

#157

Feb/Mar 2010

STARFLEET **COMMUNIQUE** ONLINE

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



*Atlanta's
USS Republic
Breaks Through The
100-Member Mark!*



*Captain Eric L. Watts
Reveals How They Did It ...
And How You Can, Too!*

STARFLEET Budget Demystified: Where Do Your Dues Go?



STARFLEET *Communiqué*

Issue Number 157, Feb./Mar. 2010

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

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The submission deadline for CQ #158 will have passed by the time this issue gets into members' hands. The deadline for submissions for CQ #159 will be May 15, 2010.

Victoria Kathryn Kim-Aun Beams In

By Prasith Kim-Aun, *USS Thermopylae* NCC-74703, Region 5, Washington (USA)

Victoria Kathryn Kim-Aun was born on February 6, 2010 at 1:18 AM. We didn't expect her until around Valentine's Day, which would have been a beautiful present indeed, but patience does not seem to be her forté. At 6 lbs 3 oz and 18.5 inches, she was a little bit on the compact size, but has gained over a pound already within 2 weeks.

Her sister Charlene Kira, who is turning 4 in April, has been anxiously waiting for Victoria and has announced that she would like to share her toys with her baby sister. There were moments, though, where Charlene exhibited some jealousy because she gets less "mommy-time." But this has given her an occasion to bond with daddy instead, who has introduced her to the Wii game console. Charlene's favorite Wii games are "Lego Batman" and "Lego Star Wars." It is just amazing how proficient her little fingers are handling the stick and buttons of the game controller. On this note, why is there no "Lego Star Trek?"



VICTORIA KATHRYN KIM-AUN AT 5 DAYS OLD.



Guinness Book of World Records Attempt At Trek Fest June 25-26, 2010!

By Commander JM Olson, XO, *USS Riverside*

With the approval of the Riverside Area Community Club/RACC during their February 2010 meeting, the group approved the Guinness World Record attempt to break the record for most people gathered together in *Star Trek* costumes! The Record attempt will take place at June 2010's Trek Fest in Riverside, IA.

While celebrating the European launch of *Star Trek Online* on Valentine's Day, 2010, a Jean-Luc Picard look-alike *Star Trek* fan led the photo-taking of 99 *Star Trek*-costumed friends. These British and Euro-Trekkies gathered for a group portrait on London's Millennium Bridge. The stunt was certified by *Guinness Gamers' Book of Records*.

USS Riverside Lobo Flight Crew CPO Mike House, Chief of Operations PO1 Bill Van Brunt, and *USS Riverside* Executive Officer Commander James Olson are inviting as many STARFLEET members as possible to Riverside, Iowa ("The Future Birthplace of James T. Kirk") to attend the Annual Trek Fest celebration in costume and help be part of history!

Come in *Star Trek* Federation, Klingon, Romulan, Ferengi, Bajoran--ANY *Trek*-oriented costume! Let's have STARFLEET lead the way in setting the Guinness Book World Record for "Most People Gathered in Star Trek Costume"!!

Check out < www.trekfest.com > for the Riverside Trek Fest official announcement, and watch for more information as it becomes available!

Kinda Like "Turnabout Intruder"...Only Different (Editorial Boo-Boo Last Issue)

Lt. Cmdr. Franklin Newman III of the *USS Empress* in R13 e-mailed me (Jon Lane) to point out two mistakes on page 32 of the previous issue of CQ. It seems I inadvertently swapped his and R13RC Joe Sare's names in one of the captions. This led to the following two mistakes:

- 1) The photo supposedly showing the author of the article (Joe Sare) was actually a picture of Franklin.
- 2) The photo of the person answering the trivia question was Brigadier Joe Sare, and not Lt. Cmdr. Franklin Newman as was printed in the caption.

My sincere apologies to both of them.

- Rear Admiral Jon Lane
Chief of Communications, STARFLEET



THIS IS A PHOTO OF BRIGADIER JOE SARE ANSWERING A TRIVIA QUESTION.

THIS IS A PHOTO OF LT. CMDR. FRANKLIN NEWMAN III.



1504-07-17



NAME: SAL LIZARD
RANK: FLEET ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDER, STARFLEET
SHIP: USS HOOD NCC-1707
REGION: 15, NEW HAMPSHIRE (USA)



COMMANDER, STARFLEET

The Return of the “Crazy Season”

STARFLEET election season will be here soon. It comes every three years, and many think of it as STARFLEET's crazy season. I have been a member of STARFLEET for about 18 years now. And every time I think of STARFLEET's election, I get a mental image of scenes from that original series episode of “The Return of the Archons” where the quiet and contented citizens of Beta III suddenly ignore their previous behavior to become a chaotic and uninhibited crowd, reveling in mayhem and destruction. To continue the analogy, every third year, STARFLEET experiences “The Red Hour” when election season commences.

Actually, it's not truly that bad: STARFLEET members do not break windows, physically assault other members, or behave in a frenzied manner similar to the citizenry of Beta III during their “Festival”—it just seems that way sometimes. I've heard other members opine that our election season is more akin to the original series episode of “Amok Time”. In that episode, Spock was so overwhelmed by desire and strong emotions that he would go so far as to kill his friend to reach his goal. To continue the comparison, some feel that candidates and their supporters will do anything to win: that ends justify the means.

Since joining the organization in February of 1992, I have found the majority of STARFLEET members to be

compassionate, thoughtful, generous, and forgiving. I have attended many chapter meetings, regional summits, and international conferences, and have witnessed the affection and camaraderie between members. And STARFLEET is a forgiving organization that appreciates sincere efforts and understands when things go wrong. During the election season, however, that kind and loving interaction is often pushed aside by the passions of members seeking to get their candidate elected. Unfortunately, that is the nature of elections—when candidates present their platforms, members naturally assume sides.

I've often heard members say that STARFLEET is ruined by the “politics.” I've frequently countered that it's not “politics” that hurts the organization but rather the “malicious application of politics.” During the election, candidates will create strategies and platforms to “woo” as many members as possible for their support. This is a normal and necessary step in their efforts to win. What makes election politics problematic is when that strategy includes hurting the other candidates.

Elections are necessary for STARFLEET, as they present an opportunity to rotate different ideas and goals to move the organization forward with new and enthusiastic leadership. Evolution of our organization is important to meet the demands of those we

do business with and the changing needs of our membership. Many STARFLEET members have some good ideas on how to move STARFLEET forward, and some should consider running for office so that they can implement those ideas. And STARFLEET members should participate in the election process. They should vote for the team who presents the best platform for STARFLEET and the team that will assure that STARFLEET's organizational obligations are met.

Working for STARFLEET, especially at its uppermost levels, is time-consuming and, at times, frustrating. And although STARFLEET chooses its leadership from amongst its ranks, members must choose someone who is capable of getting the job done while putting their own needs aside for the good of the organization. STARFLEET leaders must be good managers, understand the demands of leadership, and be willing to take those steps necessary for STARFLEET's future. And Commander, STARFLEET is the one position where the leader is not only the President (on the Executive Committee) but also the Chairman of the Board of Directors (on the Admiralty Board). By law, there are certain extra-organizational obligations and responsibilities that both governing groups must meet, and it is the Commander's job to ensure those obligations and responsibilities are met and to be prepared to act when they are not. STARFLEET leaders

need to be prepared to “roll up their sleeves” and to do the necessary work. No matter who is elected, the CS will make mistakes (I certainly have!), but he/she needs to be able to admit and learn the lessons of their mistakes and move on – a little wiser.

Perhaps the hardest point to make is that choosing the CS/VCS team should not be simply about voting for your friends or the most “likable” candidate. Serious consideration should go into your choice and your subsequent vote. However, you don't have to be so involved that you become part of the “impassioned frenzy” (I certainly hope for a civil discussion with the candidates this year).

On a personal note, I am really looking forward to the election season, as it will decide that person who will replace me at the end of my three-year mission. And, if I can be of service to provide insight to the CS position, I invite any and all candidates to please contact me without reservation.

Please vote. Traditionally speaking, only about one third of those STARFLEET members eligible to vote will do so. Voting in the general election is a right afforded all STARFLEET members in good standing. The election only occurs once every third year, and your vote counts.

0304-86-18



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,

When you fill up your life with activities, you don't always think about down the road when each project you take on starts to pick up speed. Then, when you least expect it, you're in the middle of a frenzy of activity and you can't hardly remember your own name. I've had something like that going on since the holidays. The job (you know – the one I get paid to do) started to really pick up after December had passed. I began building and implementing the new Online Member system in C#.Net and I began a new relationship.

All in all, I'm staying pretty much sane, but I sometimes wonder what is on the horizon waiting for me.

We now have a new Online Member system up and running. It doesn't look like much at this point because it doesn't have a lot of functionality for the basic member, but there are some tools being added to assist the ECAB members and their staff to take better care of you. In addition to the reporting tools, we have also implemented a page on the new site where you can claim your own special key code for the new massive online role player

game from Atari called Star Trek Online! All STARFLEET members get a free key along with their membership that gives them a specialized uniform in the STO universe.

You can get to the new system by first logging onto the old system (db.sfi.org) and from the main page selecting the link that says “Click here to get your TOS tunic for Star Trek Online!!” Right now, there is no separate login to take you directly to the new screen, but look for it pretty soon.

The next parts of the system are going to

be largely meant for the ECAB and Member Processing staff, but after that, look forward to seeing new parts of the system appear as we port the old system over to the new format.

I know it is early in the year, but I am looking forward to IC again this year (end of July). I am hoping that, by that point, the new system will have taken over at least a third of the functionality of the older system. Wish my team luck and by the way, if you have good C#.Net skills and wish to help build parts of the system, please do not hesitate to contact me.





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

The Second Banana Report

In the last two weeks, I've felt like Scotty, Will Riker, and Ezri Dax all rolled into one person. What a wild time it's been!

Scotty is known to be the technical genius of the Enterprise, and apparently that's what is being expected of me lately at work. Why do I say that? In the last two weeks at work, we've been having issues in particular with one of our client's environments ranging from not being able to see drive space on the network storage, through to having printer issues on a multi-user Citrix server with a new type of printer that none of my technical staff have ever used before. So we're doing everything we can to get this new printer working as it should. As Scotty would say, «The energizer is bypassed like a Christmas tree!»

We still have some work to do to get it all working right for our client, and unfortunately we're under a lot of pressure from our Service Delivery Team to make it right and faster than we can really accomplish.

As all of our Next Generation fans will remember, Will Riker was the second-in-command of the Enterprise, and effectively the right-hand-man of Jean Luc Picard. He usually looks like he enjoys his job, the people he works with, and usually has some interesting challenges to face.

Lately, with some of the work I've been doing in STARFLEET, I've felt like Will Riker. I do dearly enjoy working with many people in STARFLEET, and have been given some pretty interesting challenges lately in STARFLEET, from the Bylaw Requirements Committee, to working with the AB to pull together some of the text changes in a couple of membership handbook amendments we're still working on, to various other tasks that we work together on the EC.

Finally, Ezri Dax. Ezri was the Counselor on Deep Space Nine, someone people could go to when they needed to talk, try to address things going on in their life, and find a way to go on. How this relates to me is a bit more difficult, mostly from the perspective of keeping a friend's private life confidential. But the short and sweet of it is that a good friend of mine has had a pretty lousy week and is looking to have a pretty lousy time the next while.

When I found out what was going on with my friend, I was really concerned about him, what was going on, and took some time out to listen to him and to try and show him that he had people around him who cared and would be there for him. It's not an easy situation that he's going through, and he has plenty of hard things ahead of him to take care of, but he at least knows that

he can count on his friends and family to be there when he needs someone to lean on.

Thinking back on the last couple of weeks now, I'm reminded of a poster I used to have when I was living on my parents farm: «Everything I need to know, I learned from Star Trek.» These last couple of weeks have me thinking about that poster, and what I have learned from Star Trek. There's been some good lessons there, and I think I've been able to integrate it into my life successfully and use those lessons in a good way, especially recently.

Moving on, it's probably a good time for me to talk about what's happening in STARFLEET.

The Bylaw Requirements Committee is finalizing our work and preparing the requirements document to be sent to the attorneys. By the time that you all read this, it should be presented to the EC and the AB and should be in front of the attorneys to have them create a draft of a new set of bylaws for us.

With the help of Reed Bates, Region 3's Regional Coordinator, who is a paralegal in her professional life, we've also finalized a re-worked Articles of Incorporation document which we'll be presenting with our requirements document when we send it to the EC, the AB, and to STARFLEET's attorneys so that we can make sure that our documents are brought all in-line with one another.

Short Story Contest

So, as I had said in previous articles, I've been in communication with someone who will be our Guest Judge. At the time that I'm writing this, I believe that I've finalized those arrangements, and I'm happy to say that our Guest Judge will be D.C. Fontana, author of Star Trek novels, writer on the original series, and who has written story lines for at least two or three different Star Trek video games.

This year we're going to be taking submissions in a slightly different manner. In 2009, submissions were sent to the head of our Annual Campaign, Marlene Miller, and they was distributed to our judges. In 2010, we've set up a website where STARFLEET's budding authors can submit their entries for the contest, and where you can read the entries as they come in!

At the time of this writing, our webmaster is working on shaking out the last few bugs in the website so that people can write their stories directly on the website. However, the text editor on the site isn't quite working. But entrants can still upload their submissions in plain text format or if they save it in HTML format using MS Word or any other HTML editor.

If you'd like to submit an entry, or if you'd like to read submissions from our entrants, please visit the STARFLEET Fiction Archive at:

<http://fiction.sfi.org/>

We will be awarding a Fan Favorite Award for the story which is judged by you, our readers. Like last year, we'll have our judges select their top five choices from the submissions that come in, and those five top stories will be forwarded on to D.C. Fontana to rate. So start your imaginations, and start writing your short stories! We'll have the rules in another article in the CQ for you to read.

AB Discussions

Just like in the last edition of the CQ, the AB is still discussing some further Membership Handbook amendments that have been put before them. These are still different than the previous amendments that I'd mentioned in my last article, these latest ones are specifically dealing with:

An amendment to Section 02:05 of the handbook, and the addition of a new section to the Handbook, which will hopefully help clarify membership rights, member responsibilities, and what happens if a member does not fulfill their responsibilities or violates another member's rights in STARFLEET.

A few small amendments to various sections of the handbook which would allow STARFLEET to have members in countries that the United States government has embargoes against, which currently results in STARFLEET not being able to have members in that country. This was specifically part of the Cuban Membership Committee, but would allow us to possibly have members from other countries in which we may be unable to have members right now. This one is a bit of a more challenging issue, and we are proceeding carefully to address this one in the best manner possible.

I will be presenting only one further handbook amendment, once a few more issues are addressed and taken care of by the AB.

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/>

- **AB Motion AB09-18** has been withdrawn to be reworded and re-submitted in the future.
- **AB09-23: MHB Amendment #2 -- Limited memberships**

This motion is currently on hold as further discussion takes place into whether or not a Limited Membership type can be created to address the case of nations that the U.S. government has an embargo against.

- **AB09-24: MHB Amendment #3: Modify Section 02:06 of the MHB**

Region 3 (Reed Bates) made the following motion:

«I would like to move that MHB Amendment #3: Modifying Section 02:06 of the MHB regarding unassigned members being able to be promoted up to O-5 by the RC be approved.»

Region 13 (Joseph Sare) seconded the motion.

Result: **Passed:** Aye: 14, Nay: 0, Abstain: 1

NOTE: Region 4 voted after the deadline. However, because this was after the voting deadline, it is noted as an Abstain.

- **AB09-25: Separation of the Constitution and the MHB**

Region 13 (Joseph Sare) made the following motion:

«Region 13 would like to make a motion to take the Constitution out of the MHB, and keep both documents as separate documents.»

Region 12 (Jeff Higdon) seconded the motion.

Result: **Passed:** Aye: 14, Nay: 1, Abstain: 0

NOTE: Region 3 voted against this motion.

- **AB09-26: Vote for STARFLEET's JAG Officer**

The AB nominated three individuals to become STARFLEET's JAG Officer. The results are as follows:

Johnathan Simmons: Regions 1, 4, 11, 13 and 17 — 5 votes
 Les Rickard: Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 15 — 9 votes
 Larry French: Region 7 — 1 vote

STARFLEET's new JAG is Les Rickard.

Talk to you again in 60 days.



0406-19-17



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

At the Operations Headquarters, we are always looking for ways to enhance your *Star Trek* experience. For many people, *Star Trek Online* fills such a role. Good software requires extensive testing, so it was no surprise the maker of this game decided to enlist STARFLEET members for beta testing. It's great to see many fleet members participating in the beta testing of the game. I am certain this provided a lot of valuable feedback for the game company.

In addition to beta testing, I was very excited to join RADM Jon Lane at the beginning of January to visit Cryptic Studios in anticipation of the upcoming release of *Star Trek Online*. During that visit, we talked to their marketing representatives, development team, and community advocates extensively. We also had a hands-on session of the latest version of the game in action, as well as giving them some feedback on potential features our members might want to see in future releases. By the way, our members are definitely getting some special game bonus such as the *Star Trek* original series uniform. Be sure to get the access code from the STARFLEET Database < www.db.sfi.org >.

For most of our members, *Star Trek Online* is a great way to "test drive" a starship without going through the Shakedown Program (you'll still have a bit of training at the beginning of the game, though). But for those that desire to command a physical group,

it's a great feeling to complete the training program and become a full-fledged chapter. I am very proud to announce the following chapters commissioned since last issue of the *Communique*:

***USS Penguin* (R5)**
 COL Mitch Dunn
usspenguin@gmail.com
 Monroe, WA
 Correspondence chapter

***USS Victorious* (R2)**
 CAPT Mark Anderson
captain@ussvictorious.com
 New Port Richey, FL
 Meeting chapter

***USS Wolf 359* (R5)**
 CAPT Michael Cowan
mdcowan@yahoo.com
 Vancouver, WA
 Meeting chapter

I am also very glad to see increased activities overseas. We currently have two training chapters, *USS Chronos* (CAPT Jon Cording, jon.uss-chronos@live.co.uk) and *USS Rassilon* (SMAJ

Marie Wilson, co@nx11.org.uk)] in the United Kingdom. Both are working hard through the Shakedown Program. Once they complete the program, we should be able to reactivate Region 20.

Besides the activities above, I have been in talks with various RC's in recent months regarding the chapter status in their respective regions. The economy and population are constantly changing around us. While it's nice to have lots of chapters to service every community, sometimes it makes sense to regroup and join forces with nearby chapters. Therefore, we are in the process of helping chapters reorganize, consolidate, and hopefully strengthen the fleet overall.

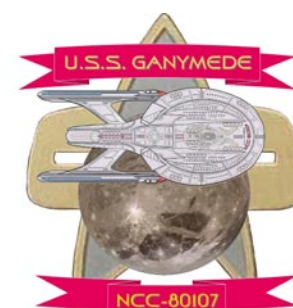
We will be contacting chapters below minimum strength in this process. Of course, you don't have to wait for us to contact you. If you already have plans along these lines, I strongly encourage you to contact us to ensure a smooth transition for your chapter and members.

Finally, on a lighter note, various regional summits are starting up, not to mention the STARFLEET International Conference in a few months. These are great places to network and promote your chapters. I hope you take advantage of these and enjoy the great times. See you at IC!

USS GANYMEDE NCC-80107



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



0106-07-801

Ask "Deep Trek" - #009

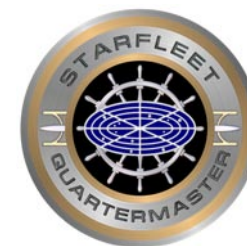
For those new to this column, it documents a true *Star Trek* veteran, a prop master on the original television series when it was filmed at Desilu and its early days with Paramount. He retired from the motion picture industry some years ago and moved back East. I met him in 2008 through his wife, the real estate agent who was selling my former house. Following the journalistic principle of protecting my source's identity, he goes here by the pseudonym "Deep Trek." Earlier reports have documented his experiences on the set, observing the cast and creating many props

for TOS and other science fiction and fantasy productions, in the days before computer-generated special effects. Deep Trek was in Sickbay for several weeks, as reported below, but has returned home.

Deep Trek continues his excellent recovery from real-life heart bypass surgery. He and his wife spent a quiet Christmas with family visiting and him enjoying DVDs from my World War II movie collection. A big snow before Christmas crimped down a lot of road travel and gave outdoors a

definite holiday layering. Deep Trek very much appreciates the TOS *Enterprise* 3-D lenticular color poster I gave him on behalf of STARFLEET. He's framing it in his basement workshop as I write this. He says it is very cool, just beautiful. He also has a new STARFLEET navy blue polo shirt. When I see him next, I'll lend him my DVD copy of the new *Star Trek* movie that we saw together. It is unseasonably cold here in central Virginia, in the teens at night and only the thirties during the day. Global warming somehow is responsible, I'm told. Bundle up till spring, folks!





NAME: PETE MOHNEY
RANK: ADMIRAL
POSITION: QUARTERMASTER, STARFLEET
OTHER POSITIONS: NAVIGATION OFFICER
SHIP: *USS HEPHAESTUS* NCC-2004
REGION: 2, ALABAMA (USA)

0207-04-20

STARFLEET Quartermaster Featured Items at qm.sfi.org

The Starfleet Quartermaster is pleased to offer members more than forty different items, including uniform accessories, an assortment of cool small electronics, shirts in different styles and colors, rank pins from ensign to admiral, and more things to come! To see it all, go to < www.qm.sfi.org >. You can also download the latest order form and full-color catalog of items, and vote on what items YOU want to see in coming months.



STARFLEET Flash Drives!

Our latest item, 4 gigabyte USB 2.0 flash drives, with STARFLEET laser engraved, equipped with a swivel cap so it can't be misplaced.



STARFLEET Embossed Padfolios!

We just recently restocked the very popular padfolio, a zippered notepad folio perfect for all sorts of meetings, classes, and trips. With storage compartments for cards, CDs, writing implements and a spare notepad, this will cover all your writing needs.

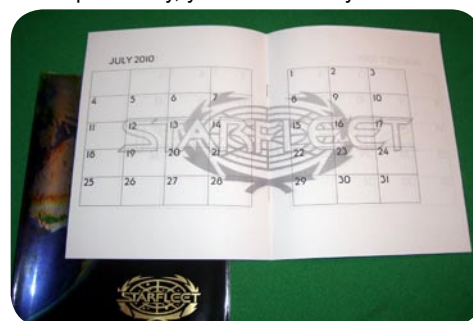


STARFLEET Polo Shirts!

A new supply of STARFLEET logo embroidered polo shirts recently arrived. They are navy blue, and come in sizes from Small to 3XL.

STARFLEET Datebooks for 2010!

Specially-made datebooks with a custom STARFLEET calendar for 2010 are now available. If you bought a datebook previously, you can also buy a calendar refill.

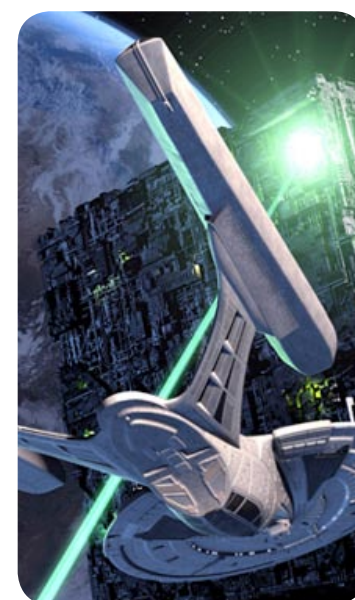


Three-Dimensional Star Trek Posters!

Roddenberry.com recently presented us with a large number of three-dimensional lenticular posters, printed on a heavy plastic card stock, of the *Enterprise* from the original series, from the latest movie, and the 1701-E. You have to see the posters to get the full effect, but you can see a simulation on the QM website of the great depth of the 3-D images. Available as a set of three or individually. **NOTE: for every poster sold, Rod Roddenberry will donate \$2 to the STARFLEET Scholarship Fund.**

For more information, e-mail qm@sfi.org. If you need an order form and do not have internet access, send a SASE to:

Pete Mohney
 STARFLEET Quartermaster
 3152 Dolly Ridge Drive
 Birmingham, AL 35243



Even More STARFLEET Merchandise at shop.sfi.org

Welcome to Spreadshirt! Similar to other sites like Cafe Press and Zazzle, Spreadshirt is a print-to-order online merchant. This means that no item is actually printed until YOU order it, saving STARFLEET money (since we don't have to pre-order merchandise, store it, or ship it...Spreadshirt handles all that for us).

Our new online store is in addition to our current STARFLEET Quartermaster store, but the Spreadshop is located at < <http://shop.sfi.org> >. The two stores are separate entities with different merchandise selections (and separate shipping charges).

Spreadshirt offers special printing techniques that show up really well on both bright and dark colored shirts. STARFLEET is making use of Spreadshirt's "flex print" technology to create some really great products. The flex printing does not fade--ever! In fact, the shirt will disintegrate long before the design on it starts showing any signs of wear and tear.



Additionally, flex printing offers a metallic gold color, so our classic STARFLEET logo (the one with the fig leaves) will be eye-catchingly reflective.

Unfortunately, flex printing limits us to only two flat colors per design, and because the classic STARFLEET logo is very complex, it cannot shrink down to fit on all products. For this reason, STARFLEET has created an alternate logo with the new *USS Enterprise* on it. Both the classic and new logos are considered official STARFLEET logos.

The Spreadshop offerings include T-shirts and Sweatshirts of excellent quality, messenger bags (which are totally cool-looking and very practical), tote bags, mouse pads, and buttons.

So take your pick: order STARFLEET stuff from our Quartermaster, from our new Spreadshirt shop, or from both. They each have great product selections!





NAME: JONATHAN LANE
RANK: REAR ADMIRAL
POSITION: CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS, STARFLEET
SHIP: USS ANGELES NCC-71840
REGION: 4, CALIFORNIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: SFI AND R4 FLAG OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2009; 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

2010 Is an Election Year

I'm not talking about the U.S. Congressional mid-term elections. I mean the STARFLEET election for Commander and Vice-Commander that happens once every three years.

This year, however, is a little different. In fact, it is probably one of the most important STARFLEET elections you will vote in during your time in this organization. You see, we're not just electing a new leader. We are also voting on whether to change the very rules we use to govern and run this amazing club of ours.

The Proposed New STARFLEET Bylaws

As was discussed in recent issues of the *Communiqué* by Sal Lizard, Dave Blaser, and myself, one of the biggest challenges facing STARFLEET in recent years has been our governing documents. Created back in the late 1990s, these documents—the Constitution and Membership Handbook—were drafted with the goal of improving STARFLEET. And so they did. They clarified many of our procedures, defined member rights and officer responsibilities, and instituted checks and balances between the Executive Committee and the Admiralty Board.

But these governing documents were far from perfect. The way the documents are written it appears as if different groups of dedicated people had worked separately on different sections, but those sections didn't always agree with each other. Some instances where it was discovered that the Constitution and Membership Handbook contradicted each other were corrected over time with a patchwork of amendments and modifications. But still, many problems remained.

Some of these problems were identified when Sal Lizard consulted with STARFLEET's attorneys at Hurwit & Associates, who specialize in Non-Profit Corporations (which STAFFLEET is). In addition to the remaining aforementioned contradictions, there were additional vague areas where meanings could be interpreted in a variety of different ways. We also had issues where the "Trekified" language that we use might create confusion. For example, we say "officer" to mean a member who has reached a certain rank. But in corporate parlance, an officer is one of the people who run the company, like a CEO (Chief Executive Officer), COO, or CFO. And additionally, although we chose to call it a "Constitution", the more common legal term in the real world is "Bylaws."

As was discussed in my Communications

Department article back in CQ #154 (available for download from our website at < www.sfi.org/portal/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=96 >, the attorneys made a number of recommendations to us for how to fix our governing documents. And in a nearly unanimous vote at last year's ECAB meeting, the Admiralty approved two things: 1) the hiring of our attorneys to write a new, more streamlined

For example, the Bylaws might state simply: "STARFLEET will hold an election for Commander once every three years using a procedure to be described in the Membership Handbook." Very straightforward. Then the Membership Handbook can go into all the nitty-gritty minutiae like how many nominations a candidate needs, when campaigning starts and ends, how ballots are sent to members, etc.

"no" vote would keep our current Constitution the way it is right now with no changes. A "yes" vote would replace the current Constitution with the more streamlined new Bylaws.

How should you vote in regards to the new Bylaws when they're presented? That's something that you will have to decide upon your own. While the members of the EC hope that you'll approve the proposed bylaws, I urge you to read them very carefully, talk to your Regional Coordinators and to your COs and XOs, and also to your fellow members. The most important thing is that we hope you'll make an informed vote. As we say in all democracies: "Every vote counts!"

The Proposed New Membership Handbook

Once the Bylaws Committee hands off their guidance to our attorneys, the Committee shifts its focus to become the Membership Handbook Revision Committee (and we'll have to think of a good abbreviation for that). While the vast majority of our Membership Handbook will likely remain unchanged, the new Bylaws will inevitably create some new contradictions, overlaps, and gaps.

So the Revision Committee will go through the current Handbook and make corrections and revisions. Those changes do not need to be voted on by the entire STARFLEET membership. Instead, Handbook updates can be ratified by a simple majority of the Admiralty Board. And indeed, assuming that the membership at large approves the proposed new Bylaws, the AB will (hopefully) ratify the new Handbook, and both will take effect on January 1, 2011.

The process of revising the Handbook is expected to take many months...and I encourage all STARFLEET members to monitor the Committee discussion online and e-mail the Committee members with comments, concerns, and suggestions (as many members, including myself, have already done). If all goes well, a good majority of the revised Handbook will be completed by late June. If so, my intention (hope) is to include as much of the revised Handbook in the June/July issue of CQ (#159), which will have as many pages as needed dedicated to the proposed Handbook revisions. Yes, that will mean less of the other content like chapter activities, photos, "Attention on Deck", and even EC reports. But I feel strongly that all members should see these proposed Handbook revisions before receiving their Election Packet. CQ #159 will be reaching most members in



set of Bylaws (what was formerly called the STARFLEET Constitution), and 2) the formation of a nine-member Committee to provide guidance for the attorney to follow in drafting the new Bylaws.

That Bylaws Committee has been hard at work figuring out what absolutely, positively needs to go into our Bylaws and what can be put into our Membership Handbook. Their deliberations have been open to public viewing and comment, and archives of their e-mail discussions can be accessed at < <http://lists.sfi.org/pipermail/bylaws-l-sfi.org> >.

