th, the day *Star Trek* opened officially, set up started around noon for us. Some time in the afternoon a local television crew came by and did some interviews, and a bit later, the newspaper folks arrived for interviews and photos that would appear in the Wednesday, May 13th edition of the supplement *The Burg* and the same article in the May 14th edition of the newspaper. We were joined by the *USS Heimdal* and *USS Ganymede* around 6 pm to recruit and promote the movie. We had John Sprouse, Meg and Jayson Roach, Alan Provo, Margaret Grunwell, Heather Abbott and Christine Wray to share shifts. Things shut down for us after the last movie showing started for the night.

Saturday, May 9th, we arrived around noon to set up. Members from the three chapters--John Sprouse, Zach DuBose, Margaret Grunwell, Meg and Jayson Roach, Mike Edelson, Ann Redding, Dale and Carolyn Lawson, Alan Provo, and Margaret Grunwell--took turns manning the tables and going in to see the movie. We were joined about mid-afternoon by the *USS Ganymede* and *USS Heimdal*. Like the night before we all stayed until the last showing of the night.

Sunday, May 10th, again arriving around noon, we came to promote the movie and recruit. Chuck Rayburn, Margaret Grunwell, John Sprouse, and Alan Provo took turns talking with people. Best of all, though, a lady had called letting us know that her husband Alex loved *Star Trek* and could we help surprise him? So they had us hide a cake and a collectible *Enterprise*, then brought him for one of the 4 o'clock shows. John, in full Klingon voice, greeted Alex and was the first to wish him a Happy Birthday with the



USS APPOMATTOX MEMBERS JOHN SPROUSE AND CHUCK RAYBURN (FAR SIDE) WITH MOVIE THEATER ASSISTANT MANAGER ASHLEY FARRINGER AND MANAGER ONEIL WOOLFOLK. PHOTO BY MARGARET GRUNWELL.

rest following suit. Then John turned Alex to face one of the murals while Chuck got the cake and gift from its hiding place. When John turned Alex back to see the cake and present, we all broke out into "Happy Birthday" with the moviegoers and theater folks joining in. Alex was totally ecstatic. We kept his cake and gift during their turn in the movie theater, then we wished him another "Happy Birthday" when he came to collect his cake and present.

When it came time to clean up and pack up our ships, we were asked if the murals and ships could remain for another week or so while the

movie was playing. So we packed the smaller props and other items that could be easily lost and set up the ships near the office and the murals to the side where they would be seen but not in the way.

The *USS Appomattox* would like to formally thank the Carmike 8 management and staff for allowing us to help promote the new *Star Trek* movie and recruit for our group. The management and staff were always considerate and professional. We totally enjoyed working with these wonderful people and hope we may do so in the future.



USS APPOMATTOX MEMBERS JOHN SPROUSE, MIKE EDELSON, AND CHUCK RAYBURN WITH THE MURAL IN THE BACKGROUND. PHOTO BY MEG ROACH.



STAR TREK MOVIE REVIEWS FROM AROUND THE FLEET



So, what did YOU think of *Star Trek*?

That was the question posed to STARFLEET's members right after the premiere on May 8, 2009 (some members saw earlier screenings). Of course, the question hardly needed to be asked in the first place! *Star Trek* fans have never been shy about making their feelings known.

And boy, were there some strong feelings about this movie! Some loved it, others hated it. It changed everything and set a new direction for *Star Trek* into the future. Whatever your personal feelings were, though, the good (actually great) news for fans was that this film proved to the world (and more importantly to Paramount) that *Star Trek* is far from dead. In fact, it's alive and prospering in a big way. And that means more *Trek* for us fans--not just more movies, but more books, more toys, more computer games, and who knows what else! So whether you liked the movie or not, give a cheer for *Star Trek*...and read on.

Sharing a Moment...With 500 People

Vice Admiral Greg Trotter
USS Marko Ramius, Region 12



I just got back from the best night at the movies I've had in a long time.

Sure, I've been looking forward to this. Most of us had. We've all read how this could breathe new life into the franchise, or kill it once and for all. We've read about the casting, seen the trailers.

As for me, well, it's new Trek, and a thirsty man in the desert will drink what he finds. I try to ratchet down expectations I set for anything like this.

When I got seated in the theater, I was hoping this was gonna be a good crowd. See, I love opening night of highly anticipated movies, because it brings out the best crowds. It doesn't matter if it's a good film or not, because as long as people have been wanting it to come out, it affects the mood of the audience, and that has a big, big effect on how good a time I have.

I think that's something that's being lost in an era where many people will wait for the DVD, or download a bootleg version to watch at home. To me, you can never separate movies from the theater, because part of the experience is a shared one, you and a few hundred strangers sharing a moment.

And when it's something like this, you know you're on the right track. The theater has been sold out for this showing for a week. I was sitting in the VIP balcony section, and it's been sold out for two weeks--I got the last tickets. There were all kinds of people there--young, old. People in uniform and street clothes. But since all of these people got their tickets at least a week in advance, there was something I knew about all of them: like me, there was nowhere else in the world they wanted to be at 7 p.m. but in that theater, watching *Star Trek*.

After the trailers, the theater's graphic announcing the "Feature Presentation" appears. There's some applause. One guy yells "KHAN!!!" to some assorted chuckles. The screen goes black, the room gets quiet, and from one side of the theater a voice rings out:

"I still live with my mom!"

The entire theater laughs. Right there, I knew I had my crowd. We'd just shared a moment, and the movie hadn't even started yet! As the vid that announces the theater's digital sound system ends, a voice rings out, this time from the opposite side of the theater:

"I still live with your mom!"

An even bigger laugh. Everyone has a smile across their face. And then the movie begins, and the tomfoolery stops. Along the way, me and 500 people I never met laughed and cheered together.

Hey, you... with the bootleg copy of the movie that you watched on your computer? Yeah, you didn't get that. So sad.

I really liked this movie. Sure, I wanted to like it, but it doesn't always work out that way. But I think they've done a great job at balancing the old with the new.

Star Trek has to reinvent itself to be relevant in today's world. I know that, even as I cling to the past. I hope this does the trick. I know we'll all be watching the box office receipts this weekend...it'll be huge, we all know that. The real test is the second week, and the third, and so on. For this movie, a \$100 million opening weekend is pointless if it pulls in \$22 million on the second week.

I will say that if this doesn't reignite interest in *Star Trek*, I just don't know what will. This is a very well made movie, a great summer flick (I completely agree with them pushing the release date to the summer), and it's some darn good casting. This is the first movie in a long time that I want to go back to see at the theater again.

Much Better Than I Expected!

Crewman 1st Class Camren T. Burton
USS Angeles, Region 4



I have just returned from my first attendance of "Star Trek".

WOW!!! OMG!!!!

It was a helluva lot better than I expected! Of course, because of *Star Trek: Origins* (a fan series that I am HEAVILY involved with), I felt sad to see the death of George Kirk aboard the *Kelvin*, but the film does not suffer from his loss. Rather, it points the direction of this alternate reality.

One of my previous gripes was Abrams's apparent ignoring the age gap between Chekov and Kirk, but to my surprise, there was an elegant way around the problem: Chekov is the 23rd century's Wesley Crusher!

Leonard Nimoy, resuming the role of the future Spock, does not arrive until halfway through the movie on planet Delta Vega (gee, where have I heard that name before?) where he saves young Kirk from an ice creature that looked more like a *Star Wars* creature (no complaints here though--I've always thought *Trek* could use more exotic animal life.), and discovers Scotty manning a dead-end outpost with a small alien creature played by Deep Roy.

Bruce Greenwood delivers an excellent performance as Captain Christopher Pike in this movie, giving a *Star Trek* hero a far-far-FAR overdue chance to shine, which the late Jeffrey Hunter never got. However, I was lukewarm toward Sarek, who was adequate, but utterly lacking in Mark Lenard's charisma. Of course, Lenard would be an almost impossible act to follow, so I guess I should cut him some slack.

As in *Star Trek: Of Gods and Men*, [a fan-produced *Star Trek* movie available over the Internet and on DVD--editor], Vulcan is destroyed in this reality by our villain, Nero, a Romulan miner who is after genocidal vengeance for the destruction of Romulus and his family in the future. But his time travel was apparently an accident! Sadly, Spock's mother, wonderfully played by Winona Ryder, does not escape Vulcan as Spock rescues their leaders while the planet is literally crumbling around them. Vulcan was filmed on location at Vasquez Rocks, best known to Trekkers as the planet where Kirk faced the Gorn in TOS's "Arena" but which has also served in various other episodes, including Mintaka in TNG's "Who Watches the Watchers", planet M-622 in *Star Trek: Of Gods and Men*, and a planet in Dominion territory in the fan-made movie *USS Angeles: The Price of Duty* (the real origin of *Hidden Frontier*!).

Uhura's long-established-but-never-uttered first name (Nyota) is FINALLY given screen time in this movie (I bet Nichelle



STAR TREK MOVIE REVIEWS FROM AROUND THE FLEET

Nichols loved that!), and Majel Barrett Roddenberry delivered her last-ever performance as the *Enterprise* computer in this movie, which I have to think that Gene would've been proud of. It starts TOS over, without destroying what has come before very nicely, in my humble opinion.

My only major continuity error notice was Uhura ordering a Cardassian drink in the bar scene, where Kirk gets into a fight with 4 cadets, unless contact was somehow established earlier in this timeline, due to Nero's interference. However, one nice thing to note was that the future dates established in this film actually remain constant with fan series like *Hidden Frontier*. How about that?!

The real surprise was that the original Spock did not make it back to his reality in this movie, but instead elected to remain and help Vulcan create a new home world.

I'd give this movie a 9.6 out of 10, and am planning to see it at least 3 more times in the theatre!

It Was Fun and It Was *Trek*

Rear Admiral Chrissy Killian
USS *Peacekeeper*, Region 4



All I have to say about the movie is that I liked it. I don't really care that it didn't follow everything we know about *Trek*. I remember how many people were upset that Starbuck was a woman with the reboot of BSG.

The movie was fun and it was TREK!!! Do we need any more than that?

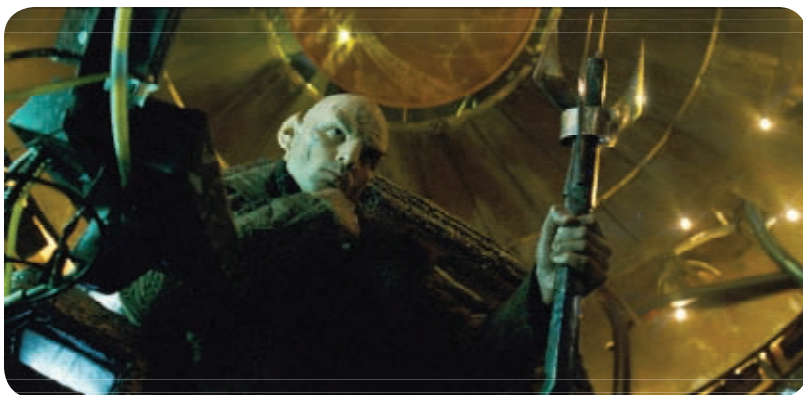
I Was Not Impressed

Admiral Alex Rosenzweig
USS *Avenger*, Region 7



Well, I guess it's sort of my lot to march to a different drummer, but so be it. I was not impressed by the new *Trek* film.

As a long-time fan, I expected to have issues with the alternate



universe, and I did. But I still expected the basic storyline to make sense on its own terms, and that's what really fell apart for me. There are so many contrivances, characters acting in ways they just wouldn't, and oddities of situation that I kept getting thrown out of the story.

What I liked was that the movie is very colorful, very epic. It's BIG. It has scale, and that's something that *Trek* hasn't been given nearly enough of in the past. The cast are great, and the cinematography is superb, as are the VFX. There are some great laugh-lines, and for *Trek* fans, the game of find-the-Easter-egg is a lot of fun.

But aside from the stupid "reboot"-aspects ("reboot" = "failure" in my storytelling lexicon, on a real basic level), what really bothered me was that, over and over again, I kept hitting points where I'd see something and go, "Huh? That makes no sense! Why wouldn't such-and-so be there? Or why is this being done this way when it's so illogical?" And so forth.

There were also some very bad production design choices. Having the "bowels of the ship" look early high industrial just broke the illusion. And not only did they not look consistent, design-wise, they looked like the buildings they were, not the interior spaces on a ship.

So, in the end, like all movies, this one had good points and bad points, but in this case, the bad points unexpectedly outweighed the good ones for me, by a lot. It's a very pretty, fast-paced film, but the story is a poor one and required far too many contrived elements for it to work for me. I can't turn off my brain enough to just accept it all blindly and on the face of it, and thus this *Star Trek* didn't work too well for me.

Star Trek Lives Again!

Commodore Janice R. Graham
USS *Renegade*, Region 1



I had such high hopes for this *Star Trek* movie. Not that the last few haven't been good. It's just that...well, something was missing. The effects were good, and the stories were okay, but still...

It wasn't the people I grew up with, the ones I loved and longed to see again. We kept hearing things about this movie, little bits and pieces, and against my better judgment, I started to hope that this one would be more like old times.

I saw it Thursday night (May 7th), and it surpassed every hope I had. It was like when you have a bad day and you come home and you suddenly find your kitchen full of people you love but believed were lost to you, and they're sitting around the table swapping stories about their early days. They were all so much like they were in the Original Series; I couldn't help thinking, gratefully, that finally the writers



got it. This one is the "people" story that we've been craving, that has always done better instead of the "technology/war/whatever" stories. It puts the light back on the people, and it totally shines!

I can sum it up in four words: *Star Trek* Lives Again!

Review from an Old Trekker

Admiral Carol Thompson
USS *Atlantis*, Region 10



I am an Old Trekker. I saw the first TOS episode in my first semester of college. As *Trek* evolved, I grew interested in the characters, the relationships, the cultures, and the real-life social and political issues *Trek* tried to solve in a supposedly ideal UFP. I am not an engineer, so my review will not touch on the ship's esthetics or the technology. Those areas are for more technical people than I.

I read many reviews, both positive and negative, read a few spoilers, and watched the trailers. Then today I went into the cinema with an open mind, reminding myself that a new generation of Trekkers needed to be recruited, and that *Star Trek* was running out of stories. To use an old phrase, it was "getting stale."

From the first score and scene, I was mesmerized. I think I drew my first real breath when the end credits began to roll.

I LOVED it! *Star Trek* needed a reboot, and I think with this movie, the producers succeeded. There was certainly a lot of intensity to the big-screen music, the scene after scene of action, the teeter-totter of emotions, from laughter to tears.

We were given a new *Trek* universe with a healthy dose of humor and a great deal of respect for the way it used to be. Anyway, that is the impression I got, from the excellent advertisements I watched on TV in the days leading up to its premiere to the story method used to reboot/revitalize the franchise. There was no putting down the former *Trek* storylines, no boasting that this was not your parent's *Trek*...only an interesting, riveting story.

Not a lot of foundation can be laid down in an hour and a half, but I see the potential for many new stories about Starfleet and the aliens we love and "hate." The budding author can ask "What if?" and write something entirely new for *Star Trek*.



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I am so looking forward to future series and movies to see how this new *Trek* develops.

Best Trek Since *Wrath of Khan*

Major General Joost Ueffing
USS *Magellan*, Region 14



The audience applauded at certain parts of the movie, got great laughs at other parts, and hooted and hollered in other parts. We also had close to two dozen people show up in various uniforms. It was an audience I really enjoyed being a part of because we all came to not only watch a movie, but to be a part of it.

The 2nd showing (which I stayed for, yes I've seen it twice in one night) wasn't as "interactive" but filled more of the theater. It was more of your traditional opening night crowd but still enjoyable.

I'm probably going out on a limb here, but I will say this is the best *Trek* movie I've seen since "Wrath of Khan"...and I probably will wait a week and then go back to watch it again.

It Left Me With Many Questions

Commodore Kathy Schopp
USS *Discovery*, Region 12



I do want to say up front that I have now officially seen it three times and still love it. I will probably see it one more time in the theatres and be first in line for the DVD when it comes out (which will most likely be in time for the winter holidays). I suspect if you liked the new movie, then you'll be seeing it again, too.

Here is some stuff I want to pay a bit more attention to when I see it again tomorrow...

Was Nero (might I whine that that is a horrible name?) gunning for Kirk or just Spock?

I thought he was mainly gunning for Spock because, by the

events that happened before he traveled back in time, Kirk was dead. But he knew about Kirk because he researched the history that everybody knew, and you know Kirk's name had to have come up when he researched Spock.

Was the destruction of the USS *Kelvin* an opportunity attack? Wrong starship? Wrong stardate?

I say a bit of all three. I don't think Nero realized what had happened till he came through and captured the *Kelvin*'s captain. Of course, I don't think he cared who he attacked as long as he got his revenge.

Did Nero destroy Rura Penthe?

Don't know. I will watch for that also. Maybe the novelization will answer a few of these questions (due out Tuesday as I write this).

Was Paul McGillion (*Stargate: Atlantis*) one of the guards?
Can't say as I don't watch enough *Atlantis*.

I want another look at the ship!

Love the ship.

Poor, poor Porthos!

I felt sorry for Porthos too. Good reference, though, and since Kirk's birth is where the timeline changed, I guess at this point in time we can assume that *Enterprise* timeline events are canon that is unchanged, and anything going forward is up for grabs.

An *Enterprise* Crew for a 21st Century Audience

Rear Admiral Todd Brugmans
USS *Avenger*, Region 7



I'm just getting in from having seen *Star Trek*, and as a long-time fan of all things 'Trek,' I have to say I was mightily impressed. This is fast-paced adventure with one action sequence following another.

The movie was able to introduce fresh faces on familiar characters while remaining true to the original spirit of the 43-year-old legacy.

The new cast did well with their characters. Long-time fans are likely to side more with Karl Urban's portrayal of Doctor McCoy as being the most like the original character, initially played by DeForest Kelly.

The film's opening sequence sets the tone for changes to Kirk's basic character, and allows for greater flexibility in Chris Pine's performance than to simply try to be William Shatner doing Kirk.

The film, which tells the basic story of how this crew comes together for the first time, takes a few liberties with several of the characters, adding new dynamics which are both interesting and appealing to a younger demographic. These changes have a great deal of potential for being further explored in film sequels, or a new televised series, should the show be brought back to the 'small' screen.

The film successfully works in several elements of humor, which help to offset the heavy tensions of the crew in a life-and-death struggle. We see Leonard Nimoy reprise his role as an aged Spock. His part in this feature is the binding tie between the events of this film and everything *Trek* fans have known of this fictional universe for the past 43 years.

I went into the theater tonight with no pre-set expectations and have come away very satisfactorily entertained. JJ Abrams has successfully introduced to a new generation of fans an *Enterprise* crew for a 21st century audience. I look forward to seeing where they go from here.

I Will Not Accept It

Commander Eugene "Siran" Anderson
USS *Vre'kasht*, Region 6



Star Trek XI officially opened in theaters on May 8, 2009. Many theaters started showing the movie a day ahead of the opening date. My CO and I went to the movie wearing our Starfleet uniforms. We were the only ones in uniform; the only ones showing that were are *Star Trek* fans.

As I was kind of expecting, the movie started out with a BANG! There was little time to slow down and catch one's breath throughout the whole movie. It was virtually non-stop action from beginning to end. Don't get me wrong, I like action as much as the next person. I just want time to stop and think about what is happening too. There was no thinking allowed during this movie. There was no time to think!

It is obvious that this movie was an "alternate reality" story. It was a "this is what happens when someone messes with events in time" movie. And there was no recovery. The writers and director have taken 43 years of "official" *Star Trek* canon and chucked it out a window somewhere in Hollywood.



STAR TREK MOVIE REVIEWS FROM AROUND THE FLEET

About halfway through the movie, there was a glimmer of hope that this would be a good *Star Trek* movie. Future Spock saved Kirk from some *Star Wars* creature. He melded with Kirk to explain what is happening. I thought, "Cool, they're going to fix things and put things back in their proper perspective." Man, was I ever totally wrong!

I remember seeing an Internet preview clip that stated: "Forget everything you know about *Star Trek*." I'm here to tell you that this *Star Trek* fan is NOT about to forget 43 years of *Star Trek* and accept what JJ Abrams has done to it. He and the writers have effectively erased 43 years of canon with this movie. They are now free to take *Star Trek* anywhere they want. They have *Star Wars*-ified *Star Trek*! They have created a "new" *Star Trek* universe!

Is THAT the *Star Trek* of the future? If it is, then it is no *Star Trek* for me. I will not accept it. I give this movie one-and-a-half stars out of five. It was a good entertainment movie but a poor *Star Trek* movie.

What Caught My Attention

Gunnery Sergeant Dave Lowe
USS *Ringling*, Region 2



Here's a few things I noticed in the new movie that caught my attention.

Admiral Komack was seated to the left of the chairman of that group of Admirals that was confronting Kirk with his "cheating" on the *Kobyashi Maru* simulation. Komack was mentioned in one episode and appeared in another in the original series.

They tossed in a "47" reference. This is an obvious nod to the writing team of TNG and Joe Menosky, who started that little "Easter egg." For information about "the 47s" please check out: <http://www.schlock.net/the47s.html>

Admiral Archer? Nice reference. Since the film took place in 2261 or so, and Archer was born in 2112, he would be over 150 years old. I speculate that Jonathan Archer was not the Admiral Archer that Mr. Scott was referring to, rather, perhaps a son or daughter of Jonathan who also chose a career in Starfleet, and also had a thing for beagles. Besides, Porthos would not have survived a century.



The Orion girl for Kirk during his Academy days was also a nice touch. We know he liked 'em green.

The tribble in the cage in Scotty's lab on Delta Vega is a nice touch, too. I could have done without the little Ewok guy, though.

What species was the doctor that helped Winona Kirk deliver young Jimmy on the *Kelvin* shuttle #37? Those eyes were particularly haunting. Spectacular make-up job!

Whose car was it that Jimmy took in the beginning? Memory Alpha <http://memory-alpha.org> speculates it was his stepfather. My theory is that it is Samuel Kirk, "Sam" as mentioned in "Operation Annihilate" from TOS. He was Jim's older brother in the original timeline.

The pattern of Starfleet deltas on the uniform tunics is equal parts interesting, brilliant, and frustrating. It makes it very difficult for fans to reproduce. Good luck making a costume! But have no fear. Rubies is already selling "officially licensed" uniform tops. Yay, capitalism!

I also liked Admiral Pike's uniform we see when Kirk relieves him. Harkens back to the first motion picture.

I know it's an alternate timeline, and things are different, but we never saw what a Romulan looked like, nor did we know about the Vulcan connection, until "Balance of Terror."

Don't get me started on building the *Enterprise* on the surface of the planet. It's just a movie, anyway! LOL

A Trekker's Log

Fleet Captain Dean Rogers
USS *Top Gun*, Region 7



When I heard that *Star Trek* was going to be on the big screen again, I was excited at first. Unfortunately, when I heard that J.J. Abrams was going to direct it, I was completely stunned. Abrams has given us such wonderful television shows such as "Lost", "Alias", and "Fringe". When it came to his directorial debut with another television series turned movie series, "Mission: Impossible III", the third movie had lost its luster. So, you can say that I was less than enthusiastic about Abrams making the same mistake with a much larger fan base such as *Star Trek*. That was strike one in my book.

Strike two came about when I found out that the new *Trek* movie was to be a prequel/reboot of the franchise. I was divided between Hollywood remaking the movies that stand the test of time and re-imagining the same movies and TV series to bring in a whole new audience. Keep in mind that *Trek* has a long history and legions of fans that span the globe. After 43 years with ten films, five television



series, and one Emmy-winning animated series under its belt, the question, "Will *Star Trek* thrive again?" remains on the minds of *Trek* fans. Since the black sheep of *Trek* left the airwaves in 2005, fans sought more from the *Trek* universe in the form of independent productions. Two productions that stood out from the rest are *Star Trek: Phase II* and *Starship Farragut*. I highly recommend them both if you want to experience true *Trek*.

Now to get back on track, some fans were waiting to see this film because the *Trek* was "New & improved!" While other fans, the pure Trekkers, were hoping that their beloved *Trek* would not stray too much from all they knew to this point. I admit, I am a pure Trekker, and believe me, it was very hard to admit that I was skeptical about the movie. The trailers leading up to the release were good and all, but when I saw scenes that were out of context to the known *Trek* history, it was hard to swallow. After all, the cast and crew have big shoes to fill, and one chance to make us fall in love with *Trek* again.

Of all the remakes and reboots that I encountered, *Star Trek* is in a class of its own! The eleventh film has not only beaten the odd-numbered curse, it abolished it! The new film has kept the moments *Trek* fans knew and loved all these years and given us a thrill ride that kept us on the edge of our seats. I do admit that the time traveling element was not strong enough for a good plot, but the rest of the film made up for it. Nero (Eric Bana) was, to me, a typical *Trek* villain. Nero lacked the command presence that former *Trek* villains Khan, Dr. Soran, and General Chang displayed in previous films.

Now, what can I say about the cast? The cast who filled the seven legendary roles have impressed me. It was wonderful to see how the *Enterprise* crew meet for the first time, and how their relationships were built. From Kirk meeting Uhura at the local watering hole to Scotty giving the *Enterprise* more warp speed in an emergency, every character has their moment in the movie. I have to give praise to Zachery Quinto (Spock). He has given Spock a more defining character than ever before. It was amazing to see how Kirk (Chris Pine) tries to rile Spock up to bring out his human side--and it worked. The Kirk/Spock dynamic had a whole new twist that fans will enjoy.

Whoever said, "Always expect the unexpected," must have known that *Star Trek* would fit the bill. New fans will enjoy the action-packed battle scenes, and the special effects are out of this world (literally!). Old fans will enjoy the camaraderie of the legendary starship crew who has boldly gone where few remakes have gone before: a reboot done right and one of the best films for summer, 2009.

Final Grade: A



STAR TREK MOVIE REVIEWS FROM AROUND THE FLEET



Not Your Daddy's Star Trek

Fleet Captain Unicorn Escobedo
USS Angeles, Region 4



I cried. I laughed. I cried again and laughed harder.

This IS NOT your daddy's Star Trek. This is the Star Trek of today...full of adventure, explosions, laughter, tears, and romance. It is true to its original roots, while making its own path. See this movie only knowing names and let the rest unfold in front of you for a ride and experience not soon to be forgotten...and one that I'm sure many will want to take again and again.

I HAVE to see it again as soon as I can get tickets.

Down Under Expectations

Chief Petty Officer Wendy Brokensha
USS Genesis, Region 11



On Thursday, May 7, 2009, *USS Genesis* crew members, and members of the Adelaide-based United Federation of Planets, went to see the 11th *Star Trek* movie.

We had been waiting a long time for this movie, just as many others around the world. Finally, the anticipation would be over. Would J.J. Abrams be able to pull it off? This is the moment we had been waiting for. A number of reviews I read about this film said that the writers stayed true to what has already been established. After seeing the film, I don't think they did. This is my story, or, in other words, my review of the film.

I would like it noted from the start that, overall, I did enjoy the film. Actors Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Karl Urban, and the rest of the cast were well chosen for the roles. They played their parts to perfection. I would go so far as to say that, if one was to close their eyes, one could almost imagine younger versions of William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley and the rest of the original cast reprising their roles.

I enjoyed the film. As a standalone film, it was entertaining, full of action with just the right amount of comedy and throwaway

lines. As part of the *Star Trek* franchise, though, there are a number of inaccuracies I picked up on which left me somewhat disappointed. Bear in mind, I've only had the one chance to see the film. There may be some discrepancies in my report. However, I'll try to be as accurate as one can be while working from memory.

I place the time frame somewhere between the years 2155 (the end of the 4th season of *Enterprise*) and 2265, the beginning of the original series. The film starts with the attack on the *USS Kelvin* and the crew evacuating the ship. We see Kirk's mother being put aboard a shuttle while Kirk senior remains on the bridge of the *Kelvin* in the hope of destroying the invader. Just prior to the destruction of the *Kelvin*, James Kirk is born aboard a space shuttle in deep space. According to the "*Star Trek Encyclopedia*," Kirk was born in 2233 in Iowa on Earth, not in outer space on some fleeing shuttle. I guess having Kirk be born in outer space in the middle of a battle seemed a bit more dramatic than just being born on Earth.

Spock's younger years on Vulcan are reasonably accurate. Again, the *Encyclopedia* tells us that as a young boy, Spock was teased and tormented by other Vulcan boys, saying he wasn't really a Vulcan, and we see this in the movie.

As for Pavel Chekov, in the original series, we don't get to meet him until season 2. However, there is nothing to say he wasn't already serving aboard the *Enterprise* prior to that. In the movie, my feeling is it would have been better placing him in some other part of the ship. That way, by the time the second season of TOS rolls around, Chekov would've obviously worked his way through the ranks and been promoted to navigator at some stage. Likewise for Sulu. Prior to being the helm officer, Sulu was initially assigned as the ship's physicist. So why is Sulu at the helm of the ship in the movie? Why is he not doing what a physicist does or something else?

The film's interpretation of Scotty seems consistent to what has been established in the "*Star Trek Encyclopedia*".

And what is this obsession Kirk has with wanting to know Uhura's first name? It is clearly established in the appendix of the "*Star Trek Chronology*" that Uhura does not have a first name.

My biggest beef, though, is the *Enterprise*. It is too new, too big, bridge is all wrong, and too flashy. One has to remember that in the original series, by the time Kirk takes command of the *Enterprise*, the ship is already 19 years old.

If one was to go by today's standards, working backwards from 2009, we have the space shuttle that holds seven people. Before that, there was the Apollo program and the Saturn V rockets that carried the 3-person command module, and before that there was the Mercury and Gemini programs that only carried 1 person into space.

If you follow the TV series, then the movies, you notice that as time moves forward, so improvements are made; technology gets better--there is a natural order of progression.

So if you are going to work backwards in time, to a time before the original series, then, for want of a better term, everything should be "dumbed" down accordingly. The transporter technology is far superior to what we see in the original series...another piece of technology that should've been "dumbed" down.

And then there's that whole story about events that take place 129 years in the future causing the Romulan and Spock to somehow travel back in time and carry on their fight. For the events to take place in the present time, i.e. as Kirk, Spock and McCoy are training at the Academy, or after they have graduated, it means that the events in the older Spock's timeframe happen around or after 2378, immediately after the events in "Nemesis."

My last piece of comment refers to Leonard Nimoy's part in the film. While I have a great deal of respect for the man, I really think the film could have done without the older Spock and that whole time travel thing and the battle with the Romulan from the future. In my opinion, the film would've been better if it just concentrated on the early days of STARFLEET, Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and company and more about the human element.

In fact, I would go as far to say that *Star Trek* just doesn't cut it as a movie. *Star Trek* works best as a weekly TV series. For one, there is too long a gap between movies, and there is only so much time in a movie to get the story across and establish characters, even if it is characters we have come to know and love. In television, you have time to explore many different storylines. You think about it, all the best stories and episodes are those we have seen on television: "The Inner Light", "Darmok", "The Best Of Both Worlds", "The Trouble With Tribbles", "Devil In The Dark", "The City On The Edge Of Forever"...to name a few. No doubt you have your own favourite episodes. *Star Trek* really does work best on television, not on the big screen. By giving us a movie once every few years, Paramount is only paying us fans lip service. We need to get *Star Trek* back on the television.

This is my opinion; you may have an opinion of your own, and I respect that. If you have seen the movie, enjoyed it, and got something from it, then I am happy for you. As fans, though, we deserve better.

Reviews continue on Page 26...



RECRUITIN' IN GEORGIA



NAME: ERIC L. WATTS
RANK: CAPTAIN
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS REPUBLIC* NCC-1371
REGION: 2, GEORGIA (USA)



THE REGION 12 CONFERENCE/SUMMIT WAS HELD MAY 27 AT THE WESTLAKE SHELTER IN GAGE PARK IN THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS. LEFT TO RIGHT: CHRIS TOLBERT, *USS FIREFOX*; ROLANDO GOMEZ, *USS JEANNETTE MADDOX*; JEFF HIGDON, *USS BLACKHAWK*; WADE HOOVER, *USS HELLFIRE & BRIMSTONE*; EDDIE ALLEN, *USS HORIZON*; AND BEA HART, *USS SUNFLOWER*. PHOTO BY JD CLANCY.



ROLANDO GOMEZ (LEFT), WHO WAS THE OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE REGION 12 SUMMIT, WAS FORCED TO TAKE HIS OWN PICTURE WHEN JEFF HIGDON ANNOUNCED ROLANDO'S PROMOTION TO BRIGADIER. CONGRATS, ROLANDO. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



Photo Top Left:
USS Republic at the Star Trek Movie IMAX Premiere. Members and friends of the *USS Republic* NCC-1371 (Atlanta, GA) were invited to see the new movie at the new IMAX theater in Kennesaw, GA two days before the official premiere by the marketing firm representing IMAX. Kneeling: D. A. Moore, Edward DeGruy, Zannetta Law. Standing: Sue Lin Lange, Daniel Wolfgang, Julianne Trew, Joe Campbell, Joanne Trew, Sarah Hughes, Commanding Officer Eric L. Watts, Cindy Rennick, Scott Rennick, Andrea Benton, Mark A. Ozanick, Marilyn Teague, Jenilee Trew, and Michael Cowart. Photo supplied by Eric Watts.

Photo Middle Left:
USS Republic at the Star Trek Movie Opening Weekend (day one). Members and friends work the chapter's recruitment table at the Regal Cinemas Hollywood 24 theater in Chamblee, GA on the first day of the new *Star Trek* movie's three-day opening weekend. Left to right: Anthony Reed, Michael Cowart, Joanne Trew, Julianne Trew, Jenilee Trew, Commanding Officer Eric L. Watts, John Stump, Admiral Kelly Hilliard (*USS Atlanta*), Kevin Parker, and Admiral Mike Henigan (CO, *USS Atlanta*).

Photo Bottom Left:
SS Republic at the Star Trek Movie Opening Weekend (day one). Left to right: Donna Collins, Chris Jones, Todd Dissinger, John Stump, Zannetta Law, Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts, Kevin Parker, and Theresa Parker.

All 3 photos supplied by Eric Watts. Copyright © 2009 *USS Republic*.



CONFERENCIN' IN KANSAS



REGION 12 COORDINATOR JEFF HIDGON PRESENTS THE REGION 12 CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD TO EDDIE ALLEN OF THE *USS HORIZON*. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



BEA HART OF THE *USS SUNFLOWER* PRESENTS JEFF HIDGON OF THE *USS BLACKHAWK* WITH THE MOTHERSHIP OF THE YEAR AWARD. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



JD CLANCY AND WADE HOOVER, BOTH OF THE *USS HELLFIRE & BRIMSTONE*. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



REGION 12 COORDINATOR JEFF HIDGON (RIGHT) PRESENTS A UNIT CITATION TO CARL AND NICOLE JOHNSON OF THE *USS MARKO RAMIUS*. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



IT PROBABLY MAKES SENSE THAT THE TWO GRILL MASTERS, BRAIN DAVIS AND WILLY DAVID, WERE FROM THE *USS HELLFIRE & BRIMSTONE*. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



BEA HART OF THE *USS SUNFLOWER* GETS A WELL-DESERVED PROMOTION TO REAR ADMIRAL. CONGRATS, BEA! PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



CADET JOHN "TIGER" DAVID. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



JAYMEE TULIS-DAVID OF THE *USS HELLFIRE & BRIMSTONE*. PHOTO BY ROLANDO GOMEZ.



STAR TREK MOVIE REVIEWS FROM AROUND THE FLEET

Star Trek Is Fun Again

Brigadier Jonathan Slavin
USS Asimov, Region 7



I just got back from the movie and I have shout from the roof top.....

It is one of the best Treks this side of galaxy!!!!

What a movie! Thank you, J.J.

The cast were dead on, and Chris Pine is KIRK.

Where was Paramount when they were playing cheap with the *Star Trek 10*?

The action and special effects were breathtaking. I'm going today with Cadet Staff Sergeant Ben and again on Saturday when we will be in uniform trying to recruit.

It was everything and more with this movie.

This movie made *Star Trek* fun again. Wow.

specifically stated that James T. Kirk was born in Iowa, and later that it was Riverside, Iowa. Gene didn't say he was born above Iowa or in orbit of Earth, but IN Iowa. Since 1984, Riverside, Iowa has held Trek Fest to celebrate Kirk's future birthplace. With the events of this movie, that claim is nullified. They can't celebrate what didn't happen.

The music and sound effects at some points were so loud that they drowned out the dialog. I always thought the dialog was what told the story, not the music and sound effects. They are supposed to be there to augment the scene, not cover anything up. One thing I did like about the sound effects, when the view changed to an exterior shot of a battle, the sound got very quiet. It was an attempt to remind us that there is not sound in space. That was well done.

Star Trek has 40+ years of history that was tossed away with this movie. From the opening scenes, canon is broken and never fixed. With this movie, JJ Abrams is now free to do whatever he wants to *Star Trek*. He has lost me as a fan. This is not *Star Trek*. I feel like my *Star Trek* has been ripped away and replaced with a cheap plastic, "Made in China" knock-off. But they get too many details wrong to be convincing. I could give you a list of errors, but, for the sake of brevity, I won't.

This was an entertaining movie, but it was a bad *Star Trek* movie. Overall, I give it 2 stars out of 5.



characters get. Were they as rich as Picard and Riker when they hit the big screen? No. But we already knew Patrick Stewart's Picard and Jonathan Frakes' Riker. They brought 7 years of depth with them.

That may be the depth that is missing to you. Give it time, and a few movies. For a first outing, I was satisfied with how they portrayed/painted them.

To many of the others caught up on details:

First, I'm not seeing a lot of the problems that you are seeing. The major changes that they introduce are, I believe, covered by the overall change that is the driving force in the film. I heard an interview with the writers last night, and they commented that too often Science Fiction deals with time travel in the 'OMG--We've broken X, Y, and Z, and now we need to fix it!' that has happened many, many times in *Trek*. In this case, they went with 'OMG--We've broken X, Y, and Z, and we just have to roll with it...'

Another thought I had was simply this: How many of these 'continuity issues' are actually conflicts with what was established as canon in TOS, TNG and the films, and how many are conflicts with other, traditionally non-canon sources (such as comics and novels)? Is some level of the frustration due because now story 'X' no longer makes sense? I mean, officially, they could have said Uhura's name was Melissa or Stephanie or Janelle-- it really isn't ever mentioned in any other 'canon' source prior to the new film.

Anyway, just some of my thoughts. I'm cool with the changes. I think they make sense and are logically consistent within the *Trek* universe. I think that it'll be fun to watch this story unfold as we move forward.

But then again, I thought that casting a woman as Starbuck was also a great concept... so your mileage may vary.

This Is Not Star Trek

Captain T'Polon Makh-zhuksu
USS Vre'kasht, Region 6



My overall impression of this movie is that it was fast and loud. There is no time to catch one's breath or take time to understand what is happening. What I appreciated about the original series, when I watched it as a child (and now, too), was the thought put into the crew's actions. Every subsequent series and movie had that same quality: thinking before acting.

Nero's attack on the *Kelvin* caused a divergent time line, but canon was broken even before that. The movie showed James Kirk being born aboard a shuttle leaving the *USS Kelvin* as it was being attacked and eventually destroyed. Kirk was born in Riverside, Iowa, not somewhere in space. Gene Roddenberry



I'm Cool With the Changes

Vice Admiral Michael Dugas
USS White Star, Region 12



After watching *Star Trek* twice in the theatre so far, I feel I can sum up my review for it in two sentences:

- 1) The film makes me hungry for more *Star Trek*.
- 2) The film helped rekindle my enthusiasm for *Star Trek* fandom.

It is that simple. I watched it, I had fun, and I want to see more. I want to go back and see this film again, and I will be among the first to pick it up on DVD. It has been quite a while since I've said that about any *Star Trek* or even any Science Fiction film. I applaud the filmmakers and look forward to what they come up with next.

To those that opined that the film lacked depth:

Go watch it again. And again. The characters were three-dimensional. The actors and writers managed, in two hours and nine minutes, to paint a much fuller picture than most motion picture

You Have To Decide for Yourself

Lieutenant Judy Hoffman
USS Tiberius, Region 2



About 7 years ago I came "out," in a manner of speaking, by deciding to attend a *Star Trek* convention, thus publicly admitting I was a TREKKIE (Trekkie, Trekker, I really don't



STAR TREK MOVIE REVIEWS FROM AROUND THE FLEET



care--I've always been one, but few people had ever known). Yes, I had watched the series since the first program--(I admit that, too...I'm old) in all its incarnations (okay, it took a while for *Enterprise*...which eventually grew on me despite the theme music...sorry!), but I had never walked around advertising my love for the *Trek* world, although I really didn't hide it either. I thought attending that convention would be a one-time event, but I've been going to every con that I can reasonably justify ever since. The chance to let out my inner geek and share interests with like-minded individuals has been an indulgence, but one for which I don't apologize.