By keeping the Bylaws simple and straightforward, and by leaving the lengthy details to the Membership Handbook, the Admiralty Board can make tweaks and changes to our procedures more quickly and easily, rather than waiting for our triennial vote of the entire membership.

And if we determine that something needs to change, like for example we decide to institute electronic voting sometime in the future, the Admiralty Board can vote in a change to the Membership Handbook with a simple majority rather than waiting for the whole 4,000-person STARFLEET membership to approve the change to the Bylaws/Constitution.

In other words, one of the benefits to making this transition to streamlined Bylaws will be the ability to make faster changes to processes that need to be tweaked in STARFLEET. Right now, as written, our Constitution does not allow for this...which is why you will be asked to vote on the new proposed Bylaws in September. They will be sent inside your Election Packet.

After the Bylaws Committee finishes their guidance for the STARFLEET attorney, she will write our new proposed Bylaws, and you will have the opportunity to vote "yes" or "no." A

August. The Election Packet will be mailed out in September. So the timing works out well.

Now, you might be asking, “Why not just mail the Handbook revisions out as part of the Election Packet?” The answer is cost. Those revisions will require a lot of pages. The additional photocopying and postage for the extra weight would overrun the amount that has been budgeted for the election. However, the cost of printing and mailing the *Communiqué* is already built into our budget. Of course, we will also post the proposed Handbook revisions online, but some members do not have easy (or any) computer and/or Internet access. And no member of STARFLEET should be left out of this process for whatever reason if we can avoid it... and in this case, we can avoid it by including the proposed revisions in the CQ.

As Chief of Communications, I feel this vote is important enough to commit a good portion of one issue of CQ to presenting the proposed revisions to members. Even though those revisions will be voted on by the AB, the passage of the proposed new Bylaws will almost inevitably result in the new Handbook revisions being adopted. So a vote for the new Bylaws can be considered a vote for the new Handbook, and members need to be informed of the content of both, at least in my opinion.

The Election for Commander, STARFLEET

The current STARFLEET Constitution spends nearly four pages going over the election procedure for Commander because it is one of the most important things that we as members do in regards to our organization. In that way, the election for Commander, STARFLEET unites us in a shared responsibility. It can also divide us as many members back different candidates. In the end, there can be only one winner. But the hope is that we can all unify behind that person and his or her new administration. Yes, that's the hope.

Anyway, to kick off this election year, I am going to try to summarize the most important parts and steps in the election process. Yes, this is covered in the Constitution, as well. But I want to make sure that certain things are said and said clearly, so here we go...

First of all, the Chief of Communications serves as the Election Coordinator (with the assistance of the Inspector General) unless the Comm Chief is himself a declared candidate for Commander, Vice-Commander, or named to serve on the EC slate of one of the proposed candidates.

Therefore, let me state the following for the record:

I, Rear Admiral Jon Lane, will not be running for Commander, STARFLEET in 2010...nor will I accept any nomination made for my candidacy. In short, my wife would kill me! Furthermore, I will not continue to serve as Chief of Communications beyond the end of my current term on December 31, 2010 and will, therefore, not appear on the slate of any announced candidate. In other words, folks, it's been fun, and I am outta here at the end of the year!

Okay, now that that's settled, back to the election overview.

Barely had 2010 started when STARFLEET Inspector General Wade Hoover had already hit the ground running to do his part in helping to coordinate the election. Wade has already gotten an estimate and retained the services of an independent CPA in his hometown of Topeka, Kansas to mail out our Election Packets and collect and tally the votes. Wade is proving to be a godsend for me, and I'd like to acknowledge his proactive approach and competent follow-through. I have also checked, and Wade (like me) will not be running for Commander nor will he be a part of any EC slate.

So here's what will happen and when:

Prior to June 1: No campaigning of any kind! That's what the Constitution says (this was because election time can make tempers flair, and the leaders at the time wanted to keep the period of STARFLEET mayhem to a limited number of months). The Constitution also says, “Campaigning is defined as announcements of platform, announcements of candidacy, or announcement of intent to seek candidacy. Announcements are defined as a statement or request for consideration made in person or by mail or other communications medium, to a group or substantial portion of a group, or in a public forum.” Got it? If not, if in doubt, shoot me an e-mail at comms@sfi.org. Better to be safe and not do something that could put one's candidacy into questionable territory. Any reported infraction will be discussed with the “candidate” first to give him or her a chance to remedy the situation. Only if that fails will I need to get the Admiralty Board involved to make a ruling. Hopefully, though, it won't come to that.

June 1st: Candidates can start campaigning in an effort to solicit nominations.

June 1st to July 15th: Nominations for the position of Commander, STARFLEET are accepted. Here's how nominations work...

First, nominations must be submitted to the Election Coordinator (me) by mail, fax, or e-mail. My mailing address, fax number, and e-mail address appear on the inside back page of this issue of CQ. My fax number rings my regular phone. Therefore, if you're going to fax, please do so only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Second, all nominations must be from either a Regional Coordinator or from the Commanding Officer of a fully-commissioned Chapter (COs of Chapters-in-Training are not eligible to nominate). Only one nomination per person, even if that person is both a CO and RC.

Third, all nominations **must** include the following (regardless of format submitted) to be considered valid:

- The date of the Nomination
- Name of the Nominator
- SCC# of the Nominator
- Mailing Address, Phone Number, and E-mail Address of the Nominator (to be used for verification)
- Name of the Nominee
- Chapter of the Nominee and/or SCC # of the Nominee (just in case two members on different chapters have the same name, I need to know which one is being nominated)

Fourth, any nomination that is faxed or mailed in must be signed by the nominator (it says so in the Constitution). Also, it is the responsibility of the nominator to verify that their nomination has been received. I will send a confirmation e-mail out to all nominators whose nominations that I receive. If you do not receive an e-mail confirmation from me within 24 hours (longer for mailed nominations), you need to assume I have not received your nomination. I will use the date of the e-mail, timestamp of the fax, and postmark of any mailed letter to determine the sent date of the nomination. The window for nominations opens at 12:00 a.m. Pacific Time on June 1, 2010 and closes at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on July 15, 2010.

July 16th: I will announce via the online STARFLEET Announcement Chat List, SFI-L Business Discussion Chat List, STARFLEET-L Chat List, and The Regional Relay Officers who received enough valid nominations to qualify to run for Commander, STARFLEET for 2010. Because of the potential delay in receiving postal mailed nominations, I reserve the right to announce additional candidates up through July 20th.

In order for a nominee to be declared an official candidate, he or she must receive at least 5 valid nominations and must announce his or her intention to run within 10 days of the announcement on July 16 (in other words, by July 26). This announcement must include the announcement of the candidate's running mate for Vice-Commander, STARFLEET. A nominee can also turn down their nomination. Failure to make an announcement in this time period will be the equivalent of declining the nomination. Any announcement made by a nominee (either accepting or declining a nomination) must include an e-mail sent to < comms@sfi.org >. I will reply to any e-mail sent to me, so the lack of a prompt reply from me could mean I did not receive the e-mail or announcement. It is up to the candidate to verify with me. As a backup, the candidate can also follow up with Inspector General Wade Hoover at < ig@sfi.org >.

June 1st to July 26th: There's an interesting bit of timing “synchronicity” involved with this item. CQ #159 (the one that'll hopefully have the proposed Handbook revisions) will need to get to the printer during the last week of July. As such, I am going to hold back a few pages and reserve them for full-page “ads” from declared candidates. Anyone can submit their ad to me at any time between June 1st and July 26th, even if they don't know yet if they will receive enough nominations. Once the candidates are finalized and declared, I will print the ads in CQ for only those who are official, declared candidates.

Because of the quick turn-around that will need to happen to keep CQ on schedule, the ads will need to be submitted to < cq@sfi.org > in “print-ready” format. This means black-and-white (grayscale is okay), 10.25 inch x 10.75 inch size, 200-300 dpi (print-quality) resolution, in either a JPG, TIF, PNG, BMP, EPS, or PDF format. If you do not have a graphical resource, contact me before July 1st and I will attempt to find a graphic design volunteer to help you (any later than July 1 and there won't be enough time). NOTE: the CQ will **not** be considered the Official Election Publication but rather will provide an additional way for the candidates to advertise themselves to the members. People

can submit their ads before they know if they are a candidate, but once the July 26th submission deadline passes, no ads from any candidate will be accepted or printed.

August 1st: All declared candidates must submit their campaign literature to < comms@sfi.org > by this date in order for the literature to be included in the Election Packet. Submissions received after this date will not be included, and it is up to the candidate to verify that I have received the submission in time. I will e-mail in a timely manner (optimally within 24 hours) all candidates whose submissions I receive. So if you do not receive my email confirmation, you must assume I have received your submission.

NOTE: Campaign literature is NOT the same thing as the *Communiqué* ads from candidates. Each candidate will get one (1) double-sided piece of white letter-sized (8.5” x 11”) paper to include in all Election Packets. Literature will be photocopied in black-and-white only, no color. Each candidate may use one or both sides of his or her sheet of paper (no more than one sheet of paper per candidate—no exceptions). A candidate is allowed to use only one side and leave the other side blank if preferred. Also, any candidate who does not submit their campaign literature before the deadline will have only their name and running EC slate printed on a single sheet of paper along with the words “Campaign Literature not received before deadline.”

Campaign Literature should be submitted in PDF file format. If a candidate has trouble outputting to this format, please contact me before the deadline to trouble-shoot the problem.

September 1st: STARFLEET volunteers in the Topeka, KS area will help assemble the Election Packets. Candidate Literature will be inserted into these packets in random orders so that no candidate is on the “top of the pile” in all packets. The CPA will either supply or code the ballots and then mail the Election Packets via first class mail to all members. There will be one Election Packet mailing per single and/or family membership but with enough ballots in each packet for all members at that mailing address. The ballot will contain the names of each candidate for Commander, STARFLEET and his/her running mate for Vice-Commander. A member puts an “X” or a “check” in the box of their choice. The candidate receiving the most votes via marked box will be declared the winner.

November 15th: All the ballots must be received by the CPA by this date. In other words, and let me make this clear, regardless of the postmark date, any ballots received after November 15, 2010 will not be counted for this election. So don't wait too long to mail in your ballot (especially international members outside the U.S.). And yes, members must supply their own postage. Our budget cannot support pre-stamping all ballots. However, those ballots will be postcards and therefore not cost as much to mail as a full letter. This is the way things have been done in the last few elections (for any new members out there who are wondering).

November 20th: The CPA provides the results to the Chief of Communications and the Inspector General, and we will inform all candidates of the results. Those results will also be made public on the official STARFLEET chat lists shortly



thereafter and also printed in the December/January *Communiqué* (CQ #162). Depending on timing, I might include the results of the election in CQ #161 (due at the printer by the end of November). As long as the election is not contested, I should be able to make that announcement in that earlier issue #161.

November 20th – January 1st: The current EC begins the transition to the new EC. The new EC takes office on January 1, 2011.

For other details on candidate eligibility, withdrawals, etc., see the current Membership Handbook and Constitution.

The STARFLEET Election Chat List

Recent elections have included a chat list open to all current members of STARFLEET to discuss the candidates, discuss the issues and proposed changes to our governing documents, ask the candidates questions, and allow the candidates to campaign and debate amongst themselves publicly. Unfortunately, recent iterations of the Election Chat List have degenerated into more of a free-for-all war zone.

I realize that elections can make people passionate about which candidates they like and which ones they oppose. But in my opinion, there is no place in a STARFLEET Election for rudeness or nastiness to anyone—candidate or supporter. Therefore, this particular Election Chat List will be strictly and sternly moderated. My Vice-Chief of Communications, Major General Dennis Rayburn (who, like Wade Hoover and myself will NOT be running for Commander, STARFLEET this year nor will he be on a ticket) has volunteered to be the Election List Moderator.

Please understand the following: being on the Election List is a *privilege* of membership, not a right. You have a right to say whatever you want in an open, public venue. But just as a paying customer who yells inappropriate things in a restaurant or in a movie theater can be escorted out, so too will we be enforcing a standard

of behavior on the Election List. And while guidelines for proper behavior will be posted, determinations of what constitutes inappropriate netiquette on the Election List will be decided by Dennis, Wade, and myself. I can't speak for other venues where STARFLEET members will gather, but the Election List will be civil.

The Election List will start up on June 1st when the campaigns kick off and run until November 15th when all ballots must be received. Instructions on how to join the Election List will be posted on the SFI.org website in the "Links" section.

And Finally...A Survey

For several years, there have been many discussions about the printed version of the STARFLEET *Communiqué*. Some members love to receive the printed version while others feel the time has come to go completely electronic and eliminate the printed version entirely. Some members have suggested a hybrid of both, where the cost for an e-membership option goes down (because of savings on postage) and the cost of a printed membership goes up.

The problem is that we really don't know how the entire membership feels about this. Some members have tried to do online surveys, but those tend to skew the results toward members who have readily-available computer access. Some members have limited or even no Internet access. (Yes, my friends, not everyone on the planet can access the world of cyberspace yet.) So what is the best way to poll the entire membership fairly?

You guessed it. We're going to include a survey within the Election Packet. After all, we'll be mailing a printed ballot to every member anyway. Why not get the pulse of the entire membership while we're at it?

Unlike previous surveys that have been done, this survey won't get bogged down in tangential questions like "Why did you join STARFLEET?" or "How can we make the organization

better?" This survey will be concerned only with questions regarding computer access and feelings about printed versus online versions of CQ. The shorter the survey, the more likely people are to answer it all and send it in. And the more people who answer it, the greater the accuracy of our results.

The survey, like the ballot itself, will be optional for all members to fill out. But like the ballot, I urge all members to consider it carefully and to send it back to us. The results of the survey will, of course, appear in CQ.

And So It Begins...

As Election Coordinator, I want to end this column with what some might generously call a "deep thought." Earlier this evening, I read an e-mail on the STARFLEET discussion list pointing out what the author considered to be a focus in this club on "writing the rules of the game" rather than playing the game itself. He was referring to STARFLEET getting bogged down, he felt, in figuring out all the details of our governing documents at the expense of "having fun."

And he's right. The Sal Lizard administration has certainly put a major focus on "the rules" and getting all the "paperwork" of STARFLEET correct. Indeed, this was part of the platform that Sal Lizard campaigned on. Here's part of what Sal's campaign literature said back in 2007: "We need to have rules that apply equally to everyone fairly from the Commander, STARFLEET to the newest member AND a fair process to apply them for ALL members."

My point? Sal campaigned on something and then focused his administration on getting that goal achieved. His campaign didn't promise to lower (or raise) subscription fees, double the size of membership, implement electronic voting, or start more charity programs. The priority for Sal Lizard and his EC was to focus on fixing the rules, and that's what this administration has done. It should not have surprised anyone.

And indeed, each STARFLEET administration will ultimately have its own priorities and its own style. Fleet Admiral Mike Smith ran STARFLEET one way while Fleet Admiral Les Rickard ran things a different way. And the next Commander, STARFLEET will likely have his or her own method of doing things and an Executive Committee that will focus on certain goals.

And that's why it is so important to participate in this STARFLEET election (and why I've spent three whole pages on this!). STARFLEET is led by the administration that gets the most votes. If you want STARFLEET to be a certain way, then—quite simply—you need to vote.

So I leave you with three famous quotes from science fiction:

1) From *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* – "Learn all that is learnable." Get to know the candidates, their slates for EC, and their platforms. Ask questions (politely) on the Election List and in person at the IC and regional summits. Listen to the answers. Talk to your RC, CO, XO, and other prominent people with their fingers on the pulse of STARFLEET. Be an educated member.

2) From *Babylon 5* – "What do you want?" That was the fateful question asked of all the ambassadors by Mr. Morden: "What do you want?" After you "learn all that is learnable" about the candidates, ask yourself carefully what it is that *you* want for STARFLEET.

3) From *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* – "Choose wisely." This speaks for itself, but I shall combine it with the lyrics from the song "Free Will" by Rush: "If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice." Not voting is a choice, but is it a wise choice? I will leave that judgment up to you.

I wish all the candidates an enlightening and civil election campaign both for themselves and for all the members of STARFLEET.



Newsletter Contest Announcement and Rules

It's time for the annual Newsletter Contest! Like last year, awards will be given as follows:

- Most Informative Newsletter – one winner**
- Best Layout of a Newsletter – one winner**
- Best Overall Newsletter – awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.**

The rules for the contest are very simple. Those chapters and/or regions wishing to have their newsletter considered for the awards must submit EITHER an electronic copy via email OR a hard copy mailed to the address below before July 15th, 2009. Electronic copies need to be e-mailed to:

comms-vice@sfi.org

...with the subject of "Newsletter Entry." If you are submitting a hard copy, please mail it to:

**Dennis Rayburn
670 Yates Drive
Radcliff, KY 40160**

Entries received after July 15th will not be eligible. The newsletters will be evaluated by a panel of judges, and their decision will be absolute and final. The judges are looking forward to seeing your submissions, so please send in your newsletters!





NAME: MICHAEL STEIN
 RANK: COMMODORE
 POSITION: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, STARFLEET
 OTHER POSITIONS: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 SHIP: *USS JUSTICE* NCC-556
 REGION: 7, NEW JERSEY (USA)



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, STARFLEET

Report from the Chief Financial Officer

Greetings, everyone. As I write this article, it was only a few days ago that we had a major snow storm on the East Coast, especially in NJ where I live. There's still plenty of snow on the ground and more to come in the next few days. Well, I guess that's expected here in Jersey. Anyway, getting down to business as usual, attached to this report are the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2009, along with the year to date totals.

As you can see, we derive the majority of our income from membership dues. Our four largest expenses for the year to date are the Communiqué expenses, STARFLEET IC Expenses, followed by

Quartermaster Supplies and Accounting Fees.

Jon Lane has also written a lengthy and detailed financial budget article for this issue after speaking with both Pat and me for about two and half hours recently concerning how all the income and expenses work together to benefit STARFLEET. I'd strongly suggest everyone read Jon's article, as well.

Once again, more detailed financial statements are available for viewing online for all members to see at the STARFLEET Finance home page. Please sign in using your SCC# and password to gain access to the members-only sections.

In my last CFO article, I discussed why the Group Exemption Letter wasn't going to be offered to the Chapters. I just wanted to add that both Pat and I had spent a lot of time researching this, but as it later turned out, doing this wouldn't have been in STARFLEET's best interests for now. Again, hopefully a future administration will be able to figure out a way to make that work.

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 gladly offer to respond to your request as soon as possible.

STARFLEET International Statement of Activities July 2009 - June 2010

Operating Revenues:	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Year To Date
Membership Dues	\$ 4,148	\$ 3,323	\$ 3,404	\$ 2,070	\$ 3,914	\$ 3,179	\$ 20,038
Scholarship Funds	520	196	34	133	269	23	1,175
Quartermaster Sales	1,380	3,527	502	556	526	355	6,846
STARFLEET Int'l Conference	2,010	3,113	1,247	70	-	115	6,555
Other Income	91	2,553	50	-	39	150	2,882
Total operating revenues	8,148	12,712	5,237	2,829	4,748	3,822	37,495
Operating expenses:							
Communiqué Expenses	1,842	2,113	2,716	594	1,190	1,644	10,098
Membership Package	1,118	45	326	190	53	1,230	2,962
Quartermaster Supplies	1,112	1,190	950	910	180	61	4,403
STARFLEET IC Expenses	(76)	9,841	-	2	-	-	9,766
Scholarship Awards	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Bank Charges & Fees	232	203	245	161	199	148	1,189
Election Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment & Software	-	1,474	-	-	42	196	1,712
Accounting Fees	-	-	-	3,500	-	-	3,500
Legal Fees	561	1,056	281	-	-	-	1,898
Insurance Bond	-	853	-	-	-	-	853
Insurance Liability	-	-	1,731	-	-	-	1,731
Licenses & Permits	925	-	-	61	36	-	1,022
Supplies	101	711	182	42	-	-	1,036
Transition Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Office Expenses	1,819	4,297	2,438	3,765	277	344	12,941
Total operating expenses	5,814	17,486	7,430	5,460	1,701	3,280	41,171
(Loss) / Income	\$ 2,334	\$ (4,775)	\$ (2,193)	\$ (2,631)	\$ 3,048	\$ 542	\$ (3,675)

STARFLEET International Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2009

ASSETS	Total
CURRENT ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	
CD General Fund A Risk Free	\$ 5,118
CD General Fund B	16,671
CD SF Scholarship Fund B	1,095
IC 2009	1,151
International Conference Odd	635
International Conference Even	3,067
Main Bank Account	12,156
Petty Cash SF QM	6
Petty Cash SFMC QM	33
SF Scholarship Fund A	6,762
SFMC Marines	1,750
SFMC Scholarship Fund	2,871
Spec Ops 6351	75
Total Bank Accounts & Petty Cash	\$ 51,390
Other Current Assets	
Deposits	-
Prepaid Other	-
Total Current Assets	51,390
Total Assets	\$ 51,390
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ -
Accrued expenses	-
Sales Tax Payable	217
Total current liabilities	\$ 217
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	1,000
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	53,848
Net Income	(3,675)
Total Equity	51,173
Total Liabilities And Equity	\$ 51,390



**NAME: PEG PELLERIN****RANK: ADMIRAL****POSITION: COMMANDANT, STARFLEET ACADEMY****OTHER POSITIONS: DEAN OF THE INSTITUTE OF ALIEN STUDIES, DIRECTOR OF VULCAN ORIENTATION COLLEGE AND VESSEL READINESS PROGRAM, 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.

Well, two years have gone by since I started my tenure as your STARFLEET Academy Commandant. Affirmative, I have only one more year to go. I came into this position filled with anxiety, not knowing if I could actually do the job. My fears were quelled quickly, thanks to the knowledgeable staff that has helped me out throughout this term. I've been called the Silent 'Dant' because I'm not heard from as often as some of my predecessors. Those of you who have come to know me know that I speak out when I feel strongly about something, such as the cheating policy that I worked on, along with my administration, in order to make it firm but fair for all members. I took this position to ensure that STARFLEET Academy would remain as it has always

been, the Jewel of STARFLEET. If nothing else, STARFLEET Academy is the place where any member can feel they are active in some way in their fan club.

Some may not consider me a strong leader. I have always felt that I'm not here to be pushy and use my position as status quo. My position is to listen/hear. I have listened to many opinions and have based my decisions upon them. Some of my decisions may not have been favorable, but they were made for, what I have felt to be, the good of the membership of STARFLEET.

I may not have pleased some of the staff and/or members all of the time, but I do hope I have pleased most of the staff and/or members

most of the time. I will continue my final year as Commandant the same as I have my previous two years—to be there for the members of STARFLEET. I have and continue to be able to do this only because I have the best team in STARFLEET. That team is comprised of those I have come to feel as family: the directors, deans and administrators of STARFLEET Academy.

What can I say? STARFLEET Academy is a continuously-working machine. It continues to grow and improve itself. To paraphrase one of my administrator's comments to me one day: STARFLEET Academy's directors are making an extreme effort to enrich the Academy. I don't think we'll ever run out of something for everyone's interest. If we do, please let us know.

Promotion

Congratulations to Anne Bellenger for her promotion from Rear Admiral to Vice Admiral on February 6, 2010.

Thank you Erik Stubblefield for representing STARFLEET Academy on the Lou Trek Show, which aired on Monday, February 1, 2010.

From the Desk of Coordinator of Academics: ADM Carol Thompson

Institute of Special Operations

Due to the rapid growth of the Special Operations Colleges, the new Institute of Special Operations has been developed to accommodate them. The Colleges were developed in response to the needs of STARFLEET's SFSO program. The new Institute was unveiled with the following Colleges:
College of SpecOps Training
College of SpecOps Units
College of SpecOps Resources
College of SpecOps in Movies

College of SpecOps Training

The College of SpecOps Training has cloned off its equipment and resources schools to the new College of SpecOps Resources.

College of SpecOps Units

The College of SpecOps Units has added a school of World Wide SpecOps units with 19 courses.

College of SpecOps Resources

The College of SpecOps Resources split off from CSOT, handling equipment and other SpecOps resources.

College of Sci-Fi TV

The College of Sci-Fi TV is closed while the pending director tests out. Mean- while, several sets of exams have been removed to their own Colleges: Dr. Who, Stargate, Farscape and Babylon 5. Expect this trend to continue as more TV series appear on DVD.

College of Dr. Who

The College of Doctor Who houses the IOSFS' courses on the original and new Doctor Who series.

College of Farscape

This new College has combined the old COSFTV and CIS exams with new exams that challenge the Farscape fan.

College of Stargate

Welcome to the worlds and adventures that the Stargate has taken us and continues to take us to through the original

movie, the live-action series (SG1, Atlantis and Universe), DVD movies and even the animated series.

College of Charmed

Based on the longest-running hour-long program with an all female lead. The story follows three (3) sisters, Prue, Piper, Phoebe and later Paige, who find out that they are modern day witches, each with their own unique power.

Chaplain Services College of Spirituality

The Chaplain Services College of Spirituality gives the student general knowledge and history about Chaplains as well as aspects regarding the realm of religion within the real world and the world of Star Trek.

College of Babylon 5

This new College combines the old exams in COSTV with new exams that more deeply explore the universe of Babylon 5.

College of Mathematics

The College of Mathematics offers one new FUN course in Egyptian Algebra!

College of Treknology

The College of Treknology has added exams for ST 6 movies.

College of Engineering

The College of Engineering offers several new upper level courses.

College of SpecOps in Movies

This College has grown to 18 exams this quarter.

College of Intel Operations

The CIO has added a school of VIP Protection with 9 courses.

College of United Kingdom

The College of the UK is open with a very good response from the membership. It offers schools on England and Ireland with pending schools covering Scotland and Wales.

So You Want to be a Director

Basic requirements are: be at least 18 years old and have taken OTS, OCC, and FOS 101.

To assume a vacancy, you must pass all of the exams in the College, or if a large college, 75% of the exams.

To direct a College of your own creation, first check the College catalogue to make certain your idea is not already being used.

If the concept is not being used elsewhere, submit a College outline, exam, and key to the Course Development Contact, Carol Thompson, at < Betazoid@mosquitonet.com >. She will determine where your College fits within the Academy structure and introduce you to your Dean, who will lead you through the approval process.

Staff Changes

Admiral Carolyn Donner stepped down from the position of Dean of the Institute of Alien Studies, citing a very busy real life. Admiral Peg Pellerin, no stranger to the duties of a Dean, has stepped into this position.

Vice Admiral Glen Diebold has taken the Dean's position over the new Institute of Special Operations.

Admiral Carol Thompson has taken over the Dean's position of the Institute of Intelligence & Espionage.

Director Changes		New Colleges/Directors	
Carol Thompson	College of Farscape College of Babylon 5	Grady Glover	College of Dr. Who
Ros Haywood	College of the UK College of Humour	Annie Wheeler	College of Stargate
Lee Vitasek	Ferengi Orientation College	Debbie French	College of Charmed
Glen Diebold	SpecOps Resources	Russell Ruhland	Chaplains Services College of Spirituality
Robert Hewitt	Xeno Studies Cadet Xeno Studies		
Tom Pawelczak	College of Bond, James Bond		

Academy Information

Further information about the Academy, its staff and faculty, courses offered, and scholarships will be found at the following website:

www.academy.sfi.org



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

December ends us with 18 Boothby Awards issued, and below is the 18-plus-one that I missed from last month (Marlene, sorry I keep forgetting you, dear), 232 for the year 2009, and a final total of 770 since we started. I would guesstimate that, at the rate we are growing, that we will see the 1,000th issuance in the mid fall of 2010. So any plans that we come up with to commemorate this should be finalized by summer.

December Boothby's

Omega 1000 Wayne Smith	Garnet 600 Eric Johannson Amber 550 George Ann Wheeler	Dilithium 300 Marlene Miller* Scott Schaller Latinum 200 David Giles	Bronze 50 Jim Hutley John Prushko Russell Ruhland Sandra Stocks
Ruby 900 Carol Thompson	Platinum 450 Richard Hewitt	Silver 100 Marcus Easterly Sandra Mutter Jonathon Neale	NOTE: the number of stars after each name denotes the number of awards issued for that month.
Sapphire 850 Gary Hollifield, Jr.	Zirconium 400 Oliver Savander Grahame Smith		
Pearl 750 Erik Stubblefield			

Well, we started the new year out with a record number of Boothby Awards issued...not just over previous Januarys, but we had more awards that any other month before. To set the stage on this, we only issued 11 Boothby Awards in 2007 and 12 each in 2008 and 2009. And the most issuances in a single month before this came in September, 2009 with 28 awards issued.

For this month, we had 30 awards issued... that's right, I said 30! I still have a few certificates to create and email, but all entries have been entered into the database. We have also hit 800 awards to date, and I believe that we'll see the possibility of that 1,000th in the near future, at least if this all continues as it has been. Last year, we issued an average of nearly 20 Boothby Awards each month, and I see that number only getting bigger in the coming months. With that said, I will sign off, and you may look over the winners list below. Catch y'all next month!

January Boothby's

Omega Star - Bronze 1050 Carol Thompson	Pearl 750 Glendon Diebold Josephine Fisher Topaz 650 Donald Dobrin Eric Johannson George Ann Wheeler	Titanium 350 Marlene Miller Scott Schaller	Silver 100 Patrick Devine Anne Glover
Omega 1000 Carol Thompson		Dilithium 300 Michael Timko, III	Bronze 50 Matthew Ezell Franklin Newman, III Julie Prescott Scott Smith Alys Tremellwyn Josephus Ueffing Adam Wenclewicz
Emerald 950 Sean Niemeyer Carol Thompson	Garnet 600 Jill Tipton George Ann Wheeler	Diamond 250 Jari James Michael McGowan	
Ruby 900 Larry French, Sr.	Zirconium 400 Marlene Miller	Gold 150 Jeffery Davis Grady Glover	
Sapphire 850 Bill Rowlette			



College of Farscape
Admiral Carol Thompson, Director
betazoid@mosquitonet.com
PO Box 135
Ester, AK 99725

Astronaut John Crichton assumes he'll be home in time for dinner. But a freak accident during an experimental space mission catapults him across a thousand galaxies to an alien battlefield. Suddenly, he's trapped among alien creatures wielding deadly technology - a battle that 20th century sci-fi pop culture never prepared him for. Hunted by a merciless military race, Crichton begins his quest for home from a galaxy far, far away... Thus began the epic adventure "Farscape", the groundbreaking award-winning sci-fi production that has become a fan

favorite around the world. (1998-2002)

The new College combines the old exams formerly offered in COSFSTV and the IOIE:CIS with new exams. Students who have taken the existing exams need not retake them. Their credits are still on their records, just renamed.