That brings me to this, an attempt to put into writing my views on the new movie. I feel a little presumptuous, given my relative novice status, even trying to comment--I have not memorized the titles of every episode or scene from every movie, just enjoyed the ride. Trekkies of the world have waited in anticipation, cautiously optimistic, and bemoaned its initial delay, until finally we sat holding our collective breaths throughout its first showing until the end credits, when we breathed that sigh of relief and grinned as the audience burst into applause (okay, I admit to a few tears too).

The first time was with my local STARFLEET chapter (USS Tiberius) at the local Beach Theatre. The second time around was pure pleasure (especially as that one was in IMAX), and it didn't change through the third showing either. Friends from around the world have forwarded reviews, comments, and shared their own impressions. Techs in my dentist's office poked their heads in last week to ask what I thought about it (answer: "mumble, mumble", head nod, thumbs up.). My friends have all universally loved it, from the Australians who got to see it in APRIL, to the ones I've dragged to the theatre with me, regardless of their level of Trek knowledge.

Wil Wheaton's blog described it better than I ever could, and another favorite of mine is the review from The Onion. I've loved the reactions of fellow fans...on the one hand they are delighted; on the other, they alternate between pointing out discrepancies, canon violations, and then immediately making excuses for them. ("Uhura-Spock"? "Well, he IS still finding himself at that stage..." You get the idea.) And that pesky space-time continuum, alternate time line or whatever, can also be used to explain anything away. Best are the comments recognizing inside jokes--the lines that are a must, plays on ideas, and mention of the fate of Admiral Archer's dog. Nurse Chapel was spoken to, but not seen by me, and I still haven't caught the glimpse of a tribble, supposedly in the bar scene. And I don't object to the nods to other Sci Fi classics (I loved *Star Wars*, and Nero's ship looks like it's straight out of *Babylon 5*); programs of ALL kinds have universally been riddled with

Trek references, so why not? The others still have some catching up to do, don't they?

So what it boils down to is, you have to decide for yourself. I loved the action, adventure, special effects, music themes interwoven throughout, especially the silences during the fight in the opening sequence. I loved the humor, and the plot wasn't as important as the character development, because after all, hasn't it always been the people who tell the story...or ARE the story? Hasn't it been their very human reactions and interaction that brought us back time and again? Morality tale or action adventure, I've always felt that essential humanity is its greatest appeal.

Last summer, I wrote an essay that made me reflect on how each series also reflected the time in which it was written and the society of that time. This movie is the same, and rightly so. What struck me most was the level of respect with which the legacy was treated, by the actors as well as Abrams and his team. Will it create a new generation of *Trek* fans? A fifteen-year old fan weighed in by telling me it's better than *Wrath of Khan* and all his friends are interested in seeing it. In the meantime, I guess we will continue to remain cautiously optimistic that something we've found value in CAN find a new incarnation for a new generation that still reflects the best of the old. And in the meantime, we can continue to enjoy the journey, hoping it will go on for a long time to come.

Error Trek

Lieutenant Bradley J. McDonald
USS *Kitty Hawk*, Region 1



Hoping against all hope, encouraged by stellar reviews and with great expectations, I (the original *Star Trek* fan) went to see the new movie, prepared to enjoy myself and the *Star Trek* reboot, which is hereafter referred to as STR. What I got instead was not a reboot but a boot in the butt and a kick in the teeth. On a scale of one to ten, it's about a four; eye candy but little else. When I vocalized my opinion, others wanted to know why. So here I go.

Why do I dislike a movie which, by all "logic" I should have liked? Let's start with the most basic and important point. While the original series--I'll call it TOS--had its share of misfires, overall it was based on character-driven stories. STR's new characters were shadowy or transparent interpretations of the originals, used for jokes. Spock was way off the mark; giving Uhura hickies on the transporter is a no-no. Vulcans do not touch, nor do they publicly show affection. This is especially true if he's going to hold up a very important mission. He spent years fighting his human half to become more Vulcan. Now we're led to believe that was all a mistake? Right...

Sulu's fencing interest was played correctly, but as the consummate helmsman, he should know which buttons to push and how to get out of space dock. A cheap laugh. If he didn't know this, how did he get so far in Starfleet? Poor Chekov, who didn't make it to TOS until the second season, he can't even speak clearly enough for computer recognition. Great for another cheap laugh, but I wouldn't want him on my bridge...that could lead to a disaster during a critical moment. He seemed awfully confused, as well. The Academy must have lowered their standards a bit. Scotty was a joke, period. And what is it with the little guy with Scott? Is he a mascot? A pet? Just what or who is he? If Scotty were Irish (perish the thought), I suppose it could be a leprechaun. Anyway, Scott is not the engineer by which all others are judged; he didn't seem to know anything at all.

McCoy, on the surface, was okay. But I really think he has a drug problem or memory lapses. It's as if he's the film's obligatory stoner. There's no focus and no sense of dignity. Some of the best moments with McCoy came from his moral and humanistic stances. He was the compass by which Kirk could move in the right direction. Also, he was often Kirk's conscience, reminding the captain of the important issues, and not very quietly either. At the very least, Kirk sought him out to get a second opinion. The new guy doesn't seem to have a handle on himself. I wouldn't want him as my doctor. Again, joke, joke, joke. By the way, they got the origin of "bones" wrong, too. Didn't any of the writers watch TOS?

Superficially, they got Kirk right, as well. He's a womanizing, cocky, take-charge person and so on, but the finer points are missing. He had a softer side, which was seen when dealing with the loss of crewmembers and similar situations. Maybe they'll find that in the next movie. Uhura was the one bright spot--intelligent, professional, compassionate, and all in a very independent woman. Maybe somebody watched an episode of TOS after all. Just that kissing Spock thing...

As I said, the most important issue of TOS was always the story itself. Overall, they had very good writers. Gene Roddenberry used the Hollywood pool, but he also sought out some of the best sci-fi writers of the time. The list included Harlan Ellison, Richard Matheson, Robert Bloch, Theodore Sturgeon, and others. STR is basic action-fed eye candy, with little character development and a very superficial story. Action, action, action; damn the story and full speed ahead. (Apologies to Admiral Farragut.)

It's a shame, the heart-to-heart conversations and confrontations between the main characters, whether protagonist or antagonist,



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gave TOS some of its finest moments. These moments included observations of the human condition and the future of mankind. *Star Trek* became a series of small morality plays, a look at many changes going on in the 60's and beyond. Roddenberry cleverly addressed these issues in imaginary places so NBC executives and network censors wouldn't recognize what was going on. It was well done and thought provoking. The resulting conversations from watching those shows were really interesting. The only comment I heard from people exiting the theater focused more on the special effects. TOS did far better stories with relatively bargain basement effects.

The story of STR, such as it is, serves only one purpose: to set up a flimsy scenario that erases the bulk of *Star Trek* history and mythos. While we're on the subject of the story, wasn't it just a bit familiar? Let's see: my wife is dead, I'm mad, and so I'm going to kill a lot of people or make them suffer, primarily...well, it was Kirk in *Wrath of Khan*, now it's Spock. So, there is a little difference. Also, instead of red matter (just what is that stuff and where did it come from, writers?) used to create singularities, we had the Genesis torpedo used to create habitable worlds. Ah, yes, originality...it never dies in Hollywood.

When I heard that Abrams was going to be directing STR, I decided to watch *Lost* to get a feel for his style. After a brief period, I realized that time travel wasn't just a device he used now and then, it's the entire show! TOS used it just three times in three years; Abrams uses it all the time. Time travel is a wonderful device, but you can go to the well too often, then it becomes a crutch and a cheap way out of situations, or into them, depending on your objective. I'll admit that *Generations* was a bit of a device, but how else were you going to get Kirk and Picard together? I've since been told I just happened to watch episodes of *Lost* where a great deal of time travel was going on, but the whole series isn't usually like that. Right. *Lost* is an aptly named show.

Then they eliminated Vulcan and Amanda Grayson, which was totally unnecessary and pointless. The dynamic of Spock and his mother was very touching; why kill Spock's window to humanity? Maybe they could use flashbacks to keep Amanda alive. No, that's already been used with *Superman*. So now Vulcan is gone and the Romulans are in deep trouble. Yes, they converted the supernova into a singularity, but how good is that? Singularities are not nice neighbors, and even if Romulus and Remus are spared the radiation and extreme gravity, they have no sun. All their plant and animal life will die out. Maybe they'll ask the Federation for help. No, wait, that was done in *The Undiscovered Country*. Well, you can't be original all the time.



One of the interesting parts of TOS was the technology. Paramount (excuse the use of this word) of this is the star of the show, the *U.S.S. Enterprise*. What? The *Enterprise*? Yes! Recall the intro to the shows: "These are the voyages of the starship *Enterprise*..." Not Captain Kirk, not humanity, not the Federation, but the starship. Granted, it's not much good without a crew, and that was tried, but it is the focal point. That's why Gene Roddenberry spent so much time on its look and function... so much so that the U.S. Navy looked at the bridge design for possible inclusion in their fleet. So what did the STR designers do? They started from scratch. With a ship already designed, why bother? Spend your time and money where it's needed.

The exterior of the ship retains most of the basic curves from the original 1701, but there are changes—I'm not sure why—but I'll let that go. So let's look at the interior. Somebody actually designed that? I hope they didn't get paid. The bridge looked like a Las Vegas arcade, and engineering must have been filmed in a DuPont chemical plant [editorial note: the engineering set was actually filmed in the Budweiser Brewery], right down to the steel I-beams and concrete floors. Even our current navy looks better than that. The open deck motif may be visually stunning, but one small hole in the hull and the entire ship becomes an oversized vacuum bottle. Nice work, people.

The transporter got a new swirling effect so the crewmembers won't sparkle anymore, in more ways than one. The crew's quarters seem to have taken a step backward and look awfully cramped. I guess they had to make room for all that oversized plumbing in engineering. You know, that place where comedian Scott transported in. What is all that water piping for? It's not only out of place, it's downright stupid, placed strictly for a laugh. If you're going to redesign, give it some thought and intelligence. Intelligently-designed ships seemed to be lacking on Vulcan, too. Spock's ship was like something out of *Star Wars*. I fully expected Jar Jar Binx to step out of the cockpit.

Speaking of shaky technology, how does a team skydive through the atmosphere unprotected? (This was done previously in a deleted scene from *Generations*; I just love those original ideas, don't you?) Why does Sulu take a sword and not a phaser? A bit bulky, isn't it? The transporter trick was cute, but the *Enterprise* left hours ago. How can Kirk, Scott, and what's-its-name transport aboard? If the red stuff only takes a drop to make a star go black, why does Spock carry a big ball of that stuff? Oh yes, it's for the Romulans so they can destroy the universe. And how does a Romulan rate a Roman emperor's name? Does that put him on a more equal basis with James Tiberius Kirk? Come on, writers; give us a break. See how easy it is to write a story? Lastly, and the most obvious error, you build the *Enterprise* on the ground, so how in the name of Newton do you get the thing into space? Let me guess: it has something to do with time travel.

Another complaint isn't limited to STR, but it bears discussion. The action was okay, but give me a nice establishing



shot and then do the action at a reasonable focal length. I can't appreciate all the moves if I can't see them. And please stay focused for more than a few seconds. I've heard that the typical shot of twenty years ago lasted an average of twenty-five seconds. Now it's about three. It's dizzying and it doesn't help that the camera doesn't even stand still during the close-ups. It's almost always weaving and bobbing. You need Dramamine to watch it. I know why it's done; it's for the younger audience. Can you say "A.D.D."? Movies are becoming glorified arcade games.

Back to the story, such as it is. Let's review now. There is no personnel office at Starfleet. People just show up and get a job, such as Spock hinting about needing a post. He asks if he could be first officer for Kirk. What about Kirk? Let's get this straight: he hasn't graduated from the Academy. Remember, they were discussing his dismissal when it hit the fan. He hasn't formally been assigned to the *Enterprise*, and now he's the captain? A more plausible scenario would have been a resolution to the cheating charge. (In *Wrath of Khan*, we were told that he got a commendation for original thinking.) Then he could get an assignment as a junior bridge officer on another ship and then the rank of captain after resolving another crisis in the next movie. In the meantime, Sulu can learn where the parking brake is, Chekov can learn how to talk, Scotty can drop the comedy routine and pick up a wrench, Spock can sort out his feelings, and McCoy can get his act together, please!

The whole movie has a feeling of a let down, a compromise, and even a cheat. I'm reminded of the *Dallas* sequence in the shower where it was revealed that all that had gone on before was only a dream.

So now the bottom line is in. STR made a lot of money in its first weekend. Abrams is in good with Paramount because all they care about is the bottom line. They never understood *Star Trek* and if the film made money, well, who cares if the new reboot is bad? They pulled the same boner with *Mission Impossible*, turning it into the "Tom Cruise Show". So I'll continue to watch the old shows and be happy with the thought that they were first and are infinitely better.

Gene Roddenberry once described his creation as "capturing lightning in a bottle." It was the perfect blend of cast, writing, design, make-up, costumes, technicians, and the other myriad of things that make a series great. As the saying goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." I think a better idea would have been to continue introducing new characters alongside the originals, such as Saavik and others. The adventures of Captain Sulu would have been nice, too...a passing of the baton. Then let the new characters grow into the existing universe. The idea



STAR TREK MOVIE REVIEWS FROM AROUND THE FLEET



My only main criticism is it really felt to me that they had edited out some of Nero's backstory and screen time. He's a bit of an enigma because of it. But that is fairly minor, as the movie works really well.

What Was Once Old Is New Again

Commander Erinn Boyd
USS Virginia, Region 1



that *Star Trek* was broken and needed fixing is just wrong, and STR's sole purpose was to fix the perceived problem. Well, now *Star Trek* is 'fixed.' I had an old beagle hound that was fixed, and he was never the same either.

As I walked out of the theater, I noticed the STR poster. The *Enterprise* is a blur...how appropriate.

OMG!

Commander Annie Slonski
USS Avenger, Region 7



All I have to say is OMG!! In my opinion it was AWESOME!! The cast was spot on, and the actors all did the characters justice. There were a lot of subtleties and a few "throw away" references, so pay attention. This is definitely a movie I want to see again, multiple times!

I hope all of you yet to see it enjoy it as much as I did!

My Fears of Star Trek 90210 Were Dispelled

Crewman 1st Class Sywa Sung
USS Angeles, Region 4



I think the new movie is EXCELLENT! What a welcome breath of fresh air! The story and characters are very engaging. The movie looks gorgeous, the highest production values of any previous *Star Trek* movie. The scope is huge, and the picture looks epic.

It was thrilling--and I don't think I personally would describe any of the previous films as such. The sets look gorgeous. The editing is really tight, and the directing was very well done. I am so glad Leonard Nimoy's appearance is integral to the plot of the movie. The way he played him here, he seemed to be the most contented and happiest we've ever seen Spock. He exuded such warmth.

The re-casting was pulled off really well. My fears of "Star Trek 90210" were quickly dispelled. I'm really stoked to see the next one. Hope they keep the quality up. They've set the bar really high.

Well, by the time that you get to read this, summer will be getting ready to come to a close...and with that, all of this year's "summer blockbusters"...including the *Star Trek* movie that came out back in May of this year. When I went to see it--I had gone to see the movie with my brother, also a member of the USS Virginia--I realized halfway through this wonderfully-crafted movie that, not only was this the only other *Star Trek* movie I saw in the theater, but the only other one I saw with another member of my family. Rarely do I have anyone from my family that would watch it with me, much less go to the theater to see it.

You see, the first one I got to go see was the first one that had came out back in the late 1970's. So not only was I moved by the fact that this movie turned out so well, but I was overjoyed that I got to share it with someone who was not really into it (at least from what I understand, of course, from him). And thoughtout the movie, I was a bucket of tears with moments of laughter. And by the end of the it, I was crying so hard because I was so happy that my poor brother had to hold me so I could stop!

With this movie, I am reminded that even old things are new again. When I think about the homes that both Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson owned that are not too far from where I currently live (in Waynesboro, Virginia), I still cannot believe, even after all these years, no matter what the subject is (a house, a movie, or even an idea), it can still have an impact

on you. As they once said: "What was once old is new again."

But for me, *Star Trek* is a never-ending story that will continue on well past us. And for the members of the *USS Virginia*, we could not have asked for a better theme and people to work with. I just wish that (at least for myself) I had the chance to thank the crew and cast who made this movie turn out so wonderful. And on of the subject of *Star Trek*, I could not have picked a better selection of programming with such a wonderful cast of actors to enjoy with my family and with you. Thank you.

For more information about the *USS Virginia* chapter out of Waynesboro, VA, please go to our web site:

<http://ussvirginia.tripod.com>

or write to us at :

E.K. Boyd
P.O. Box 111
Waynesboro, VA 22980
Attention: STARFLEET, *USS Virginia*

The Midnight Call From My Son

Admiral Johnathan Simmons
USS Stormbringer, Region 4



What Impressed me the most about the new *Star Trek* was getting a call at midnight Friday from my 17-year-old son in Texas who told me... "OMG DAD, TREK ROCKED!!! I NOW SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN MEANING ALL THESE YEARS!"

Oh, and that he and a bunch of his high school friends want to start a chapter of their own. I told him that he's had a membership in STARFLEET since he was born, so at least he has seniority over his friends.

That proved to me that the film did what Abrams set out to do with it.





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NAME: BOB VOSSSELLER
RANK: ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS CHALLENGER* NCC-1676-D
REGION: 7, NEW JERSEY (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: 2007 REGION 7 CO OF THE YEAR, 2004/2007 REGION 7 STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR



0731-76-16

A Weekend at the Franklin Institute

Opening Day for the *Star Trek* Exhibition

We'd been hearing about it for months. The *USS Sovereign* crew had been getting tidbits of information in dribs and drabs from the officials at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, and at long last on May 16, the *Star Trek* Exhibition opened its doors filled with treasures of costumes, props, and a grand recreation of the *USS Enterprise* NCC-1701-D bridge, plus many other treasures.

The opening of this event was also a major event for STARFLEET Region 7, whose help was requested by the Franklin Institute. I was invited to attend the special sneak peek dinner event the night before as a guest of Keli Buchan, one of the chief coordinators of the event. Sadly, I couldn't make that, but I did return as one of many volunteers on May 16, and also had the opportunity to run a panel about STARFLEET in one of the Institute's theaters.

I held a similar program for members of the Institute on Sunday.

Sovereign's Communication Chief, Stacey Wright, was coordinating the event in the absence of their CO, Admiral Beryl Washington, who was on a much-deserved vacation in Texas with her son. Quite a number of STARFLEET members came out in uniform



LT WORF STOPS BY THE SICKBAY OF THE *USS ENTERPRISE* NCC-1701-D, WHICH IS PART OF THE *STAR TREK* EXHIBIT AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE. THE EXHIBIT ARRIVED IN MAY AND WILL REMAIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER. MEMBERS OF THE 7TH FLEET HAVE TAKEN TURNS VOLUNTEERING AT THE EXHIBIT AND TAKING PART IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS SINCE IT OPENED. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY BOB VOSSELLER.

them to take part in the volunteer duties. They loved the exhibit.

The *USS Matrix* was represented by its CO, Vice Admiral Joe Hoolihan, and his daughter Juliana.

USS Odin member Janek Kazimer donned her trill spots and a *ST:TNG* blue uniform, while *USS Top Gun* Joe Horton came along in his *ST:First Contact* attire.

USS Avenger CO Judy Waidlich also wore a uniform of that era, while ship science chief Admiral Alex Rosenzweig donned his monster maroon uniform for the occasion.

All eras of *Trek* including the new movie were represented in the uniforms of the day.

"A good time was had by all, and the institute was happy with the turnout. The Exhibit itself was wonderful—they even had the new *Star Trek* uniforms so you could get an up-close and personal look.

And of course, you could buy your own in the giftshop for \$50," Stacey Wright said. "Everyone did a wonderful job engaging the museum visitors in all things *Trek* and STARFLEET. And I am sure we have gained several more members for Region 7 and STARFLEET," she added.

The chapters represented brought fliers for the table and extra uniforms for those who might have needed them.

Sonny worked up a short skit for those who visited the bridge set. The Exhibit sprang for a pizza lunch and offered us the chance to enjoy the exhibit as regular guest sans uniform, but we all preferred to keep our uniforms on. Sadly, the IMAX showing of *Star Trek* was sold out, and only one of us wanted to stay for the 6 pm show.

The Exhibit will remain at the Franklin Institute until September, and the *Sovereign* has been working with other R7 chapters and a Klingon group in an effort to bring some theme weekends to the Exhibit with special guest speakers.

The topic of the new film was, of course, fresh on our minds, and there was a friendly debate about the film with the majority stating their enjoyment of it.

The opening also harkened back the days of the Federation Science Display that came to the Institute about 10 years ago... and which also toured in North Jersey and had heavy involvement by STARFLEET members in the region.

I know many of us will be back for a future weekend. A transporter room mock up was not complete in time for opening weekend, but it materialized in time for the following week.



THE LANDING PARTY BEGINS ITS ADVENTURE ON THE STEPS OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE. PHOTO BY BOB VOSSELLER.



STARFLEET OFFICERS (FROM LEFT) BOB VOSSELLER, SONNY WRIGHT, JUDY WALDRICH, JOE AND JULIANNA HOOLIHAN, ALEX ROSENZWEIG, AND JANEK KASMIER GATHER AT THE *STAR TREK* EXHIBIT ON ITS OPENING DAY. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY BOB VOSSELLER.

NAME: NANCY MILFORD
 RANK: COMMANDER
 SHIP: *USS LAGRANGE* NCC-3916-B
 REGION: 1, OHIO (USA)



0132-16-39

Star Trek Movie Helps Fandom...and Northeast Ohio

USS LAGRANGE in Region One is headquartered in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Conveniently close to Cleveland, we have been able to take advantage of some remarkable resources. We're a small club, but we have lots of fun and do lots of good.



NANCY MILFORD AND KARLENE COLLECTING MONEY FOR THE FOOD BANK AT THE THEATER. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY NANCY MILFORD.

When the new *Trek* movie was about to come out, our member Ted Bronko decided to hook up with Cinemark in Independence, Ohio (home of many LAGRANGEcons and Vulkons) to help the less fortunate in our part of the state. We found some very receptive and fan-friendly people at Cinemark, Cleveland Food Bank, and Owens Group to help us with this endeavor.

Since Paramount wants to attract younger people to fandom, they enlisted the aid of clubs in NE Ohio through Owens Group. This involved word-of-mouth parties and pre-showings of the movie. It also included the Food Bank and a Flash Mob to record the event. In no time at all, we were making posters, contacting people, and dusting off the uniforms.

Owens Group co-sponsored the *Star Trek* "Spread-the-Word" Party at Rocco's Pizza. We had a very respectable turn-out of around thirty people--many new recruits!--and lots of good discussions about the



ANDREW AND JOHN BORES WITH A LOVELY FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY NANCY MILFORD.

movie. Free promotional items were provided, as well as free passes to a showing of *Star Trek* at Valley View Cinemark in Independence, Ohio. We also signed up people for the Young Adult *Star Trek* Spelling Bee sponsored by two local libraries and a movie discussion held at Cuyahoga Falls Library. The wonderful Rocco's staff made insignia-shaped pizza and treated us great.



LAGRANGE CREW POSES IN FRONT OF ROCCO'S PIZZA. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY NANCY MILFORD.

We held two Food Bank events. The first was the Flash Mob and free pre-screening at the theater. We estimate that there were around 200 people with us that night...all donating money and collecting free t-shirts. I don't know how many people we convinced to go see *Star Trek* for free instead of *Wolverine* that night! For fun, Ted Bronko and Karlene Lewallen organized a trivia contest and gave away more promotional t-shirts, hats, and posters...very successful and popular.

The following Saturday, when the movie opened, we were back at the theater... for the entire afternoon. We collected more money, gave away more freebies, and made more friends. People came and took their pictures by our "shuttle" parked in front of the theatre. Young Logan Bores and his older brother John were very impressive at facing total strangers asking for money for the Food Bank. How can you say "no" to an adorable 6-year-old? Between him and the lovely young ladies from the Food Bank, we brought in a lot of green stuff for the cause. When all was said and done, we



TED BRONKO WALKS BEHIND THE LAGRANGE FLOAT IN THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY NANCY MILFORD.

raised around \$1,000 in money and food. This was in a total of just nine hours!

It was an elated group that met again on Memorial Day to participate in the community parade. Our shuttle, by the way, was built by the club and has an autograph of Mr. William Shatner on one side and an autograph of Kate Mulgrew on the other. The movie seemed to bring new awareness of fandom and *Star Trek*. Never have we heard so much cheering and clapping for our little group of intrepid travelers.



THE LAGRANGE FLOAT IN THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY NANCY MILFORD.



0433-40-718



STARFLEET's Legal Expenses Explained

**A long-overdue interview with
Sal Lizard, conducted by Jon Lane
(Part 3)**



Last year, STARFLEET retained the services of a legal firm, Hurwit & Associates, to help us with a number of issues which Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard (the Commander, STARFLEET) and the Executive Committee at the time felt were important to address. Over the course of approximately six months, our law firm provided us with \$9,100 in legal services.

But what, precisely, did we spend our money on? What services did we receive, and why were those services necessary in the first place?

These questions and more were on the minds of many concerned individuals who felt that STARFLEET's paying membership deserved to know what their dues were buying. But for months, no details were forthcoming from Sal Lizard or the Executive Committee.

When I joined the EC, I felt strongly that this information needed to be shared with the general membership. What I discovered is that nothing was being purposefully hidden, but rather, what our \$9,100 had bought us--information, consultation, review, letters, feedback, advice, and more--was so extensive and far-reaching, so complex and intricate, that Sal Lizard had no idea where to even start explaining it all. And to be honest, no one else was stepping up to volunteer to figure out how to explain it all to the membership either.

I set up a series of recorded conference calls with Sal Lizard and Sal's Chief of Staff, Sam Black. Two calls and over five recorded hours later, I finally had the answers to what I believe are most of the questions the membership has wanted explained.

I present here the third and final part of the transcript of my conversation with Sal, his answers word-for-word. My hope is that members read this interview in the spirit it was conducted: with an open mind and a desire for transparency regarding the thought processes and actions of our elected Commander, STARFLEET.

- Commodore Jon Lane
Chief of Communications, STARFLEET

When last we left off, we were about to move on to the next month's invoice (for services rendered in May, 2008). As a summary, for the month of March, we spent \$4,323 on legal fees. For the month of April, we spent \$2,089. Then for the month of May, we spent \$775. So the trend was downward as Sal realized how quickly legal costs can add up.

Also at this point in time, we were shifting lawyers from Tracey Bolotnik to Anne S. Rosenthal because Tracey left on maternity leave sometime in early May. As a side note, Tracey's delivery went well and she is now back at work and remains our primary contact at Hurwit & Associates.

Jon: Okay, so at this point, there's not a lot to report for this particular month. There's four items. The first two are on the same day, it looks like--it's hard to tell from this fax. It could be that one is on the 5th of May and one is on the 6th. The 5th of May, assuming that's the first day, was 1.35 hours, and it's a telephone conference with Sal Lizard "Re: Code of Conduct, review proposed revised Articles."

Sal: She was reviewing the revised Articles of Incorporation.

Jon: Okay, so she put together some Articles of Incorporation...

Sal: Well, actually, we did. Gary [Halverson...then VCS]'s team had a paralegal on it who took the information that Tracey Bolotnik had provided, because whenever possible, we didn't have the attorneys do the work; we did the work. And so, using the materials that she gave us, and the boiler plate from her own legal firm, the paralegal on Gary's team was able to redraft the Articles of Incorporation for restatement. And then we sent them over to Tracey to be reviewed. But they never got to her, so Anne reviewed

them for her because she was on maternity leave.

Jon: And also, you were talking about Code of Conduct here, so how much did we get from them on Code of Conduct?

Sal: This was an ongoing thing with the rights and the Code of Conduct. They actually reviewed, I believe, our poll [in the CQ]. Isn't that about that time?

Jon: Probably, yeah.

Sal: Because it had to do with Code of Conduct. And I was trying to make sure that it was an appropriate thing to do.

Jon: Taking the poll was an appropriate thing to do? Or the Code of Conduct?

Sal: The poll on the Code of Conduct...that I was asking appropriate questions, etcetera.

Jon: Ah, okay. So you were basically setting up to do the poll in the *Communiqué*, which, honestly, I think was still kind of a joke...at least personally.

Sal: Well, in the *Communiqué* it was because it was all done wrong. First off, it was way late coming out, so there was only, like, a few days [to respond]. But if the *Communiqué* had come out on time, there would have been about a month for people who got the *Communiqué* to send in their answers. Plus the insertion wasn't put in correctly. It was just put in the fold, whereas I actually wanted it inserted within the pages, so when you folded the CQ over, it would actually fold that page also, which would keep it in there better, more likely. And then, finally, we didn't know it, but somebody pointed out right after it went out that because it went out on plain, white paper, it could be Xeroxed and somebody could just load up the poll one way or the other. So that's why I didn't extend the date after all, which I had started to do.

Jon: What did we discover from that poll, by the way?

Sal: They're all online. We found out that the majority of the membership believes that the Code of Conduct is enforceable, that it shouldn't be replaced, it shouldn't be removed, and that the AB needs to enact policy where policy doesn't exist or clarify vague policies. And all of those results are still online. As a matter of fact, I just sent the results of that poll back to the AB because they asked for them. It was actually published in CQ, in number 146 or 147...it was the one that came out right before the IC.

Jon: So on the 6th, right before Tracey pops, "Respond to inquiry from Sal Lizard re: state law, membership and board meeting requirements for redraft of By-Laws."

Sal: Right. As we were redrafting the By-Laws, we had a few questions.

Jon: Okay, so basically, as you're redrafting the by-laws, she's reviewed the revised Articles on a previous date, she's reviewing them again, and now she's off to have a baby. And on the 21st, you got a free quarter of an hour from Anne to "Review file and e-mails to and from Tracey to and from Sal - courtesy unbilled, re: transfer of file." In other words, she's not charging you because...

Sal: Well, that's because I called her up and said, "Tracey was supposed to have finished up this memo and send it to me. Do you know if she ever did, 'cause I didn't get it?" So she went into her files and looked for it and resent it.

Jon: Gotcha. And then another quarter of an hour where it looks like Anne introduces herself to you: "Telephone call to Sal Lizard to discuss Cease and Desist letter re: website StaffleetFail.com and revision to By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation, re: removal of members." So apparently you

talked for 15 minutes about Starfleet Fail as well as revision to By-Laws and probably just introducing yourself.

Sal: Actually, I called her up, and she was the one who took over for Tracey, so we spoke about this, and then I said, "Oh, by the way, I've written a C&D to a member of STARFLEET. If you would just like to look it over and let me know what you think, I would appreciate it because I want to cross my t's and dot my i's." So she looked at it, and she actually thought it should be a little bit harsher. And then she also pointed out to me the fact that if he didn't, what was I going to do? Actually, this was a little bit later on--I don't know if she even billed me for it--because basically he told me to get bent. And she said, "Well, really, what're you gonna do? If you sue him, are you going to be able to collect anything? Would it even be worth your while? And so I basically apologized to Dave [Lowe, the creator of the Starfleet Fail website] for the C&D and told him that it was a knee-jerk reaction--which it was--but it had to do with a lot of things. First off, I think the site is detrimental. You know my own particular story about not being able to audition for a film because of that site.

Jon: Okay, here we are now in July--on July 10 of 2008--and the monthly bill on that one is \$1,559...so we obviously went up a little bit in July. At this point, it looks like we have not dealt with Dave Lowe other than a very brief review of your Cease and Desist letter, which, based on the fact that you had a quarter of an hour for her to review that and talk about other stuff with you...so at most, you spent \$82 on Mr. Lowe. So now, on the 6th of June: "Telephone conference with Sal Lizard regarding the Scholarship Fund and possible 501 (c) 3 start-up, review website re: applications request for Scholarship funds donations and research legality of same." You spent about a half an hour on this.

Sal: One of the things that came to my attention around that time was that STARFLEET had been paying for scholarships out of the General Fund. What we did was, we would ask members to donate to a Scholarship Fund, and we kept it separate on the books (how much money was in there). But when people applied for a scholarship, let's say there was only--the scholarships are in the amount of \$500--let's say that there was only a thousand dollars in the Scholarship Fund. What we would do is if we had enough money in the General Fund and four people applied, we would give out four scholarships. So we would use the thousand dollars that was in the Scholarship Fund and a thousand dollars from the General Fund. And the other thing that was happening was that members were donating a dollar or more on their membership applications to certain things like, say, the Neelix Scholarship, and what happened was it was all going into the same fund. So there was a perception that we could be committing a fraud...

Jon: And where did that perception come from? Was that something that you just one day woke up and thought about, or did somebody mention it to you?

Sal: If no money was in the Neelix Fund but there was \$500 in the McCoy Fund but nobody applied for a McCoy Scholarship and somebody applied for the Neelix, they'd go ahead and award that. And my wife, who happened to overhear the conversation, pointed out how angry she would be if she donated money for a specific purpose, and then was to later find out it was being used for something else. Not only that, but since people were donating to a Scholarship Fund, and that was a separate thing, then the funds should come from the Scholarship Fund. And by using member monies--the Operational Funds--without member approval, we were actually, y'know, lying to the members...which is a fraud in legal terms, as you know. So I asked, and she said, first off, we shouldn't be co-mingling the funds. So what STARFLEET did was we backed out the scholarship fund and put it in a separate account. And now we're keeping track of the individual funds, and we're awarding based on what fund has the money. We're doing it using what I like to call "the right way." So we're no longer co-mingling the STARFLEET funds, and we're no longer using STARFLEET operational funds to supplant member scholarships without member knowledge.

Jon: Okay, well that looks like the next few calls with her are all about



that, because on the 11th of June: “Legal research and consideration of scholarship funds and 501 (c) 7 exempt activities” is listed.

Sal: And the other thing was, we asked about the possibility of forming a separate foundation called the Scholarship Foundation, which could be a 501 (c) 3 so that it would be a tax-deductible donation. And she said we could do that, but it would cost money.

Jon: How much money?

Sal: Oh, it would cost the same as setting up a corporation--whatever that costs. I didn't ask her to go into specifics because, at the time, I was trying to cut back. Every time I talk to her, I try to limit my time and cut back. So that was something that I discussed with the Chief Financial Officers and we decided we'll take it in baby steps. The other thing was this: they did tell us that, if we created a 501 (c) 3, which we could do--a separate foundation--it has to be written very carefully because what we would need is, we would need to make it so the trustees, or whoever was in control of it, we would have to write it up in such a way that they were in role positions... like the Commander, STARFLEET, the CFO, the Head of the STARFLEET Academy, and a member-at-large, and a member of the AB, and that sort of thing. And the IRS would very closely monitor it because it was a 501 (c) 3...much more than they do a c (7). And so, therefore, if we did co-mingle funds or anything, we could be in a lot more trouble than we would have been if continued doing it as we are now. So that was another thing that gave me pause to think about this, but we thought it would be best to do it in baby steps. We had other issues that were a little more pressing. Just separating the Scholarship Fund from the operational funds was a big thing. And that was our big step. And so now we don't co-mingle, and we're doing things the right way. The only thing we didn't do was set it up as a separate tax-exempt foundation.

Sam: And no further scholarships will be paid for out of the general funds. They will not be covered out of the general funds. If the money's not there, we're not going to be making up the difference, as it were.

Jon: So even if somebody applies for Levar Burton and they have a wonderful application, we want to give it to them, if Levar Burton has \$412 in it, they're not getting a penny?

Sal: They're not gonna get the \$500. They can get the \$412.

Jon: Oh, in other words, we'll give them what's available.

[NOTE FROM JON: For anyone who is curious, this was the point where the first call ran out of recording time, which I believe had been reserved for four hours total. Since Sal, Sam, and I were all pretty exhausted by this point, we decided to reconvene the following evening to finish up the last few items on the final two invoices. What follows is from the second call.]

Jon: So we are now up to the 13th of June, where a very short conversation was an e-mail that was sent regarding a legal question: “Follow-up issues re: scholarship program and private inurement”--so that's also all about the Scholarship Fund. So let's go to the next one...

Sal: Oh, uh, sorry to interrupt you. Because her invoices mention “private inurement,” we probably ought to discuss what that is.

Jon: Yeah, let's go through what “private inurement” is.

Sal: What that is--something that's actually covered in our Constitution where it talks about the fact that no one member of our organization can profit at the expense of the rest of the members. And one of the things that happens is, in the case of our scholarships, because we're collecting money for scholarships separate of our operations, what happens is, if we use operational money to pay for scholarships, then members are getting personal inurement, which is illegal. So that's one of the things that she pointed out, was when we were doing this in the past, it was actually an illegal act. And so we quit doing that.

Jon: Now, when you say it's “illegal”, are we talking about criminally illegal or civilly illegal?

Sal: What she said was that, in accordance with our Constitution, we are not to give members money. They are not allowed to profit, and because of the fact they we're collecting money separately from the scholarship, a very clear argument could be made that we were personally inuring people from our operating funds...which isn't supposed to be the way it works. And yes, that could be determined to be fraudulent. Like everything else, it's up to a judge. But, she said that the argument could be made that we were defrauding the membership.

Jon: Gotcha. Okay.

Sam: Additionally--I'm looking at the e-mail--additionally, she also mentions that this could jeopardize our 501 (c) status with the IRS. To fund the scholarships, since they're being collected separately and kept separately, to fund them out of the general revenue, which may be a violation of the IRS rule that “No part of an organization's net earnings may inure to the benefit of any person having a personal or private interest in the activities of the organization.”

Jon: So let's wander over into the next three items, which are all for the same day. Looks like a little bit of an expense here--which are all on June 26th--started with a telephone conference call with Sal Lizard “Re: incorporation of regions”...and then continued on the 26th with “Draft and revise memorandum or cost/benefit for incorporating regions” and an e-mail to Sal...and then finally, we had a third of an hour of the partner looking over this: “Consideration of creation of regional organizations, liability, exemption benefits, disadvantages.” Basically, this sounded like an important enough bit of questioning that she brought in the partner for the first time in what looks like over a month and a half of legal consultation. So, you wanna discuss what the whole issue of incorporating the regions was?

Sal: Sure. Well, actually, what happens is the idea of STARFLEET being incorporated was to offer the organization certain protections under corporate law. Well, several of the regions have thought that it might be a good idea for them to incorporate separately, and that's been discussed on a number of occasions. It came up again in Region 3, and Michelle [Fanelli], who was the newly-minted RC at the time, replacing Brad Pense, asked me if I would ask our attorney about it.

Jon: Okay, so that was basically Sal responding to a request by an RC, not by the AB?

Sal: Not by the AB, by a particular RC, but she also pointed out that other regions had talked about it, and it would be good for the organization to nail that one down. So I saw it as something that would be good for all regions, which is why the resulting information was actually shared at the ECAB meeting in New York.

Jon: So, I guess the big question here is: what did we find out?

Sal: We found out that regions could incorporate if they wanted to, however,

AN APOLOGY TO ADMIRAL JOHNATHAN “GUMBY” SIMMONS

After the publication of CQ #152, Admiral Johnathan “Gumby” Simmons sent me an e-mail complaint about the issue. Gumby felt that, in Part 2 of the interview with Sal Lizard, during which Sal endeavors to explain our legal expenses from 2008, that he (Gumby) was unfairly and falsely accused of something that he did not do. Gumby demanded an official retraction and a public apology from me for damaging his reputation in STARFLEET.

I reread the CQ paragraphs in question carefully (as I had also written them carefully) and initially declined to print a retraction and apology as I felt there was nothing that misrepresented the truth in the article, that it was not libelous, and that Gumby had, in fact, done what the CQ had reported. I offered to let Gumby respond in the next CQ and to print whatever he submitted, but I didn't feel that either a retraction nor an apology was justified based on what was printed.

Gumby wrote me back, explaining further--asking more precisely for a correction rather than a retraction. (And for those of you wondering, he was actually quite polite and calm in re-explaining what he thought was the precise misinformation that was published in the CQ.) And in what I am sure will be a shock to everyone reading this, I actually agree with Gumby.

And so I do issue him a personal apology for what was presented in CQ #152.

And for those of you wondering just what the heck I am apologizing for, read on. Those not wanting the typically long Jon Lane explanation and just desiring to savor the apology, feel free to skip to the end.

Okay, here's what happened in a nutshell. First, the interview with Sal in the CQ has been presented in as much of its entirety as I could manage. I wanted Sal's own words to see print, not a summary or interpretation of them. So in Part 2 of the interview, Sal was discussing that STARFLEET is a corporation and, as such, occasionally circulates documents among the ECAB that are considered confidential. Some of these are not shared with the general membership, others are shared with the members but are not intended for the general public to see.

(This is fairly standard in most corporations, from big companies like Coca Cola and General Electric to smaller member-based organizations like the Rotary Club.) Sal even mentioned in his interview that when he was a member of Rotary, were a member to publicly distribute a confidential document of the organization, that person would no longer be a member.