It is expected that more exams will be written in the future.



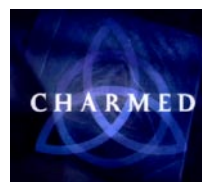
College of Babylon 5
Admiral Carol Thompson, Director
betazoid@mosquitonet.com
PO Box 135
Ester, AK 99725

It was the dawn of the third age of mankind, ten years after the Earth-Minbari War. The Babylon Project was a dream given form. Its goal: to prevent another war by creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. It's a port of call, home away from home for diplomats, hustlers, entrepreneurs, and wanderers. Humans and aliens wrapped in two million, five hundred thousand tons of spinning metal, all alone in the night. It can be a dangerous place, but it's our last, best hope for peace. This is the story of the last of the Babylon stations. The year is 2258. The name of the place is Babylon 5.

With a still-active and rather large fan base, this series (1994 - 1999) sparked a number of online RPGs, a number of movies, and a short-lived series Crusade.

This new College combines the old exams formerly offered in COSFSTV with new exams. Students who have taken the existing exams need not retake them. Their credits are still on their records, just renamed.

This College will be expanded to include more races, the movies, and Crusade.



College of Charmed
Commodore Debbie French, Director
charmedcollege@yahoo.com
1742 Broadway Avenue
Pittsburg, PA 15216-1809

Charmed began its eight (8) year run on 7 October, 1998 and ran until 21 May, 2006. It was declared the longest running hour long program with an all female lead. The story follows three (3) sisters, Prue, Piper, Phoebe, and later Paige, who find out that they are modern day witches, each with their own unique power. Their powers grow over time and are tied to their emotions. These

sisters were prophesized long ago by their ancestor to become the most powerful witches that the world had ever known. They are known as The Charmed Ones. They fight for the greater good against evil, and they protect the magical community and innocents from such beings as Demons, Warlocks, and the Source...just to name a few.



College of Doctor Who
Fleet Captain Grady Glover, Director
codw1838@aol.com
71 County Road 454
Killen, AL 35645

Step into the world that's definitely bigger on the inside than on the outside. It's a journey through time and space that has made *Doctor Who* the longest running

science fiction TV series in the world. The College of *Doctor Who* houses the IOSFS' courses on the original and new *Doctor Who* series.



College of Stargate
Fleet Captain George Ann Wheeler, Director
ppgannie@aol.com
114 Weber Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

In 1928, archeologists unearthed a giant ring and its cover stone with strange markings. For many years, after futile attempts to find out what the ring did, the program remained dormant. Then the daughter of the original lead archeologist convinced the U.S. military to begin anew the research on the ring. A discredited Egyptologist, Dr Daniel Jackson, was brought into the program after word of his belief that aliens created the pyramids reached Dr Langford, who was heading

the new research program. Dr Jackson deciphered the markings and the final chevron needed to activate the giant ring...and a franchise was born. The Stargate can take us to worlds beyond our universe and even parallel universes. Welcome to the worlds and adventures that the Stargate has taken us, and continues to take us, to through the original movie, the live-action series (*SG1*, *Atlantis* and *Universe*), DVD movies, and even the animated series.

Chaplain Services College of Spirituality
Russell D. Ruhland, Director
trekchristian@gmail.com
PO Box 597
Phenix City, AL 36868-0597

The Chaplain Services College of Spirituality gives the student general knowledge and history about Chaplains as well as aspects regarding the realm of religion within the real world and the world of Star

Trek. Those who successfully complete the required prerequisites of all courses made available are given the opportunity to be certified as an official STARFLEET Chaplain.

Riddle me this...

Last issue's riddle:

A carpenter left some wood,
Would not take it back.
I saw some dust where he left it,
But couldn't find his stack.

New Riddle:

A precious gift, this,
Yet it has no end or beginning,
And in the middle, nothing.

Answer: Sawdust.

Answer in next issue.



Adm. Peg Pellerin
SFA Commandant

academy@sfi.org OR mrspeapod@myfairpoint.net

"The great pleasures in life are doing what people say you cannot do."
(Read from a strip of paper in a fortune cookie). In my line of work in Special Education, it is so rewarding to see what our challenged students can do that people say they could never do.



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 hope all of you are surviving the winter. I am not a fan of the cold temperatures. Anything below 70 is too cold for me. This is going to be a short report, so here goes.

Shakedown Operations has continued to be busy launching chapters in the last few months. Here is the list of launchings since the last Communiqué...

I am happy to announce the following launched Chapters-in-Training:

Welcome the *USS Oklahoma*, Region 12 to STARFLEET. This is a Meeting chapter based out of Vinita, Oklahoma. For info on joining this ship, please contact CMDR. Shanon R. Lindbloom at: gaillindbloom@att.net

Welcome the *USS Orion Star*, Region 11 to STARFLEET. This is a Correspondence chapter based

out of Elmore Vale, Australia. For info on joining this ship, please contact Colonel Wayne Smith at: co@uss-orionstar.com

Welcome the *USS Storm*, Region 7 to STARFLEET. This is a Meeting chapter based out of Atlantic City, New Jersey. For info on joining this ship, please contact Captain David Sladky at: gmf4000@aol.com

Welcome the *USS Columbia*, Region 1 to STARFLEET. This is a Correspondence chapter based out of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. For info on joining this ship, please contact Commodore Jason Schreck at: lb206@aol.com

Welcome the *USS Daybreak*, Region 1 to STARFLEET. This is a Meeting chapter based out of Mint Hill, North Carolina. For info on joining this ship, please contact CMDR. Sean O'Connell at: sean.oconnell@mac.com

Welcome the *ISS Rassilon*, Region 20 to STARFLEET. This is a Meeting chapter based out of Stevenage, Herts, UK. For info on joining this ship, please contact Marie Wilson at: co@nx11.org.uk

Shakedown News

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. The Manual will be getting an update in the next few months.

The Accelerated Shakedown Program

The ASP allows for a shortened Shakedown Cruise in cases where groups already have in place elements of their organization that a group starting from scratch would develop during the period of their shakedown. A series of such elements has been developed by ShOC. If a prospective STARFLEET chapter feels that they may be eligible for the

ASP, they should contact the Chief of Shakedown Operations and make their request.

The other departments within ShOC have been business as usual.

Feel free to contact me. My door...er, e-mail is always open.

CORRECTION!

LAST ISSUE, THE LAUNCH OF THE REGION 5 CHAPTER *USS CHINOOK* WAS ANNOUNCED WITH THE WRONG COMMANDING OFFICER AND E-MAIL. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE MISTAKE. HERE IS THE CORRECT INFORMATION FOR THE *USS CHINOOK*:
CO - COMMANDER JEROME PIERCE
EMAIL - CO@USSCHINOOK.ORG

CHAPLAIN CORPS, STARFLEET



NAME: RUSSELL RUHLAND
RANK: COMMODORE
POSITION: CHIEF CHAPLAIN
SHIP: *USS DAVINCI* NCC-74671
REGION: 2, GEORGIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: CHAPTER OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2003; CHAPTER LEGION OF MERIT 2007



NAME: DIXIE SAVANDER
RANK: COMMANDER
POSITION: ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN, STARFLEET
OTHER POSITIONS: OPERATIONS OFFICER
SHIP: *USS TIBERIUS* NCC-50210
REGION: 2 FLORIDA (USA)



The Chaplain's Chat

Allow me to begin this issue's article by announcing my formal appointment of Commander Dixie Savander, *USS Tiberius*, as Associate Chaplain, STARFLEET. It has been a long road to fill this position, and I believe that Dixie will serve with the dedication and commitment necessary to accomplish our mission. She can be contacted via email at: [<dco7div@tampabay.rr.com>](mailto:dco7div@tampabay.rr.com).

I am also proud to announce the activation of the Chaplain Services College of Spirituality within STARFLEET Academy. This is the result of several months of research and development and currently has 5 courses available. Check out the Academy website for more information and enrollment. I wish to thank all of my students thus far for their wonderful comments on the courses.

Question: I have always thought that life involves some type of spiritual journey for all people. Can you give any insight about this area?

Answer: Let me first comment by stating that the following insight is based only upon my own personal experiences and others may have their independent opinions on this subject, but I'll try to provide the best possible answer I can.

In many ways, our spiritual lives are much like being on a trip. It has been said that the dominant word picture of the spiritual life in every world religion is the image of a journey. I believe that we are all on some type of spiritual journey. In fact, with the diversity we all have, the one common factor among all people is that we are on a spiritual journey together.

There are four "building blocks" involved in our journey. The first is building on the right foundation. This involves what we believe in, who we believe in, and even where our beliefs originate from. You could say that this foundation is even built on the fundamentals of IDIC as noted in Star Trek. We are indeed a diverse and cultured people.

The second block involves the right companions: those whom we share our experiences with and have fellowship with. It includes a setting aside of private interest and desires and the joining in with others for common purposes. It is a mutual sharing of our lives, our hearts, our possessions, and our tears with those we trust and consider as our true family within our personal faith.

Thirdly, we build on the right source. There are those who today are flocking to all kinds of different sources in order to find the truth in their spiritual journey. There's no lack of claims to spiritual truth. Some base that truth on their spiritual experiences, others on their favorite theology or their favorite author. Each individual has to determine what that source is and hopefully will proceed in life's proper direction.

Fourth and lastly, we build on the right goal. You cannot set goals in one fashion and then take

wrong turns. Once you set your goal, stick with it; follow through and do not waiver. If you come to a crossroad, reevaluate and examine the goal to see if a little "tightening of the bolts" may be necessary to stay on the right path. In our spiritual journey, we find the right goal when it leads to transformed lives. This kind of personal satisfaction is what will get you to the finish line at the end of the journey, or *does the journey really ever end?*

(Portions of this information were provided from the following source: www.SermonCentral.com - "Joy for the Journey," by Timothy Peck.)

Send your questions to trekchristian@gmail.com. Always remember, names will never be published in order to protect the rights and morals of the asker. Until next issue, Warp 10!

Russell





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

STARFLEET: All Politics, No Fun?

Recently I'd found out that a Shakedown Chapter of STARFLEET had decided that STARFLEET wasn't for them and that most of the reason behind the decision was the political environment that seems to be always present in STARFLEET.

While I wouldn't imagine trying to deny that the political side of STARFLEET exists, I think that, all too often, we see that side of the organization, get vapour locked on it, and forget about all of the other things that STARFLEET has to offer.

In my discussion with the CO of the chapter, there was a very good question asked: if the fun is at the chapter level, what exactly is the incentive to participate in STARFLEET?

While I'll agree that there definitely are a lot of very fun and enjoyable things that happen at the chapter level, I thought about why STARFLEET exists and what STARFLEET brings to chapters, and part of that is the network that STARFLEET creates.

Some people may not consider it, but as a network of other members and chapters to interact with, chapters can expand the things that they do and the fun that they can have in the name of being a Star Trek fan. For many of us, I'm sure that there are other chapters in your area that you and your members can do things with...say, have a joint game of "Star Trek Scene It" between the a chapter or two, perhaps a friendly Star Trek trivia game, or any number of different things.

Back when the USS White Star was in Region 13, they came up with their own categories and questions for the popular game show Jeopardy, which they ended up calling Sci-Fi Jeopardy. One of the things I really enjoyed doing was going to a summit that was being held down in Port Huron, Michigan when the White Star was the host chapter and was running that game as a Friday evening event.

Speaking of summits, how many of you have been to a regional summit before? I've had the chance to be at probably four (I think we've had four) summits here in Region 13, and I've been to Region 1's summit a number of years ago, and hope to be able to make it out for some more regional summits in the future.

Regional summits or conferences are a great chance to meet members of other chapters, interact with them, have the chance to try new things with them, talk to them about things that work in their groups and to see what you can take home with you for your chapter to do.

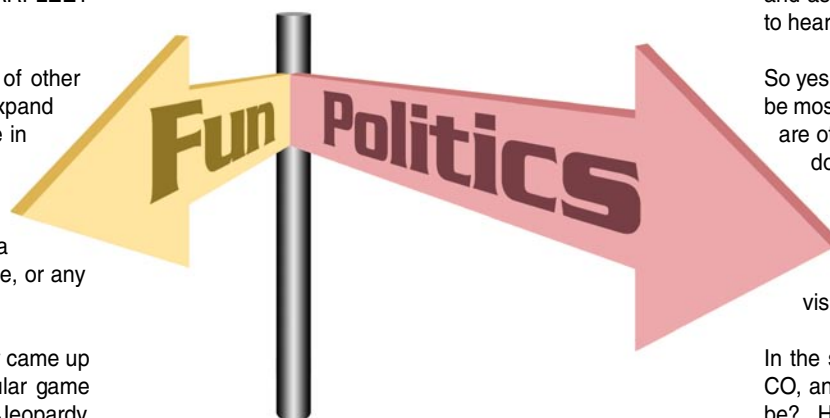
We're at the start of Summit and Conference season here in STARFLEET, what with Region 2 having theirs right around the corner in March, followed up by Region 5, then Region 1 in April (heading into May) and many more still to come. It's a good chance to meet more people, talk Trek, and find things that you might not have thought about doing as a chapter. Give a thought to attending your region's summit or conference and see what it's

all about. You may just enjoy it!

Various regions also have some fun programs that have very little to do with STARFLEET politics, and while regional programs change over time, I'm sure that there's still some of those programs around.

So, that's at your region's level. What is there at the international level?

Well, there's STARFLEET Academy, which has a wide range of fun things to do, much of which has little or nothing to do with the politics of STARFLEET, and extending beyond just Star Trek into other areas of science fiction and entertainment. I think that probably less than 10% of the courses have anything to do with STARFLEET but are instead geared more for fans of Star Trek and other science fiction universes as well!



STARFLEET also has the International Conference. Now, while the purpose of the IC is to be host to our annual business meeting, and we do have our share of business discussions that take place at the event, there typically are a lot of other things to do, and people coming to IC from around STARFLEET, not just your region. I've been to 4 of them, I think, and I have fun and meet great new people each time.

This year, STARFLEET's IC is going to be in Wagoner, Oklahoma. Debbie and I are both looking forward to it, though probably for very different reasons. Debbie is looking forward to hopefully going horseback riding on the ranch while I'm looking forward to seeing friends that I haven't seen in at least a year, if not longer, and catching up on what's been going on... and that's all in addition to seeing people geek out with their Star Trek costumes and uniforms and generally have a good time together.

What else goes on in STARFLEET that can be fun for members and possibly for the chapters? Well, with any luck, this article will be printed in the same edition that the announcement is printed for our second annual Short Story Contest, where our budding authors in STARFLEET will be able to put their imaginations to work and writing original works which other members will be able

to read on our Fiction Archive, AND which will have the chance to be selected as one of 5 stories to be judged by our Guest Judge. I'll give you a bit of a preview, but I've managed to secure D.C. Fontana as our Guest Judge for this year.

Last year's top 6 (because we had a tie for 5th place) were judged by Star Trek novelist Keith R.A. De Candido and are being printed, one per edition, in the Communiqué. Yup, that thing you're reading right now, which brings more Star Trek content to the newsletter and helps all of us share our love of Star Trek and enjoy it all the more.

For the Engineers in our membership, they can be in touch with the Advanced Starship Design Bureau, where they can design a starship class that can be used by other chapters in STARFLEET as their starship class. The ASDB is headed up by our own Major General Joost Ueffing; drop him a line at < shoc-asdb@sfi.org > and ask him how you can design a starship. I'm sure he'd love to hear from you!

So yes, STARFLEET can be a political place, but the politics can be mostly ignored or appropriately dealt with, and there definitely are other things that our members can do in STARFLEET that doesn't have really much, if anything, to do with the politics of the organization. It is, unfortunately, just one of the visible things that people seem to latch onto, and we really need to find a way to better bring to light the things that are more fun, yet which seem to be less visible at the present.

In the same e-mail correspondence that I was having with this CO, another question asked: "But is that the way things should be? Has that coarse political environment become the status quo? More importantly, is that the STARFLEET that will continue to attract and retain new members into the coming years?"

I will freely admit that, for some people, it is their prerogative, and that's what they go into STARFLEET for. But I'm also fairly certain the politics is certainly not what the bulk of our members are in STARFLEET for. It's for the friendships that they make and for the other things that they can do. The politics can become the background conversation; we just need to choose to tune out.

At the time that I'm writing this article, I haven't heard back from that chapter's CO again, and I know very well that there's no way that I could force him or his members to stick with STARFLEET. But I am hoping that maybe I've given him, his members, and now each of you who are reading this article, a few things to look at and consider. I hope to hear back from that CO that they may choose to reconsider and that they might stick around a bit longer to see the other side of things that they didn't get to see the first time around.

And after you've read this, I hope each of you will give STARFLEET another look and see all of the great things that STARFLEET has to offer, and that the politics that most of us tend to dislike so much isn't the only thing that is here for each of us.





IC 2010

It's Almost Here!



The 2010 STARFLEET International Conference is almost here! From July 30 to August 1, the Western Hill Guest Ranch at Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner, Oklahoma will be the place to be. If you haven't made your arrangements, now is the time.

To register, you can visit our website at <http://www.ic2010.org> and pay via Paypal or download a form if you prefer to register by mail. You can register for just \$25 a person right now, a \$5 savings over registering at the door. Also, you can lock in your meals now, too—\$22 for Friday's Marine Mess, \$10 for the Saturday cookout lunch, and \$35 for the Saturday Banquet. There's no guarantee that any meals will be available at the door, so if you want to be a part of the exciting meal events at IC, register today!

The other thing you'll want to do is to reserve your accommodations now. This is more important for this year than for previous ICs, because this is a resort location in the middle of a park, which means that last-minute reservations will be almost impossible. This resort is always full in the summer. So, you should reserve your rooms now while the room block is reserved for us. \$70 a night gets you a room with a view of the lake, and for \$75, you can have a poolside room. There are also pet-friendly cottages available for about the same cost. They're a short walk from the hotel, and some come with kitchenettes.

Note that when you call (800) 368-1486 to reserve your

hotel room or cottage, you will be asked to pay for the first night's lodging at the time you make your reservation. You can do that either by credit card over the phone, or by mailing a check or money order. Any deposits are completely refundable if the reservation is cancelled at least 5 days before check-in.

If you don't get your reservations, you may wind up staying at a hotel 10 minutes away. So, the time is now!

The next question we get a lot is: how do I get there? The park is located about eight miles east of Wagoner, Oklahoma on Oklahoma State Highway 51. Travelers coming through Tulsa or westbound on I-40 can get to Wagoner on the Muskogee Turnpike. Those coming eastbound on I-40 can take US 69 to Wagoner, and many people coming from Texas will want to take US 75 out of Dallas to US 69.

For those who are flying, we are offering a free shuttle service from Tulsa International Airport on Thursday and Friday, and free shuttles back to TUL on Sunday and Monday. If you are wanting us to get you at the airport, email your arrival info to transportation@ic2010.org and we'll be there to pick you up. Airlines that serve Tulsa include American, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Southwest and United.

Once you get to the resort, there's so much to do! The

Nature Center is a great place for kids of all ages, and the staff naturalist can answer any questions you have. For those who prefer more active pastimes, there are hiking trails, trail rides from the stables, tennis courts, and an 18-hole golf course. Or grab your friends and rent a boat from the marina! Or, for a more relaxing time, hang out at the pool or at the hotel bar.

So, what's nearby outside the park? The town of Wagoner is about ten minutes away, where there are grocery stores, restaurants, a hospital and other services. And for those who wish to wager their latinum, there are three casinos within a half hour's drive.

Of course, we'll have the full complement of IC programming, with informative panels and fun gatherings. And look for some panel topics you've never seen before at an International Conference! And there's free wireless Internet access in the hotel, including all the meeting rooms and hotel rooms.

The IC staff is working hard to make this the most memorable IC ever. If you have any questions or suggestions as to how we can make this your best IC ever, just let us know!

VADM Greg Trotter
Chairman, IC 2010
USS Marko Ramius NCC-23103
R12, Arkansas (USA)

And If You're Driving...

I know a lot of you will be driving, so I thought I would give you a list of places in Oklahoma to stop and see on your way to IC2010 or on your way home.

- See the Blue Whale in Catoosa.
- Visit the Action Figure Museum in Pauls Valley.
- Take a picture of the World's Largest Peanut in Durant.
- Eat at a McDonald's while Interstate 44 traffic speeds beneath you.
- See a replica of the crater in Boise City when it was bombed during World War II...by the US Army Air Corps. Oops!
- Look at the World's Largest Dick Tracy mural in Pawnee and ask yourself, "Why?"
- Go to a cemetery in Okemah and see the tombstone that has an expired parking meter. Bring a flower.
- Drive to Heavener and see a rune stone that may have been left by a Viking. Or maybe not.
- Only 20 miles away in Muskogee, you can see a World War II submarine. Yes, really.
- In Tulsa, you can visit the Center of the Universe. You always knew it would be in some unexpected place.
- And you can go to Broken Bow and await the arrival of Klingons. But we recommend this one for after the IC, because you might have to wait a while. You'll wanna pack some sandwiches.

Not all of these are a reasonable drive from the Western Hills Guest Ranch near Wagoner. Some are decidedly unreasonable! But if you get tired of a 19,900 acre lake, boat rentals, tennis, golf, horseback riding, stargazing, and swimming after the IC, it's nice to know you have options!

Tell your boss that you'll need to be off from July 30th to August 1st, plus a day or two on each end for travel. You should tell him that you've already called (800) 368-1486 to reserve your hotel room or cottage. He'll want to know.

See you in Oklahoma!





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

0217-71-13



One Hundred Members!

In December of 2009, the USS Republic in Atlanta, Georgia, reached the significant milestone of more than 100 members on board, actually ending the year with a crew roster of 103. This is the largest crew that any STARFLEET chapter has seen in more years than pretty much anyone can remember. This remarkable achievement is even more extraordinary considering that the Republic crew had only nine members just three and half years ago. The Republic is now one of STARFLEET's busiest and highest-profile chapters, with an active slate of fun and interesting chapter activities planned for its members. The Communique asked the Republic's commanding officer, Captain Eric L. Watts, to share with the rest of STARFLEET how the Republic managed to achieve such explosive membership growth in a relatively short period of time.

One of the things that I am frequently asked about the *Republic* is how did we manage to recruit so many new members, especially considering that many other STARFLEET chapters are either stagnant in their membership growth or are actually seeing a decline in their numbers? The answer is simply this: You have to be willing to *work* for it, you have to be willing to *pay* for it, and you have to really, *really* want it.

Member recruitment is *not* easy and it is *not* free. Most importantly, you have to have a "product" (your chapter) that people actually want to "buy" (join). Even the most effective marketing campaign and recruitment strategies will fail if your product offers no value. When you ask someone to consider joining STARFLEET, you're asking them for their hard-earned money. When you ask them to consider joining your chapter, you're asking them for an investment of their time *and* money. If a potential recruit asks you, "Why should I join your club?" you need a compelling, persuasive, *detailed* answer. You need to be able to give a list of solid reasons why joining your chapter is a good idea. You don't want to waste their time, and you don't want to waste their money. You need to be able to clearly define what they can expect from you if they join... to articulate what the return on their investment is likely to be. In short: Who are you? What do you do? Why should they join? What's in it for them?

The USS *Republic* was commissioned in 1988 and for more than 10 years was Atlanta's largest and most active *Star Trek* fan club. But about 10 or so years ago, the chapter began to run out of steam, membership plummeted, and by the mid-2000s, the group had sputtered to near nonexistence. The chapter hadn't held a meeting in several months, hadn't published a newsletter in several years, didn't have a web site, didn't even have a dedicated email or postal mailing address. The only people who knew the *Republic* even still existed were a literal handful of members who had mostly given up on the group. When I was elected commanding officer in 2006 by what few members remained on

board, I made it my personal mission to resurrect the *Republic* and make it the best possible *Star Trek* fan club it could possibly be—one that *Star Trek* fans all over the Atlanta area would want to join and be a part of.

history wasn't enough to sell the product—I needed to create something tangible, something immediate, something of value to offer in exchange for their membership dues. I did this in two different ways: *Star Trek* gift baskets and a Member Benefits Program.



IN ONE OF OUR HIGHEST-PROFILE EVENTS TO DATE, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE REPUBLIC ANSWERED PHONES FOR TWO HOURS ON LIVE TELEVISION DURING GEORGIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING'S ANNUAL FALL PLEDGE DRIVE IN DECEMBER 2008. THE PLEDGE DRIVE WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ALL OF GPB'S EIGHT STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. AN EVENT LIKE THIS CAN TAKE MONTHS OF PLANNING, BUT THE REWARDS CAN BE INCREDIBLY WORTHWHILE. THE ON-AIR ANNOUNCERS WHO MAKE THEIR PITCH TO VIEWERS TO CALL IN AND MAKE A PLEDGE WILL MENTION THE NAME OF THE GROUP ANSWERING THE PHONES BEHIND THEM. IN ADDITION TO THAT, THE REPUBLIC ARRANGED TO HAVE OUR LOGO DISPLAYED AS AN ONSCREEN GRAPHIC WHENEVER OUR GROUP NAME WAS ANNOUNCED, AND CAPTAIN WATTS WAS BRIEFLY INTERVIEWED DURING ONE PLEDGE BREAK ABOUT THE GROUP, DURING WHICH TIME HE WAS SURE TO MENTION THE CLUB'S WEB SITE ADDRESS. BEING BROADCAST ON LIVE TELEVISION THROUGHOUT THE STATE IS THE KIND OF RECOGNITION THAT YOU JUST SIMPLY CAN'T BUY. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC TV STATION AND ASK IF THERE ARE ANY PLEDGE DRIVES OR COMMUNITY-ORIENTED EVENTS THAT THEY'RE PLANNING TO BROADCAST THAT YOUR CHAPTER COULD BE A PART OF. THEY'LL LIKELY BE GLAD TO GET THE HELP AND BE MORE THAN WILLING TO GIVE YOUR GROUP SOME KIND OF ON-AIR RECOGNITION IN RETURN.

Given the condition of the chapter and with almost nothing to work with, it was, for all intents and purposes, just like starting the club all over from scratch—and that's essentially how I looked at it.

In order to bring the ship back to life, I felt we needed to create a perception of *value*. I had to make potential new members believe they were getting something of value in return for their dues. The ship's recent

a year. It's then *your* responsibility to provide them with a membership experience that is fun and rewarding and one they'll want to continue by renewing each year afterwards. If someone who has been a member of your chapter for a year decides they don't want to renew their dues because they haven't had a good time being a member or because they feel they didn't receive sufficient value for their investment... frankly, you probably didn't do your job as commanding officer.

People love to get free stuff. The marketing concept behind the gift baskets was simple enough: throw a bunch of *Star Trek*-related items together in a basket, wrap it up with cellophane and a colorful bow, and then give one—*free*—to each person who signed up as a new member. The perceived value of such a basket is almost always far more than the actual value and makes for an almost irresistible offer: Join the USS *Republic* today and get a *Star Trek* gift basket absolutely *free*! Depending on what's in the basket, the offer is sometimes too good to be true, and this strategy has been one of our most effective recruitment tools.

So how does one put together an inexpensive *Star Trek* gift basket for essentially nothing that can be given away for free? The baskets themselves can be found at most thrift stores for as little as 25¢ to 50¢ each. What goes into them can be almost anything and come from almost anywhere: used *Star Trek* paperback novels, used *Star Trek* VHS tapes, used *Star Trek* toys, used *Star Trek* action figures, used *Star Trek* hardback books, used *Star Trek* magazines, used *Star Trek* buttons, used *Star Trek* miniatures, used *Star Trek* anything. (Do you see a pattern here?) These items can be found at thrift stores, dollar stores, used book stores, yard sales and garage sales, and in my particular case, from my own personal collections. (After 30 years in fandom, I had managed to accumulate a surprising amount of duplicate items that I was more than willing to donate to the cause.) Put six to eight of these items together in a basket, shrink-wrap it with sheets of cellophane that you can buy from your local arts & crafts store, and *voila!* You have a *Star Trek* gift basket that works as a powerful member recruitment tool. Why? Because... it's *free*!

But... wait! I can hear you: "*Star Trek* books and toys? Thrift stores and yard sales? Gift baskets and shrink-wrap? That sounds like a lot of *work*." Yes, it is. But remember: Member recruitment is *not* easy and it is *not* free. You have to want it and you have to work for it. And in this case, you have to make an investment in it. Once you get a person to join your chapter, you've got them for





DRAGON*CON PARADE ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2009. STAR TREK FANS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY GATHER BEHIND THE USS REPUBLIC'S BANNER AT THE DRAGON*CON PARADE. ALTHOUGH MANY REPUBLIC MEMBERS MARCHED, ONLY FOUR ARE SEEN HERE: ENS3 JEFF TREW & ENS JOHN STUMP ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BANNER; ENS3 JOANNE TREW, CENTER RIGHT, HOLDING TRIBBLES; AND ENS3 TODD DISSINGER TO ENSIGN JOANNE'S LEFT.

A Member Benefits Program is another powerful recruitment tool. The concept is simple: local businesses in and around your city offer an exclusive deal or discount on their goods and/or services to members of your chapter when they present their chapter (not STARFLEET) membership card. Depending on how generous each offer is and/or how often a member takes advantage of these offers, members can save more money on their purchases than they spent on their membership dues. This means that their membership card can easily pay for itself in a year's time and essentially make their membership...free. Once again, people love the sound of "free." When creating this program for the *Republic*, I approached every small business owner I knew and asked them if they would be interested in a mutually-beneficial promotional program. All they had to do was offer our members a meaningful discount on their

who is and who isn't a member—for example, anyone who shows up for a meeting, who subscribes to a mailing list or even just *calls* himself a member is considered one. Some chapters even allow their *pets* to be "members." These kinds of lax policies make it difficult to distinguish who is and who is not an actual *bona fide* voting member of your club. What happens to the person who shows up for three consecutive meetings but then is never heard from again for more than a year? How about the person who subscribes to a YahooGroups list but never posts a message, attends a meeting, or even makes his presence known? Are these folks still considered "members"? At what point does someone decide that they are no longer members? Should some sort of associate membership status be created for these phantoms? Do chapters keep these people's names on their membership roster simply for the sake of keeping their numbers up?



FALL DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 2009 AT THE STEVIE B'S PIZZA RESTAURANT IN TUCKER, GEORGIA. KNEELING: CO CAPT ERIC L. WATTS. STANDING: CHRIS JONES, ENS1 MARK A. OZANICK, ENS1 ZANNETTA LAW, ENS ERIC CURTISS, CRMN JESSICA CURTISS, ENS EDDIE HINES, CRMN3 JENILEE TREW, ENS3 JOANNE TREW, ENS3 MARILYN TEAGUE, ENS3 JEFF TREW, ENS3 JULIANNE TREW, ENS JOHN STUMP, ENS BETH MILLER, ALEX MILLER.

goods or services and in return, we would list their business (and all relevant contact information) on our web site, in our newsletter and in all our promotional materials. The *Republic* initially partnered with a comic book store, a gift basket store, a full-service florist, a local bar & grill, a used book store, an online gift shop and even a local real estate agent, all of whom agreed to give our members a minimum discount ranging between 10 and 15%, and in the case of the real estate agent, a \$250 cash rebate for buying or selling a home through him. If a member spends \$250.00 or more in a year's time with one or more of our Member Benefits Program partners, they will save a minimum of 10% on their purchases, or \$25.00, which is what they paid for their membership

eliminates the need for multiple classes of chapter membership—e.g., those who are and those who are not members of Fleet—and allows all chapter members to both enjoy the benefits as well as share the responsibilities of membership equally. This could be a problem for those chapters that consider themselves to be general science fiction clubs, not devoted exclusively to *Star Trek*, but I believe that it eliminates other problems associated with "full" vs. "associate" membership classes, including differentiating between those who can and those who cannot vote in important club decisions, such as elections. (I can't imagine non-STARFLEET members—or *pets*!—being allowed to vote in a commanding officer election.) It simply makes things easier for all involved if everyone

dues for STARFLEET plus the *Republic*...making their membership (essentially) free. Any additional savings over that is gravy. A free *Star Trek* gift basket and the opportunity to save more in discounts than what is paid in dues...how could anybody turn this down? This one-two punch was an incredibly effective marketing strategy that helped relaunch the *Republic* with a group of all-new members and made this recruitment campaign one of the most successful in recent STARFLEET history.

Please note, however, that this program only works when your business partners can verify and confirm who is (and who isn't) a member of your chapter. This means that your members must have membership cards with expiration dates on them, which in turn means that your chapter must have a clear policy of distinguishing who is and who isn't a member (as well as the means to print and preferably laminate said cards). That may sound like the proverbial no-brainer, but in the case of the *Republic* that I inherited from its previous commanding officer, it was a bit of a challenge to determine who actually was and who was not a member of the ship, and apparently there are other chapters who are in a similar situation.

Here's the problem: Some chapters don't require their members to be members of STARFLEET. Other chapters don't even have clear guidelines governing who is and who isn't a member—for example, anyone who shows up for a meeting, who subscribes to a mailing list or even just *calls* himself a member is considered one. Some chapters even allow their *pets* to be "members." These kinds of lax policies make it difficult to distinguish who is and who is not an actual *bona fide* voting member of your club. What happens to the person who shows up for three consecutive meetings but then is never heard from again for more than a year? How about the person who subscribes to a YahooGroups list but never posts a message, attends a meeting, or even makes his presence known? Are these folks still considered "members"? At what point does someone decide that they are no longer members? Should some sort of associate membership status be created for these phantoms? Do chapters keep these people's names on their membership roster simply for the sake of keeping their numbers up?

I firmly believe it is imperative that each chapter has clear guidelines for determining who is and who is not a member of that chapter, and exactly how many people are members. When you're discussing your club with a potential new member or even a potential new business partner, when they ask, "How many members are there in your group?" you need to be able to answer that question decisively. The two best ways of doing this are 1) requiring that each member of your chapter also be a member of STARFLEET, and/or 2) requiring that each member of your chapter pay chapter dues. There are compelling and persuasive reasons for both. Even though it's not required, it makes perfect sense to me that, because each chapter is chartered and commissioned by STARFLEET and is governed and bound by its Constitution, each member who joins that chapter must *also* be a member of the parent organization. This policy

on board belongs to the same well-defined class of membership with join dates and dues expiration dates on record.

In addition to providing the important function of clearly defining who is and who isn't a member of your chapter, membership dues also allows your chapter to build a treasury and to be able pay for basic operational, administrative, and recruitment expenses. Any chapter who is serious about member recruitment is going to incur expenses, and those expenses should not be borne by one person or even a small committee. They should be paid for out of a general treasury that is funded through membership dues, donations, and fundraising activities. One expense already discussed is laminated membership cards, but an active chapter serious about recruitment is also going to need to print flyers, brochures, and membership applications. A lucky few may have access to free color printing at their place of employment, but most of us will either need to print them at home (incurring ink and paper costs) or pay a print shop. An active chapter serious about recruitment may choose to purchase mailing labels for local fans from FanData.com in order to market their chapter with old-fashioned flyers or post cards, all of which comes with a cost. An active chapter serious about recruitment may decide to set up a recruitment table at their local science fiction convention, which normally



ALWAYS MAKE SURE TO TAKE A GROUP SHOT OF YOUR CHAPTER EVENT, NO MATTER HOW FEW PEOPLE MAY BE IN ATTENDANCE. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOWED UP FOR IT; IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHOW THAT YOU HELD THE EVENT. BUT IT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO HAVE A PHOTO OF EVERY EVENT FOR BOTH ARCHIVAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS FOR MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT PURPOSES. IN THESE PHOTOS, YOUR MEMBERS SHOULD BE GROUPED CLOSELY TOGETHER, PREFERABLY IN A SPOT THAT CLEARLY IDENTIFIES THE LOCATION OR INCLUDES SOME OTHERWISE-ATTRACTIVE SCENERY. PHOTOS OF YOUR MEMBERS AT VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, DOING DIFFERENT THINGS AT DIFFERENT PLACES, SHOULD BE POSTED ON YOUR CHAPTER'S WEB SITE SO THAT POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS CAN READILY SEE THE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES YOUR GROUP PARTICIPATES IN. THESE PHOTOS SHOULD ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN YOUR RECRUITMENT MATERIALS, SUCH AS FLYERS AND BROCHURES. EACH YEAR, THE REPUBLIC TAKES THE TWELVE BEST GROUP SHOTS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND PUBLISHES A CHAPTER CALENDAR THAT INCLUDES MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO STAR TREK FANS. THESE CALENDARS NOT ONLY MAKE A GREAT SOUVENIR FOR OUR MEMBERS, BUT THEY ALSO ACT AS A FUNDRAISER FOR OUR TREASURY, AS WELL AS A MARKETING TOOL AT OUR RECRUITMENT TABLES.



has a cost, and have a chapter banner made to display at chapter and recruitment events, which also has a cost. These kinds of expenses should be considered investments in the chapter and should be paid for out of a treasury. A chapter that doesn't charge chapter dues will be extremely limited in not only what it can do to recruit new members, but also in what it will be able to do to retain current ones. A chapter that doesn't charge chapter dues might as well adopt as its chapter motto, "Pay Nothing—Get Nothing—Do Nothing."

Some chapters claim they don't want to charge chapter dues because members already pay STARFLEET dues, and adding chapter dues on top of that can make the total membership price too expensive for some people. I reject that argument as lame. STARFLEET dues of \$15.00 annually plus chapter dues of, say, \$10.00 annually comes to a grand total of \$25.00 per year—or less than 7¢ per day. If 7¢ a day is too expensive for some folks, considering everything they get (or *should* get) in return for their hard-earned money, then that really is unfortunate. But it costs money to run a chapter, and I believe every member who enjoys the benefits of membership is equally responsible for funding those expenses through dues. However, dues don't necessarily have to be paid all at once—the *Republic* allows its members to renew their dues in three monthly installments by check. Members can also pay their dues with their credit cards by using PayPal. Other chapters can make similar payment plans available to those members for whom financial hardship is a genuine issue.

Another important strategy in an effective member recruitment campaign is branding, and the most important element in branding is your chapter logo. A chapter logo should be elegant in its simplicity and be instantly recognizable as related to *Star Trek*. I have seen many well-designed and exquisitely detailed chapter logos that lose their impact or fall apart altogether in certain practical applications, such as when reduced as a graphic on paper, screen printed on a t-shirt, or converted to embroidery. Mottos and slogans should not be a part of a logo—only your chapter's name and, optionally, its registration number. Keeping it simple and avoiding meticulous detail (but remaining unique and distinctive) will give your logo stronger brand recognition and be much more versatile in practical applications.

One of the most popular, effective, and inexpensive branding (and recruitment) strategies is chapter T-shirts. T-shirts with your chapter logo on them are an excellent way to establish your chapter's presence, reinforce a sense of pride in the membership, and create a source of revenue for your chapter. They're great to wear at chapter events and sci-fi cons, and they tacitly promote your chapter wherever they're worn.

But T-shirts have their limitations, too. A T-shirt, at the end of the proverbial day, is still just a T-shirt, and there are times and places you might like to go and be where T-shirts are neither appropriate nor allowed. Chapters interested in something a little classier than T-shirts might consider collared sport shirts (a.k.a. golf or polo shirts) with their chapter logo embroidered over the left breast. While this is more expensive than a T-shirt, its collared, upscale, business-casual style can be worn in places where T-shirts cannot (e.g., in the workplace) or should not. Sport shirts are also the best choice when being photographed by the media or when you're conducting business on behalf of your chapter (e.g., opening a checking account at a bank, setting up a promotional event at a movie theater, scouting a hotel or other business for a potential chapter event, etc.).

An aside about *Star Trek* costumes. I know there are a whole bunch of people who are fanatical about their costumes. Keep in mind that, in the real world, there is no such thing as a "Starfleet uniform." A "Starfleet uniform" is, in the real world, a *Star Trek* costume, and it seems to me that more often than not, many fans don't understand the important difference. Costumes are fine for and at events where other fans congregate to enjoy each other's company: chapter activities, sci-fi cons, Regional summits, etc. But they are *not* appropriate to wear on occasions when you're conducting legitimate, real-world business on behalf of your chapter, including being interviewed and/or photographed by the mundane press outside of a fannish event like the examples above. In the real world, it's hard to take you or your business seriously when you're dressed like a character from a TV show.



CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AWARDS CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 20, 2009 AT THE HAMPTON INN IN WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA. FRONT ROW: ENS ROB GILLIAM, CAPT MICHAEL COWART, *REPUBLIC* CO CAPT ERIC L. WATTS, ENS KEN CRIBBS, ENS3 CHRIS WHITE, *REPUBLIC* XO CMDR BRIAN HOLLOWAY, ENS3 TODD DISSINGER. BACK ROW: ENS SARAH BURROUGHS, CRMN3 JULIANNE TREW, ENS3 JOANNE TREW, ENS3 JULIANNE TREW, ENS3 JEFF TREW, ENS1 ZANNETTA LAW, ENS3 NAOMI HEMINGWAY, ENS3 MARILYN TEAGUE, ENS3 JOHN STUMP, ENS EDDIE HINES, ENS BARRY BYNUM, ENS BETH MILLER.

The media, by nature, look for the most outlandish and ridiculous costumes they can find because it makes for good TV. Resist the urge... and their encouragement. Wear normal, business casual clothes—a sport shirt with your chapter logo embroidered on it, for example—and their audience, the general public at large, will take you and your chapter much more seriously and not dismiss your group as a bunch of weirdos.



WHO DOESN'T LOVE *STAR TREK*? WHO DOESN'T LOVE A GAME? WHO DOESN'T LOVE *STAR TREK* GAMES? THERE'S *STAR TREK* MONOPOLY, *STAR TREK* UNO, *STAR TREK*: THE GAME, STARFLEET BATTLES, A GAME CALLED "TRIBBLES," AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE. FROM TIME TO TIME, THE *REPUBLIC* HOSTS A *STAR TREK* GAME NIGHT WHERE WE BREAK OUT EVERY *STAR TREK* BOARD GAME WE CAN FIND FOR A NIGHT OF FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN. WE ALSO MAKE IT A POTLUCK DINNER AND USUALLY INVITE OUR FRIENDS IN THE KLINGON ASSAULT GROUP TO JOIN US. CHAPTERS LOCATED IN SMALL TOWNS WHERE THERE MAY NOT BE VERY MANY LOCAL ATTRACTIONS TO GO TO FOR CHAPTER EVENTS CAN EASILY CREATE AN EVENT LIKE THIS FOR THEMSELVES SIMPLY BY PURCHASING SEVERAL *STAR TREK* GAMES (EBAY IS A GREAT PLACE FOR THAT) AND SETTING THEM UP IN A PLACE WHERE SUFFICIENT TABLES AND SEATING ARE AVAILABLE. INVITE EVERYONE YOU KNOW AND PROMOTE THE EVENT WITH EMAIL, YAHOOGROUPS, FACEBOOK AND, IF AVAILABLE, YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER. PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO PLAY GAMES WILL HAVE A GREAT TIME, AND YOU JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER OR TWO WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

Back to member recruitment. No amount of marketing or recruiting, no matter how good or how bad, is going to be worth the time, expense, or effort if you don't have a chapter worth joining. What makes a chapter worth joining? A chapter that is active, engages in a variety of activities, creates opportunities for its members to get together and have fun, and gives its members a real sense of a return on their investment. Once these essential elements have been established, marketing and recruiting become easy, because the chapter will sell itself. You won't have to go up to people and say, "Hey, join our ship!" because once people start to hear about your club and all the fun you're having, they'll come to you and say, "Hey, I want to join!"

In STARFLEET, there are two types of chapters: "correspondence" and "meeting." I don't care for the term "meeting chapter" because that, to me, suggests a room where the club officers sit together at a table in front of several rows of chairs where members sit while conducting a formal business meeting governed by Robert's Rules of Order where the meeting is called to order and then the minutes of the last meeting are read and approved and then the secretary gives his report and then the treasurer gives his report and then the president opens the floor to new business and blah blah blah, blah blah blah, blah blah blah. (*yawn*) If this sounds like a typical meeting of *your* chapter, by all means, keep reading. I much prefer the term "activity chapter," because any chapter that wants to grow and thrive should adjourn those dreadfully boring "meetings" and start organizing *activities*.

Chapter activities can be pretty much anything where a group of people can get together and do something fun together. They can be held at a public place or in a member's private home. You should be willing to organize activities on different days of the month and at different times of the day, and not be restricted to the exact same time on the exact same day each month. Chapters who always meet at, for example, 2:00 p.m. every second Saturday, or at 7:00 p.m. every third Thursday, or at 8:00 p.m. every fourth Friday, month after month after month after month, never changing the time, date or place of their monthly meeting, will not only find themselves severely restricted in the number of things they can do at that exact time and date each month, but will quickly cause their members to lose interest in the club. Repetitiveness creates boredom. Keep it fresh by organizing new and different activities each month—this will help sustain and generate new interest in your chapter. When this happens, your chapter will grow. But... wait! I can hear you say, again, "That sounds like a lot of work, organizing new and different activities each month and advertising each one separately!" Yes, it is. Once again: Member recruitment is *not* easy and it's *not* free. You have to *want* it and be willing to *work* for it.

There are virtually no restrictions on the kinds of events and activities your chapter can organize and attend. The *Republic* is fortunate in that metro Atlanta is the eighth-largest Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the United States with a nearly unlimited number of things to do locally. It would be insane for the *Republic* to meet in the same place on the same day month after month after month. Some of the activities that the *Republic* has organized and/or participated in over the last few years include:

- Group trips ("away missions") to big movie premieres such as *Superman Returns*, *Spider-Man 3*, *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, *Transformers*, *Iron Man*, *The Dark Knight*, the theatrical release of *Star Trek: "The Menagerie"* and, of course, J. J. Abrams' *Star Trek*. Going to a movie with a group of friends is always more fun than going by yourself!
- "Away missions" to local attractions such as Fernbank Planetarium and an IMAX theater. You would be surprised at how many people have never visited the tourist attractions in their own home city!
- "Away missions" to events hosted by other Region 2 chapters, including the *USS Robins'* Commissioning Ceremony, the *USS Robins'* Welcome Home Party, the *USS Hephaestus'* Spring Cookout, and of course, the annual Region 2 Summit. It's always fun to get together with other STARFLEET members from around your Region!
- Official presences (i.e., recruitment tables and room parties) at local science fiction conventions such as TimeGate, Sci-Fi Summer Con, Galactic ConQuest, Gaylaxicon, OutlantaCon, and Dragon*Con. These are the single best opportunities for member recruitment, and it's important for your chapter to have a high-profile presence at all of them!
- An annual STARFLEET "Bowling Challenge" with other local fan clubs such as the Atlanta OutWorlders, the Atlanta MurrFurs, and the Klingon Assault Group. Events like these, which tend to draw the most outrageous costumes, are media magnets—let the press know what you're planning, and they'll almost always send a photographer or





SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHO'S GONNA SHOW UP AT YOUR CHAPTER EVENT. IN SEPTEMBER 2007, THE *REPUBLIC* CHALLENGED THE LOCAL "FURRY" GROUP, THE ATLANTA MURRFURRS, TO A BOWLING TOURNAMENT. THEY ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE, AND A COUPLE OF THEIR MEMBERS PROCEEDED TO BLOG ABOUT THE UPCOMING EVENT ON THEIR LIVEJOURNAL PAGES. SOMEONE FROM THEIR GROUP CREATED A "FURRIES VS. KLINGONS" GRAPHIC TO GO WITH IT (BECAUSE APPARENTLY THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A KLINGON AND A FEDDIE), AND THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, THE POSTER HAD GONE VIRAL AND THE UPCOMING EVENT WAS SUDDENLY GETTING WORLDWIDE ATTENTION. ON THE NIGHT OF THE CHALLENGE, TV CREWS FROM BOTH 64 AND FARKTV SHOWED UP TO COVER THE EVENT, AS WELL AS DOZENS OF LOCAL FOLKS WHO'D HEARD ABOUT THE EVENT AND JUST CAME OUT TO SEE THE SPECTACLE...AND TAKE PHOTOS. 64 BROADCAST THEIR REPORT ON CABLE TV, FARKTV PUT THEIR REPORT ON THEIR WEB SITE, AND HUNDREDS OF SPECTATOR PHOTOS SOON SHOWED UP ON FLICKR, SMUGMUG AND OTHER PHOTO-SHARING WEB SITES. THIS KIND OF SPONTANEOUS PUBLICITY IS DIFFICULT TO HARNESS FOR RECRUITMENT, BUT SATURATED POST-EVENT PUBLICITY IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING (ASSUMING IT'S FOR THE RIGHT REASON) AND CAN BE USED TO HELP PROMOTE FUTURE EVENTS.

camera crew! (This is the kind of event where it is okay to wear *Star Trek* costumes for the media.)

- Dinner parties and/or potlucks celebrating seasons and traditional holidays: a Valentine's Day "Lonely Hearts Dinner" in February, our annual Spring Dinner & Business Meeting in April, a Summer Pool Party & Barbecue in July, a Halloween "Spooktacular" in October, our annual Fall Dinner & Business Meeting in November, and of course, a Christmas party in December. It doesn't matter whether the event is held in a public place or private home—people love to get together with their friends and eat, *just so long as it's not at the same exact place month after month after month!*
- Public screenings of the latest episodes of any of the fan-produced *Star Trek* series, such as *Star Trek: Phase II* and *Starship Farragut*. Most public libraries and many community colleges have facility space and projection equipment available to the public for free screenings and some of them will even help you advertise your event!
- Charity benefits such as the annual Sci-Fi Putt-Putt Challenge, hosted by KAG Atlanta, which collects canned food for a local food bank, and PALS Bingo, which raises money for people who, due to illness, unemployment or other reasons, are no longer able to care for their pets. Putt-putt and Bingo are both fun, family-friendly events and again, the local media loves people in costumes helping their community! (Again, this is the kind of event where it is okay to wear *Star Trek* costumes for the media.)
- Joint activities with other local fan clubs where there is a significant crossover of members and mutual interests, such as a *Star Trek* 40th Anniversary Extravaganza and *Star Trek* Game Night with the Klingon Assault Group, an "Eat 'n' Meet" Potluck with Stargate Atlanta, and a monthly *Star Trek* Night with the Atlanta OutWorlders. When two groups get together for an event, it's double the pleasure, double the fun!
- Various other events such as a *Star Trek* Movie & Game Night (watch a *Star Trek* movie while playing a *Star Trek* board or card game), a *Star Trek* Movie & Taco Night (watch a *Star Trek* movie while eating tacos) and Mystery *Star Trek* Theater (watch a really bad third-season episode

of *Star Trek* and heckle it mercilessly). You would be surprised at how much fun it can be to watch an old *Star Trek* movie or episode with other *Star Trek* fans, especially when there's food involved!

- Marching in Atlanta's St. Patrick's Day Parade behind a big colorful parade banner. *Star Trek* fans in colorful costumes marching in a parade... what could be more fun?
- Answering phones on live television for Georgia Public Broadcasting's annual Pledge Drive... in chapter sport shirts, *not Star Trek* costumes. Statewide exposure on your public television network while performing this important community service is more valuable than most any advertising!

It is important to point out what should already be obvious: the *Republic's* tremendous growth over the last three years is due much more to its wide variety of creative and original events and activities scheduled throughout the year, at which members get together and have fun, than it is to any specific marketing tool. The single best recruitment strategy is simply this: have fun, and let everyone else know you're having fun. When your members tell their friends how much fun they had at one of your chapter events, enthusiasm will spread, attendance will increase, and your membership will grow.

So far, I've hit on a few of the broader concepts behind successful member recruitment. Let me now move on to a number of narrower details that should be taken into consideration during your chapter marketing efforts.

Build a Massive Email List:

Collect email addresses for every *Star Trek* and science fiction fan you know of and/or can find, and create a mailing list. You can find email addresses for fans in your area at FanData.com and for STARFLEET members in your area unassigned

to any chapter in the STARFLEET database (see below). Ask your current members for the names and email addresses of their fellow *Star Trek* friends who aren't yet members. Go to YahooGroups.com, find *Star Trek*-related groups in your area and join them. At every chapter event you hold and every sci-fi con you attend, make sure you have a sign-in sheet for new and interested persons to give you their name and email address. Then, use this list to...

Invite Everybody to Everything:

Who actually *knows* when your next chapter meeting or event is scheduled? The members of your chapter? Yes, of course. Anybody else? No? Why not? You certainly can't expect people to become interested in your chapter if no one outside the club ever hears about it. If the only place you advertise your chapter's meetings and activities is in your own club newsletter, mailing list, or web site to your own members, then your membership will never have a chance to grow. Don't fall victim to the notion that club events are for members only. You must proactively advertise and promote every chapter meeting, activity, and event to everyone you know and can get an email address for, and you must invite each and every one

of them to attend every single time. If you can just get them to one of your club events, your job is half done... but *only* half done. The other half is to get them to actually join, and you do that not by badgering them or telling them that they have to join in order to participate, but rather, welcoming them and inviting them to participate in more of your activities. If you can get them to come to several successive events, they will eventually realize what a great club yours is and will *want* to join.

Unassigned STARFLEET Members: The SFI Database has a list of STARFLEET members in your Region who are currently unassigned to any particular chapter. Access and download this information and actively recruit those who are close to your home city by adding them to your email and/or postal mailing list. Call them on the phone and invite them to your next chapter event. If they live close to you and joined STARFLEET but didn't join your chapter, it's probably because they didn't know your chapter existed. A personal phone call, handwritten note or email (in that order) introducing yourself and inviting them to your next event is as close to picking cherries as you're likely to get.

The Dictionary Is Your Friend: I cannot overemphasize the importance of perfect grammar in all your chapter's written materials, from email announcements to flyers and brochures to chapter newsletters. Misspelled words, grammatical mistakes, and technical errors make your chapter look sloppy and amateurish. Spell-check, grammar-check, and proofread everything before posting or publishing. If you know you don't know how to write, find someone who can. In a world where instant messaging, cell phone texting, and Twitter are destroying the English language, correspondence and documents that display professional-quality writing skills will be respected and taken far more seriously than the hack 'n' slash nonsense found in a typical LiveJournal blog.

Group Photos: Cameras are your friend. Anytime and anywhere your members get together for a chapter event, get them all together for a



THERE REALLY IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A CHAPTER ACTIVITY THAT'S FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. HERE, ENSIGNS JULIANNE, JEFF, AND JOANNE TREW PLAY PUTT-PUTT ON A BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY AT THE MALIBU GRAND PRIX THEME PARK IN NORCROSS, GEORGIA. THE FACILITY ALSO OFFERS AN ARCADE, A GO-CART TRACK, BATTING CAGES AND BUMPER BOATS...PLENTY OF ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE TO COME OUT AND ENJOY. NOT ONLY IS THIS SEMIANNUAL EVENT (ONE IN THE SPRING, ONE IN THE FALL) A CHARITY EVENT FOR A LOCAL COMMUNITY FOOD BANK (MEMBERS AND FRIENDS BRING TWO CANNED GOODS TO RECEIVE A FREE GAME OF PUTT-PUTT), BUT IT'S ALSO A JOINT EVENT BY ALL OF ATLANTA'S SCIENCE FICTION FAN CLUBS: THE KLINGON ASSAULT GROUP, STARGATE ATLANTA (*STARGATE*), THE GEORGIA 501ST (*STAR WARS*), THE ATLANTA MURRFURRS ("FURRIES"), AND OTHERS. EVENTS LIKE THIS PROMOTE GOOD WILL AMONG THE VARIOUS CLUBS, GIVES EACH OF THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OFF THEIR BEST COSTUMES, GIVES FAMILIES WITH KIDS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY A FUN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY AFTERNOON, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, HELPS THE COMMUNITY BY COLLECTING AND DONATING NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED. DON'T HESITATE TO SPIN AN EVENT LIKE THIS FOR A PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANTAGE; A GROUP THAT HELPS THE COMMUNITY IS MORE LIKELY TO ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS THAN ONE THAT DOESN'T.



group shot, and then use those shots in all your recruitment and marketing materials. Few images are more powerful or persuasive than group shots of your members taken at chapter events. Put these photos on your web site, in your flyers and brochures, on the back side of your membership applications. The *Republic* publishes an annual calendar using 12 of the previous year's best group shots, which makes it not only a great fundraiser for the club and souvenir for our members, but it also makes a great marketing tool at our various recruitment tables.

Analyze and Utilize Your Internal Resources:

The *Republic* could not hold an annual pool party if we didn't have a member who had a swimming pool in his back yard. We wouldn't have an online forums web site if we didn't have a member with programming knowledge who knew how to create and manage one. We wouldn't have custom-made comm badges shaped like our chapter logo if we didn't have a member experienced in that kind of craft. Take a survey of your membership and find out what skills, talents, training, or other resources—tangible and intangible—they possess that could benefit your chapter...not just the standard skills set you would already need to operate the club but extracurricular advantages that go over and beyond the expected. Perhaps you have a member who has access to free color printing, or who owns a restaurant, or who lives near water and has a boat. Each of these members has a resource that could benefit your chapter: free printing, a discounted meal, a chapter activity. Nurture those relationships and utilize your resources to your advantage.

Get Off Your Butt: All too often, a chapter will set up a recruitment table at a local science fiction convention with nothing more than a stack of flyers and/or applications and a couple of chairs. They'll set the flyers and applications on the table, park their behinds in the chairs behind the table, spend the rest of the weekend watching all those *Star Trek* fans walk past their table, and then wonder why nobody joined their chapter. Did you get off your butt and stand in front of your table? Did you ever approach the obvious *Star Trek* fans and talk to them? Did you smile at them and introduce yourself, or did you just sit there with your arms crossed? Did you make any attempt at all to sell your product, or did you just sit behind your table like the proverbial

knot on a log? Your chapter flyers, brochures, and applications aren't going to jump off the table and land in the hands of the people who walk past your table. You must get up and interact with these people, tell them about your chapter and all the fun events that your members get

together for (and maybe also about the great member benefits package that comes with membership or maybe even one of those great *Star Trek* gift baskets they can get for free when they join). Show them pictures of your group having fun at some recent activities. Show them a copy of your most recent newsletter. Show them a list of upcoming events you've got planned. Get their email address and tell them they're invited. If you can't get them to join right there on the spot, try harder. (Did they get a good look at that gift basket?) If you have your wi-fi enabled laptop at the table, show them the easy-to-use PayPal links on your web site. Okay, if they still won't join right then and there, be sure to invite them to your chapter's room party that night (you are hosting one, aren't you?) and make sure they have all your chapter's contact information (including web site address) and an application to take with them. Remember their name, and call them by name the next time you see them. *And don't forget to smile!*

IN CLOSING: The single most valuable recruitment resource you will ever have in your marketing arsenal is your members. Create an atmosphere and environment where your members have a fun, rewarding, interesting, and entertaining experience, and they will naturally share their enthusiasm with their friends and family members. If each member of your chapter recruits just one new member in a year, your roster will double in a year and quadruple in size in two years. And *that's* the kind of membership growth that will get you on the cover of the *Communiqué*.

*Captain Eric L. Watts is a two-time Honors graduate of the Art Institute of Atlanta, with degrees in Visual Communications and Web Site Design & Administration. A professional graphic designer and corporate newsletter editor, he served as Dragon*Con's Director of Star Trek Programming from 1993 to 2009 and received STARFLEET International's 2006 Commanding Officer of the Year award.*



INSTEAD OF YOU HAVING TO THINK UP SOMETHING NEW AND DIFFERENT FOR YOUR CREW TO DO EACH MONTH, SOMETIMES A CHAPTER EVENT COMES TO YOU. IN NOVEMBER 2009, THE MOVIESTOP VIDEO STORE IN DULUTH, GEORGIA, CONTACTED THE REPUBLIC AND ASKED US TO COME TO THEM IN COSTUME AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR MIDNIGHT DVD LAUNCH PARTY ON THE EVE OF THE NEW *STAR TREK* MOVIE'S VIDEO RELEASE. WE COUNTER-OFFERED WITH THIS: WE'LL PROMOTE THE EVENT IN ADVANCE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP AND NON-MEMBER MAILING LIST AND COME IN COSTUME IF YOU GIVE US A DISCOUNT ON THE PURCHASE OF THE MOVIE AND LET US SET UP OUR BANNER AND A RECRUITMENT TABLE IN THE STORE WHILE WE'RE THERE. THEY AGREED TO GIVE US A 10% DISCOUNT ON ANY PURCHASE DURING THE PARTY, WHICH INCLUDED FREE PIZZA AND SODA FOR ALL CUSTOMERS. IT WAS A WIN-WIN SCENARIO: THEY GOT A BUNCH OF *STAR TREK* FANS TO SHOW UP IN COSTUME DURING THEIR *STAR TREK* PARTY, AND WE GOT A CHANCE TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AT A RETAIL EVENT WHERE OTHER *STAR TREK* FANS WERE SURE TO COME. ANYTIME SOMEONE COMES TO YOU AND ASKS YOU TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR EVENT, ALWAYS NEGOTIATE FOR SOMETHING IN RETURN: A CHANCE TO RECRUIT, A MENTION IN THEIR ADVERTISING, A LINK ON THEIR WEB SITE, A DISCOUNT FOR YOU'RE YOUR MEMBERS...SOMETHING TO BENEFIT YOUR CHAPTER.