I then asked in the interview what member(s) of STARFLEET had published confidential documents to the general public, and Sal replied that Gumby had done it on his Fleetwatch livejournal blog. In an attempt to verify Sal's claim (thinking I was being a good reporter--we'll come to that part in a second), I checked the Fleetwatch site and discovered that, indeed, those confidential documents were accessible through Fleetwatch. So I included that verification in CQ, mentioning that Gumby had, in the past, been the administrator of Fleetwatch, and the documents had been made available to anyone coming to the site since last October.

Here's where the correction and apology come in, folks...

The article makes it sound like Gumby actively placed confidential STARFLEET documents where they could be accessed not only by the general membership but also by the general public...essentially the big “no-no” that Sal had been talking about. For the casual member of STARFLEET, this would make Gumby look like a bad guy.

The correction that Gumby pointed out is that the documents were actually distributed and posted by other members of STARFLEET on different websites (not Fleetwatch). They were the ones who actually did the nasty deed. Gumby simply linked from Fleetwatch to those other sites after the fact. In other words, someone else threw the brick through the window first.

CQ represented Gumby as the original brick-thrower, and that was incorrect. Had I bothered to contact Gumby rather than simply checking the Fleetwatch site, Gumby could have shared this important fact with me. But I did not contact him; I only checked his website.

So I hereby present the correction and an apology for making Gumby out to be the original perpetrator of the posting of confidential STARFLEET documents. He did not throw the brick through the window.

Now, this doesn't get Gumby completely off the hook, and I told him so during our e-mail exchange. In my opinion, this is one of those “two wrongs don't make a right” scenarios. He didn't post the confidential docs in the first place, but he did still facilitate others seeing those documents by supplying links to them. In other words, someone else threw the brick through the window, but that doesn't mean you can reach though the broken glass and grab a few items from the store window as you pass by. It's not as bad as what the first guy did, but it isn't anything to brag to the police about either.

However, there is a big difference between what Gumby actually did and what the CQ implies that he did, and it's my fault that the incorrect implication is in there. So for that, and for any damage this might have done to the reputation of this 18-year STARFLEET veteran who has served as an AB member, an EC member, and even briefly as acting Commander, STARFLEET...I do apologize.

As Gumby and I wrote in our respective e-mails to each other, we don't hate each other. Indeed, we both love this club with every fiber of our beings. When we agree, there's no stopping us. When we don't, well, look out... 'cause neither of us is likely to back down when we feel it's for the good of STARFLEET. We're more alike than either of us would ever want to admit...and shock of shocks again: Gumby and I found ourselves in agreement on that point, too.

None of us is perfect--me, Gumby, Sal--but we all do try our best and, hopefully, when we aren't perfect, we can step up, admit it, and try to do better next time.

Sincerely,

*- Commodore Jon Lane
Chief of Communications, STARFLEET*



it would also invoke some IRS issues. They would have to prove and get their status as a 501 (c) or whatever, and it would make them more liable for things that happened in their region than if they were part of the STARFLEET incorporation, which is a bigger umbrella and offers them a little bit more protection. It could be logistically a nightmare, actually, by incorporating, they would become a separate fan club...strangely enough.

Jon: Gotcha. Well, that's important pieces of information. When all is said and done, if anybody's curious, the total amount of time spent on this was about three hours at what looks like mostly the \$330 but a little at the \$400. So about a thousand dollars was spent on this regional incorporation question...in case we're keeping score. So that covers June, and now we move into July, and this is actually the last item that we've paid any money for legally, and there's one hour spent for two different items on the 7th of July. The first item is a tenth of an hour, and it's a telephone conference (I guess you had a very short call) with Sal Lizard "regarding Dave Lowe of Starfleet Fail re: defamation, trademark, and cease and desist reply"... which I believe that Sal had already written, a Cease and Desist, and was asking her to just read it over.

Sal: Right.

Jon: And give feedback. So Sal was basically trying to save STARFLEET money by writing the Cease and Desist order himself...because Sal likes to think he's a lawyer. And then on the 7th as well, of July, she spent .9 hours (nine-tenths of an hour) to "review Dave Lowe website and rumors, review STARFLEET website, further teleconference with Sal"--so she was actually able to look at the entire Starfleet Fail and the Starfleet website in less than an hour...not too bad. And then had a further teleconference with Sal and "draft and revise reply to Lowe's defamation and use of trademark name and logo and e-mail to Sal re: same." So, when she says that she revised the reply to Lowe's defamation, is she revising your Cease and Desist order?

Sal: What she actually did is she revised the Cease and Desist. She suggested that I include some harsher language, but I had already sent it out. So while I had asked her to take a look at it, she sent me back her responses. I didn't send him a revised version.

Jon: Okay. So basically, we're talking about .9 hours for her to do a whole bunch of stuff, including looking at the website. I'm guessing, if she revised the letter, we're looking at maybe five minutes of her time. So it's probably negligible. She spent five minutes on something we never used. So \$27.50 for something we didn't use.

Sal: Well, y'know, the thing of it is, because I had her on the phone, I just said, "Hey, by the way, I sent out a Cease and Desist, if you'd like to take a look at it and tell me if I did anything wrong, that'd be great." And she sent back that she had a couple of suggestions. But to me, she also told me that, if I pursued Dave Lowe on behalf of STARFLEET, the only thing that a judge would probably do is have him take down the site, and we probably wouldn't get much else out of it.

Jon: So basically, STARFLEET's remedy at this point would simply be him taking down the site. We would obviously spent lots and lots of money going in front of a judge, 'cause a lawyer would have to do it for us at \$330/hour. I guarantee you, knowing from my wife, that it's not going to be just one or two hours in prepping for a case like this. So realistically, STARFLEET could be looking at a thousand to maybe even as much as three or four thousand dollars just to get somebody to take down Starfleet Fail.

Sal: Exactly. And I saw it as a futile attrition of our resources. To me, I was trying to be money-conscious.

Jon: Something tells me most people would probably think you weren't.

Sal: I know, I know.

Jon: All right. So basically, total amount spent for Dave Lowe seems to be \$330. And the majority of it was actually discussing Dave Lowe *after* you sent a Cease and Desist order, just trying to figure out if there was anything that you had either done wrong or could have done better, and/or if it was even practical to take any more aggressive action, which apparently it wasn't. Okay, well that finishes up all of our legal invoices. So the next question on my list of questions is: are you planning on using our lawyer's services again in the near future, and if so, for what reason?

Sal: The only reason that I can think of right now, barring some sort of a lawsuit or something that would entangle STARFLEET, the only reason I could see using the attorneys would be to look over our revised governing documents after we've had an opportunity to make some changes, just

to tell us that we need to work further. And they may very well say, "All of these changes are great, and they're all a step in the right direction; you still need to work on it a little further." But in any case, I will not go back to the attorney until after the AB has okayed it.

Jon: So the last question (and then we get to wrap up the phone call) is: some members have voiced concern that the decision to consult our attorney, which can get expensive quite quickly, should not rest solely in the hands of the CS...is this policy being adjusted or not?

Sal: Actually, the policy is that it does not rest solely in the hands of the CS. The Constitution and Handbook task the Executive Committee with making business decisions, and this was seen as a business decision and was voted on by the EC. The EC is tasked with looking out for the good of STARFLEET, just as the AB is. We both share those fiduciary responsibilities under the law. But the EC also felt that it was a valid business decision to bring in an attorney and look at our governing documents and other things that could get STARFLEET in trouble. When we were discussing it, one of the things that was discussed was: would it be better to spend \$10,000 to protect ourselves, or just sit there with our flies open and take a chance on losing everything? And we saw the attorney as an investment. But the decision does not rest solely with the CS. It rests with the entire EC, and every one of them are charged with helping to protect the assets of STARFLEET...just as the AB is. Our Constitution, when it was drafted, though, granted the membership responsibilities--as far as rights, etc.--to the AB but the business decisions to the EC with the AB basically monitoring it.

Jon: Okay. Well, I'm good for that.

Sal: Now, can I say a couple of other things?

Jon: Yeah, anything you want...

Sal: All right, here's what I'd like to say in closing, and that is, first off, anybody who knows me knows that I care about this organization and would not do anything purposefully to harm it. Spending \$10,000 of our money...

Jon: According to my calculations, you've spent \$9,094...just to be accurate.

Sal: Thank you. If spending \$9,094 somehow puts us into a place where this organization winds up complying with the law and protecting itself from problems with the IRS and problems with future lawsuits--and it makes the members happier overall in the long run because of changes to our governing documents--then I still see it as a good investment.

The other thing is, I will remind members--some of whom weren't around, but when Dan McGinnis actually left this organization, he left the organization with no money and members to whom we owed membership packets and CQs to for over a year, plus we had bills to pay. I was one of the first EC members that came on board, with the Mike Smith administration, and the EC members and certain other members of the organization put their own monies into this organization to bring it back and to pay those bills and to get those membership packets out. And we did so without asking for reimbursement. We know what it costs to run this organization and how squandering the money can hurt the organization, and how other people have to pick it up.

It's never been my intent to squander anything. I try to make sound business decisions, and I've actually put my money where my mouth is in this organization on several occasions before becoming CS. Other members have done it also. But there's a lot of members out there who are complaining and worried that the coffers are going to dry up. And the truth of the matter is, as long as STARFLEET members care, this organization will go on.

I really feel that way, and Sam has heard me say it a number of times. There's a lot of people out there that point fingers at me and talk about how I'm spending their \$15. They don't realize that there was a time when a lot of us--and you've been around, Jon, you know--a lot of us put our own money into this organization to get it back on its feet again after McGinnis. And so I don't take that lightly. I know that you have to spend money to make money. I really believe that we have to spend more money on recruiting and PR. But at the same time, I don't want to spend it foolishly, never have. And as you now have been able to ferret out, I think you can see that I'm not just spending money to throw people out of STARFLEET. I actually had some very, very good exchanges with the attorney that would be helpful to the organization.

Jon: Well, now the next thing is: how are we going to be using what the

attorney told us? There's obviously a lot of loose ends. There's a lot of things where we have memos from the attorney. How are we planning to actually put this now-nine thousand spent dollars to use in the next two years of your administration?

Sal: Well the answer is simple: I can't affect anything unless I have the cooperation of the EC and the AB. And what happens, as the leaders of this organization, we need to take a realistic look at what the attorney has provided us, and we need to act on it. What we need to do is quit being complacent as an organization and accepting that, because we've been here 35 years, that we can be here another 35...or even another 10 or even 5. A corporation, by law, is treated as a living entity--and that's where "corporate" comes from, it means "body"--as people, we have to adapt to an ever-changing environment. And our organization has to do the same. The Constitution that was written back in 1997 is not absolutely applicable for today. There are changes that need to be made; there's things that need to be tightened up. Society has changed; our own society within the organization has changed; our governing documents need to change with it. But it's up to the AB and the EC to actually do something with the information that we got from the attorney. And ultimately, it's up to the members to vote in those changes. So we as an organization can actually squander away the nine thousand dollars, or we can take the information that we got and act on it.

But that is up to more people than the CS.

EPILOGUE FROM JON: So what did Sal learn from all of this? What changed? Or did things just go on as they did before?

Fortunately, the answer is things DID change--and in my opinion, much for the better. After spending nearly \$9,100 on attorney's fees, STARFLEET went nearly a year without another legal invoice. When it did come time to consult with Hurwit a& Associates again, Sal and the EC first went to the Admiralty Board with a REQUEST to approve funds for additional legal services. In this case, the reason for consulting with the attorneys was to get a very specific set of instructions in writing from them on how to correct our documentation. Previously, to save money, Sal took written notes on the advice the attorneys gave him about fixing our governing documents rather than having the attorneys write something up for us. But the EC and AB felt that we needed something clearer, guidelines we could follow that came directly from the law firm. And indeed, this would hold Hurwit & Associates accountable just in case their advice proved incorrect or insufficient.

In short, we wanted it in writing, and the lawyers estimated three hours to write up an overview memo explaining what needed to be fixed and how it should be fixed. So the EC asked the AB to approve up to three hours (or \$1,050) for this service. With a vote of 9 aye, 4 nay, and 4 abstain, the motion passed and the law firm's services were engaged.

Now, as I write this, we face another legal decision, also involving the EC and AB together. The lawyers estimate an additional 6-10 hours to construct a complete set of By-Laws that would correct and replace our Constitution so that STARFLEET's rules would be in compliance with actual laws (as opposed to contradicting may of them). The lawyers would also update our Articles of Incorporation to comply with North Carolina law (where we are incorporated). Doing this would cost us \$2,000-\$3,000, but it would make our governing documents rock solid.

Or we could do it ourselves. We could try to create our own By-Laws (corporations do not have "constitutions"--so w'de need to start calling them "By-Laws" in order to be on solid legal footing). The problem is, we might not get everything right. We would, of course, want our lawyers to review our work, which would probably be about 2-3 hours. They would likely give us feedback and corrections. So we'd try again. Then there would be another review. In short, it could end up costing nearly as much to do it ourselves as it would to have the attorneys do it properly.

Discussions on this question have only just begun, so I don't know the outcome as I write this. But the important thing is that I said DISCUSSIONS. Sal Lizard did not simply decide to go off and spend thousands of more dollars without checking with the AB. More voices are being heard in this significant situation that literally affects all members of STARFLEET.

Considering that the whole reason I needed to do this interview with Sal in the first place was because the decisions to spend STARFLEET money on legal services were NOT being discussed beyond the EC--the fact that now those discussions are happening and being voted on, that's a MAJOR improvement.

Thanks for reading.





NAME: MICHAEL WELDON LEWIS
RANK: COMMANDER
SHIP: *USS CHESAPEAKE* NCC-1887
REGION: 1, VIRGINIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT HEAD OF *USS NIGHTHAWK* NCC-2301 FROM SHUTTLE TO DECOMMISSION

0136-87-18

Fun, Friendship, and Fellowship Three Years Later

The following is a reprinting of an article titled "Fun, Friendship and Fellowship Part 2" from CQ #132, published back in early 2006, written by Michael Lewis.

STARFLEET has members in many parts of the world. Can we "think globally and act locally" in many parts of the world at least one day a year? Can we do something to improve the environment of the planet as an international organization?



JERRY MARTIN, CAPTAIN OF *USS CHESAPEAKE* NCC-1887, VOLUNTEERED FOR A CLEAN VIRGINIA WATERWAYS INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP 2008 EVENT AT ANCARROW'S LANDING ON THE JAMES RIVER IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA USA. PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEWIS.

"The International Coastal Cleanup engages people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris, and to change the behaviors that cause pollution." The main cleanup event is the third Saturday of September each year worldwide.

Imagine members of STARFLEET working on one project, once a year, worldwide. Imagine people in close to 100 countries, including the US, seeing members of STARFLEET working in their towns, cities, and rural areas on one project. Imagine members communicating with each other and with non members worldwide. Sounds like fun to me!

I participate in the International Coastal Cleanup in Richmond, Virginia with Clean Virginia Waterways each year. I do this as a site captain. STARFLEET chapters in Virginia can do this as well, with me or another site captain.

And now, here's Michael's follow-up, three and a half years later...

I followed my own request of STARFLEET members. I volunteered for Clean Virginia Waterways International Coastal Cleanup events. I communicated with other STARFLEET members during these events. I communicated with non-members during these events.

I attended a few conventions in Virginia and one in Maryland. I met some members of Region 1 and Region 7 during these conventions. I talked to some of the members that I met about volunteering for the International Coastal Cleanup.

One person I talked with, while I manned a Clean Virginia Waterways International Coastal Cleanup display at a library during a science fiction event, commented that I seemed



MICHAEL LEWIS, A MEMBER OF *USS CHESAPEAKE* NCC-1887, VOLUNTEERED AS A "SITE CAPTAIN" FOR A CLEAN VIRGINIA WATERWAYS INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP 2008 EVENT AT ANCARROW'S LANDING ON THE JAMES RIVER IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY MICHAEL LEWIS.

out of place with the science fiction theme around me. I told him about the article that appeared in the *Communiqué* and showed him the article. I said that many members of STARFLEET volunteered for charities and organizations that were not science fiction related.

So I ask my fellow STARFLEET members again to volunteer for the International Coastal Cleanup in many countries around the world and the Clean Virginia Waterways International Coastal Cleanup in Virginia, USA. Please talk to other members and non-members while you do these cleanups. Let people in many parts of the world see members of STARFLEET working together in their cities and towns. And please have fun, friendship and fellowship with each other and non-members as you do something for the environment.

NAME: MARY DOMAN
RANK: LIEUTENANT
SHIP: *USS GANYMEDE* NCC-80107
REGION: 1, VIRGINIA (USA)

USS GANYMEDE NCC-80107

0136-07-801

A New E-Book about DeForest Kelley

My friend Kris Smith was DeForest Kelley's personal assistant and his caregiver during the last few months of his life. She detailed her relationship with DeForest and Carolyn Kelley in *DeForest Kelley: A Harvest of Memories*. (That book is available on Amazon.com.)

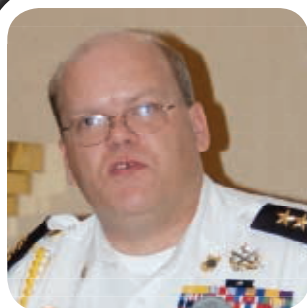
Now Kris has compiled a 61-page e-book of fan and friend remembrances of De called *The Enduring Legacy of DeForest Kelley: Actor, Healer, Friend*. It contains the memories and reminiscences of nearly two dozen fans and

friends whose lives were blessed and changed forever by the career or kindness of the late actor who portrayed Doctor Leonard "Bones" McCoy.

It was just published May 3, in honor of the 10th anniversary of De's death in June 1999. You can order a digital copy of Kris' new book for a very affordable \$4.95 on the following website:

http://store.payloadz.com/details/detail_382995.html





NAME: JOHN ROBERTS
RANK: MAJOR GENERAL
POSITION: COMMANDANT, SFMC
OTHER POSITIONS: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: USS ANASAZI NCC-62001
REGION: 17, NEW MEXICO (USA)

1737-01-620



Attention on Deck!

STATE OF THE SFMC

Greetings, Marines. I hope this message finds you and your families all doing well.

BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

We started the month of March with a balance of \$1,096.95. We had deposits of \$1,452.38 and withdrawals of \$332.25 (for new QM merchandise) during March, leaving the account balance at \$2,217.08. We started the month of April with a balance of \$2,217.08. We had deposits of \$154.75 during April, leaving us with \$2,371.83.

SFMC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our scholarship account total stands at \$1,988.50. If you would like to donate, please contact me and I can tell you how to go about doing so. Let's get busy with donations and see if we can double the amount in the account by the end of 2009!

Applications are now being accepted. Go to www.sfi-sfmc.org and find the link for the SFMC Scholarship under the TRACOM section. It's FREE money for your education, so you might as well apply.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION CHALLENGE

The 898th MSG (the Commandant's Own, at least for now) challenges every unit in the SFMC to donate \$20 before July 1 (even if the donation comes in after this deadline, it will be greatly appreciated). Let's see what we can do to raise the account balance before the IC and the auction that will have some nice items to benefit the SFMC Scholarship Fund. If every one of our 138 units meets this challenge, we would raise an additional \$2,760 for the Scholarship Fund.

If your unit donates to the fund during this challenge period, make sure and e-mail me at jcroberts2@hotmail.com so I can get you credited and make sure you are recognized for your generosity.

ATTENTION BRIGADE OICs

If you need the SFMC E-certs officer, Joe Dorffner, to create certificates for you during this award season, please make sure you send Joe all of the information he needs to properly complete the certificates and return them to you for printing and presentation. Joe needs to know: NAME OF AWARD, NAME OF RECIPIENT, BRIGADE, UNIT, NAME OF ISSUING OFFICER, RANK OF ISSUING OFFICER.

Additionally, Joe needs time to complete the work and get it to you in time for you to print and present the awards. This means you cannot send Joe the information and expect him to have the certificates ready the next day. Please give Joe AT LEAST 4 weeks (1 month) notice before you must have the certificates in hand. 6 weeks would be even better.

SFMC MESS NIGHT 2009

The cost of the Mess Dress is \$35.00 and the menu sounds great, with Apple Topped Pork Chops, Wild Rice, a delicious vegetable medley, and ending with a great dessert to be announced. So, if you are interested in enjoying a great meal as well as mixing and mingling with the Corps' finest, drop by www.ic2009.org and register for the SFMC Mess Dress. -- FADM Les Rickard Chair, 2009 STARFLEET International Conference August 6th-9th 2008 Greensboro NC chair@ic2009.org OR ic09chair@gmail.com "One Small Step...One Giant Leap."