USS REPUBLIC VALENTINE'S DAY LONELY HEARTS DINNER ON FEBRUARY 14, 2010 AT RIBS, ETC. IN SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA. NOT JUST FOR LOVERS: MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE USS REPUBLIC—SINGLES AND COUPLES ALIKE—MEET FOR A BARBECUE DINNER ON VALENTINE'S DAY. FRONT ROW: ENS2 SUE LIN LANGE, ALEX MILLER, ENS KEN CRIBBS. MIDDLE ROW: CAPT MICHAEL COWART, ENS BRAD CARRNE, CRMN3 JENILEE TREW, ENS3 JOANNE TREW, ENS EDDIE HINES, ENS TOM DEMPSEY, MARC FROST, ENS3 JOHN STUMP, MICHAEL FROST, ENS BARRY BYNUM. BACK ROW: CO CAPT ERIC L. WATTS, ENS EVE GIDION, ENS BETH MILLER, ENS ERIC SOLOMON.





NAME: GLORIA RODRIGUEZ
RANK: COMMANDER
POSITION: CHIEF OF SECURITY/TACTICAL OFFICER
OTHER POSITIONS: OCP COORDINATOR
SHIP: *USS ANGELES* NCC-71840
REGION: 4, CALIFORNIA (USA)

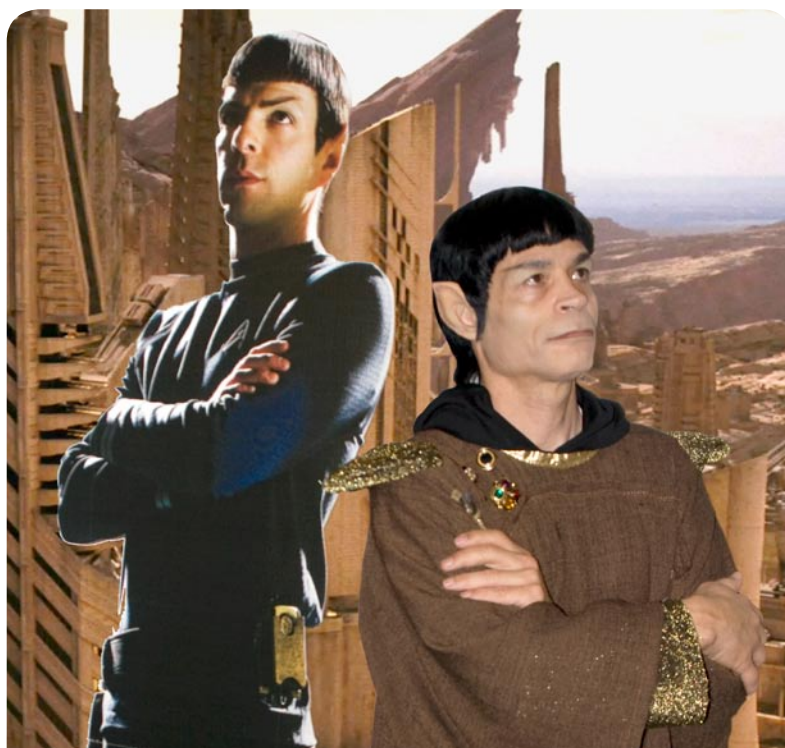
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USS Angeles* Hosts a Free Public Screening of *Star Trek XI



SAMPLES OF THE *USS ANGELES* NEWSLETTER "ANGELS FLIGHT" AND THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE STARFLEET *COMMUNIQUE* WERE PROVIDED FOR VISITORS TO TAKE WITH THEM, ALONG WITH APPLICATIONS TO JOIN.
 PHOTO BY JON LANE.

NORTH HOLLYWOOD — 'Twas a dark and stormy afternoon when our *USS Angeles* away team transported to the North Hollywood Regional Library. Our mission:



2-D COMMANDER SPOCK CUTOUT (LEFT) POSES NEXT TO REAL 3-D AMBASSADOR SOVAL (AKA LUIS VALENTINE) IN FRONT OF A SCENE FROM THE DOOMED PLANET VULCAN.
 PHOTO AND PHOTOSHOPPING BY JON LANE.

to reach out to local inhabitants, share the *Star Trek* vision, and encourage prospects for membership in the *USS Angeles* and STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc.

Commanding Officer Jennifer Cole and I made first contact with librarian Jack Zafran. It was Jack who invited us to host the library's screening of *Star Trek* (2009). He even requested the loan of 2D-officer Commander Spock to help advertise the December 12 event. The commander, with typical Vulcan stoicism, made no protest.

As Jenn and I began to set out displays and refreshments, we were assisted by Crewman Jackie Freeman, Chief Petty Officer Chris Mulrooney and Lieutenant Luis Valentine (aka Ambassador Soval), who was visiting from the appropriately desert environment of Las Vegas. Soval donned formal robes for the occasion.

Soon Lieutenant Commander Cliff Gardner and Commodore Jon Lane also arrived, both in original *Star Trek* series uniforms. Jon added to Jenn's display of newsletters, photos, flyers, props and toys. We were looking forward to a good showing; Jack told us people were already lining up at the doors. In fact, an estimated 50 people came. The room was packed!

As Jackie and I organized door prizes, Commander Dave Mason and Ensign Maria "Kes" Castaneda showed up, adding another TOS-uniformed officer and a TNG officer to our group. The team was assembled and ready!

Cliff gave out tickets for prizes at the door, and we all took on hosting duties. I talked to one gentleman who said he worked on the original series (TOS) lighting crew and another who is involved in a project planning a *Star Trek*-themed resort.

Some people asked for newsletters and membership applications. I guess we made a good impression! I had thought we would have a question-and-answer session before the movie, but I decided not to interrupt the conversations between visitors and our crew. Also, it was taking some time for everyone to get their refreshments.



PROPS AND TOYS HELPED ADD TO THE TREKKISH ATMOSPHERE DURING THE SCREENING. PHOTO BY JON LANE.

Thank goodness we had plenty! And thanks to everyone who contributed!

Although she couldn't attend, Rear Admiral Janice Willcocks contributed a huge container of chocolate-



ANGES MEMBER MARIA "KES" CASTANEDA PICKED THE WINNING TICKET NUMBERS FOR TEN LUCKY WINNERS. PHOTO BY JON LANE.





ANGELES MEMBER LUIS VALENTINE (AKA AMBASSADOR SOVAL) GAVE A PERSONAL VULCAN GREETING TO EACH PRIZE WINNER. PHOTO BY JON LANE.

covered pretzels. Our guests consumed mass quantities of chips, crackers, dip, cookies, and soda with unearthly efficiency!

Finally everyone settled themselves for the movie. I introduced our group and was helped by our First

Officer Dave Mason and STARFLEET Chief of Communications Jon Lane in presenting our organization and activities. Then the large audience watched *Star Trek*. We just barely fit, so we had the atmosphere of a packed house. That's a great way to see the movie, however many times you've seen it before.

After the movie, we drew tickets for the door prizes. Naturally, there was a glitch: I'd forgotten the bag of tribbles we were to give out! Amazingly, lifesaver Jackie Freeman had brought In-N-Out Burger gift certificates. As a former librarian, she'd

gotten lots of gifts like that for kids.

Those certificates were just what we needed, and we paired them up with some vintage *Star Trek* comic books as prizes. Maria ("Kes") called out the draws, and Soval made the presentations in full Vulcan mode. As you can imagine, this was photo-op time!

When all the photos were taken and all the clean-up finished, Jack Zafran thanked us and said we should come again. He suggested we might do another event



ALAN LEMACK, WHO WORKED AS A LIGHTING TECHNICIAN ON THE ORIGINAL *STAR TREK* TELEVISION SERIES BACK IN THE 1960'S, TALKS TO *USS ANGELES* SECOND OFFICER GLORIA RODRIGUEZ. ALAN ENDED UP JOINING. PHOTO BY JON LANE.

in the spring.

In fact, the Command Staff has decided we should contact more libraries to see if they'd let us have open meetings, screenings, and other events at their facilities.



IF YOU FEED THEM, THEY WILL COME. AT THE FAR END OF THE TABLE, *ANGELES* MEMBERS DAVE MASON AND CHRIS MULROONEY GREET GUESTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLUB. PHOTO BY JON LANE.

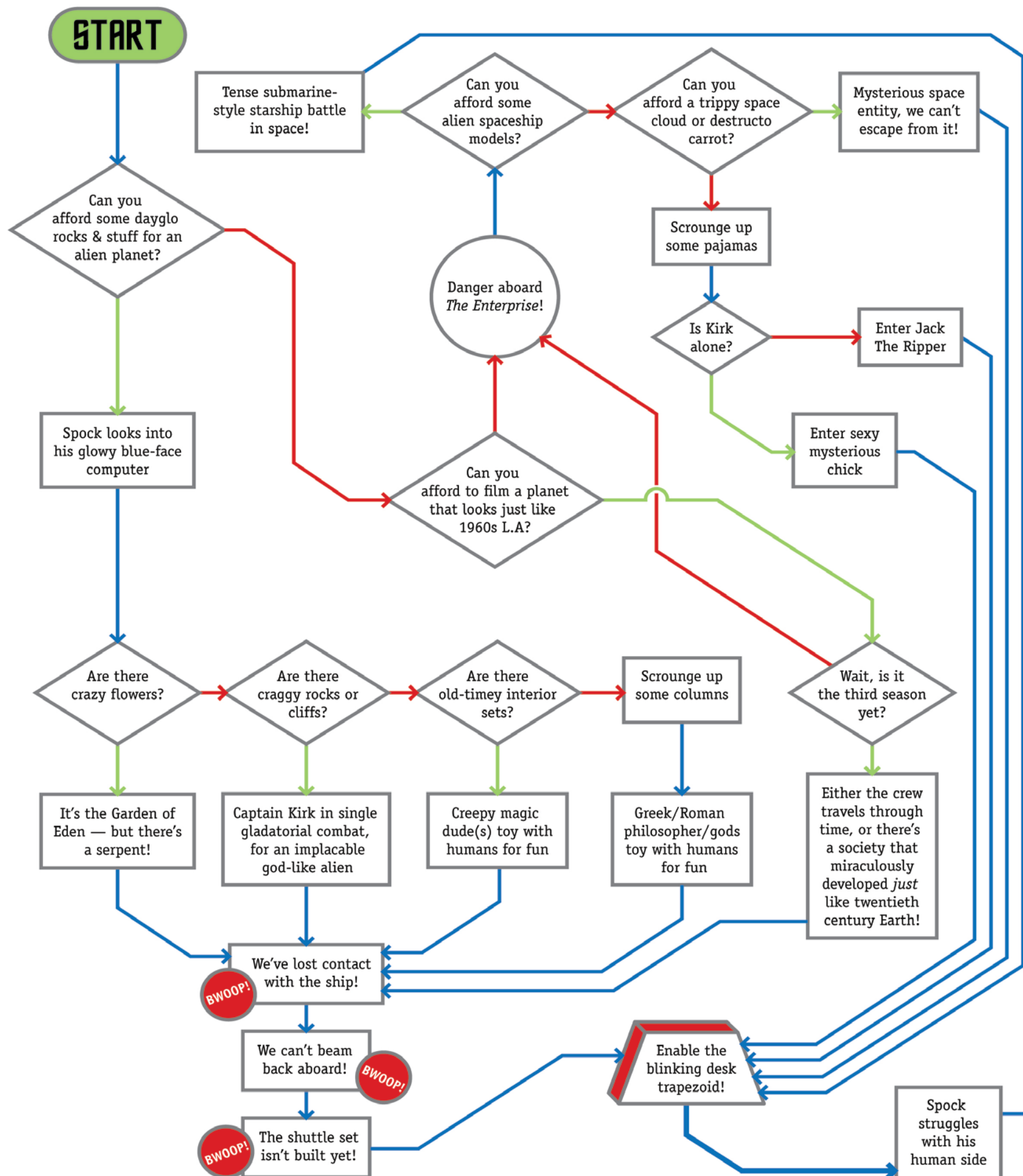


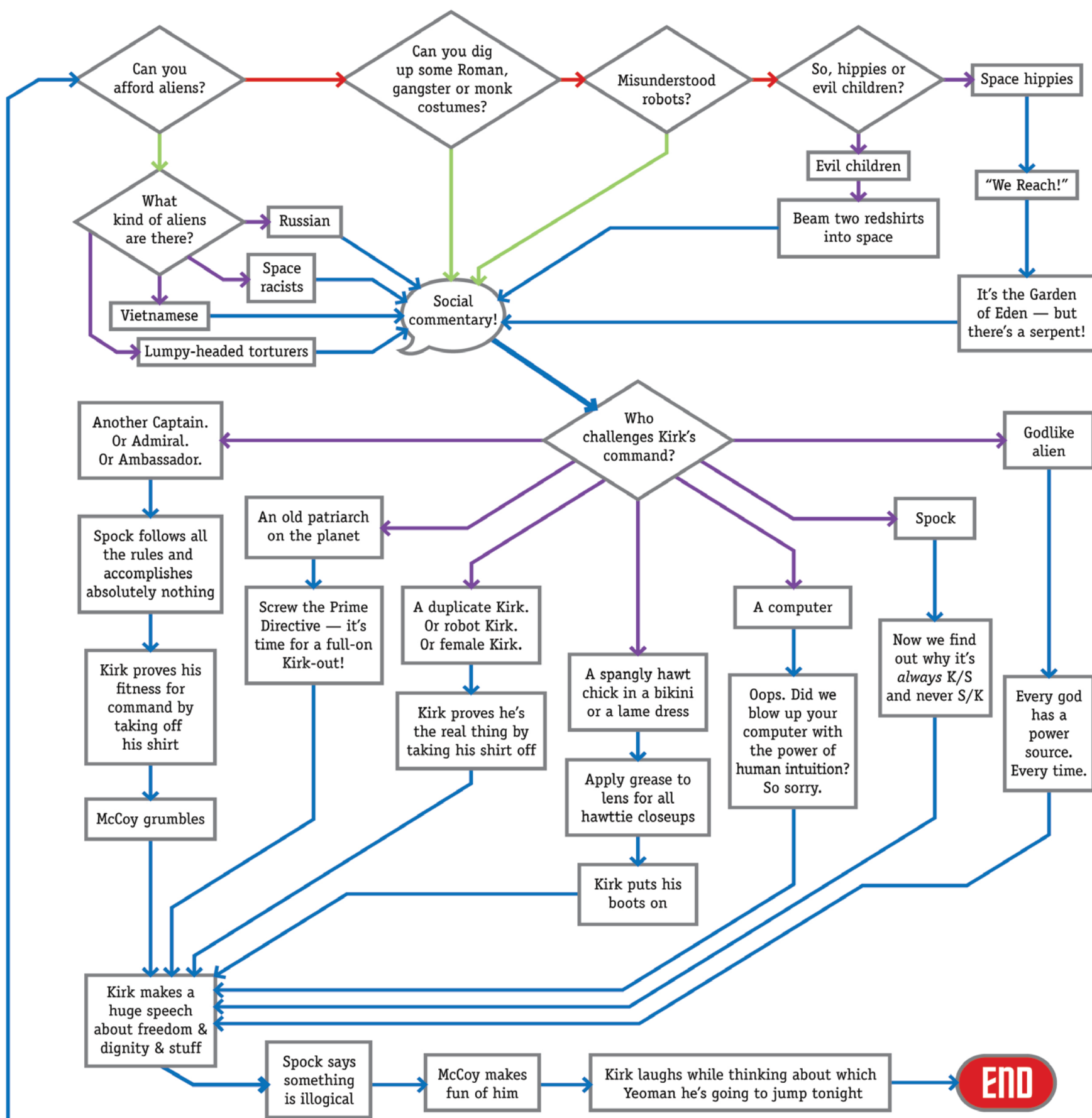
THE ASSEMBLED *ANGELES* MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. STANDING (LEFT TO RIGHT): JON LANE, GLORIA RODRIGUEZ, JACKIE FREEMAN, JENNIFER COLE, LUIS VALENTINE (AKA AMBASSADOR SOVAL), AND CHRIS MULROONEY. KNEELING: MARIA "KES" CASTANEDA AND DAVE MASON. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JON LANE.



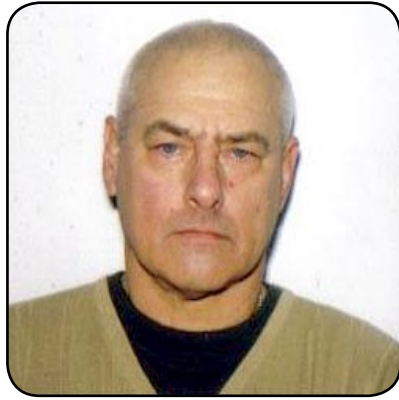
Create Your Own *Trek* Adventure!

→ Yes → No → Other Choices → Next Step → Graphic by **Stephanie Fox** • **io9.com**
→ Written by **Charlie Jane Anders** • Fact-checking & Additional Words by **Emmett Plant**





STARFLEET SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER - 3RD PLACE



NAME: R. ROGER BEDFORD
RANK: COLONEL
SHIP: *USS RENEGADE*
REGION: 1, OHIO (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: STARFLEET SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER - 3RD PLACE



The Joy of Being Alive

Chance Gamble watched as night fell again over Meridia Fifteen, a class-L planet in the Rigelian system.

The shuttle that had deposited him in this place, following the ambush of the *USS Indianapolis* by a squadron of Cardassian vessels, was now home to Gamble and four other survivors.

Gamble watched as red fireballs streaked the night sky, knowing that bits and pieces of *Indianapolis* were being incinerated as they entered the planet's atmosphere, and also aware that his shipmates in the ruins of that once-proud ship's hull would be cremated along with the ship in which they had so nobly served.

Indianapolis had not gone gently into that night called death. She had managed to take two Cardassian destroyers with her and, in a final act of desperation, had rammed the Cardassian star cruiser at the center of the squadron. The end was still the same. The crew had abandoned ship as the saucer and secondary hull broke at the neck. Gamble hoped that at least a few others had managed to arrive on Meridia Fifteen. Perhaps he would never know, as the ionic interference on this planet prevented most carrier waves from transmitting communication signals, and Crewman Eva Cangelosi had not yet found which of the several hundred might work.

Cangelosi, the petite redhead who had come

aboard *Indianapolis* at Starbase Twelve barely a week ago, was the most qualified communications person of the five who had made it to the shuttle. Gamble was senior as a Chief Petty Officer. Crewman Carmen Ruiz from the security section, Petty Officer Arne Moore from Sciences, and Apprentice Crewman Tony Verchicchio rounded out the survivors in this party.

Unless picked up by a passing starship, they were on their own.

Gamble snapped out of his reverie as a large piece of debris entered the atmosphere and began its glowing decent into oblivion.

"Eva," he called into the open hatch, "anything yet?"

"No, Chief," came the reply, "Not a thing but static so far, and the solar batteries are beginning to wear down. Gonna have to shut it off for a bit."

"Great," Gamble spoke the word with sardonic undertones. He then reverted back to his own counsel as another piece of debris burned brightly across the night sky.



It had been ninety days. The night sky yielded fewer red streaks now, and Meridia Fifteen had proved a blessing in disguise. Though the air was not quite M-class in breatheability, minimum exertion had proved

that the lower oxygen content could be overcome. Gamble equated sea level air on this planet to be about the same as a three-kilometer mountaintop on earth. Arne Moore had found several edible tubers, and a nearby lake was apparently the watering hole for several small and medium sized mammals. The five had resorted to hunting and



The shuttle had emergency supplies for ten persons for one month. Presuming they would be found and rescued, and presuming nothing on this planet was edible either flora or fauna, they had to be rescued within sixty days. Its hull intact, the shuttle would not fly again as one nacelle had been bent on a rocky outcrop in the landing.



STARFLEET SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER - 3RD PLACE

gathering to supplement their dwindling ability to replicate foodstuffs.

The semi equatorial crash site of the shuttle gave a good supply of sunlight, though still not a lot of warmth. Gamble wondered if they would have survived at all if the crash site had been farther to the north or south on this planet. Frankly, he doubted it. The sunlight recharged the solar panels and batteries, giving the five crewmates warmth to make it through the nights, which regularly dropped to freezing temperatures. It also refreshed the communications panel, which was running a low wave emergency beacon only, as no other survivors from *Indianapolis* had been located.



It was now drawing on thirty-six months since the *Indianapolis* was destroyed. The shuttle would soon be too small for the band of survivors. Arne Moore and Carmen Ruiz had paired off about month fifteen and were about to have a child born on Meridia Fifteen. Eva Cangelosi and Tony Verchicchio had coupled up a few months after Arne and Carmen. Eva was also pregnant. The three males were in the process of building a stone cabin next to the fallen shuttle to accommodate the new arrivals and no rescue by Starfleet or anyone else appeared imminent.

As a marker, hopefully visible from space, the band of survivors had built a large human stick figure out of stones and boulders on a mesa-like flat hill top. Along with the stick figure was NCC-4116 *Indianapolis*' hull number. The emergency beacon and the solar panel for it had also been moved to the mesa top. A receiver in the old shuttle hull was left on in case a signal was received. As yet, they had heard nothing.



Year ten found "Uncle Chief" less and less able to participate in the day-to-day hunting and gathering. Gamble had been over sixty earth years when the shuttle crashed. Without the magic of Starfleet Medical and its bank of replacement parts and anti aging concoctions, the now seventy-three-year-old Gamble knew he might not live to see the rescue of his family. For that is what the five survivors had become: an ever-growing communal family. "Uncle Chief" was

now watching all nine of the offspring while the two other adult couples were off tracking down a large porcine type animal for the camp pot.

Nine children ranged in age from seven earth years to four earth months. Two sets of twins for Arne and Carmen plus a single birth of a little girl four months ago. Eva and Tony had four single birth children, and the way Eva was glowing, Chance Gamble was sure she was about to even the tally with Carmen.

The children were dressed in the equivalent of buckskin and hide garments. Each of the adults had reverted to this type of clothing as well when the shuttle replicator had reached its limited ability a few years back.

Born on Meridia Fifteen, the children had adapted to the atmosphere much more readily than their space-faring parents. They also seemed immune to the vagaries of the planet's climate and perpetually went about in breechcloths and moccasins as their only protective garments.



Year fifteen began with the first sign that someone else knew the party of five adults and twelve children were on Meridia Fifteen. One short burst of radio static. "Seventeen life forms, humanoid, possibly indigenous primitives judging from the village layout and clothing."

Then nothing else for weeks as Gamble sat and monitored the receiver. The older children, now twelve and eleven years old, were tasked with watching both the younger children and "Uncle Chief," who in his old age was prone to falling asleep at the oddest of moments and who was becoming increasingly more difficult to rouse from slumber when he did so.

Chance Gamble was dozing in the pilot chair of the shuttle when the advance party from Starfleet Survey Ship *Henry Hudson* arrived at the village perimeter. Eva and Tony's nine-year-old boy, Anton, ran in and shook the old Chief Petty Officer to wakefulness.

"They are here, they are really, really here, just as you told us in the great story, Uncle Chief," Anton bounced up and down on the balls of his feet in excitement.

"Huh, who is here?" Gamble questioned through

the fogs of sleep and age.

"Starfleet, Uncle Chief, Starfleet!" Anton announced in his outside voice and then ran out the shuttle hatch to join the other children in the village compound.

Taking the piece of synthetic metal pipe that had been converted to a walking stick to help his balance, Gamble exited the shuttle and, for the first time in a decade, beheld a fully uniformed Starfleet officer with phaser, tricorder, and communicator badge.

"Sir, I am Ensign Ridgewood of Starfleet. We are here on a peaceful mission attempting to learn the fate of survivors of *USS Indianapolis*. As this is one of the shuttle craft from that larger ship, I presume I am not violating the prime directive by asking you about them?" The Ensign was speaking into a universal translator device, which amused Gamble to no end. His peels of laughter rang out so fast and so hard that he doubled over in apparent pain, and the children rushed to his side yelling, "Uncle Chief, Uncle Chief."

Gamble shushed them away, and stood as tall as his arthritic back would allow, speaking plain Standard he addressed the Ensign with, "Just where the hell has Starfleet been for the past fifteen years, sonny?"

The other four *Indianapolis* survivors arrived back in camp shortly thereafter. Ensign Ridgewood had established DNA matches on all of the original crew and their several offspring, verifying they were all citizens of the United Federation of Planets and also serving Starfleet personnel.

A runabout was summoned when it was discovered no shuttle aboard *Henry Hudson* was large enough to take all of the survivors and children to the ship at once. They refused to be separated, as they had never experienced non-communal life.

During his formal debriefing by Starfleet medical counselors, a counselor mentioned that in the fifteen years the survivors from *Indianapolis* had been missing, great strides had been made in stabilizing relationships with border systems and the Federation, and that culture and science had advanced exponentially. She had then asked, "What have you discovered these last fifteen years, Chief Gamble?"

Without hesitation or pause, Gamble replied, "The joy of being alive."





NAME: JAMES GALLOPS III
RANK: FLEET CAPTAIN
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS CONTINUUM* NCC-71821
REGION: 2, FLORIDA (USA)



0228-21-718

Columbus and the *Continuum*

Members of the *USS Continuum* welcomed in the New Year by taking a look back. Five hundred years back to be exact.

It was cold (by Pensacola, Florida standards). Many of us stayed up late at the *Continuum's* New Years' Eve party the night before. But neither was enough to keep eleven of our crewmembers from coming together to enjoy each other's company once again and to discover more about Christopher Columbus' initial voyages to the New World.

A little after noon on January 1, we boarded the recreations of the *Niña* and the *Pinta* docked in the Pensacola harbor. The replica ships are a part of the Columbus Foundation and, according to their website, serve as "sailing museums," educating the public about those historic voyages.

Of course, they're not **exact** replicas, mind you. But the Foundation does pride its *Niña* as being the "most historically accurate Columbus replica ship ever built." But their *Pinta* is slightly larger than the original. And there are a few modern additions added to both for safety reasons.

Still, it makes one wonder how those sailors survived 500 years ago.

To dispel a long held myth still believed by many Americans: the ships are **really not** that big. The house most people live in is probably larger than one of these boats. Add to this the fact that they needed about 30 sailors to operate this vessel. AND they had to share it with live animals (no way of adequately storing fresh meats for long periods of time). AND they had to stay in the ship until they found land, however long



USS CONTINUUM MEMBERS ON THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION'S *NIÑA*. FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): SHARON BOGART, TONY MILLER, CHRISTINE MILLER. SECOND ROW: NANCY KEITH, PEGGY MOSHELL, DJ O'BRIEN, BRUCE DOLAN, SANDY DOLAN. THIRD ROW: CHRIS HAMMONDS, JAY GALLOPS. TOP IN BACK: GEORGE KEITH. PHOTO PROVIDED BY SHARON BOGART.



THE *NIÑA* DOCKED IN THE PENSACOLA HARBOR. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANTHONY MILLER.

that was! There wasn't even any guarantee they *would* find land, for that matter.

If a storm came up, there were no advance warnings days ahead of time. No one to call. No safe harbors to sail to.

Ran out of supplies? Something got contaminated? Forgot something? Well, best of luck doing without!

Most of us would probably lose our sanity within the first week, after being so accustomed to all our "creature comforts" in the modern age. *If* we even survived...

Explorers are always the ones who live in the roughest conditions. Always. Yet we are the lucky ones—the ones living 500 years later, admiring history at a rather safe distance.

Still, our members had a good time. The *Niña* and the *Pinta* were only docked at Pensacola for twelve days—from December 23 to January 3—before moving on.

But for one of those days—the first day of 2010—we did more than hear about history or read it in a book. An extra layer was added, if you will, small as it was, that gave us the chance to take a closer look—maybe in a sense to feel history, to help put it more into the proper perspective where it belongs.

To see where the ships are headed next, check out www.thenina.com.





CONTINUUM CREWMEMBERS CHRISTINE AND ANTHONY MILLER.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANTHONY MILLER.



CONTINUUM CREWMEMBERS BRUCE AND SANDY DOLAN.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANTHONY MILLER.



THE CREW OF THE CONTINUUM INVESTIGATES THE NINA AND THE PINTA. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANTHONY MILLER.



0629-98-17



NAME: LINDA KLOEMPKEN
RANK: ADMIRAL
POSITION: STARFLEET MEMBER RECOGNITION, ADMINISTRATOR
OTHER POSITIONS: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
SHIP: *USS CZAR'AK* NCC-1798-A
REGION: 6, MINNESOTA (USA)

STARFLEET MEMBER RECOGNITION, ADMINISTRATOR





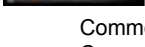

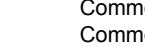

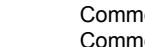
Flag Officer Promotions



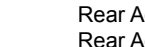

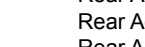
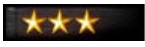

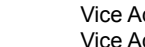

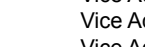
In STARFLEET, promotions up through the rank of Commander (or Lt. Colonel for SFMC) are typically granted by the chapter Commanding Officer. Promotions to Captain (Colonel for SFMC) are typically the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator. Those promotions are usually announced at the chapter and regional level.

on by the 8-member Executive Committee after reviewing nominations submitted by members. If you have any questions, you may reach Member Recognition Administrator Linda Kloempken at promotions@sfi.org.

Flag Officer ranks are those of Fleet Captain (Brigadier) and above, and those promotions are voted

Congratulations to all of these outstanding members of STARFLEET!

Name	Region	Chapter	Promoted to
Joseph Fuller	5	<i>USS Thermopylae</i>	
Anne Glover	2	<i>USS Blue Sun</i>	
Lucy Ferron	2	<i>USS Haise</i>	
Elizabeth Goulet	3	<i>USS Regulator</i>	
Jeffrey Victor	7	<i>USS Challenger</i>	
Marilyn Romero	1	<i>USS Jamestown</i>	
Robin Van Cleave	3	<i>USS Joan of Arc</i>	
Gary Amor	11	<i>USS Orion Star</i>	
Walter V. Ewing	1	<i>USS Indiana</i>	

Name	Region	Chapter	Promoted to
Jonathan Lane	4	<i>USS Angeles</i>	
Steve Eldred	6	<i>USS Imperium</i>	
Tom Webster	6	<i>USS Saint George</i>	
Norma Langlois	10	<i>USS Majestic</i>	
Sean Niemeyer	7	<i>USS Asimov</i>	
Bethany Theilman	2	<i>USS Haise</i>	
Chris Equibel	4	<i>USS Angeles</i>	
Barbara Buffington	1	<i>USS Ohio</i>	
Anne Bellenger	2	<i>USS Wessex</i>	
Michael McGowen	12	<i>USS Bortas</i>	

Individual Awards

Individual awards can be requested by anyone at any time. They are intended to recognize accomplishments that are worthy of notice but not qualifying for the annual awards. You can nominate the person who did a bang-up job of organizing your regional summit or your chapter's

summer BBQ. For more detailed information on the individual awards and the nomination form, go to < www.sfi.org >. Then roll over the "News" button and click on the "Awards" link. Or you can surf directly to < www.awards.sfi.org >.

Name	Region	Chapter	Award	Class
Dave Lowe	2	<i>Deep Space 2</i>	Order of Babel	Second
Stephen Stott	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Order of Babel	Third
Pamela Michaud	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Order of Darmok & Jalad	Second
Johnathan Babb	2	<i>USS Shooting Star</i>	Order of Darmok & Jalad	Third
Dave Lowe	2	<i>Deep Space 2</i>	Order of Roddenberry	Second
Dave Ryan	2	<i>USS Marathon</i>	Order of Roddenberry	Second
Mark Anderson	2	<i>USS Victorious</i>	Order of Roddenberry	Second
Mike Thomas	2	<i>USS Tiberius</i>	Order of Roddenberry	Second
Anne Zecca	2	<i>USS Tiberius</i>	Order of Samaritan	First
Douglas Reagan	2	<i>USS Tiberius</i>	Order of Samaritan	Second

Name	Region	Chapter	Award	Class
Elana Babb	2	<i>USS Shooting Star</i>	Order of Samaritan	Third
Frank Parker	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Cochrane Third	
Larry Kirby	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Tarbolde of Canopus	Third
Janice Schweikert	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Tarbolde of Canopus	Third
Larry Kirby	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Samaritan	Third
Chitiaka Henry	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Samaritan	Third
Frank Parker	1	<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	Babel	Third
Emmett Plant	7	<i>USS Black Heart</i>	Darmok & Jalad	First
Janek Kazimer	7	* Unassigned *	Darmok & Jalad	First
Alex Rosenzweig	7	<i>USS Avenger</i>	Darmok & Jalad	Second





NAME: KEIRA ELAINE RUSSELL-STRONG
RANK: VICE ADMIRAL
POSITION: REGIONAL COORDINATOR
OTHER POSTIONS: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS ALIOTH* NCC-72383
REGION: 17, UTAH (USA)

1730-83-723



White Elephants and Subbing for Santa in Utah

Crewman Cheryl-Jean Bateman was a wonderful host on December 19 for the *USS Alioth's* Christmas party. Tables were decorated, the Christmas tree was lit, and we all had a great time.

It is the tradition of the *USS Alioth* to have a White Elephant gift exchange and the gifts be passed around from person to person while someone reads a story with the words "right" and "left" instigating the action. When "right, right, right, left" are read quickly we find out who doesn't know their right from their left. The gifts are just about worthless, but just good enough that you don't want to throw them out. Some of the gifts keep coming back to the party year after year, and we may have to put a limit of the amount of times a gift can be recycled.

Another tradition the ship has had since 1986 is our Sub for Santa contribution through the United Way. This year we had probably the most grateful woman that we have ever had in all the years I've been the CO of the *Alioth*. When she was first contacted by phone, she broke down sobbing. When we delivered the gifts for her two children, she gave us chocolate chip cookies that she had wrapped for us. She hugged us and thanked us over and over. Talk about a warm fuzzy that I still feel now as I write this!

The last thing that we do is sing to our adopted family, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." We sound really good in stairwells, but this time we didn't have one. (Sigh.) Maybe next year.

**CHRISTMAS ON THE
 USS ALIOTH. TOP ROW:**
 JAMES BYBEE, CHERYL-JEAN
 BATEMAN, D. JUSTIN TAYLOR,
 NATHAN SHUMWAY, AND
 LYNNETTE KNOX.
MIDDLE ROW, KNEELING: JEFFERY
 BECKSTROM, ROBBY LAWRENCE,
 EMILY WHISENANT, TIFFANY
 KNOX, AND RICHARD KNOX.
SITTING ON FLOOR: STEPHANIE
 KNIGHT-CHRISTENSEN,
 KEIRA RUSSELL-STRONG.
**PHOTO TAKEN BY CHERYL-
 JEAN'S DAUGHTER.**



NAME: JAMES CARNELL EUBANKS
RANK: COMMANDER
SHIP: *USS STAR LEAGUE* NCC-2101-A
REGION: 1, SOUTH CAROLINA (USA)

Letter Writing Campaign Requesting Tie Between Last Shuttle Mission and Star Trek



Most of you are already aware of the long history between *Star Trek* and America's space program. A major event was the renaming of the first test shuttle vehicle, *Constitution*, to that of *Enterprise* after a massive letter-writing campaign by *Star Trek* fans.

Recently, Carnell Eubanks, the Archivist/Historian of the *USS Star League*, suggested that a great way to end this chapter of American space flight would be to request that this piece of history be commemorated by including a representation of the *Star Trek* starship *Enterprise* onboard the shuttle as she flies for the last time in September of 2010. Suggestions range from a toy version star ship such as a Micro-Machine to a US postage stamp which bears the image of the famous star ship. Imagine images beamed from space of the toy *Enterprise* as she floats in front of the cockpit window with the Earth rotating in the background.

The crew of the U.S.S. Star League is already onboard with this idea and has sent letters to both the U. S. Vice President, Joe Biden, and to NASA

Chief Administrator, Mr. Charles F. Bolden, Jr., respectfully requesting this idea be given consideration. However, we could still use your support.

If this is something you would like to see happen, please send your letter as a chapter or as an individual endorsing this idea. Here is a copy of our letter...

We, the undersigned, respectfully wish to bring to your attention an opportunity in regard to the final launch of a United States Space Shuttle scheduled for September, 2010. As you are probably already aware, there is a great history between America's space program and the fictional television series Star Trek. Everything from guest appearances on the show by astronauts to the letter writing campaign which led to changing the name of the test shuttle from Constitution to Enterprise. It is in regard to this name change that we are writing.



It would be an enormous sense of symmetry if some memento of the show could be carried into space on the shuttle's final flight. Suggestions range from a US Star Trek postage stamp to a

micro-machine (toy) representation of the starship Enterprise.

As stated earlier, this would provide a sense of symmetry between the beginning of the shuttle program and its end. It would also serve to provide a huge amount of publicity for NASA and possibly new programs which are in development. Imagine a photo of the toy Enterprise floating in the shuttle's cockpit with the Earth in the background. The toy or other object could continue to serve in a publicity role after the mission by being displayed with the shuttle Enterprise in the Smithsonian Institution. It would also mean a great deal to millions of Star Trek fans around the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*The crew of the USS Star League
 North Augusta, SC*





NAME: CHUCK BOWMAN
RANK: UNASSIGNED
SHIP: UNASSIGNED
REGION: 2, USA



0231-00-00

Prop Builder Known as “The WoodChuck” Joins STARFLEET

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Chuck Bowman, AKA “The WoodChuck”. I use only wood and PVC plastic tubing to create original prop replicas that are screen-shot accurate. My renditions can be found at many *Star Wars* conventions, comic cons, and most 501st Legion gatherings.

Here is my version of a M.A.C.O. phaser rifle. My attention to detail is revealed in the first photo showing the unpainted rifle. I also designed the interior of the replica so the scope could pop up into view at the push of a button. Finally, the last photo shows the effect a good paint job has on enhancing the project.

I have developed a huge customer base during the past two years within the *Star Wars* fan community, and now I want to offer my custom-hand made props to *Star Trek* fans.

I love a challenge. If there are any *Star Trek* fans or collectors looking for a high quality custom-made prop replica, please contact me. My e-mail is:

chckbowman@yahoo.com





REAR ADMIRAL JON LANE
CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS



COMMODORE MICHAEL STEIN
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



ADMIRAL PAT SPILLERS
VICE-CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

STARFLEET Budget Demystified: Where Does Your Money Go?

Co-Authored by Jon Lane, Mike Stein, and Pat Spillers

With the campaign for Commander, STARFLEET only a few short months away, some members on the STARFLEET Business Discussion List < <http://lists.sfi.org/listinfo.cgi/sfi-l-sfi.org> > recently began to talk about the Fleet budget and wondered how our subscription dollars were being spent. This seemed like a good opportunity to shine a spotlight on the STARFLEET budget as it stands today and explain to members what the organization does with the money it collects from members.

As far as we know, this is the first time an article as detailed and comprehensive as this has ever appeared in CQ, going line item by line item through the budget with an explanation of each expense. It is the sincere hope of we three authors that this information raises the level and quality of debate during the 2010 election campaign for CS.

Please keep in mind, the STARFLEET budget is not perfect...nor is it inept or sloppy. It is what it is: a compilation of projections from each of the eight Executive Committee members and their staffs estimating how much each department will need in order to fulfill its responsibilities to the STARFLEET membership. The Executive Committee treats the budget with sincere respect and seriousness, and we hope this article will convey that.

First Up: How Much Money Does STARFLEET Take In?

Sounds like an easy question, doesn't it? In fact, this is one of the most complex and challenging questions that the EC faces! The club actually takes in money from multiple sources:

- Membership Dues
- Quartermaster Merchandise Sales
- The International Conference
- Donations to the Scholarship Fund
- Bank Account Interest

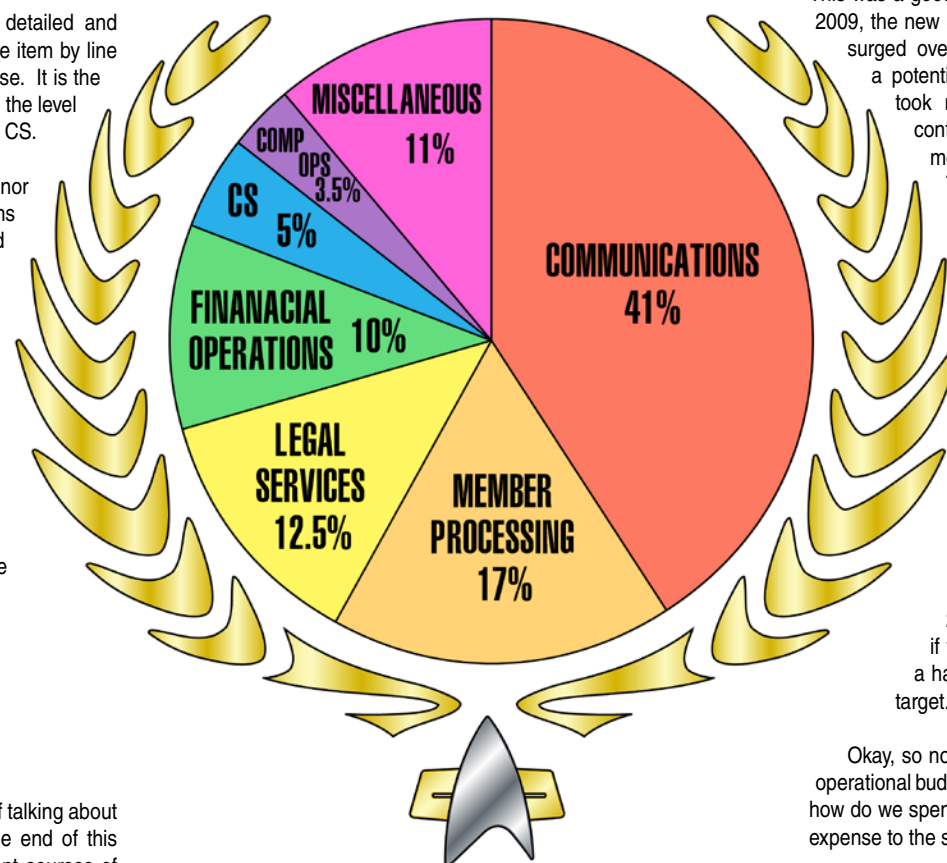
To make this article easier to complete, we're going to put off talking about the Quartermaster, IC, and Scholarship programs until the end of this article. But please be aware that those are each significant sources of income for STARFLEET (nearly \$40,000 in total sales and donations). However, those programs are self-sufficient. In other words, the Quartermaster and IC take in enough money to fund their own operations (at least, that's the goal), and the Scholarship Fund never awards more money than has been donated to it.

So for now, we're leaving out the Quartermaster, IC, and Scholarship entirely and concentrating solely on the *membership dues* that directly support what is known as the "Operational Budget."

Okay, Let's Try This Again: How Much Money Does STARFLEET Take In?

We don't know...at least, not when we do our budget projections at the beginning of our fiscal year (which starts July 1 of each year). If someone asked you how many new members STARFLEET would recruit in the next 12 months, could you answer with 100% certainty? How about how many members would renew? Care to take a guess? We don't know either!

STARFLEET BUDGET CHART PER DEPARTMENT



This article is being written in February of 2010. Last year at this time, STARFLEET was down to around 3,300 members. As of this writing, our organization has 4,100 members. Each of these members is guaranteed a membership packet and six issues of CQ. So it becomes critical that we estimate accurately the number of members we will have during the coming year. Guess too many members, and we'll estimate our budget too high (in other words, we'll take in less money than we've planned to spend, and we'll wind up with a deficit). Guess too few members, and we

won't have enough budgeted to afford to pay for the membership materials we'll need, and some members might not receive their materials.

So the first thing the EC does each year is estimate how much money we'll have to work with by estimating how many members we'll have. How? Well, we look at trends from previous years first. Over the last few years (before 2009), STARFLEET membership totals were dropping slowly but consistently (from 3,700 to about 3,300). Annual revenue from membership dues fluctuated around an average of about \$39,000.

This was a good starting place. Now, it just so happened that in May of 2009, the new *Star Trek* movie came out and our membership numbers surged over the course of a couple of months. This presented a potential "trap" that we struggled not to fall into. The surge took membership totals up by 20%...but would this trend continue? Would STARFLEET finish the year above 5,000 members? Above 10,000 members? That was the trap! The EC decided to err on the side of caution and base our projections on only a single surge to about 4,000 members and not beyond that point.

It turns out we were right, although as you'll learn shortly, we did a couple of things to hedge our bets. But based on a jump of 20% in membership, we increased our budget projection from \$39,000 to \$47,000 (also about 20%). Now, we would also have about \$500 in bank interest and a projected \$500 in advertising sales from CQ and from the new sfi.org website (turns out we'll actually be closer to \$900 on ad revenue this year, by the way).

So adding in bank interest and projected ad sales, our operating budget was set at \$48,000 for the Fiscal Year 2010 (which runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). And if you're curious, at the mid-point of the year, after six and a half months, we had taken in about \$24,000...so we're on target.

Okay, so now that we have a guide for how much we'll take into our operational budget from membership dues, bank interest, and advertising, how do we spend that \$48,000? Let's start from the biggest department expense to the smallest...

Communications - \$19,500

Here's how the Communications line items break down for Fiscal Year 2010:

CQ Printing	\$7,000
CQ Labeling and mailing services	\$2,700
CQ Postage Domestic	\$4,500

SPECIAL FEATURE FROM THE FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS

CQ Postage International	\$2,500
CQ Lottery Shipping	\$1,000
CQ General Shipping	\$600
CQ "Lost in the Mail" Shipping	\$100
Press Releases and Advertising	\$1,100

And as promised, here's an item-by-item breakdown of all these costs...

CQ Printing - \$7,000 (likely \$6,000)

Each issue of CQ costs us \$975 to print 3,000 copies (which is an incredibly low and competitive rate—just ask around and you'll see for yourself). However, this is a MINIMUM cost. In other words, we must pay for 3,000 copies, even if we only take possession of 2,000 copies...even if we only take possession of 50 copies! Anything we don't use gets tossed in the dumpster (hence, the creation of the CQ Lottery program to make better use of the surplus copies for recruiting). Charging for a minimum press run is common practice among printers. The majority of what the customer pays is the set-up cost. Paper cost is usually very minor. And to run any less than 3,000 copies would mean not covering their set-up costs, so we must order a minimum of 3,000 copies.

As an example of how major those set-up costs are, we asked our printers what our costs would increase to if we needed to order more than 3,000 copies (in case membership numbers continued to surge). The increments are 1,000 copies, and ordering 4,000 copies of CQ would increase our monthly price by only \$190 to \$1,165. In other words, an increase of 33% in the number of copies results in an increase of only 19.5% in price.

Since we didn't know how high the membership "surge" would go, to be on the safe side, the Communications Department budgeted CQ at 4,000 copies per issue for the year (instead of 3,000), for an annual printing estimate of \$7,000. Turns out, we haven't needed to step up to 4,000 copies (except for one issue), so CQ printing will likely come in \$1,000 under budget this fiscal year.

(And in case anyone is wondering how 4,100 STARFLEET members require less than 3,000 copies, the answer is family memberships, where multiple members share one CQ. We usually send out 2,100 copies of CQ to members and save the rest for the CQ lottery.)

CQ Labeling and mailing services - \$2,700

Labeling 2,100 copies of CQ once every two months is a lot of work. Back in the old days, chapters would have "labeling parties" and address all the CQs over a weekend. While free labor was certainly cost-effective, this technique tended to burn out crews and became unreliable. Also, unless the willing chapter volunteers were within driving distance of the printer, over 750 pounds of printed CQs (that's what 3,000 copies of CQ weigh) would need to be shipped to the volunteer chapter—an incredibly costly expense.

So to save time, effort, and money, STARFLEET hired Countywide News service, a professional labeling and mailing company in Oklahoma, located near our printers. They pick up the issues in a van, stick labels on them all, and drop them into the mail, also handling all the legal requirements for our Periodical Mailing Permit from the U.S. Post Office. In exchange for this service, we pay Countywide \$450 per issue, or \$2,700 per year.

CQ Postage Domestic - \$4,500

Postage to mail CQ within the U.S. using our periodical rate is about \$750 per issue (a little less than 50 cents per copy).

CQ Postage International - \$2,500

We use another company called International Mailing Services (IMS) to send out our non-U.S. issues. The foreign postage itself is about \$360 per issue and the remaining \$60 per issue pays for the services of IMS to sort the CQs by country, calculate postage, and get them into the mail.

CQ Lottery Shipping - \$1,000

The CQ Lottery program has proven to be highly popular, with nearly 70 chapters having already signed up for it (contact < comms@sfi.org > for details on how your chapter can enter) and about 45 chapters having each already won a box of 100 CQs shipped to them for free. Instead of throwing out the surplus CQs that are left over, we ship them to chapters to use for recruiting. Domestic postage for a box of 100 CQs is about \$17, and there's about 7 or 8 winners per issue (or about \$750-\$800 per year). The budget was over-estimated to \$1,000 to allow for the potential of more winners and/or international chapters winning. However, we should finish under budget on this item for this year.

CQ General Shipping - \$600

This is a separate category of shipping CQ. It covers shipping the international CQs to IMS to mail to non-U.S. members. It also includes shipping extra CQs to Member Services in case an issue is lost in the mail and needs to be replaced. And finally, a few issues are sent to Comm Chief Jon Lane for archiving purposes and to be given out as courtesy copies to potential and paid advertisers.

CQ "Lost in the Mail" Shipping - \$100

For issues that get lost in the mail, people contact Member Services, and then Bran Stimpson sends them a replacement copy. This money pays for envelopes and postage for these, thankfully, rare occurrences (about 10 or less per issue).

Press Releases and Advertising - \$1,100

Fiscal Year 2009 was the first time STARFLEET spent money on a national press release. For 2010, we decided to set aside \$1,100 for either up to three press releases or a combination of press releases and online advertising. Neither press releases nor advertising happened in the first half of the year, but we intend to start putting some money into advertising in the spring.

Member Processing - \$8,200

Here's how the Member Processing line items break down for Fiscal Year 2010:

CD-ROMs and Lamination	\$1,100
Membership Certificates Printing	\$1,500
Printing for Membership Package	\$1,000
Give-Away Items	\$750
Postage to Mail Membership Packages	\$1,500
Pitney Bowes Machine Rental	\$900
P.O. Box Rental	\$110
General Office Supplies	\$190
New CD-ROM Making Machine	\$1100
New Lamination Machine	\$50

Before going line-by-line, members should be aware that 2009 and 2010 brought in a significant shift in the way membership materials are delivered. In 2009, we began offering members the option of requesting their Membership Handbook and Vessel Registry on CD-ROM. And in 2010, we made this the default, so members had to request a printed version of those two documents, otherwise they would be mailed the CD-ROM. All members would still receive a laminated membership card and certificate in their membership packet (whether new or renewing). Switching to CD-ROM as the default has lowered printing and postage costs for member processing significantly.

CD-ROMs and Lamination - \$1,100

Member processing now produces about 2,200 CD-ROMs per year. We also laminate thousands of STARFLEET membership ID cards each year. This line item includes the cost of disks, labels, and lamination materials.

Membership Certificates Printing - \$1,500

To save money, membership certificates and ID cards get printed on the same sheet. The ID card is removed and laminated separately. A short run of a few thousand is ordered on high-quality paper at the beginning of each year. As with CQ, the majority of the cost of printing involves creating and setting up the plates for the presses.

Printing for Membership Package - \$1,000 (likely \$250)

The above number is actually an over-estimate. A few years ago when every member was getting a printed Handbook and Vessel Registry, the annual cost for printing those was about \$4,000. This came down to \$1,000 last year with the advent of the CD-ROM option, and so the same price was estimated for this year. However, less than 10% of members have requested their manuals in hard copy format, lowering the annual expense to more like \$250 for printing these items.

Give-Away Items - \$750

For nearly as long as STARFLEET has had membership materials, we have offered little drop-in give-aways—things like notepads, bumper stickers, decals, and the like. The items are usually lightweight and can be ordered in bulk, and \$750 per year is a pretty consistent amount to spend on them.

Postage to Mail Membership Packages - \$1,500

By replacing the heavy, multiple-page Membership Handbook and Vessel Registry with a much lighter CD-ROM (while retaining the printed certificate and ID card), postage for sending out membership packages has decreased from about \$7,500 a few years ago to what looks to be about \$1,500 this year with only 10% of members requesting the heavier printed manuals.

Pitney Bowes Machine Rental - \$900

Postage machines save a lot of time in getting membership packets ready for mailing. You simply weigh the package and the machine prints a postage label while automatically charging your account for the postage. These machines are not purchased but must be rented, and we pay \$900 for the three that we now use (one in Maine, one in Colorado, and one in Texas...see the comment below about STARFLEET's three member processing teams).

P.O. Box Rental - \$110

STARFLEET rents a P.O. Box so that we do not need to use a member's home address for official correspondence. It also provides continuity between administrations so that we don't need to change addresses every three years.

General Office Supplies - \$140

This includes toner for printing the CD-ROM labels and certificates, as well as envelopes to mail the membership materials.

New CD-ROM Making Machine - \$1100

We have two membership processing teams, one in Maine led by Matt Ingles and one in Colorado led by Christina Sievers. (There is also a back-up team in Texas.) With 90% of members now receiving their Handbook and Vessel Registry on CD-ROM, it was decided that it would be a prudent move to purchase a second CD-ROM maker. One machine would reside with each team, and either could provide a back-up if the other machine ever broke down and needed to be repaired. So this line item is a one-time charge that will not appear in subsequent years (at least certainly not for a while).

New Lamination Machine - \$50

Same concept as having a second CD-ROM maker, we ordered a second lamination machine for the second membership processing team in Colorado. Lamination machines cost much less than CD-ROM makers.

SPECIAL FEATURE FROM THE FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS

Legal Services - \$6,000

In 2008, STARFLEET spent \$9,100 on attorney fees. Those members who read CQ #151-153 might remember the itemized list of what those funds were spent on. (For those who didn't, past issues of CQ are available for free download on the SFI.org website.) This significant expense led to Sal Lizard agreeing to consult the Admiralty Board for approval before spending money on legal services, barring an emergency (which, it turns out, we actually had at IC 2009).

Back in the spring of 2009, when the next year's fiscal budget was being determined, no one on the EC knew how much might be needed for legal services over the following year. Knowing that the previous year's total of \$9,100 seemed excessive, the EC reserved \$6,000 for legal services. Not knowing what specific attorney tasks might be required, legal services were grouped into a single line item

However, here is what has been spent so far since July 1, 2009:

Preparation for the ECAB Meeting at the International Conference - \$561

The EC and AB planned to discuss the idea of hiring our attorney to draft our revised Bylaws so they would comply with North Carolina corporate law and not contradict our other governing documents. But to make an informed decision, the ECAB would need to know what these services would cost. Our attorney needed an hour and a half to review all of our governing documents to give us a confident bid of about 10 hours time to do the redrafting. So this \$561 charge was so the ECAB would know the cost of redrafting our Bylaws (which would be about \$3,500, by the way).

Question from the Admiralty Board - \$1056

When three Regional Coordinators were removed from office by the Commander, STARFLEET in June, the decision was challenged by one of those three RCs. To help clarify the legal aspects of areas where our governing documents seemed to be in contradiction with each other, the Admiralty Board approved Dave Blaser (VCS) and Jennifer Cole (Acting RCR4) to consult our attorney. The findings of the attorney—which were not conclusive due to our internal rules being in such high self-contradiction and a lack of clarity in how the laws of North Carolina would interact with our governing documents—were immediately shared with the entire ECAB.

IRS Group Exemption for the Chapters - \$900

As was reported last issue, there were significant issues and questions regarding whether to extend the STARFLEET Non-Profit “umbrella” (group exemption) to chapters. Our attorney, Tracey Bolotnik, did about two hours of research and spent an hour talking to the EC on a conference call. Afterwards, based on her input, the EC decided if would be best not to offer group exemption to the chapters at this time. The AB has voted to fund this legal expense.

Response to Legal Complaint Filed Against STARFLEET - \$280

At the start of IC 2009, member Martin Lessem filed a legal motion against STARFLEET with the State of North Carolina. While the motion was eventually withdrawn, the immediacy of the action itself required that Sal Lizard contact our attorneys without first receiving approval from the AB (although it was eventually agreed by the AB that Sal's course of action was justified). Fortunately, we escaped with under an hour of billable time from our lawyer.

Drafting of New Bylaws – up to \$4,500

As was mentioned in this issue's Communications Department article, the Admiralty Board approved spending up to \$4,500 for our attorneys to rewrite our Bylaws (along with our Articles of Incorporation) following guidance from a 9-member STARFLEET Bylaws Committee. The estimate from our attorney was for only \$3,000-\$3,500, but a buffer cushion was built in...just in case. If our attorneys come in on the low end, we'll be within budget for this fiscal year. If it's on the high end, then this item will be over-budget.

However, it should be noted that the rewriting of our Bylaws is a rare event in STARFLEET history. Our current Constitution has lasted for about a dozen years, and our Bylaws (if passed by the membership at large) will be much more streamlined, allowing for some club processes and procedures to be changed by a simple vote of the Admiralty Board. Member votes will still be required from time to time. However, this re-drafting may allow for some sections to be acted upon in a more expedient manner than we do at present. In short, this should be the last year that STARFLEET needs to spend as much in legal fees for quite a while. Next year won't be zero, but it will probably be less than this year's \$6,000.

Financial Operations - \$4,800

Here's how the Financial Operations line items break down for Fiscal Year 2010:

PayPal Fees	\$1,725
Independent Accounting Review Fees	\$2,500
General Supplies	\$325
QuickBooks Online Access Fee	\$250

PayPal Fees - \$1,725

Arguably, this first item could justifiably be placed under Member Processing instead of Financial Ops. In short, this is the fee we pay for taking online credit card payments for membership dues (via PayPal). It's standard industry practice to have a small percentage of credit card charges paid to the card processing service. The \$1,725 fee is an estimate based on previous years' revenue plus the 20% increase in STARFLEET membership in 2010 over 2009.

Independent Accounting Review Fees - \$2,500

A constitutional requirement, STARFLEET must have its financial books reviewed once a year by an independent CPA. This is to ensure that neither the CS, CFO, nor any member of the EC mishandles or embezzles funds from STARFLEET. It's happened in the past, so this is not a frivolous or unnecessary rule.

General Supplies - \$325

This includes things like toner cartridges and paper. It might seem like a lot for a department that crunches numbers, but every membership application received and processed gets a receipt printed and filed. In this way, if there is ever a database crash or loss of data, STARFLEET has a hard copy backup.

QuickBooks Online Access Fee - \$250

This is an annual subscription that STARFLEET pays to access QuickBooks online, allowing multiple members involved with STARFLEET's finances (essentially the ECAB) to access our records from the central account records when necessary. The fee is discounted for us to a little under \$250 because we are a Non-Profit organization and because we pay for a year at a time instead of monthly.

Commander, STARFLEET - \$2,300

Here's how the line items break down in the departments operating under the direct supervision of the Commander, STARFLEET for Fiscal Year 2010:

STARFLEET Annual Awards	\$1,000
Promotion Certificates (printing/postage)	\$750
Award Certificates (printing/postage)	\$500
Office Supplies	\$50

STARFLEET Annual Awards - \$1,000

Each year at IC, awards are given out for things like Member of the Year, Chapter of the Year, Cadet of the Year, etc. Each recipient receives an engraved plaque. The annual cost for these plaques typically runs

between \$800 and \$1,000. When possible, the physical awards are handed out to the member or chapter in person. Otherwise, the award is usually presented to that member's CO or RC to hand to them. On rare occasions, it becomes necessary to mail the award, a cost that STARFLEET pays when it's required.