I look forward to IC/IM2009 in Greensboro, NC. Make your plans now and register online at www.ic2009.org.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THE SFMC?

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 at the following e-mail addresses:

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

Until my next report, I remain in Service to the Corps.

Report from the CO TRACOM

You know what? I really love my "job" within this great organization. Being so heavily involved and committed to my responsibilities of supervising the SFMC Academy gives me such huge satisfaction and personal reward. And why? It is simply because not only am I involved with a great bunch of folks within TRACOM and the SFMCA; not only am I constantly immersed in one of my favorite pasttimes (research); not only do I have a role that enables me to mix and associate with a huge spectrum of fellow SFI and SFMC members; not only do I get to really study Star Trek and all that it means up real close; it is all this and more--with the best part being the reward and satisfaction I get every time I see how many courses are passed through the SFMC Academy in a month;

to see the awarding of the "Student of the Month" to a member who has put their own best effort into their studies and been rewarded for doing so; to have a student pop a note in with their exam response that says, "Great exam--I loved it!"; or even perhaps to attend an online meeting with my fellow staffers and to get the rub-off from their mutual enthusiasm and interest in everything we do. So why wouldn't someone love that as a job? Sure, I'm a member of the SFMC. A "Marine"--one of those people that some label as being "not worthy of membership because there were no Marines in Star Trek..." etc., etc. (yawn). But go back to the bit I said at the beginning--I love my job. Whether I am a Marine or even if I was on the naval side -- to be given the opportunity to be able to put something

back into the organisation I joined because of my love for Star Trek, is not something that I take lightly.

And you know what else? I would suggest that every other member of TRACOM and the SFMCA feels exactly the same way I do. I am so certain that every member of our Academy, no matter what role they play, can run through my little list above and say almost the same things. And the point? Simple. Read this as a reminder that there are those of us "out there", working in the many roles throughout our whole organisation, who are giving up LOTS of their free time, to serve you, our fellow members. Sometimes we may not get it right. Sometimes we might not be as quick to respond to whatever it is that we are doing--but we are there,

working for you. And the best and only real reward for us at the SFMCA is when you send in those applications to take one of our courses of study. That is when we get the personal satisfaction that what we are doing is indeed worthwhile, simply because there are others who want to share in the fun and enjoyment of whatever it is that we do. So grab a course or two. Take the time to read and learn more of the Star Trek world we have all created. It isn't hard, really--and it is a lot of fun. Just like my job...

Colonel Bruce O'Brien
Commanding Officer
Training & Doctrine Command, SFMC
Region 11 Recruiting Officer
USS Southern Cross NCC-63550
Region 11, New Zealand

1137-50-635



Report from the Sergeant Major, SFMC

State of the NCO Corps - May 2009

Greetings, Marines!

As Sergeant Major of the Corps, one of my primary duties is being the top of the NCO Chain of Support. If I'm not in contact with you, drop me a line so we can open up a line of communication, and don't forget to keep communication up with the other NCOs and enlisted Marines in your area. As a twentieth century sage once remarked, "I'm pullin' for ya'. We're all in this together!"

By now, most of you know that one thing I'm committed to doing is giving public recognition to the efforts being made by enlisted members of the Corps. No matter

what Brigade you're in, I'm sure you can think of great work being quietly done by someone who has chosen to remain enlisted. I'd like to share those stories with the rest of the Corps, so please, feel free to let me know about them.

To that end, I'd like to tell you about a special group of NCOs. I've talked about the 313th MSG before. They were the first, and as far as I know, still the ONLY all-NCO unit in the SFMC. The "Riven Seraphim" put a lot of time and effort into planning a Wilderness Challenge, but the response wasn't what they were hoping for. Soon their "go/no-go" deadline was upon them, and it was time to make a decision. Nobody would have faulted them for simply canceling the event. But they didn't. In the best tradition of

the Corps, and of NCOs everywhere, they came up with a Plan "B" and went forward, determined to see it through and have fun doing so. Outstanding, Marines!!

This month, Top's Pet Peeve relates to assumptions. We're all guilty of assuming something from time to time about which it would have taken just a few minutes to ask a question or dig out the facts. Assumptions can lead to misunderstandings, and misunderstandings can lead to people just not having any fun. So, if you're not sure about something, politely ask about it. In the long run, it'll make the SFMC a better place.

Now, where do you ask? Well, you could try the official SFMC NCO mailing list, which

you can find at

<http://lists.sfi-sfmc.org/listinfo.cgi/nco-l-sfi-sfmc.org>

Or you could email the appropriate member of the General Staff. The email addresses are ALL on the SFMC web page, and their doors are always open. Your questions and input are always welcome and needed.

Semper Fi!

MMSGT Jerome A. "Hawk" Stoddard
Sergeant Major, STARFLEET Marines
sgm-sfmc@sfi-sfmc.org
NCOIC
USS Thermopylae NCC-74703
Region 5, Washington (USA)

USS THERMOPYLAE NCC-74703



NAME: PRIGAL
RANK: PRIVATE
SHIP: USS THERMOPYLAE NCC-74703
REGION: 5, WASHINGTON (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Ask Prigal: A Monthly Question & Answer Session from the Enlisted Point of View

How did Prigal make it through basic training? What kind of TI would let him slide on through the system?

signed

Brown-Noser

Dear Brown Noser,

When you enter the Corps as an alternative to a civilian sentence, it's pretty good motivation to get through Basic, especially when the civilians in question have some rather messy ideas about what constitutes punishment. In spite of all the advanced prosthetics out there, I'm kind of fond of both of my hands.

So, in spite of a couple of minor incidents (eyebrows do eventually grow back, and broken bones heal quickly), I made it through Basic and was sent off to shoot Cardassians. (There was a war on at the time.)

That's probably why SGT A'gar let me slide on a couple of things. I turned out to be pretty good at shooting Cardassians. He even said he pulled some strings to get me assigned to my first rifle company, and gave me a message to give to my squad leader, SGT Hardinger. After all these years, I still remember it:

"Hardhead: It's taken years, but I don't get mad. I don't get even. I get at least one ahead. He's YOUR problem now."

Any idea of what he meant?

Prigal

Dear Prigal,

I understand conditions are kind of primitive there at Edgar Station. What do you and Gunny do to keep yourself amused out there? I think I'd get bored in a hurry.

Signed

Holodeck Addict

Dear Addict,

There's plenty to do in your spare time here, especially if you don't mind getting a little messy, or serving the occasional punishment detail when you get caught. The locals are friendly, and the local law enforcement boys are tough enough to be a good fight, and are generally good sports about it, win or lose.

Of course, Gunny is a little quieter, and generally fills his spare time with reading, or his fish tanks. Rumor has it that he used to be a bit wilder in his

younger days. For instance, according to rumor, he used to take the following supplies with him when he went on a 48 hour leave: 4 days worth of liquor, 1 day's worth of food, and his dog. When asked about the dog, he'd reply, "Somebody's got to eat all that food."

I don't know whether this is true or not, since it falls firmly under Prigal's law, Rule number 29: "Never push a losing hand or a senior NCO too hard."

Prigal

Dear Prigal,

I'm a little curious about why you joined the Marines instead of going with the Fleet. There would seem to be a lot fewer opportunities in the Corps for those sorts of business deals you seem to like, and less people shooting at you.

Sign me

Cagey CPO

Dear Cagey,

While the Fleet may seem to offer more opportunities for finding and making good deals, I've noted that it's also full of all sorts of regulations and scrutiny. Marines get around more

than you'd think, and we're often in chaotic situations where there are far more opportunities than there are on the very strict environment aboard a starship.

In other words, there's generally a lot less of what we Marines call "Mickey Mouse (CENSORED)", even in garrison in the Corps than there is in Fleet. I'll admit it; Mickey and I just don't get along.

I don't mind people shooting at me, because, as a Marine, I'm trained and equipped to shoot back. In most cases, when Marines are deployed and someone shoots at us, we don't have to sit at our duty station and hope the shields hold. We get to shoot back, and over the history of the Corps, we've convinced a whole lot of folks that shooting at Marines is just not a good idea.

Prigal

Dear Prigal:

Lately, I hear a lot of folks claim they've met you. Somehow, I don't know whether to believe them or not. Honestly, I don't think I've ever met you, but how would I know for sure if somebody else has? And, does it bother you that people who may not

have met you claim to have done so? Puzzled by a Plethora of Prigal Sightings

Dear Puzzled,

Actually, it's easy to tell if someone has really met me or not. If they can supply the proper details of my eye color, hair color, and height, there's a chance they may have really met me. Now, if they met claim to have met me, but their finances, blood pressure, and career are all still intact, I'd be a bit doubtful.

It doesn't bother me one bit that widely separated people claim to have met me. Having "reasonable doubt" of my actual presence in an area may mean the difference between serious brig time, and simple punishment details.

Prigal

Got a question only Prigal can answer? Send it to:

pvtprigalsfmc@hotmail.com

Note that neither this newsletter nor his superiors will be held responsible for any consequences from following PVT Prigal's advice. It's all on your head. (Gunny made me put that last bit in.)



Report from the CO FORCECOM

Brigades Reporting

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 20
Brigades not reporting
4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, although unit reports were received from the 82, 12, (4th); 379 (11); 211, 210, 263, (12); 898, 882 (17);

1 BDE Date and time submitted: 04.20.09 20:14:10 PST
Acting OIC MSGSGT John Kiwi Kane E-mail: oic@1stbde-sfmc.org
Nickname: The Fighting First
Motto: First to the Fight
DOIC Lieutenant General Greg Franklin e-mail: doic@1stbde-sfmc.org

2 BDE Date and time submitted: 04.20.09 19:31:13 PST
GEN Wade Olson E-mail: captwho@wildblue.net
Nickname: Wild Dueces
Motto: We may be second but we're better than you!
DOIC BGN Neil Yawn e-mail: the654msg@aol.com

3 BDE Jeff Schnoor, Brigadier e-mail: brigadecommander3bde@hotmail.com
DOIC John Johnston, Colonel e-mail: tailsjedi@aol.com
Nickname: Dogs of War
Motto: Cry Havoc

5 BDE 04.08.09 11:51:44
BGN Norman E. DeRoux email: normderoux08@comcast.net
Nickname: Birds of Prey
Motto: Swift, Sure, Secure
DOIC: BDR Russell J. Garrison Email: zero355@hotmail.com

6 BDE Date and time submitted: 04.21.09 14:51:04 PST
Tom Webster E-mail: trekfan30@yahoo.com
Nickname: Ice Warriors
Motto: In space all warriors are cold warriors

7 BDE Date and time submitted: 04.21.09 15:21:02 PST
Joseph C Dorffner Jr E-mail: oic@7thbdesfmc.com
Nickname: "The Lucky Sevens"
Motto: We'd rather be good than lucky, fortunately we're both
DOIC : Mike Stein, Brigadier General e-mail: JusticeOC@aol.com

10 BDE Date and time

submitted: 04.11.09 20:45:49 PST
BGen N. Langlois E-mail: normajosephine@shaw.ca
Nickname: The Smiling Cats
Motto: In The Service of Peaceful Coexistence
DOIC LGen Paul Reid e-mail: saakari@shaw.ca

11th BDE Date and time submitted: 04.23.09 11:27:16 PST
Bruce O'Brien E-mail: jarheadinspace@yahoo.com
Nickname: The ANZACS
Motto: Advance
DOIC BDR Gary Amor e-mail: picard@senet.com.au

13th BDE
Date and time submitted: 04.22.09 07:08:22 PST
Scott C Schaller E-mail: sschaller@bresnan.net
Nickname: Blackcats
Motto: Do the Prowl
DOIC: Joe Sare BRD DOIC e-mail: JSare@usssinclair.org

15th BDE
Date and time submitted: 04.21.09 17:55:26 PST
COL Thomas C. Guertin, E-mail: 007@stationianfleming.org
Nickname: The Nameless Ones
Motto: Risk is our business
DOIC: MGN Paul Fest, SFMC e-mail: ussares@yahoo.com

20th BDE
Date and time submitted: 04.01.09 04:35:37 PST
Upton, Geoff, E-mail: ceogeoff@ntlworld.com
Nickname: lonewolves
Motto: May the howl of lonewolf echo thru the valley!
DOIC jackson, sian, LCPL e-mail: voyagerbooks@hotmail.com

Units Reporting

102nd MSG , Special Ops, USS Alaric, Gray Hawks
111th MSG Combined Forces
USS Commonwealth
113th MSG, Special Ops, USS Columbus, Harpers Harriers, Sempr Liberum (Always Free)
114th MSG, Aerospace, USS Bonaventure, The Blacksheep
125th MSG, Support, USS Powhatan, Silver Eagles 2nd to None
128th MSG, Aerospace, USS Providence, Team XRay, Choas is born from order, cowardice is born from bravery, weakness is born from strength. - Sun Tzu
150th MSG, USS Ronald E.

McNair
161st MSG, Medical, USS Star Runner, 162nd MSG, Support, USS Reprisal, The Black Watch
166th MSG Special Ops, USS Liberator, The Black Knights, Anywhere, Anytime, Consider it done
163rd MSG Special Ops, Space Station Nikola Tesla, The Rattlesnakes, And that's the bottom line
197th MSG, Aerospace, USS Hornet, Hotshot Hornets, Nothing Stings like an Angry Hornet
198th MSG Maritime, USS Odin, Midgard Serpents
78th MD, Khai Tam, Blue Blazers, show us where it hurts
609th SO, Gasperilla, Black Bettys, dont give up the ship
631st CF, Tiberius, Fighting Ospreys, Wings of Steel
602 nd, SO, Andromedia, Ree d'sRader's, First ones in Last ones out.
674th, AE, Relentless, Dragon Fury, Theres no fury like that of a Dragon scorned.
654 MSG, Spec Ops, USS Hephaestus, Steel Thunderbolts, Give'em the cold steel
677 MSG, Combat Engineers, USS Spirit Walker, Spirit Bilder, Building the dreams of the future.
696th, MSG, Spec Ops, USS Dark Phoenix, Night Stalkers, Holding the Line
No one will pass Not On Our Watch
645th, AE, USS Robins, Thunderwolves, A Storm Is Coming
303rd Airwolves SS Freedom III
308th Crimson Raiders
USS Gunslinger
USS Gunslinger, Maritime Ops, To the Plank
314th Creeping Death USS Firebird Special Operations
MOTTO: Ad manus dei
318th Guardians of Honor
USS Lonestar Aerospace Squadron
MOTTO: Stealth Wins the Day
321st Pythons
USS Aurora Vulcanus Special Operations
MOTTO: The last hope of the lost
325th River Rats
USS Trinity River Combined Arms
MOTTO: Semper Mollis (Always Prepared)
328th Liberty
USS Tejas Support
MOTTO: First to Serve
333rd Regulators
USS Regulator Mecha
MOTTO: Where Angels fear to tread is where we call Home
342nd Highland Rifles
USS Ark Angel Combined Arms
MOTTO: Bring me my broadsword and clear

understanding.
849th MSG, AE, Saint George, Snow Ninjas
787th MSG Aerospace
USS Matrix White Knights Motto: "Ready To Launch"
86 SO Justice
The Inquisitors Failure Is Not An Option.
771 AE Accord
Smilin Piranhas 740
Combined Inferno
The Black Diamonds qaStaH nuq? 742
AM Asimov
The Silent Service
Inflictum everbero, inflictum sepius (Hit 'em hard, hit 'em often)
424th MSG AE/IN
USS Majestic The Smiling Cats
In The Service of Peaceful Coexistence
375th MEU, IN; the Warriors, Kia Kaha
377th MSG; IN; USS Southern Cross; The Thunder From Downunder, "we're here to eat your lunch"
379th MSG, IN, USS Genesis, the Battling Bulldogs, Come get some
920th MSG, SO, USS Kasimar, Chamberlain's Commandos, Victory Through Unity
987th MEU, SO, N/A, The Untouchables, Dolor Temporarus, Gloria Aeterna, Cicatres Yiremibus Placent
95th MSG, SO, USS Ares, Sentinals, No Motto On File
907th MSG, SU, SS Ian Fleming, Living Daylights, Orbis Non Sufficit
911th MSG, CF/AE, USS Galaxy, Fighting Protectors, Let's Roll
980th MSG, SO, USS Nelson, Stormriders, Death before Dishonor
901st MSG, CF, USS Hood, Northern Lights, Don't Run you'll only die tired
503rd MSG, USS Thermopylae; Infantry; The Spartans; "Retreat is not an option"
521st MSG, USS Destiny; Spec Ops; Blackjacks; "Only our results are seen"
533rd MEU, 5BDE HQ; Spec Ops; Hawk Owls; "Surprize"
555th MSG, USS Antares; Combined Forces; The Renegades; "Don't Mess with the Best!"
565th MSG, USS Wildhorse; Spec Ops; Raiders; "When it absolutely, positively needs to be destroyed overnight"
577th MSG, USS Aurora; Support; Aurora Firebirds; "Running on the wind towards destiny"
381st MEU Armor lonewolves
Motto: May the howl of lonewolf echo thru the valley!

Units NOT Reporting

108th, 125th, 127th, 130th,

135th, 150th, 159th, 165th, 182nd, 196th, 643rd, 307, 345, 347, 801st MSG- no OIC, 809th MSG, 822nd MSG, 832nd MSG, 728, 724, 714, 725, 750, 755, 791

Brigade strength (active/ reserve)

1st BDE 29/52
2nd BDE 45/32
5th BDE 28/35
6th BDE 06/11
7th BDE 35/42
10th BDE 4/ 3
11th BDE 13/12
14th BDE 1
13th BDE 01/02
15th BDE 10/17

Changes to Roster

Recruits
111th USS Commonwealth
Michael Timko
Jeanne Timko
Michelle Timko
Terri Leavitt
James Cecil

128th MSG
Joseph Gallagher

162nd MSG
Karen Berenberg
Sandford Berenberg
Beth Fields
Brandy Greer
Brian Griffin
Charles Anderson
Christine Anderson
Scott Anderson, Jr.
Scott Anderson, Sr.
James Nicholson
Charlie Hess
Del Hilling, Jr.
Brett Hughes
John Kane
Haley Larkin
Kylie Larkin
Larry Larkin, Sr.
Ashley Smith
Hannah Spears
Sherry Spears

197th Mary A Kane,
313th
Lewis Morris
Dorian O'Connor,
Izabo Turner,

325: Winegar, Kris,
503:
Jevin Purkey,
Lisa Purkey,
Frank Stevens,
Susan Tracy

Transfer from 503 MSG to 533 MEU:
Mitch Dunn
Martin McGrath
Shannon Sherrodd

577 Brian Pickett

849th Dana Hawkins

Discharges

113th MSG
John Upp
Adelyn Upp
Transferred to the USS Abraham Lincoln - Steve Worth
Val Finnell
Mike Sovocool
Julie Amor
Kieran Bock
Ben Salmon
Tim Salmon
Lachlan Shepherd
Indianna Shepherd
Elizabeth Long
John Turja

Strike Groups Activated

111th MSG formed on the *USS Commonwealth*
114th MSG formed on the *USS Bonaventure*
128th MSG formed on the *USS Providence*
150th MSG formed on the *USS Ronald E. McNair*
533rd MEU: assigned to 5BDE HQ; R5 Flagship, *USS Thermopylae* providing support for promotions.
565 MSG Transferred from *USS Rubicon* to *USS Wildhorse*: David Kania appointed as OIC and Shawn McVay as DOIC.