Promotion Certificates (printing/postage) - \$750

Flag level promotions are handled through the office of the CS. When a member is promoted above the rank of Captain, a certificate is created and mailed to him or her. The certificates are professionally printed and mailed in a first-class envelope.

Award Certificates (printing/postage) - \$500

As with flag promotions, awards like the STARFLEET Cross are also printed and mailed from the CS budget. There are typically fewer awards than flag promotions in a single year, hence the slightly lower projected cost.

Office Supplies - \$50

Pretty much speaks for itself, although this is typically split between the Commander, STARFLEET and Inspector General.

Computer Operations - \$1,600

Here's how the Computer Operations line items break down for Fiscal Year 2010:

Software Development	\$1,500
Database Web Hosting	\$100

Software Development - \$1,500 (likely \$0)

Amusingly, it looks as though CompOps will be spending almost nothing this fiscal year. Last summer, \$1,500 was put aside to hire an outside PHP programmer to fix up our existing member database. The reason is that, after an extensive search, no willing volunteers within STARFLEET were found to tackle the project. A possible outside developer looking to start learning PHP offered to charge us only \$50/hour for an estimated 30 hours. However, the plan fell through, and CompOps Chief John Halliday began rewriting the database in C#.net, a different language that John knows himself. So this \$1,500 will very likely not be spent and remain in STARFLEET's bank account.

Database Web Hosting - \$100 (likely less)

The SFI.org website does not cost us anything to host at present. STARFLEET gets enough discounts in exchange for referrals each year that our ISP does not charge us for hosting. However, the server used for developing and testing the new member database costs \$6/month for hosting.

Miscellaneous - \$5,200

The following five line items don't fit under any one particular department but rather involve the entire EC, the AB, both, and also the organization in general:

Insurance (liability and bond)	\$2,900
IRS Licensing Fee	\$900
888-SFI-TREK Toll Free Phone Number	\$900
STARFLEET Election	\$500

Insurance (liability and bond) - \$2,900 (likely \$2,600)

Last year, it was decided by the Executive Committee to purchase corporate insurance for STARFLEET in case of a lawsuit against the organization. And less than a month after getting this insurance, STARFLEET was served with a cause of action. So the phrase “nick of time” does come



SPECIAL FEATURE FROM THE FINANCIAL AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS

to mind. Fortunately, that lawsuit was withdrawn, but in the event that another lawsuit is ever filed against STARFLEET in the future, the cost of legal fees and judgment is covered, and this protection extends to the Officers and Directors of the corporation (the ECAB), so these volunteers are not putting their personal livelihoods at risk if a lawsuit enjoins them personally in addition to the STARFLEET organization. The actual total turned out to be a little less than budgeted for, as the final insurance bids were still pending when the budget was submitted to the AB. For those curious how it all breaks down, the insurance is made up of general liability (\$1,731), which covers the entire ECAB, liability insurance for the International Conference (\$300), plus insurance for the bonded officers (\$700), which covers the EC and other members who actually handle any STARFLEET funds (like the Vice-CFO, the Quartermasters for SFI and SFMC, the head of Member Processing, and the IC Chair and Treasurer). There is also an option to expand liability to any Regional Summit that wants it for only \$300 more per Summit. Any RC interested in that option should contact Mike Stein and/or Pat Spillers no less than 45 days before the event.

IRS Licensing Fee - \$900

When the IRS changed the regulations regarding 501(C)7 Non-Profit Corporations last year, STARFLEET had to bring the Regions under our Non-Profit "umbrella," known as a Group Exemption Letter (GEL). There is a one-time filing fee of \$900 for the IRS to process that paperwork. (Yes, the IRS changed the rules and then charged us \$900 to comply with those changes. No one ever said the Internal Revenue Service was fun to deal with.) This is, however, a one-time fee that should not be needed again for several years (unless the laws change significantly again...which is unlikely, as this was a very unusual, major change to the tax code).

888-SFI-TREK Toll Free Phone Number - \$900

STARFLEET maintains a toll-free number that allows members and non-members to reach any member of the EC. Some EC members actually answer in person while others use it for voice-mail purposes. In 2009, the toll-free number was used by *The Washington Post*, *Maxim* magazine, and MSNBC to contact STARFLEET quickly for media appearances when the new movie came out. Later, Red Roof Inns used it to contact STARFLEET, and this resulted in one of our most attractive membership perks: a 20% discount at Red Roof Inns. So the toll-free number has proven to be a valuable investment for the club. Sure, there's always e-mail. But how many other *Trek* fan clubs out there have a toll-free number? It's one of those things that makes us stand out as a very well-established organization rather than just another fly-by-night fan club. Sal Lizard reports that up to a dozen calls a week come in on the toll-free number.

STARFLEET Election - \$500

Remember that our Fiscal Year ends on June 30. Prior to June 30, we only need to spend \$500 to retain an independent CPA to count the votes. (As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, STARFLEET ballots are counted by an outside CPA firm to ensure there are no charges of election fraud or miscounting. The CPA has no stake in which candidate is elected.)

The other expenses for this election—printing and mailing of election packets—will be paid for during Fiscal Year 2011 (after July 1). We expect those costs to be about \$3,000 (unlike the CQ, all election packets are sent first class, even international ones). However, knowing these expenses would come up, \$1,500 was reserved from the budget last year (FY 2009), so half of the election cost for this year is already saved in the bank.

Some members have asked why we do not switch to a less expensive online voting system. That option is being looked into, but some members

do not have convenient access (or in some cases any access) to computers and/or the Internet. They do have a right to vote, and so we have a duty to get them their ballots. So going entirely electronic is not currently an option. Even if it were, however, a verifiable, tamper-proof online voting option needs to be developed and tested. Within the next few elections, online voting may likely become a reality for STARFLEET. But for this election, the logistical problems were not yet solved.

A Few Words About the IC, Quartermaster, and Scholarships

Since this article is already so long, we won't spend much time discussing these remaining three items. However, members should be aware that

books and hear an "Oops, sorry!" from the IC committee. Also, the EC is considering putting surplus monies raised from profitable ICs back into the IC fund...rather than donating the profit away. In this way, surpluses from successful ICs can go to offset deficits from unsuccessful ICs.

As for the Quartermaster (both the STARFLEET QM and the Marine QM), that combined income is approximately \$15,000 per year at present. Expenses include purchasing new inventory, paying for shipping materials, and in some cases maintaining a business license. There's also sales tax and shipping, although that is usually charged to the buyer at time of purchase. The QM expenses for this year were estimated at about \$13,100 thanks to some cost cutting measures by Pete Mohny and others. Therefore, with luck, the QM will have about \$2,000 in profit. The QM is self-sustaining, so sales and profit are funneled back into new product development. The process has worked well so far, as QM sales and the variety and quality of products being offered have both increased nicely in recent years.

And finally, there is the STARFLEET Scholarship Fund, which is kept completely separate from the operational budget. In short, unless we have money in the Scholarship fund, we do not award scholarships. As you can see from the CFO report elsewhere in this issue, the Academy Scholarship Fund currently has \$6,762 and the SFMC Scholarship Fund has \$2,871. This is enough to keep both funds going for a while, although donations are always welcome.

What Is the Actual Breakdown of My Fifteen Dollars?

For a single STARFLEET member living in the United States, the annual membership fee is \$15 (and has remained there for nearly 20 years without an increase!). But for family members, the cost ranges from two people at \$22 (or \$11 per person) to six people at \$34 (or \$5.67 per person). Canadians pay \$1 more, and international non-Canadian members pay \$5 more.

In short, there's a lot of variation in membership rates. A six-member family reads one CQ and therefore saves us money. It costs more to mail to a member in Australia than one in Great Britain, even though both pay the same subscription rate.

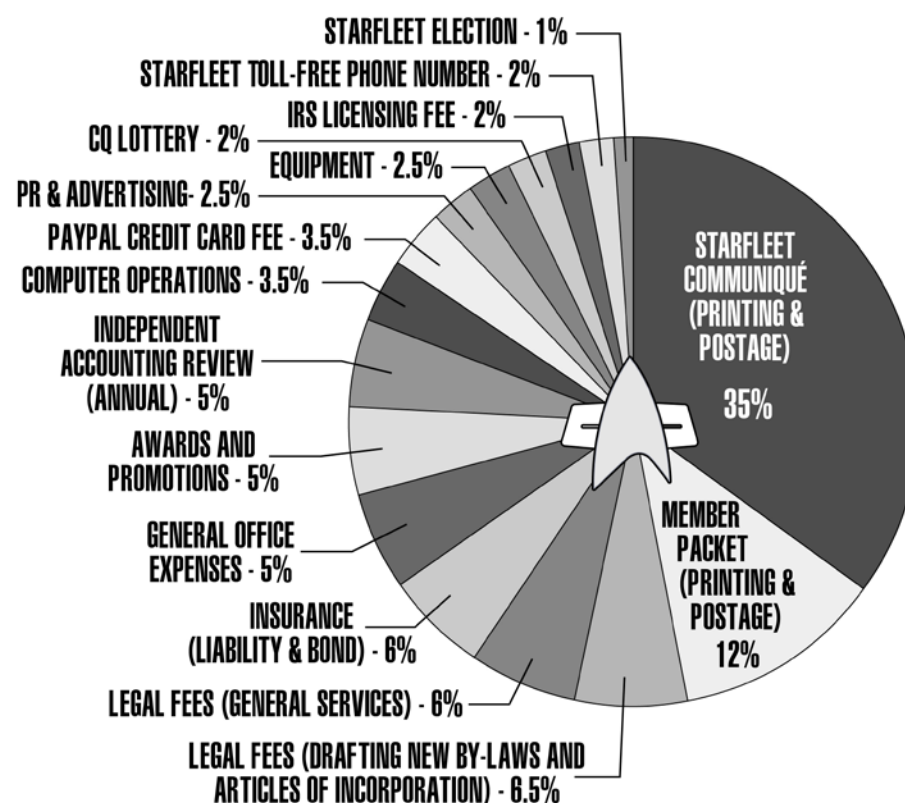
So STARFLEET can't simply say that, out of a \$15 subscription, \$5 goes to CQ. It's not quite that straightforward. STARFLEET is a shared community. We all pool our money together to provide for everyone in the club, and we try to do it as fairly as we can. The system isn't perfect, but the STARFLEET budget has nevertheless remained balanced for many years.

This was not always the case. In the 1990's, STARFLEET owed thousands of dollars that it didn't have. Right now, however, in 2010, we have a balance of over \$30,000 in our operational fund. That means that, if something were to happen tomorrow and STARFLEET no longer took in any additional income, we could meet our contractual requirements of sending all members their remaining CQs and still have many funds left over. Or alternately, if there was a major lawsuit against STARFLEET, we could easily meet our insurance deductibles and continue operating smoothly. If postage rates suddenly shoot up, we can handle that too, without immediately needing to raise rates or risk going under.

In short, STARFLEET is very solvent and financially stable. The last few fiscal years have seen balanced budgets where STARFLEET expenses did not exceed revenue. It's allowed us to expand certain programs, experiment with press releases, and even fund much-needed revisions to our governing documents without eating into our organization's cash reserves. We can say with total confidence that STARFLEET is financially stronger right now than at any other period in its 35-year history.

Thanks for reading.

STARFLEET BUDGET CHART PER ITEM CATEGORY



the IC, Quartermaster, and Scholarships are each self-sustaining. They do not use up any of your membership dollars (usually) nor do they add to them.

The IC makes an average of \$18,000 from registrations for the conference itself, for the banquet, and from the occasional donation. The IC costs an average of about \$18,000 for the hotel space, banquet, program printing, etc. So in a perfect world, the IC pays for itself. In reality, this does not always happen. IC 2005 in San Antonio had \$1,300 in profit that was donated to charity. IC 2006 in Philadelphia finished off \$1,750 in the red (losses which STARFLEET had to cover). IC 2007 in Denver then finished over \$2,900 in the red (again, STARFLEET had to cover this loss). However, things turned around when IC 2008 in Ithaca, NY took in over \$1900 in profit (which was donated to the STARFLEET Scholarship Fund). IC 2009 in North Carolina has not reported final totals yet but looks to be about \$400-500 into the profit column.

The current EC has taken a few steps to insure no future, unpleasant IC financial "surprises." ICs now must work through STARFLEET bank accounts (previous ICs opened their own bank accounts which were not usually monitored by the EC). The EC does not control the expenses of the IC, but the EC can at least now watch over those expenses (as well as registration income through a special PayPal account). So month-by-month leading up to the IC, the EC knows what's going on, and there are no bad surprises months after the IC is over when we look at the



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SHIP: USS ANASAZI NCC-62001
REGION: 17, NEW MEXICO (USA)

1736-01-620

Attention on Deck!

STATE of the SFMC

Happy New Year, Marines. I hope this message finds you and your families all doing well.

BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

I will be letting our new COFINCOM, Linda Olson, report on the bank account balances so that I avoid stepping on her toes and getting in the vault.

NEW PROJECT FOR SFMC

The General Staff, in an effort to provide more interaction and communication between SFMC Strike Groups, has decided to create a guide that lists the favorite drinks of the units in our organization. What we would like to have is for every Strike Group, Expeditionary Unit, and Brigade send their favorite drinks to us for inclusion in the first ever "Favorite Drinks of the SFMC." This is not going to be a bartender's guide, but can include alcoholic drinks.

Send your favorite drink (you can send up to two per unit: one alcoholic and one non-alcoholic) along with the reason why it is your favorite and other information about the drink. If it requires construction, please be sure to send us the recipe so others can try it and see what they think of your favorite.

The drinks and their stories will be published

(electronically) in time for IC. The deadline to submit your drinks is April 30, 2010. Now, tell everyone what your favorite is, how to make it, and why you like it so much. Send all submissions to me at jcroberts2@hotmail.com and make sure to use the subject line "SFMC Drinks" and identify your unit in the email as well. Only one entry per unit will be accepted so make surer to talk it over with everyone in yours.

SFMC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our scholarship account total stands at \$2,869.84. 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 2010!

COMMANDANT'S CAMPAIGN AWARD

Please remember the Commandant's Campaign this year. To qualify, you must participate (simply donating money will not qualify) in one of the following activities (or your nation's equivalent program):

Collecting Toys for Tots

Raising money/participating in events designed to raise money for Special Olympics; and, *Collecting/raising money* and other donations for hurricane relief efforts

You must also make sure your unit OIC reports your involvement and what you did in his bi-monthly report to COFORCECOM. If the activity is not reported, you cannot be awarded the Commandant's Campaign award for this year.

NEW QUARTERMASTER ITEMS

As Linda Olson recently announced, we now have a new item in the SFMC QM store just in time for the holidays. GO check it out and buy one for your favorite Marine. These card sets will provide hours of fun for those stuck on guard duty for long hours at a time—You know who you are!

We can't order more new items for the QM Store until we can get sales going on what we have in stock in now...we need to get our liquid funds back up to place orders. Order now!

SFMC Spreadshirt Store: We now have a Spreadshirt with all kinds of SFMC and SFMCA clothing (over 80 items at last count). Buy yours now and support the SFMC. You can get a link to the Spreadshirt Store at the SFMC Shops tab of the SFMC website.

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 as follows:

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

Commanding Officer, Finance Command:

fincom@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.

CO FINCOM, SFMC

Report from the CO FINCOM

Folks,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is the final report for the year of '09 and I wish to apologize for it being the first to appear on this list. I have been sending reports to the AoD and the AoD:E but apparently failed to include this list.

I do hope that all interested parties have looked up my articles in the above-mentioned publications.

The storeroom is still pretty well-stocked as the holiday sales were a bit disappointing. I have received several after-Christmas orders which

are awaiting the transport to the postal service location. I hope to make it there on Friday this week. Things are a bit strange here as we are experiencing extreme cold temperatures unlike any that we have had in Florida since I moved down here from Tennessee. In some ways it is very pleasant, in others not so much. And if we should (heaven forbid) actually see ice and snow, I don't have a clue what the "locals" will do. They are already threatening me at work that they will be staying home if it snows. (shaking head at "deep southerners")

If you were one of the multitudes who did NOT receive SFMC merchandise for Christmas, check out the online

store. We have some very nice items that any Marine would love to have. Also it is about time to start the annual Summit Season again, so if you are in the process of updating your ribbon bars, check out the new ribbon bar maker on the site and then order what you need to complete your uniform.

That is about all the news from here; again I hope everyone is having a great new year.

The following is the current financial report for the office of FINCOM:

SFMC

December 31, 2009

Opening balance Dec. 1 - \$1,672.38
 Transfer of paypal funds - \$78.07
 Ending Balance Dec 31 - \$1,750.45

Scholarship account

Opening balance Dec. 1 - \$2,870.08
 Interest - .48
 Ending Balance Dec 31 - \$2,870.56

Petty Cash

Opening Balance Dec. 1 - \$39.66
 Postage - \$ 6.19
 Supplies
 Ending Balance Dec. 31 - \$33.47

LGN Linda Olson

CO Finance Command, SFMC

Dragonladye@wildblue.net

1736-01-620



Report from the CO INFOCOM

Begin transmission...

0737-47-16

Happy New Year! Well it is finally 2010 and while I seriously doubt that this will be the year we make contact, it might be one of the years where snow is measured in feet in places that usually get several inches a year. Another thing I do know is that this year will be a busy one for INFOCOM. There are quite a few projects in the pipeline this year and hopefully there will be enough time to get them all done.

New SFMC Site

As I have mentioned in my previous reports, due to circumstances beyond my control I was delayed in working on the new SFMC site. Well I'm happy to report that I have been able to restart the project and it looks like that I am on target to having the site done and ready for beta testing by the end of January and hopefully live the beginning of February. In fact, there is a good chance that by the time you read this, the new site will be live.

Ribbon Rack Builder

For years there had been talk of building a tool in the database that would generate a member's ribbon rack. Well once it was determined that it would take some effort to integrate it

into the database, focus shifted to developing a standalone tool. Well that is where it languished for quite some time. However, thanks to the efforts of Sean O'Connell, the SFMC now has a standalone ribbon rack tool, the SFMC Ribbon Rack Builder MK2.5. It is a web based tool and can be found under the Awards section of the SFMC site. The SFMC RRB MK 2.5 allows a marine to manually select a SFMC award and the number of times that award has been received and click a button to have the rack displayed. The tool puts the ribbons in the correct order and even attaches the correct devices. What really makes this tool nice is that the resulting ribbon rack can be saved as an image right to your computer. This means that you can use the image in publications, your own web sites, or for just about any sort of media.

To access the new tool visit here: <http://bit.ly/5SEKXu>

Future Projects

As I mentioned in my introduction, there are several projects that are in the pipeline for this year. Most of these projects are related to recruiting and include videos, PowerPoint presentations, and even a press kit. These projects will be completed throughout the year and some are slated for release at this year's IC. There are some other projects

that are in the pipeline but they are in the early stages of planning.

Staffing

Volunteers are always welcome. If you have experience in programming, Joomla!, video editing, publications, graphics, etc..., please send your SFMC resume and a small portfolio of your work to infocom@sfi-sfmc.org.

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...

Major General Sean Niemeyer
Commanding Officer, INFOCOM

mail: infocom@sfi-sfmc.org; twitter: @sfmc_infocom
USS Asimov NCC-1647-A
Region 7, Pennsylvania (USA)



MICHAEL NIEMEYER

1983 — 2010



Twenty-seven years ago when Michael entered my life, it was one of the happiest moments in my life. I was a big brother, and it was my responsibility to look after and teach Michael all that I knew. Granted, I was still young myself, but that didn't matter. As a big brother, I had to look out for my little brother. However, several short years later, the world seemed to fall apart as he was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA).

For some time, it looked as though the disease would be held at bay or even that he might "outgrow" it. Alas, the disease slowly progressed, and when he was in high school, it forced him to be bedridden for most of his junior and senior years. But he fought and persevered and made it through those difficult years, even

being able to attend his high school graduation. It was during those same years that he decided that he wanted to become a US Marine if he ever got well enough to do so.

However, soon after, the years of steroid treatments began to take their toll as his eyesight began to fade. While for many people this would have stopped them, Michael kept on fighting. He learned to live with his new disability.

Then a new diagnosis: Psoriatic Arthritis, a more severe and debilitating form of arthritis. Psoriatic arthritis is a systemic form of arthritis that attacks more than a person's joints. But Michael still fought on. However, slowly and surely, the disease took its toll on his body. He endured countless surgeries and days of pain, but even throughout it all, his mind and intellect were as sharp as ever. He could converse with you on almost any subject; he had a sharp wit as he would always love to get a word in edgewise or take something you said that was totally innocuous and turn it around on you. He could find the humor, both light and dark, in almost any situation. He would have made a fine stand-up comic.

He even joined STARFLEET. He didn't care about rank, title, or position. What he liked about STARFLEET was that people would accept him for who he was, and they would not care if he had a physical handicap. For a while, he participated when he could. He even ended up joining the SFMC, at least that way he could still be a Marine. He thought it was cool to be on the chapter and loved it when I presented him with his Honor Challenge Coin as the USS Asimov's unit's senior non-commissioned officer for winning the Legion of Honor Award (SFMC Unit of the Year) for 2009.

Then late last year he took gravely ill with pneumonia. In all the years of fighting, this was the first time where it looked as though he would not make it. While it was indeed touch and go for a while, he pulled through, a little worse for wear, but alive nevertheless. He had fought and won what was up to that point

the greatest battle of his life.

Then on February 12, 2010, while undergoing a routine blood transfusion, he went into respiratory distress caused by a resurgent pneumonia. The doctors were able to stabilize him enough to eventually medevac him to the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. On February 13, 2010, surrounded by those that loved and cared for him for so many years, he finally succumbed to pneumonia. To the very end, he fought with the tenacity of a US Marine. He would have made any Devil Dog proud.

So it was on that day I not only lost my younger and only brother, but my best friend as well. You see, both he and I were military brats. We moved around quite a bit, and so making and leaving friends fast was something we both learned to do at an early age. But throughout all the moves big and small, my brother was right there with me. He was my very best friend. Sure there were broken bones, bruises, and name calling, but it didn't matter because, in the end, we were brothers and we loved each other.

I am grateful for the 27 years that I had him in my life and for the all the experiences that we shared. I am a far better person for having had him as my brother, for I learned quite a lot from him. He will be sorely missed by all those who knew him, and the world will be a little smaller place with his passing. To Michael, who has passed beyond the mortal veil to that undiscovered country which we all must pass someday, all I can say is fair winds and following seas...for I have been and always shall be your friend.

Memorial donations may be made in Michael's honor to the Arthritis Foundation by going to the Arthritis Foundation website < <http://bit.ly/d9AU5Q> >.

Major General Sean Niemeyer



Report from the Sergeant Major, SFMC

Greetings Marines!

As usual, I'm coming to you from the booth in the back, in the corner, in the dark of the local NCO club. (Where the coffee is awful, but at least it's hot.)

0538-03-747

Speaking of temperatures, as I write this, many of us are still experiencing prolonged periods of bad winter weather. Personally, I was trying to get on ole Gunny Claus' Naughty list this year because a stocking full of coal would come in handy about now. (What? You didn't know he was an NCO? Who else could manage a theoretically impossible global logistics effort on an exact deadline using outdated/obsolete equipment (an animal drawn sleigh), have up to the minute intel on who's been naughty or nice, and always look completely strack in spite of going up and down chimneys?)

Anyway, with that in mind, I'd strongly encourage all Marines to make doing what you can to help folks get through the cold weather part of your community service efforts for the year. As part of that, I'll ask you to remember HUGS (hats, underwear, gloves, socks). They're items that are generally in high demand and low supply for those in need during colder weather

(11th BDE ... I know it's summer there. But it's never too early to start thinking about these kinds of things.)

One of the ongoing projects I have is working closely with the NCO Academy at TRACOM to help them develop new content. One of my goals

is to try and help get some BOS specific courses out there, so consider that a hint if you're thinking about going for an NCO-30 project. I encourage all Marines to avail themselves of the opportunity to further their understanding of the SFMC by taking courses through TRACOM.

I like to take a moment each month and recognize the special contributions some of our enlisted members are making. Please let me know about the actions of Marines in your BDE that I can highlight here. So much good work being done by our fellow Marines goes unnoticed outside their local area. To that end, I'd like to give a shout out to three different marine units that are comprised entirely of enlisted personnel: the 101st MEU, and 327th and 313th MSGs. Two years ago, an all NCO unit in the Corps was unheard of. Now we have three that I know of.

Also, a couple of tips of Top's eight-point to a couple of special privates in the 5th BDE. Private Stacy Moren is new to the Corps, but didn't let that stop her from stepping up to be OIC of the newly formed 506th (IN) MSG aboard the *USS Chinook*. Then there's a Private in the 533rd MSG aboard *USS Pinguin* (sorry, but real life security concerns mean I won't use their name). What makes this SFMC Private so special is they are currently deployed overseas ... as CO of their unit. How's that for a "reverse mustang"?

With the new year comes my first reminder that nobody in the SFMC, no matter how deserving, can get an award without somebody putting them in

for it. If you know a Marine that's done something to earn official recognition, it's up to you to take the lead on making that award happen. Too many times, we wait for the other guy to say something to the appropriate Issuing Authority. Most award recommendations need to be made within six months of the qualifying action. Don't let that window pass, and don't assume the other guy has it covered.

I'll also remind you of the official NCO mailing list. It's open to all SFI members, Fleet or Marine, with an interest in enlisted affairs. If there's no discussion going on, feel free to start one. <http://lists.sfi-sfmc.org/listinfo.cgi/nco-l-sfi-sfmc.org>

And, please feel free to contact the SFMC General Staff with any questions or concerns you have. 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.

Now it's time for Top's Pet Peeve for this month. It's That Guy. You know the one I'm talking about. It seems like every unit has their own version of That Guy, That Guy is always dropping the ball, making things harder for themselves and their buddies, That Guy has a habit of shooting off their mouth without thinking of how somebody else might perceive it and tempers flare. That Guy rushes through a job with often disastrous results. I could go on and on, but suffice it to say most of us know That Guy.

Dealing with That Guy has fallen into the laps of NCOs ever since there have been NCOs. I have

a mental image of a Roman centurion quietly pounding his head against Hadrian's Wall at Legionary Prigalius' latest misadventure. To make matters worse, sometimes That Guy is actually above you in the chain of command. Somehow, it seems to fall to the NCO to make things work in spite of That Guy.

But here's the thing: every once in a while, we're all That Guy. It may be only for a moment, but for that moment, That Guy is staring back at us out of the mirror. We can all have days where everything we touch turns to an unpleasant metaphor. Our lives outside the Corps may interfere with our duties in the Corps. We may say or do something with the absolute best of intentions that has consequences we just didn't foresee or that wasn't perceived the way we meant it.

Although the Starfleet Marines are a tight, crack military organization, the STARFLEET Marines are a social organization composed of volunteers. In short, we're all human ... even That Guy. Keep that in mind the next time That Guy sends your blood pressure into low orbit.

Semper Fi!

Master Gunnery Sergeant Jerome A. "Hawk" Stoddard
Sergeant Major, SFMC
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

0538-03-747

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

Dear Prigal,	I must confess I don't see the humor in a simple question, but I'll ask anyway in the hopes of that your answer will bring understanding on my part.	<i>found filling support positions at all levels of the organization, usually the cushy jobs that every poor soul in a foxhole dreams about being transferred to someday, if only for a little rest. They come in various shapes and sizes, but share a common tendency to treat combat soldiers as lower forms of life that only exist as numbers in a Table of Organization. Regulations are elevated almost to the status of a religion for them, and they can generally quote them in excruciating detail. However, their grasp of the realities of a combat assignment is almost always fuzzy at best.</i>	<i>However, that tolerance can turn to dislike and even hatred at those times when a remf finds their way into a combat unit. Their natural arrogance, combined with a lack of experience, can lead to them making huge mistakes that even a green recruit or a butterbar wouldn't make. Throughout history, good soldiers have paid the price for a remf wanting to get a little combat experience.</i>	<i>of them. Remf is a state of being, not a job description.</i>
I am an avid reader of your advice column, and it has given me much insight into pinkskin psychology and the way you marines function at such a high level of proficiency in combat despite not having the advantages of an Andorian upbringing.	What is a "remf"?	<i>Subsisting on a diet of red tape and those fresh supplies that somehow never seem to make it to those poor souls in the foxholes, they are at best tolerated as a necessary evil by combat soldiers so long as they remain in their natural environment: the rear echelon of the organization.</i>	<i>Fortunately for soldiers everywhere, remfs tend to get accident-prone in combat zones, and are usually shipped out again before they can foul things up too badly after a short stint in Sick Bay. (Well, at least around me that's what tends to happen.)</i>	<i>Or to put it another way: if you ever want a Marine that's seen combat to take a swing at you, calling them a remf may just do the trick.</i>
Sometimes, however, you use terms I am not familiar with, and I must ask human officers to explain them to me. Thanks to them, I have gained much insight into the iconic human figure of "Mickey Mouse" and how that legendary rodent applies to military organizations. Recently you used another term I could not find in my standard database, so I asked a Marine Colonel what it meant. His only response was to laugh, and suggest I ask you instead. He then muttered something about taking bets on Gunny's blood pressure if you answered it in your column.	Andorian Adjutant			
	Dear Adjutant,	<i>Normally, my answers here are pretty blunt and straightforward. However, I'm going to be a little less direct here, because if I gave you a straightforward answer, Gunny would not only NOT clear it for publication, he might bust me back to boot camp (meaning, in this case, his boot would be camped up my backside).</i>		
		<i>Remfs are strange, sad beings whose normal habitat is the rear areas or HQs of military organizations. They're generally</i>	<i>I do have to point out that not all soldiers who serve in rear areas or support branches are remfs. I personally know many fine Marines who serve in HQ units, or support branches, and I'm proud to know each and every one</i>	<i>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.)</i>



Report from the CO TRACOM

1139-50-835

Firstly, let me start off by thanking all the staff here at TRACOM for their commitment, enthusiasm, and support that they have given unreservedly throughout 2009 on all of our behalf. The SFMCA would simply not function without the time taken by these great people and the volunteering of their time - and I am sure we can look forward to more of the same in 2010. And it is impossible to begin a New Year without some aspect of looking forward - and for TRACOM and the SFMCA, we expect this year to be a big year indeed.