Strike Groups Deactivated

108th Crazy 8's (disbanded according to CO)
111th MSG (USS Nightstalker) disbanded, majority of members moved to the 198th
127th Midguards Guardians
130th MEU Bad Habits (disbanded)
135th Shadow Centurions (chapter left fleet)
150th MSG (*USS Tang*)
Chapter moved to R15
159th Dragonlords (member is on chapter in R10)
182nd Dragon Ryders (chapter transferred to R4)
196th The Redwing warriors (merged with 198th)

Changes in Leadership

111th Colonel Michael Timko is the acting OIC until a permanent OIC can be added.
162nd Greg Franklin changed status to Active
197th Addition: VAdm Mary A Kane, R, as DOIC
Lt Gen Wade Larkin now 6th BN OIC
BGR Dennis Relyea now 3rd BN OIC
313 Kaiden Michelle Lynn
Khaos is the OIC
318: 2nd Lieutenant Joseph P Kelley Jr. OIC, Major 3 of

0239-01-810



0240-01-810

3 DOIC
342: WO1 Matt from OIC, LT Wyatt to OIC
849th 1LT Dana Hawkins is hereby assigned as OIC 7th BDE FCAPT Wayne Augustson as Battalion OIC for the 5th Battalion
Remove: 3rd Battalion OIC - Did not renew
Remove: 4th Battalion OIC - Did not renew
Remove: 6th Battalion OIC - Does not want position
BRD Joseph A. Sare to CMDR/LTCOL Scott C Schaller change of Command.
901st MSG New OIC: BGN Bob Chin has assumed command from SGM Scott Grant
533 MEU
Mitch Dunn - OIC
Martin McGrath - DOIC
Shannon Sherrodd - NCOIC
555 MSG
David Hughes - from DOIC
David Hughes - from NCOIC
Jared Larson - new DOIC
Jared Larson - new NCOIC

Promotions

Richard Graham - Brigadier.
Raye Crews - Lt. Gen
Arlene Garrison - COL
Tom King - COL
Patrick McAndrew - MGN
Lea Morgan - LGN
Martin McGrath - MCPT
Shannon Sherrodd - LCPL; SGT

Awards Issued

Cross of Valor: Anne Zecca, Joseph J. Fuller

Sword of Valor: John Caverly, Barry Jackson

Shield of Valor: Linda Olson, Gerald Purkey,

Star of Valor: Dave Lowe, Jerome "Hawk" Stoddard

Legion of Valor 2008: 555 MSG (USS Antares)

Honor Guard Ribbon: John Kane, Dennis Rayburn, Fred Crews, Richard Graham, Raye Crews, Dave Lowe, Anne Zecca, Roy Green, Barbara Paul, Brandy Cannon, John Caverly, Joseph Fuller, Gerald Purkey, Randall Purkey, Norman DeRoux, Arlene Garrison, Russell Garrison

Great Barrier Expedition: John Kane, Dennis Rayburn, Jill Rayburn, Fred Crews, Richard Graham, Raye Crews, Linda Olson, Dave Lowe, Anne Zecca, Roy Green, Rebecca Self, Nancy OShields, Shirley Burton, Barbara Paul, Brandy Cannon, John Caverly, Mitch Dunn, Joseph Fuller, Camille Ann Hedrick, Kenneth Hill, Martin McGrath, Gerald Purkey, Randall Purkey, Shannon Sherrodd, Jerome "Hawk" Stoddard, Norman DeRoux, Nadine Romero

Embassy Duty Award: John Kane, Dennis Rayburn, Jill Rayburn, Linda Olson, Dave Lowe, Anne Zecca, Roy Green, Rebecca Self, Nancy OShields, Shirley Burton, Barbara Paul, Brandy Cannon, John Caverly, Mitch Dunn, Joseph Fuller, Camille Ann Hedrick, Kenneth Hill, Martin McGrath, Gerald Purkey, Randall Purkey, Shannon Sherrodd, Jerome "Hawk" Stoddard, Nadine Romero, Steve Eizenberg, Arlene Garrison, Patrick Garrison, Russell Garrison, David Hughes, Deborah King, Tom King, Jared Larson, Robin Larson, Michael Marquart, Patrick McAndrew, Lea Morgan, Robert Rand

BDE Muster: Fred Crews, Richard Graham, Raye Crews, Linda Olson, Dave Lowe, Anne Zecca, Roy Green, Rebecca Self, Nancy OShields, Shirley Burton, Barbara Paul, David Kania, Shawn McVay, Michael Mocer, Brandy Cannon, John Caverly, Mitch Dunn, Joseph Fuller, Camille Ann, Hedrick Kenneth, Hill Martin McGrath, Gerald Purkey, Randall Purkey, Shannon Sherrodd, Jerome "Hawk" Stoddard, Norman DeRoux, Stephen Idell, Nadine Romero, Steve Eizenberg, Arlene Garrison, Patrick Garrison, Russell Garrison, David Hughes, Deborah King, Tom King, Jared Larson, Robin Larson, Michael Marquart, Patrick McAndrew, Lea Morgan, Robert Rand

Brigade Service Ribbon: Raye Crews, Neil Yawn, Dave Lowe, Russell J. Garrison, Joseph J. Fuller, Patrick McAndrew, Jerome "Hawk" Stoddard,

Leader's Commendation: Dave Lowe, David Kania, Tom King, Dennis Jones, Mitch Dunn, Martin McGrath

Brigade Achievement: Dave Lowe, Mitch Dunn, David Kania, Lea Morgan, Tom King, Jari James

Community Service: Anne Zecca, Oliver Savander, Barry Jackson, Jeanette Self, Rebecca Self, Cathrine Ramsey, Arlene Garrison, Russell Garrison, David Hughes, Deborah King, Tom King, Jared Larson, Robin Larson, Patrick McAndrew, Lea Morgan, Rick Ervans, John Caverly, Joseph Fuller, Gerald Purkey, Jari James

Meritorious Unit Citation:
503 MSG, USS *Thermopylae*
521 MSG, USS *Destiny* [by COFORCECOM]
555 MSG, USS *Antares*

Streamers:
5th BDE
Participation ACTIVITY-2008 [presented February 2009]
REPORTING-2008 [presented February 2009]
Participation ACTIVITY-2009 [approved by COFORCECOM, for February 2009]
30 of 58 = 52% attendance at the 5BDE Muster, February 13-15, 2009

503 MSG Streamers:
MUC-2008 (Meritorious Unit Citation Streamer)
Participation ACTIVITY-2008 [presented February 2009]
RECRUITING-2008 [presented February 2009]
REPORTING-2008 [presented February 2009]
Participation ACTIVITY-2009 [approved by COFORCECOM, for February 2009]
11 of 26 = 42% attendance at the 5BDE Muster, February 13-15, 2009
SERVICE-2008 Note: the 503 MSG performed far beyond the required 250 hours for this award.

521 MSG [by COFORCECOM] Streamers:
MUC-2008 (Meritorious Unit Citation Streamer)
Participation ACTIVITY-2008 [presented February 2009]
REPORTING-2008 [presented February 2009]
Participation ACTIVITY-2009 [approved by COFORCECOM, for February 2009]
3 of 8 = 39% attendance at the 5BDE Muster, February 13-15, 2009

555 MSG Streamers:
MUC-2008 (Meritorious Unit Citation Streamer)
Participation ACTIVITY-2008 [presented February 2009]
RECRUITING-2008 [presented February 2009]
REPORTING-2008 [presented February 2009]
Participation ACTIVITY-2009 [approved by COFORCECOM, for February 2009]
13 of 16 = 81% attendance at the 5BDE Muster, February 13-15, 2009
SERVICE-2008 Note: the 555 MSG performed far beyond the required 250 hours for this award.

565 MSG
Participation ACTIVITY-2008 [presented February 2009]
REPORTING-2008 [presented February 2009]
Participation ACTIVITY-2009 [approved by COFORCECOM, for February 2009]
3 of 6 = 50% attendance at the 5BDE Muster, February 13-15, 2009

577 MSG
RECRUITING-2008 [presented February 2009]
REPORTING-2008 [presented February 2009]

MGN Linda Olson
CO Forces Command, SFMC
Reporting Officer
April 24, 2009
Dragonladye@wildblue.net

CO INFOCOM, SFMC

Report from the CO INFOCOM

Begin transmission...

Greetings, Marines,

Once again, deep from the confines of the SFMC Data Warfare Center, it's time for the INFOCOM report. Well, for the most part, things have been quiet in INFOCOM. Nothing has been really pressing last month or this month. I have had to place a few projects on the back burner or reevaluate them, as there just has not been the interest in them that I had hoped to see. One such project was the SFMC Web Awards. After advertising them for about five months, I only received two nominations, not nearly enough to hold the contest. So I'll try again next year.

On a positive note, I have joined Twitter, so you can follow me: @sfmc_infocom.

As always, though, INFOCOM has things going on behind the scenes, some of which we hope to have ready just in time for the

International Conference.

SFMC Manuals and Websites

There will be a portion of new and revised manuals that will be released this year at IC. However, due to circumstances beyond my control, not all the manuals will be released this year at IC. Those manuals that are not released at IC hopefully will be available by the end of the year. The end result of this is that I will not have any CDs available for distribution at IC.

The SFMC websites continue to work well and are doing what they were designed to do. Even though I stated in my previous report that I would not start working on the new SFMC site until after IC, I have begun preliminary work on the site. I am still planning to go live either at the end of this year or the beginning of 2010. In the meantime, I will continue to update and maintain the current sites until switched over to the new site. If anyone finds a typographical or any other

error, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attention on Deck!: Extra

As I write this Attention on Deck!:Extra is preparing to go to press with its sixth issue. Remember, the AoD!:E is a supplement to the AoD! and offers a wide range of news and articles that pertain to the SFMC. The AoD!:E relies on you for stories, so if you have anything you would like to write about, please send it to aode@sfi-sfmc.org.

Staffing

There have been no staffing changes or additions in the last couple of months.

Future Projects

As I mentioned above, one of the future projects is working on upgrading the SFMC site to the newest version of Joomla!. Another project that I hope to start sometime is a ribbon rack builder. But in order to work on that project, I need a programmer who'll be willing to work pro bono to write the

program. So that is on the back burner right now.

Look for announcements regarding those projects either here in the "Attention on Deck!" or on the Corps-I e-mail list.

Need help with your group's website?

If there is any Unit, Battalion, or Brigade that needs help in setting up a website or fixing one, please feel free to contact me and I'll be more than happy to see what I can do to help. Be sure to have an idea as to some of the site basics (what information is to be on the site, what you want the site to do for you, etc...), as it will help me help you.

End Transmission...

Brigadier General Sean Niemeyer
Commanding Officer, INFOCOM
infocom@sfi-sfmc.org
USS Asimov NCC-1647-A
Region 7, Pennsylvania (USA)

0740-47-16





NAME: STEPHEN STOTT
RANK: CAPTAIN
POSITION: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SHIP: USS RONALD E. MCNAIR NCC-61809
REGION: 1, SOUTH CAROLINA (USA)

0141-09-618



Recruiting Mission Report - USS Ronald E. McNair

The stardate is 200905.07 and Fleet Captain T'Leanna, captain of the *USS Ronald E. McNair*, a nebula class starship, has demanded full impulse power to the ship's engines as they hurdle themselves straight at the sun in an attempt to slingshot back into the past.

Sounds like the beginning of a good movie. It is actually the fantasy plot behind STARFLEET of Columbia's recruiting mission in celebration of the new *Star Trek* movie. The crew of the *USS Ronald E. McNair* conducted a recruiting drive from 7-9 May, 2009 at the Wynnsong movie theater in Columbia, South Carolina. The crew passed out over 300 flyers and about 70 of the STARFLEET International newsletters to individuals in hopes of recruiting possible new members.

Crew members arrived each day dressed in uniform. Among the crew members present were Captain Stephen Stott, First Officer of the McNair, and Walter Brooker, better known as Gunnery Sergeant Kromm, a Klingon crewmember, dressed up in their Vulcan and Klingon makeup, respectively. STARFLEET officers Pam Michaud,

Jan Schweikert, Keith and Beverly Munib, Mike and Cat Henry, Larry Kirby, Debra Hill, and Andrew Thorn all participated in the recruiting drive. Janice, Keith, and Beverly also made posters and banners to help with the event.

All crew members did an outstanding job of representing STARFLEET International. Fans of the movie were excited to see personnel dressed in *Star Trek* uniforms, and many ran over to have their picture taken with members of the crew. Mr. George Miles, the general manager for the movie theater, was a tremendous host. The recruiting drive concluded on Saturday with a group viewing of the new movie.

The *McNair* is currently working follow up for potential new members and looking forward to our next get together. From the looks of the reaction of fans going to the movie, this may prove to be a positive recruiting mission for all ships across STARFLEET International. With the recruiting mission complete, the *McNair* surges its engines forward as the crew prepares to return to the 24th century and on to another exciting mission.



CAPTAIN STEPHEN STOTT OF VULCAN POSES WITH A LOCAL *STAR TREK* FAN AT THE WYNNSONG MOVIE THEATER IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY STEPHEN STOTT.

USS HAISE NCC-74664



MEMBERS OF THE *USS HAISE* (JACKSON, MS) SPENT 19 HOURS AT THE MALCO GRANDVIEW CINEMA ON MAY 8 AND 9. PICTURED ARE (KNEELING, LEFT-TO-RIGHT): TIM STUBBS, EVAN THEILMAN, AND BILL WILLIAMS; (STANDING LEFT-TO-RIGHT): BRIAN JENKINS AND BLAKE STRACK (MALCO EMPLOYEES AND PROFFESSED *STAR TREK* FANS), MIKE KNEZEVICH, CLAY BARTUNEK, MARK NICHOLS, LUCY FERRON, AND BETHANY THEILMAN. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY LUCY FERRON.



THE MALCO GRANDVIEW CINEMA GRACIOUSLY ALLOWED THE *USS HAISE* (JACKSON, MS) TO TAKE UP ONE WHOLE SIDE OF THEIR LARGE THEATER LOBBY WITH TABLES AND DISPLAYS FOR TWO DAYS DURING THE OPENING WEEKEND OF *STAR TREK*. PICTURED ARE SCOTT CRAWFORD IN HIS TREKKED-OUT WHEELCHAIR, MARK NICHOLS, JOHN VELVERTON, BETHANY THEILMAN, LUCY FERRON, EVAN THEILMAN, AND BARBARA ALLEN. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY LUCY FERRON.

USS DARWIN NCC-1166



THE CREW OF THE *USS DARWIN* OUT OF REGION 15 BEHIND THEIR TABLE AT A MOVIE THEATER IN BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: THE THEATER MANAGER CAROL, ALEX ROCK, XO COREY GRANT, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER NICOLE BACCIOCCI, SCIENCE OFFICER RUTH FORRAND, AND CO DAVE FORRAND. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DAVE FORRAND.



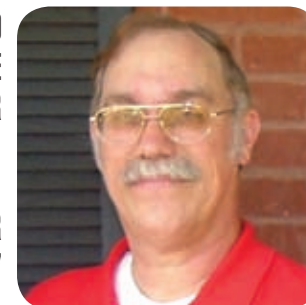
CHAPLAIN CORPS, STARFLEET



NAME: GERALD PURKEY
RANK: LIEUTENANT
POSITION: CHIEF CHAPLAIN, WESTERN SECTOR
SHIP: USS THERMOPYLAE NCC-74703
REGION: 5, WASHINGTON (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: R5 OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2008;
COMMUNITY SERVICE CITATION



NAME: RUSSELL RUHLAND
RANK: COMMODORE
POSITION: CHIEF CHAPLAIN, EASTERN SECTOR
SHIP: USS DAVINCI NCC-74671
REGION: 2, GEORGIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: CHAPTER OFFICER OF THE YEAR
2003; CHAPTER LEGION OF MERIT 2007



The Chaplain's Chat

Chaplain: An individual (not necessarily ordained or consecrated for religious ministry), specially trained and appointed to offer support, prayer, and/or spiritual guidance to an organization, institution, or group not specifically designated as a mission or church.

It is with great honor and service that the newly reorganized STARFLEET Chaplain's Services introduces itself with this inaugural article. Our purpose is to serve the members of STARFLEET in the fashion described above in order that those in need may have an outlet to reach out to in areas of moral or spiritual concern. Chaplain's Services will not, nor will we ever become involved in any type of political agenda or "mud-slinging" as this would defeat our goals. We know that there have been some difficulties in this area in times past; however, it is far past time that we launch into the future a better understanding and knowledge that our Chaplains are out there to serve the membership in true, honest fellowship, regardless and totally impartial to background, race, gender, or denominational beliefs.

Now, what we would like to request from the membership of STARFLEET is for those individuals who are designated as Chaplains to please identify themselves to our department so that we may get an idea of who and where you are and establish ourselves with one another for information and support. There are two of us serving as Co-Chiefs of Chaplains within STARFLEET on opposite sides of the US.

Lieutenant Gerald Purkey resides on the West Coast and can be contacted at: gpurkey012@comcast.net

Commodore Russell D. Ruhland resides on the East Coast and can be contacted at: trekchristian@gmail.com

We do ask, however, that anyone desiring to contact us please correspond using both email addresses so that no one is left in the cold...since we all know that it can be very cold in space!

We would also like to give you, the members of STARFLEET, an opportunity to submit any questions to us regarding Chaplain's Services in general or other like questions. You never know who may be going through similar circumstances, and we will address these questions in future CQ articles in an effort to provide an open forum for the SFI membership. Submit your questions to our email; however, if you prefer to contact us personally, then do so as well using the above e-mail addresses and we can speak to you directly by phone if necessary. Questions will be published, but names shall always remain confidential in order to protect and respect the individual asking the question.

Question: What is required for me to become a Chaplain for my local Chapter?

Answer: First of all, discuss your interest with your Chapter Commanding Officer in order to determine the need for this position. Some Chapters utilize the Ship's Counselor position for this purpose, and STARFLEET has a completely separate Resource Division for Counselors, but there is nothing wrong with having both if your CO approves it. Second, although a Chaplain is not required to hold any type of "real-world" ordination or credentials involving a denominational belief, you should have at least some type of background or training in the area of moral/spiritual values. Remember, you may be required to provide guidance to individuals from all types of faiths/beliefs, so you MUST be totally impartial and nonbiased to the members of your crew and absolutely *never* attempt to recruit for your own personal/particular beliefs. Finally, be involved with your Chapter's activities and events. We know you can't be everywhere at one time, but the more you are able to participate and interact with the members of your crew, the more they will feel at ease if the need arises for your assistance as Chaplain.

We look forward to serving STARFLEET in a fashion that puts us "full speed ahead and straight on 'til morning."

Until next time, Warp 10!

Gerry & Russell

USS CORSAIR NCC-26556



THE USS CORSAIR HAD QUITE THE MEMBER TURNOUT AND AN AMAZING DISPLAY AT THE BATON ROUGE RAVE MOVIE THEATER IN LOUISIANA.
PHOTO BY EDWARD C. TUNIS III.



FLEET CAPTAIN TRISHA TUNIS (RIGHT, IN GOLD TOS SKANT) TALKS TO WAFB ANCHOR, ANDRE MOREAU, BEFORE GOING FOR A LIVE BROADCAST (WAFB 6PM BROADCAST VIDEO IS ON THE SFI.ORG WEBSITE).
PHOTO BY EDWARD C. TUNIS III.



USS CORSAIR MEMBERS UNLOAD THE MAIN BODY OF THEIR SHUTTLEPOD. LEFT TO RIGHT: TRISHA TUNIS, CHARLENE DEROCHE, RANDOLPH ALLEN, AND EDWARD C. TUNIS III.
PHOTO BY LEANNE ALLEN.





NAME: MAXIM KHAYTSUS
RANK: FLEET CAPTAIN
POSITION: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
SHIP: USS OMEGA GLORY NCC-26917
REGION: 17, COLORADO (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: SHIP'S WEBMASTER AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

1743-17-269

Cave Rescue – Part 2

EDITORIAL NOTE: In part 1 of this article, two cave explorers in Glenwood Caverns in Glenwood Springs, Colorado were 12 hours overdue and missing. A rescue group of 70 people—including five members from the USS Omega Glory—was assembled. An initial search team crawled through miles of underground passages, some of them incredibly narrow, until the two cavers were found. Mike, one of the two imperiled cavers, fell twenty feet in an area known as the Forbidden Zone and broke his leg and wrist. He was drifting in and out of consciousness. His caving partner Erik tried to get help and, not being familiar with the cave, got lost. He was not hurt, but he was reported to be hypothermic.

Two evacuation teams were assembled. Jennifer Scott and Max Khaytsus of the Omega Glory were part of the Evac 2 team. Carrying rescue and medical equipment through a half mile of treacherous passages, the two teams managed to get Erik to safety. But the injured Mike was proving to be more of a challenge. As Evac 1 tried to pass Mike on a stretcher up to Evac 2 in a higher cavern through a small passage, the teams quickly realized he would never fit...

Evac 1 took hold of Mike. The haul line was released. I stretched to ease the aches as Evac 1 unpacked Mike. He was bundled up pretty diligently. He was bound in an OSS, on a backboard and inside a sked. Great approach for a spinal

pulled him out of the sked, unstrapped the backboard, and tied the webbing into the OSS directly. They were ready.

I assumed my position. The loose rock was a pain in the ass. My feet dug into the breakdown below me, sliding slivers of rock threatening to give way as I leveraged my weight against the webbing looped behind my back. Three other cavers helped haul. Each time they pulled, I felt rocks under my feet give. Mike didn't feel much lighter with the sked and backboard off.

I spotted Rick Speaect making his way down the slope. Did he come in by Y2Krawl? I got the impression that Y2Krawl was not a bidirectional passage. For that matter, neither was Easy Out. Someone announced that Easy Out was available again. I guess that was good news, not that I was looking forward to making that trip.

We finally managed to haul Mike up. While the rescuers around me released the webbing and pulled up the sked and the backboard, I held Mike up so he wouldn't slide off his rock. He was sweaty and smelly and I was pretty happy when he was taken off my hands. I sat back as I watched him get packaged. I was thinking that, by now, I was sweaty and smelly, too.

Jennifer took Mike's blood pressure and pulse rate. His heart was racing. His breaths were shallow and fast. His blood pressure was pretty low. "Roll him! Roll him!" Several people tilted Mike on his side and I heard him vomit.

"Damn." I wasn't sure who said that.

"Next time lift the face shield," someone else said.

In cave rescue, we have special helmets that come with a riot helmet style face shield. They're designed to prevent the patient's nose from being scraped off along a low ceiling. Needless to say, they prevent patients from being able to vomit freely, too.

Jennifer checked Mike again. His condition was deteriorating. He had to be moved. She decided to go with the sked without the bulky backboard. That should be fine. He did not have a spinal injury. As Evac 2 started repackaging Mike, Evac 1 started coming up the hole. They looked beat. We were, without a doubt, taking over from them.



LOOKING DOWN FROM THE REGISTER ROOM. EVAC 2 RIGS THE TRANSITION PASSAGE TO RECEIVE PATIENT MIKE. PHOTO BY JENNIFER SCOTT.

injury. I wasn't sure how much it did for a broken leg and wrist. Unpacking Mike took a while. The passage he was in really wasn't designed for the work people were doing in it now. They



PATIENT MIKE, WRAPPED IN THE OSS, IS BEING REPACKAGED IN THE SKED IN THE REGISTER ROOM. EVAC 2 MEDIC JENNIFER SCOTT (LEFT) SUPERVISES AS RICK SPEAECT (TOP) ASSISTS IN THE PACKAGING. PHOTO BY MAX KHAYTSUS.

Rick told us that the collapse at Easy Out had been taken care of. Evac 3 was staging in the passage on our side of Easy Out. They intended to do a lap carry to get Mike out. We needed to get him up there to make it happen. A few members of Evac 1 volunteered to come along. The remainder were going to rest, then pack up all the gear left behind, including personal caving packs, and take everything out after us. I figured that I'd stay and help. That lasted about five minutes. Evac 2 got Mike up the slope of the Register Room.

"Max! Get up here!"

That was Jennifer. As Mike's medic, her job was to be within arm's reach of him at all times. His vitals were constantly being checked, and she had the soul decision if we were to move him or not. She wanted me to stage people to help get Mike from the flat passage at the top of the Register Room out into the breakdown area on the other side where Rick was setting up a crew to receive the sked.

Easier said than done. The passage was already packed with cavers, and the sked stuck out of it like a humongous cigar. Jennifer was along one side of it. I contemplated how I would get around the obstruction, then found a hole and squirmed through to the other side. We did not have enough people to do the job. The continuous chain Rick was dreaming of was fundamentally broken. I told people to move towards me to backfill the gap. Rick got Evac 3 to fill the gap on the other side. We managed to slide Mike through to where the passage made



a sharp left turn. The only way to get through this was to run him to the right, putting his head and torso in a crevice, then turn and slide him though. The task was made even more complicated by Jennifer's need to be next to Mike. I think this section took me a painful two minutes to get through on the way in. Coming out with Mike was no picnic.

Rick and Evac 3 picked up Mike on the other side. They needed to turn him. Jennifer wanted to check his vitals. Evac 3 needed to restage for the lap carry. I was just happy to lie on a cold rock and hope that no one else wanted to crawl through for the time being.

"Max! We need eight more people for the lap carry!"

That was Rick. I think he may have taken over Evac 3. Why me? I didn't really need to think much about that. I was probably more experienced than two-thirds of the people in my group and Rick knew my skills. We're both emergency responders. We practice this stuff together a lot. We caved together a lot, too. It made sense why he wanted me up there. I was a known factor. I just didn't want to go that way. I was hot, sweaty, incredibly thirsty, and my water bottle was in the Register Room, a narrow passage and a mob of people back.

I rolled over and sat up. Damn. "Count off seven and follow me," I said to the woman behind me. I squeezed down the passage and into that one room where you could stand up without fearing that you would fall off a rock. Mike was on the flat slab. Jennifer was checking him. Rick and a couple of other cavers stood next to them.

"Which way?" I asked.

Rick pointed down the hole to Easy Out. "We're short to do a lap carry."

I headed into the hole. I figured that members of Evac 3 would shift up, but not a single one of them moved. I had to go over them in a two foot diameter tube that weaved like an out of control hose. It's a good thing that cavers are friendly. You end up touching things underground that will get you arrested up on the surface. I must have climbed over twenty people. They managed to assemble a huge group. Each one took a segment of the passage and the idea was to simply pass Mike's sked up a person at a time. Three people would be in contact with the sked at any given time.

At the end of the human chain, I continued up the passage to allow the cavers behind me to fill the passage without having to crawl over more people than they needed to. Rick's estimate was perfect. Just enough people to fill the remaining length of the tube. I was next to the Easy Out communications station, and more cavers stood there, ready to receive Mike. I used the opportunity to lean on a rock and relax. The rock did not move and, for a change, that was good.

"Are they coming?" someone asked.



EXITING THE REGISTER ROOM THROUGH A CRAMPED PASSAGE, CAVERS STRUGGLE TO MANEUVER PATIENT MIKE'S SKED. PHOTO BY JENNIFER SCOTT.

"Max, I need you back down here." That was Jennifer. I was feeling like a yo-yo. She better have my water bottle with her.

I climbed over a bunch of cavers to a narrowing in the passage. Erosion had cut the passage narrow at the bottom and left knobs in the walls. I remembered that nasty spot.

"We need muscle to get Mike through here."

Great. Where's Rick?

Jennifer crawled over me, putting her knee on my chest. I could have done without that. On the other side of the passage was a big SAR guy.

"Ready?" he asked.

No. I got my legs down in the eroded channel, positioning my hips so that they were level with the knob in the wall. I knew I wasn't strong enough to hold Mike up in here. That was impossible. I just needed to get him over the obstructions.

"Okay," I said. "Slide him onto me."

The SAR guy put his shoulder into the base of the sked, and it slid up my legs and up to my hips. This was not a lap carry. This was body surfing. Smooth plastic goes easily over clothes and cavers. It gets stuck on rough rock surfaces. The tip of the sked bumped the knob. I forced my knees up and tilted the sked over the protrusion. There was another push and the sked was on top of me, balanced on my chest. I felt air seep out and my chest deflate. Not good. I could hear cavers struggling to pull the sked off me. Someone was still trying to push it over me from below. I needed air. Gathering all my strength, I pulled my legs up and forced the bottom of the sked up with my

"I think so," someone else answered.

I knew this was going to take a while. I waited. The sweat was making me cold. Cold is bad in a fifty-degree cave. You get wet, you get cold, you get hypothermia, you die. I wondered why I wasn't shivering yet.

I could not see very far down the passage, but I could hear scuffing sounds of the sked's hard plastic shell on the passage walls. It was getting closer. There was a lot of grunting. I could hear people talking, but could not make out what was being said.

"Max?" someone called up.

"Yeah?"

knees. Whatever had caught gave way and the sked slid further up, coming off me. I extended my arms and gave it one last heave. Inhaling dusty cave air felt great.

"You okay?" someone asked.

I tilted my head back and looked up the passage. The skid was slowly moving up. We were done. Mike was passed off to the next group, and I was just happy to lie where I was. It had been quite a day. I just wanted to find my water bottle.

I ended up staying in the cave longer, helping get packs and people out. We maintained our human chain at Easy Out to ferry all the gear left behind. Eventually, we could head up. Word coming back from the surface was that we had succeeded. Mike and Erik were out. We got them out alive. I located my bags, drank water, then picked up other bags that did not seem to have owners and headed towards the exit. The commercial trail in the cave was a pleasure after the day that I just had. Talon and Donita were still working entrance control. I was checked out of the cave. They did not say anything to me, but I figured, based on the looks they gave me, that I didn't look particularly good just then.

I followed a stream of cavers up the hill to the Glenwood Caverns Visitor Center. Up the stairs, across the patio, and towards the banquet room. Cavers were bundling up rope and repackaging the sked. I paused at the top of the stairs. Mike was standing there, smiling, munching on a large chocolate donut.

He toasted me with the donut. "That was fun."

I was too tired to even attempt a wisecrack. "Glad you're okay. Cut back on the donuts. You've had one too many."

Cave rescue is a hard job. No one wants to get hurt. Sadly, a bad chain of events may end in tragedy, and for this one reason we practice what to do if the call ever comes. Cave rescue is based on mountain rescue principles, but there are

significant distinctions due to the type of an environment rescues may need to take place in. The dynamics are different. The concerns are different. On the whole, cave rescue is the opposite side of the coin from the large-scale disaster scenarios that we face in CERT. In a large-scale disaster, you try to do the greatest good for the greatest number. Sometimes this means you will allow people to die because you can't afford to spend resources on them. In a cave rescue, you do everything you can

to save one person. You go through a lot of pain yourself to get the job done. Practice is important. Understanding the mechanics helps you save lives. We train for this on a regular basis.



PATIENT MIKE IN EASY OUT. IT AIN'T EASY. PHOTO BY JENNIFER SCOTT.

<http://www.USSOmegaGlory.com/>

<http://www.OMEGAresponders.org/>





0145-80-61



NAME: PAM MICHAUD
RANK: FLEET CAPTAIN
POSITION: R1 AWARDS DIRECTOR
OTHER POSITIONS: R1 SVRC CHAPTER OPERATIONS; COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS RONALD E. MCNAIR* NCC-61809
REGION: 1, SOUTH CAROLINA (USA)

AWARDS DIRECTOR, REGION ONE

2008 Region One Annual Awards

The Region One 2008 Annual Awards were presented May 16th at the 2009 Region One Summit held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Region One Deputy Awards Director Admiral Willie Smith presented the awards. The Annual Awards recognize the hard work of chapters and their members.

<http://sites.google.com/site/sfir1awards/>

Chapter of the Year - *USS Heimdal*
 Chapter of Excellence - *USS Jurassic*
 Best Shakedown Cruise - *USS Odin*
 Support Ship of the year - *USS Heimdal*

Enlisted member of the year - PO Kathy Beck, *USS Heimdal*
 Officer of the year - Vickie Armentrout, *USS Arizona*
 Flag Officer of the year - Admiral Willie Smith, *USS Heimdal*
 CO of the Year - Admiral Linda Smith, *USS Heimdal*
 Rookie CO of the Year - Colonel Tony Lopes
 Cadet of the Year - PO 3Carol Hall, *USS Jurassic*
 Edith Keeler - FCapt. Jeanne Wilson, *USS Heimdal*
 Department of the Year - Communications, *USS Heimdal*
 RDC of Excellence - RDC Science, RAdmiral Richard Heim
 R1 staff member of the year - SHoC Admiral Roger Scritchfield
 Sector of the Year - Va/WVa sector

COMMUNICATIONS EXCELLENCE

Newsletter of the Year - "Norse Code", *USS Odin*
 Best Monthly Newsletter - "The Fates", *USS Liberator*
 Best Bi-Monthly Newsletter - None submitted
 Best Quarterly Newsletter - "The Claymore", *USS Reprisal*
 Best Handbook - "USS Reprisal Crew Manual, 3rd edition"
 Best Fanzine - "Living the Charmed Life", *USS Indiana*
 Best Website - *USS Alaric*
 Best Department Website - R1 SHoC

Region One Non-Annual Awards

Awarded anytime throughout the year as well as at the Region One Summit if so requested.

Dearest Blood - posthumously given to a SFI R1 member who died while in service to Starfleet
 Commander Jonathan Miller - *USS Yeager*
 Ruth Smith - *USS Liberator*

Legion of Merit - For a SFI R1 member that has served with distinction for 20+ years
 Karen Berenberg - *USS Reprisal*
 Robbie Lewis - *USS Excalibur*
 Roger Scritchfield - *USS Arizona*

Good Conduct Decoration - presented to SFI R1 members for their years of service to SFI R1
15+ years
 Greg Franklin
 Eric W. Larkin - *USS Reprisal*
 Haley Larkin - *USS Reprisal*
 Melissa Larkin - *USS Reprisal*
 Sanford Berenberg - *USS Reprisal*
 Donna Rogers - *USS Charleston*

10+ Years
 Trevor Hamilton - *USS Reprisal*
 Edward Lovelace - *USS Reprisal*
 Sharon Lovelace - *USS Reprisal*
 Barbara Slater - *USS Charleston*
 Denise Wolff - *USS Charleston*

5+ Years
 Brandy Greer - *USS Reprisal*
 Taylor Hamilton - *USS Reprisal*
 Charlie Hess - *USS Reprisal*
 Brett Lawrence Angeles Hughes - *USS Reprisal*
 Ken Miller - *USS Reprisal*

Final Frontier Award - Support of the Space Program and/or promotes science fact
USS Appomattox
USS Ronald E. McNair
 Darlene Harper - *USS Columbus*
 Nancy Hall - *USS Jurassic*
 Dawn Jenkins - *USS Jurassic*

Sol III Award - For promoting environmental awareness and/or being avidly involved in environmental issues
 Dan Johnson - *USS Bonaventure*
 Glenda Blanks - *USS Heimdal*

Let Me Help - For helping a charity, cause, and/or community event
 Dot & Gerald Silman - *USS Jurassic*
 Ingrid Price - *USS Columbus*
 Deborah Butcher - *USS StarRunner*
 Susan Mahaffey - *USS StarRunner*
 Rey Cordero - *USS Liberator*
 Kristine Keller-Williams - *USS Arizona*
 Jill Tipton - *USS Jurassic*
 Shelley Harrell - *USS Jurassic*
 Larry Kirby - *USS Ronald E. McNair*

Star Cross - For the saving of a life or lives
 Walter V. Ewing - *USS Indiana*
 Barbara Slater - *USS Charleston*
 Shelley Harrell - *USS Jurassic*

Campaign Citation - Being involved in a challenge that benefits a charity or cause
USS Bonaventure

Region One Commendation - For an extraordinary act(s) of service or duty by a SFI R1 member
 Glenda Blanks - *USS Heimdal*
 Carl Davis - *USS Heimdal*
 Sharon Russell - *USS Jurassic*
USS Jurassic Science Department
 Bryant Harris - *USS Endeavor*

Joint Meritorious Service Award - SFI R1 unit that works jointly with an outside club on a project or activity
USS Maat
USS Jamestown
USS Charleston

Meritorious Unit Commendation
USS Columbus - OCP \$21,079.76
USS Liberator - OCP \$7,963.17
USS Appomattox - OCP \$80,143.75
USS Ronald E. McNair - \$1,243.10

Distinguished Service Award - Consistent service above and beyond the call of duty
 Diane Craighead - *USS Bonaventure*
 Kathy Van Arsdale - *USS Endeavor*
 Denise Wolff - *USS Charleston*
 Cynthia Walters - *USS Asgard*
 Stephen Stott - *USS Ronald E. McNair*
 Larry Kirby - *USS Ronald E. McNair*
 Jerry Ward - *USS Ronald E. McNair*
 Janice Schweikert - *USS Ronald E. McNair*
 John Sprouse - *USS Appomattox*
 Carolyn Donner - *USS Jurassic*
 Barbara Slater - *USS Charleston*
 Roger Scritchfield - *USS Arizona*
 George Flanik - *USS Ganymede*

Garth Order of Tactics - To honor those who have served honorably in the armed forces in an active combat arena
 Rey Cordero - Desert Shield/Storm
 Cynthia Walters - Operation Iraqi Freedom

Ambassadorial Citation - To recognize the extraordinary contributions and assistance of outside associates, businesses and organizations
IKV Bat'leth

Phoenix Award - To honor those that have faced adverse situations
 Adam Cook - *USS Endeavor*
 John Winsley - *USS Jamestown*
 Walter V. Ewing - *USS Indiana*
 Diane Craighead - *USS Bonaventure*
 Linda Smith - *USS Heimdal*





WWW.SFI.ORG

**The International Star Trek
Fan Association, Inc.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

STARFLEET is the fan organization with something for everyone. Members the world over are united in appreciation of the adventure that is Star Trek. Hundreds of chapters throughout the world link members to local fandom activities, as well as the central organization. Annual membership begins with a membership package containing membership card (s), certificate (s), a handbook, and a listing of chapters. In addition, you will receive six issues of the Communiqué, our bi-monthly publication, which contains news and information on STARFLEET operations and chapter activities, convention information, and much more. Please allow 4-6 weeks for your membership packet to arrive. Contact membership@sfi.org or at the P.O. Box below if you have not heard anything after 8 weeks. We can only process memberships for one-year terms - please do not send funds for multiple year renewals. Lastly, we ask for your phone number in case there is a problem processing your membership. This information is not released outside of the HQ staff.

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(Located on the
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MEMBERSHIP RATES

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FAMILY OF 4	\$28	\$29	\$33
FAMILY OF 5	\$31	\$32	\$36
FAMILY OF 6	\$34	\$35	\$39

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PLEASE NOTE: Household memberships are limited to six members, and include only copy of each Communiqué issue per primary membership.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION (optional)

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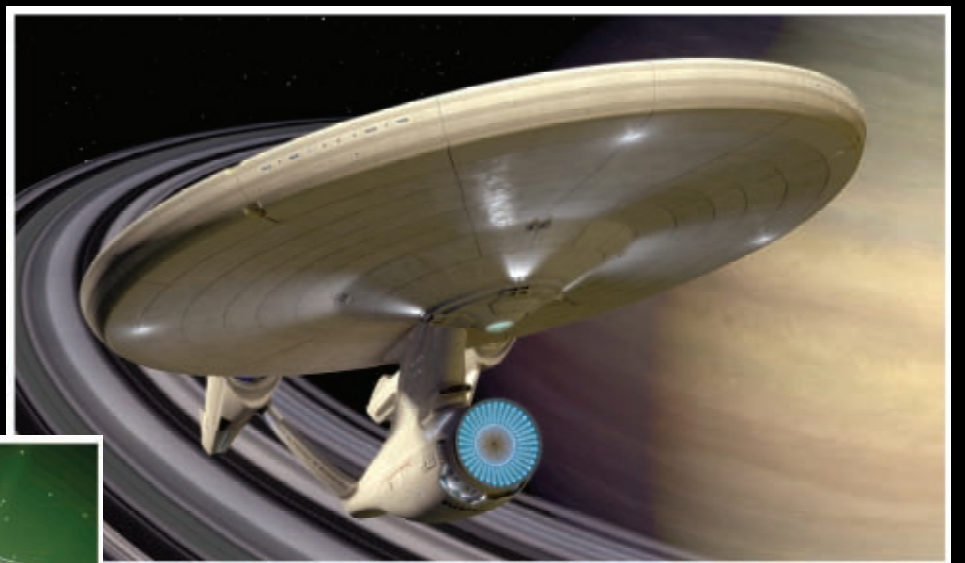
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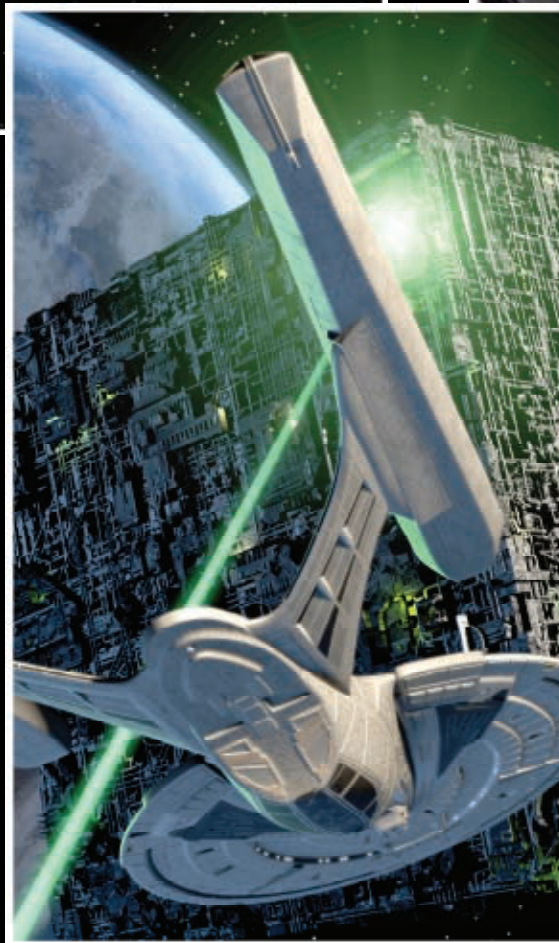


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