The efforts of all the TRACOM staff over the last seven or eight months in particular has bought us now to a stage where we are ready to launch some comprehensive programs aimed at improving and adding to your enjoyment as a student of the SFMCA. One of the most important aspects of this development has seen the recognition that to be able to accumulate, incorporate, create, and establish such a wide variety of new and extended programs, such as we have been looking to put into place, cannot be achieved without "manpower."

So--what does this mean? As mentioned in the last report, TRACOM has established a new section--Research & Development (R&D). Headed by Lieutenant General Mike McGowan, this new section will not only absorb the New Course Development area, but also incorporate a wide-ranging team of people who's jobs it will be to not only gather as much resource material as is possible, but to also design and create 'new' materail--and this may be new equipment, new technologies, new ideas, and directional attributes etc--all geared to adding to the doctrine of the SFMC.

It is our intention, also, to focus much more on the fictional aspect of our organization and to minimize the amount of real-life military hardware (in particular) and present-day equipment that is to be or could be added to our manuals and subsequent courses. Put another way--it will be our goal this year to add much more "Starfleet" to our Marine Corps, and therefore greatly enhance the science

fiction aspects of the SFMC. This will lead us to many exciting opportunities as we explore new technologies, design and create new craft and vessels, weapons, equipment, and even tactics, histories, and personnel.

We are a fictional organization and as such, we have a wonderful opportunity to enhance, expand, and to explore those exciting aspects of being a STARFLEET Marine of the future. We hope that each of you will also find some pleasure in the journey.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

As already mentioned, the R&D Section will be headed by Lieutenant General Mike McGowan, and to support him in this role, we have assembled a team of people each selected for a particular skill or ability to expand the programs as we develop them. These people are as follows:

Brigadier General Gary Hollifield, Jr., steps up from his previous role as Assistant New Course Development Director, and will take over as the NCD Director. He is responsible for assisting SFMCA Directors in the development of new courses and all that entails. Brigadier Jeff Davis is our Design Engineer, and Jeff is working on the design and development of quite a lot of new material including a wide range of spacecraft and support vessels, new armored vehicles, and even some personal equipment for specialist Marine use. To put all this new equipment, designed by us or developed by others, into artistic concepts we have our own Illustrator - 2LT James Jones II - who will no doubt be head down for some time attempting to create some "glamour" from the many line drawings he will receive (good luck James!). And to provide the important and detailed text that will be required to give technological description of any new equipment, we have two Staff Writers - Colonel Barry Jackson & Major William Hof - who will no doubt spend much time in discussion with the designers on aspects of anything presented. To round this team off, we are fortunate to have on

call Major General Sean Niemeyer, who has offered to provide his skilled support as our Technical Advisor. All in all, TRACOM has the tools to do the job, now all we need is time and commitment.

Lastly, we come to the aspect of ongoing research. With the number of Star Trek related websites fast disappearing, so too does our ability to easily find an enormous range of information as we research certain aspects of the ST universe we play in. To offset this, we feel it is important that we gather up as much pertinent detail as possible--especially that which may not be covered by the main ST sites even though these will likely be with us for quite some time. Thus, we are also looking to add some 'part-time' staff to assist us with this researching and the detail on this follows.

STAFF VACANCIES

The TRACOM Research & Development Department is in need of a person to fill the post of Staff Researcher. This person needs to be capable of working well without direct supervision. They must also be willing to follow an information trail to its end and hitting both the obvious and not-so-obvious data sources. This person should be familiar with finding such information as is required by the R&D Department using sources such as the Internet or from other published material. The successful candidate must be a member of STARFLEET but membership in the SFMC, though preferred, is not required. Interested applicants should apply to rd.director@sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org. Several such positions may be filled.

NEW STAFF

We were pleased to announce the appointment of MAJ William Hof to the position of Director, SpecOps branch, earlier this month. Major Hof brings with him a huge program of proposed development for the Branch and we are keenly anticipating a period of continued expansion for SO Branch during the period of his deployment. All queries on SO can be sent direct to Major Hof at so@sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

As already advised by the DCOTRACOM, the Student of the Month for December was Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Easterly of the 7th Brigade. Marcus will automatically now be included as a nominee for the "Student of the Year" award to be announced at IM next July. We congratulate all students for their efforts in December!

NEW COURSES

Already announced is the release of the new CE-11 MOS Familiarization Course. This exam is now ready for immediate application and is the first of a few new courses that will be released in the weeks ahead.

And on that note, we would like to remind you that we are always interested in talking to members about their new course ideas. We have had a few submitted of late that have indeed been of great interest - so if you do happen to have some ideas that you would like to discuss with us, please drop a line to the Director of the Branch/School concerned, or simply get in touch with COTRACOM with your suggestions.

SFMC SCHOLARSHIP

A reminder that the Scholarship Program is still very active and growing all the time. It would be great to see someone take advantage of the funds so far accumulated, so if you, or someone you know, is a suitable applicant, why not consider making application right now? These funds have been collected for use and someone should take advantage of this great opportunity.

Catch you all on campus!
Cheers

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

Report from the CO FORCECOM

0339-89-18

Greetings Marines,

Well, first report of the New Year is upon us. I just realized that this is the first article to the Corps as the new COFORCECOM. I have to apologize for not coming up to speed faster. Writing has always been a joy for me and I typically can't wait until the next cycle is upon us... NOT! One of these days, I am going to post for a Press Secretary. Maybe once the 'Dant approves those budget requests. I know, Boss... Keep on dreaming.

New BDE OICs: As I took office, one of my first duties was to take application for two new Brigade OICs. Both 01BDE and 02BDE OIC positions came open. I have to admit that it was a touch choice. However, I feel that both Marines are highly qualified

and will do a good job in representing their BDEs. In the Fighting First, Master Gunnery Sergeant John "Kiwi" Kane was appointed as the 01BDE OIC. Just south of them, the "Wild Deuces" received a new OIC as well in the person of Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Class Dave Lowe. I would like to congratulate both of these fine Marines and wish them well on their tenure.

Retiring BDE OIC: In more recent news, Brigadier Tom Guertin, OIC of the 15BDE, was appointed to the position of Region 15 Regional Coordinator. With his promotion, I have accepted his resignation. He will be missed and I wish him well in his new duties on the AB. In light of this news, I have named Lieutenant Colonel Kathy Mullins as the interim 15BDE OIC, pending applications.

New Unit Activations: Since I have taken office, I have approved several new units and have a few others pending approval. I am always happy to see new blood coming into the Corps. It is recruiting and retention that keep the SFMC flourishing as a vital part of STARFLEET. Keep up the good work, Marines.

Reporting: I would like to take the time to remind everyone of the reporting requirements. Unit reports are due on the first (1st) of each even numbered month (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec). Battalion reports are due into BDE HQ on the seventh (7th). Finally, Brigade is due into my office on the twenty-first (21st). Two late reports equal a Failure to Report (FTR). Two FTR will result in probation and three in a twelve (12)

month time period will result in removal. The reporting forms can be found at <http://www.sfi-sfmc.org/> > On-Line Forms > SFMC Report Forms. Please make sure that you keep a copy for your own records.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at forcecom@afi-sfmc.org.

In Service to the Corps,

Aaron Murphy
Lieutenant General, SFMC
Commanding Officer, Forces Command
STARFLEET Marine Corps
USS Ark Angel NCC-1889
Region 3, Texas (USA)





NAME: DORIS HUTLEY
RANK: COMMANDER
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STARFLEET Marines Learn About U.S. Marines

0740-33-718

The Stormeagles are the Marine Strike Group attached to the *USS Susquehannock*. The *USS Susquehannock* is a recently-formed STARFLEET Chapter. The Stormeagles is a group interested in military history and planing various historical "away missions."

and OIC of the Strike Group, served as our tour guide, since he is a former Marine. (They are never "ex" Marines, as I have found out!)

As we entered, we could see some pretty impressive displays of various Marine Corps Aircraft. These included a Corsair and a display of Marines deploying from a helicopter.

We then learned about boot camp and the making of a Marine. I must say these people are made of much sturdier stuff than I am.

The history of the Marine Corps was broken down by the various wars they have been involved in. So far, this includes World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Exhibits that will be added in the future are the Civil War, World War I, and the Revolutionary War. There is also a time line that starts in 1775 and continues to present day.

birthday to Jim and apparently threw the waiter off as he got our bills totally confused.

While sitting in the Tun Tavern, we noticed a rather large painting that portrayed colonial era men in the Tun Tavern. The Bartender explained that, actually, the faces were of various important men from different eras of the Marine Corps.

All in all, it was a fun and informative day! Oh Rah!!

Anyone from any STARFLEET Chapter (Starfleet Marine or not) is welcome to join us. Future Away Missions for the Stormeagles so far include:

- The National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA in March
- The Reading Air Show (World War II era military living history) June 5, 2010
- March to Destiny in Shippensburg, PA (Civil War era living history) June 26, 2010
- *Intrepid* Museum in New York City (date of trip to be announced)
- Military History walk in Carlisle, PA (date to be announced)

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Jim at < jim17hut@hotmail.com > for more details.



THE STORMEAGLE AWAY TEAM STANDS BY THE HELICOPTER DISPLAY (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): TINA AND OLIVER MAXWELL, JIM HUTLEY, SAGAR TRIVIDA, STACEY CRESS AND ANDY WAGNER. PHOTO BY DORIS HUTLEY.

Most recently the Stormeagles Marine Strike Group planned a trip to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia. The trip was planned to celebrate the Jim Hutley's birthday. Jim, who is the XO of the *USS Susquehannock*

One of our favorite activities was eating in the restaurant that represented the Tun Tavern. The Tun Tavern is the restaurant where the idea of the Marine Corps was conceived. We sung happy



ANDY WAGNER (A.K.A. KALA THE KLINGON) STANDS BY THE "ENLIST NOW" POSTER. PHOTO TAKEN BY DORIS HUTLEY.



STORMEAGLE AWAY TEAM (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): OLIVER AND TINA MAXWELL, STACEY CRESS, DORIS AND JIM HUTLEY, ANDY WAGNER AND SAGAR TRIVIDA. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DORIS HUTLEY.



TINA MAXWELL, STACEY CRESS, AND ANDY WAGNER STAND IN FRONT OF THE THEATER MARQUIS. PHOTO BY DORIS HUTLEY.





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0441-40-718

Star Trek and Storytelling

Joseph Campbell wrote that the myth was the oldest and most well known of all storytelling devices. Passed down from generation to generation, we learned not necessarily more about the hero but about ourselves and what we valued as a society. We told stories to make sure the next generation learned, at the time, accepted

understand our present.

Star Trek is not neostoicistic in terms that we must give up our passions. *Trek* tells us we must embrace them. One of the yardsticks used in accessing *Trek* as the ultimate storyteller is the "The Hero's Journey." In 1949, Joseph Campbell introduced the monomyth through a work titled "The Hero with a Thousand Faces." Campbell had been teaching a class on Mythology at Sarah Lawrence College. He popularized the idea of comparative mythology—a comparison of myths from different cultures. He attempted, and succeeded, in identifying shared themes, ideas, concepts, and characteristics among different stories told over a wide expanse of distance and time. That will be our goal. Identifying each of the recognized monomythic storytelling elements. In essence, we will expose and compare the episodes to that of Campbell's Hero's Journey.



norms, morals, and values. Most importantly, we understood the meaning of life. And it was through this storytelling we embraced the challenges and hardships of living.

Star Trek has become the modern myth. Whether consciously or sub-consciously, the writers have tapped into a spring of human essence. Through the storytelling, the "collective all" absorbs part of this essence.

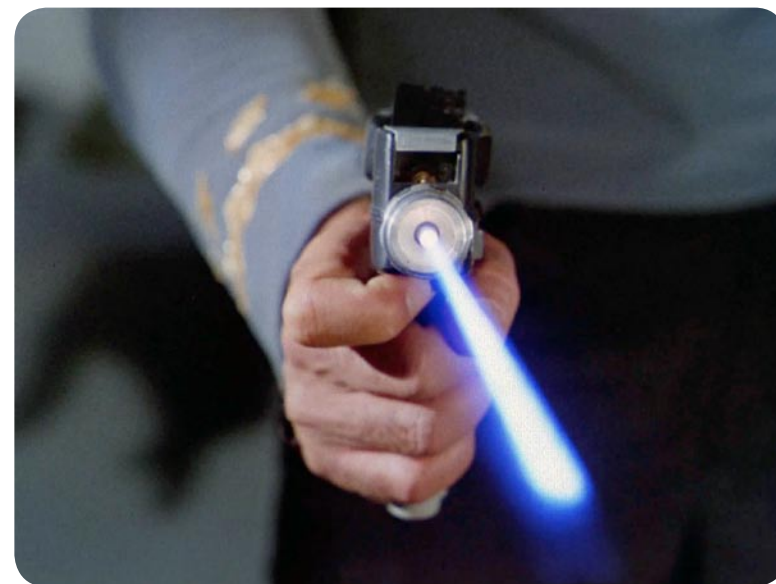
Some understand the meaning and, with unrestrained desirous thirst, drink deeply. Others, gazing upon the translucent surface, squint in order to see past the image cast by society. Then there are those on the fringe who, as a means to escape the rocky shores of daily life, decide to swim in the murky depths in order to effectuate the true meaning of everything.

Life, it may be argued, is not about living; it's about understanding. In terms of Buddhism, life is a journey that holds many answers along the way to the end. We suffer, we desire, we realize, we resolve. This is the core being of most old established myths. In telling the mythic story, we come to understand the human condition. In telling the mythic story as a future history, we also come to understand the human condition.

Star Trek is a humanist approach that conveys what we hold sacred and helps us understand many things. Through *Star Trek* we learn the problem of evil. Most episodes focus on the evil deed and a resolution. It gives us a commentary on today's existence by offering us a glimpse into a future that has just as many hopes, dreams, desires, and promises. The future's problems are our problems, and thus the future's solutions must be ours as well. It is often said: to know the future, one is able to change the future. In creating a future and then storytelling it, we believe we can

The truth is there are many other TV shows and movies we can showcase as the modern storyteller, as well. *Stargate*, *Star Wars*, *Gilligan's Island*, an endless list of perfectly good examples. However, *Trek* holds the title because of its global influence. This one fantastically amazing fact makes it perfect as a vehicle for telling the human condition. So it would be fitting to start out with the very first "official" episode that launched *Trek* into a worldwide phenomenon: "The Man Trap."

This episode was not the first in production but the first to air.



What makes this an absolutely splendid story is that it combines so many of the major elements of the monomyth. The writers embedded all the necessary mythic archetypes.

Campbell identified seven characters essential in breathing life in an epic story: The hero, the mentor, the threshold Guardian, Herald, Shapeshifter, Shadow, and the Trickster. Each character has a unique role in moving the story and, of course, a character may be more than one archetype with a few combined.

In "The Man Trap" we have the Hero, a mentor, the Herald, Shapeshifter, and the Shadow. Surprisingly, each character is not who you would think they are. And because of the short time frame, most of the archetypes don't fully become evident until the last half of the episode.

Here is the show setup:

"The *U.S.S. Enterprise* arrives at planet M-113 to deliver supplies to Dr. Robert Crater and his wife, Nancy, whom Doctor Leonard McCoy was once romantically involved with. M-113 is home to the Craters for five years, where they conducted an archeological survey of the planet's ruins. They are the only known inhabitants of the planet." (Startrek.com 2009.) Or so we think.

I've seen this episode numerous times, however, this is the first time I've started watching the shows with the eye of a storyteller. What is most surprising: I'm seeing the show in a different light. I've discovered a treasure map, with multiple X's, and all the pirates are dead.



For instance, ordinarily you would think Kirk is the Hero. In this case, he is not. McCoy is. In a mythic story the Hero generally is self-sacrificing. He/she will usually endure some separation or hardship for the sake of the clan. In a way, McCoy does endure some hardship. He stands against his friends when they confront the creature, which just so happens to be the Shapeshifter.

In a myth, the hero must learn something in order to grow. Usually, it's some new wisdom he acquires and not an obstacle that makes him stronger. Obviously, a hairy creature sucking on your friend's face can be a tip off that this situation is not right.

McCoy gets his next-to-last bit of wisdom from Spock, who is fighting the creature by hurling Vulcan-strength haymakers at its face. No mere human female could withstand that type of brutal punishment. The clincher is the creature finally revealing its true appearance, which I suspect was done more for the viewers.

During the episode McCoy follows the path of the Hero. The first stage is called Departure. Normally there are 5 steps in the departure stage: Call to Adventure, Refusal of the Call, Supernatural Aid, Crossing the First Threshold, and the Belly of the Whale. Each step is important but does not necessarily need to happen, nor is it essential that all the steps happen in a particular order. In McCoy's case, Call to Adventure starts when Kirk mentions that his old sweetheart is a middle-aged woman and not the 25-year-old curvy woman McCoy first saw. During the second encounter, Nancy appears to McCoy as she should. However, the audience is



given a glimpse into the insidious nature of the creature because Darnell, the very first "official" series casualty, sees a titillating blond female. Dr. Robert Carter turns out to be the Herald, as toward the end of the episode he finally tells Kirk and Spock what the creature really is.

McCoy's Refusal of the Call is his clear denial that something is

wrong with the entire situation. Nancy has to be the poor innocent victim.

The next stage is Initiation: The Road of Trials, Meeting with the Goddess, Woman as the Temptress, Atonement with the Father, Apotheosis, and the Ultimate Boon. The Hero may experience all of these or none of these. McCoy is met with Woman as the Temptress in this stage. The creature, disguised as Nancy, tugs at McCoy's heartstrings. His love for her is rekindled and his desire, though low-key, is definitely set to boiling hot.

The last stage is Return: Refusal of the Return, the Magic Flight, Rescue from Without, Crossing of the Return Threshold, Master of the Two Worlds, and Freedom to Live. McCoy experiences Rescue from Without. The creature, in desperation, seeks the safety of a sleeping McCoy—probably going through apotheosis (rest). Kirk and Spock are set to destroy it. Kirk, our secondary Hero fights the creature while McCoy, still in denial, watches. Spock, in the nick of time, wrestles the creature away from Kirk. He then proceeds to strip away the creature's false nature by engaging it in pure strength. Spock's haymakers begin to pull McCoy from his "sleep" and McCoy Crosses the Return Threshold. And at the last moment, McCoy gives himself "Freedom to Live" by whispering, "Please forgive me" and squeezes the phaser trigger. A second and third shot later, the creature is dead. McCoy and everyone involved survived the ordeal, with McCoy coming out scarred but wiser. He overcame his obstacle and the viewer feels McCoy's pain and loss, thus we begin our Mythic journey.

The 2010 Short Story Contest Is Now Open!

Are you an aspiring *Star Trek* fan fiction author? Do you enjoy writing *Star Trek* fan fiction and would like to share your work with your friends in STARFLEET? Well, now you can!

Back by popular demand is the Short Story Contest! So many of you had a great time with it in 2009 that we decided to make it happen again in 2010 and give all of our budding authors a chance to share their work.

We haven't announced the opening of the Short Story Contest earlier as we wanted to get through the final talks of who would be our Guest Judge, and we've only finalized that very recently.

The Guest Judge for the 2010 STARFLEET Short Story Contest will be none other than accomplished author and script writer **D.C. Fontana**.

Ms. Fontana is known for writing some of the best episodes of classic *Star Trek*, such as "The Way to Eden," "The Enterprise Incident," "The Ultimate Computer"; *Star Trek: The Next Generation* episodes "Heart of Glory," "Too Short a Season," "The Naked Now"; the *Deep Space Nine* episode "Dax"; and, most recently, the *Star Trek: New Voyages* episode "To Serve All My Days."

The rules of the contest are pretty similar to what they were last year. As a reminder, here are the rules:

1. All submissions must be original works written by the submitting author.
2. The author must be a current member in good standing of STARFLEET, The International *Star Trek* Fan Association, Inc. and will need to provide his/her name and SCC number upon request for membership validation.
3. Authors may use a pseudonym, however must provide his/her true name and SCC number upon request.
4. "Please read," "Untitled," etc. are not acceptable titles or summaries.
5. Submissions can not have been previously published or submitted for publication electronically or via any other medium.
6. Submissions must be 7,500 words or less.
7. Submissions must be received by 12:00am Eastern, June 1, 2010. Items received after 12:00 am Eastern, June 1, 2010 will remain available for reading on the site, but are excluded from judging.

8. Submissions will be reviewed by the Annual Campaign Short Story Contest Staff.
9. Five short stories will be selected by our panel of judges for final judging by our Guest Judge, D.C. Fontana.
10. Submissions may be printed in the STARFLEET *Communique* (CQ) and/or online via STARFLEET lists which may be read by children; as such, submissions must be rated "PG" and must not contain profanity or graphic descriptions of sexual acts - the submission must be deemed acceptable on North American television networks during the 8:00 pm Prime Time slot. While violence can be part of the story, horrendously gory violence may decrease an entrant's likelihood of being selected as a winner.
11. By entering, contestants retain the rights to their submissions, however grant STARFLEET permission to reprint their work in the CQ (with minor editorial spelling corrections, as necessary) and in possible fanzine publications.
12. Contestants agree to allow STARFLEET to use portions of their submissions in any promotional materials which may be produced (such as E-Mail or flyers).
13. Winning entrants agree to provide STARFLEET with a photograph of themselves to use when publishing their submission, however writers can request their image not be used.
14. Only one entry per member. Multiple entries will result in the author being contacted and verifying which single entry they wish to have judged.
15. Submissions found to be in violation of these rules may be removed and the author's account suspended at the discretion of the site administrators and/or moderators. The site administrators reserve the right to modify these rules as needed.

Submissions are going to be accepted slightly differently this year than they had been last year—this year authors are going to be required to submit their contest entries to the all-new STARFLEET Fiction Archive, available on the World Wide Web at:

<http://fiction.sfi.org/>

At the time of this writing, we are working a couple of small bugs out of the website, particularly where it comes to being able to compose your short stories directly on the site itself, and at the time of this writing we are working to correct that problem. In the meantime, you can write your story in your favorite word processor and save it in HTML

format which can be uploaded to the website and have it keep your formatting.

In addition to having the entries judged by some of our own members, we are making the short stories available for the rest of our members to read and to rate so that you can choose the Fan Favorite Entry.

When you submit your vote and comments, please be respectful to all of our entrants. It isn't easy writing a short story, or fiction of any kind, so we please ask that your comments be respectful and constructive, and not rude, inconsiderate or disparaging to the author. STARFLEET reserves the right to remove comments that are determined to be inappropriate for public viewing and/or personally hurtful (rather than constructively critical).

Entries are NOT limited solely to the existing characters of *Star Trek*. If you would like to broaden your entry with your own character base, you are more than welcome to do that.

A question we had last year was: "Why only 7,500 words?" Well, the reason for that is that we had to have a limit somewhere in order to not receive submissions that were just unwieldy and which wouldn't take our judges and our Guest Judge too long to read, so we chose to use the same definition for short story length that the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America use for their Nebula Awards for science fiction submission guidelines – a word count of less than 7,500 words.

Finally, for those who would like to start writing their own fan fiction, but not enter it into the contest, we are more than happy to accept your fiction on the Fiction Archive website as well!

As a fun side activity, the web software that we're using also allows for Round Robin Authoring, as well.

A Round Robin story is where one author starts a story, someone else contributes to it by writing more of the story, then someone else continues from there, etc. It's sometimes a really fun thing for people to do!

So, all you budding authors, get your imaginations going, start writing, and don't forget to submit your entry by midnight Eastern on June 1st, 2010!





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0443-40-718

“Mudd’s Women”: The Journey of the Unlikely Hero

By accepted definition, a hero is someone who shows exceptional skill and/or courage in the face of some preconceived, approaching, immediate, imminent danger or emergency. A hero may be someone who overcomes an obstacle or stands firm in some belief or cause. However we define a hero, we feel it is someone who may be doing something that needs to be done or should have been done. It is this hero who is the capstone of the mythic and modern story. *Star Trek* is no exception in its development and presentation of the hero. But the question is: do we always recognize who the hero is?

I asked this very question after viewing “Mudd’s Women”.

A revelation is a sudden realization that perhaps one has been wrong from the beginning. It was with such a revelation that I realized Kirk is *not* the Hero in this episode.

Using Campbell’s archetypes as a guide, we immediately see the truth: Kirk is both the Mentor and Shapeshifter. It is Eve, one of Mudd’s Women, who is the Hero.

By mythic definition, and Eve’s admission, she and the other two women came from places where there are no eligible men. They want something more than just *being*. Interestingly, Eve’s journey on board the *Enterprise* is not the beginning of the story. Her encounter with Kirk is what is known as the Belly of the Whale. This is when the hero finally makes that transition between two worlds and self. Her flight through the Asteroid belt was Crossing of the First Threshold. This first Threshold was her leaving her known limits (home planet) and venturing into an “unknown and dangerous realm.” The *Enterprise*, having rescued Mudd, Eve, and the other women,



was the defining start of Eve’s separation from her old self to a new self. Eve shows us she is ready to change.

Eve’s next phase is the Initiation. This includes the Road of Trials, Meeting with the Goddess, Woman as the Temptress, Atonement with the Father, Apotheosis, and the Ultimate Boon. Eve seems to experience each part of the Initiation phase.

Her Road of Trials is punctuated by her refusal in denying the Venus drug’s power. Eve is clearly torn between just being her natural self and her artificially enhanced self. She is falling in love with Kirk and is confused as to which way to go. This is also part of her Road of Trials. Eve also realizes she hates what the Venus drug does to her. In the end, she takes the drug.

In the Atonement with the Father stage, Eve finds herself further torn between her love for Kirk, love for self, and finding a better life. She plunges herself in the winds and sand blasts of Rigel XII hoping to end her suffering. She is rescued by Childress, one of the Miners who has taken a deep liking toward her, and brought back to his shelter. Eve is in between states now. She is at rest and begins to take stock of her situation. Eve has the Ultimate Boon near at hand. Childress begins to appreciate Eve as a person but refuses to openly admit it. There is a period where Eve confronts Childress and the two argue. Kirk, Spock, and Mudd burst into the shelter. Childress steps away from Eve, declaring that he saved her and he as done nothing wrong

toward her physical being.

Kirk and Childress argue about the sub-plot when Childress snaps--no beautiful woman, no crystals. Eve grasps the moment and inhales what she believes is the Venus drug. It is not. Mudd gave Eve colored gelatin instead. Eve enters the Rescue from Without, a stage that is part of the Return phase, and lectures Childress on the true virtue of companionship and love. She transforms back into her beauty state. Kirk tells Eve the pill she took was not the famed Venus Drug. Mudd confirms this. Kirk, as the Mentor, tells Eve that her beauty had been inside her. It was time to realize the truth. Eve does understand and enters into the Master of the Two Worlds stage. She is comfortable with herself.

And finally, Eve enters the Freedom to Live stage. She accepts herself and decides to stay with Childress, who himself having gone through a brief and accelerated Hero’s Journey, accepts her company. Kirk gets the dilithium crystals, Childress gets a competent and lovely companion, Eve gains her freedom to love herself, and Mudd, being the Trickster throughout the story, gets justice.

Links of interest:

The Hero’s Journey: Summary of the Steps:
<http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/smc/journey/ref/summary.html>

Archetypes, Myths, and Character:
<http://www.svsoft.com/Archetypes.%20Myths%20and%20Characters.htm>





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0144-58-791



Project Top Gun 2010 Has Selected Our “Alan Shepard”!

Greetings, Fleeters!

In a previous CQ, I gave an update report on the *USS Indiana's* Project Top Gun 2010. As of that report, we had selected out “Mercury Seven,” made up of the four winners from 2008 and 2009, along with the top three qualifiers from a test on the subject of America's Manned Space Program.

As reported before, these included:

2008 Winners:	2009 Winners:	Exam Top Three:
Kienan McCusker	David Ward	Alex Hinckley
Kylie Smith	Kylie Smith	William Lassell
		Michael Karas

Incidentally, I had mentioned that the test used had been turned over to STARFLEET Academy. Very soon, the test will be available through the newly-formed Cadet College of Space History, with the previously existing test broken into two exams on the early and late periods of American Manned Space Exploration. Soon to join them will be two courses on the Soviet and Russian/Ukrainian Manned Space Programs. And there will be more to come.

I digress. The next step was called Phase Two: The Essay, and for this, each of the seven had to write an essay on why they wanted to go to Space Camp and hand it in by November 30, 2009. I can't say if it was timing with the holidays or what, but only three cadets handed in essays. One of them really showed initiative. Kylie Smith, a winner from 2008, was aware of the upcoming requirements and handed in her essay during September, when the exam was administered. Kudos for being eager and on the ball! Well done, Kylie!

But with only three essays turned in, we automatically had the three finalists for Phase Three: The Interview. This occurred December 14th at the CAP meeting. Each candidate was taken into a room and questioned extensively on their involvement with the Dominion during the War. (Whoops! Wrong interviews!) Actually, they were interviewed in a rather candid manner by myself and my XO, Walter Ewing, and the interviews taped on my Sony digital Camera. We then passed the interviews around to as many on the crew as we could get them to (the files were huge), and the resulting vote...was...a three-way tie!

At this point, I was shaking my head thinking, “Good Grief!” But a good CO is prepared for these kinds of emergencies. I had an ace in the hole. A member of the command staff of the CAP Squadron, who had a good knowledge of all three candidates, had already agreed to act as a tie breaker, just in case. So, I packed the interviews and essays onto a CD, delivered them to this individual, and a few days later, we had a winner!

And that winner is: Cadet Master Sergeant Alex Hinckley, 16-years-old and attending Bullitt East High School.

On the 11th of January, we returned to the CAP Cadet meeting to inform the candidates of the results. Our second place finisher, Kylie Smith, took it well, and I had to admit I was sorry to see her not win. She had come a long way since the shy, uncertain young lady we had met in 2008, but the voting had just not gone her way. Our third place finisher, David Ward, does have one advantage. Being only 14, he will be eligible to try again when, in three years, we pick another Space Camp attendee. So for David, there will be a second chance if he chooses to try.

The revealing to the winners was when I realized I had missed my calling. I should have been a game show host. Alex was visibly pleased to have won, but his mother, Deborah, was ecstatic! Jumping up and down, crying and hollering...within moments, she was conspiring to visit friends or relatives in the Huntsville area while Alex was at Space Camp. Truth be told, I think she had been working on this plan for a while, but I can't be sure. I think it even surprised Alex a little.

After that, it was just red tape. Contact Space Camp, make payment arrangements, and get the registration ball rolling, the administrative side stuff. Alex and his family have selected to attend the session scheduled for June 13th to the 18th, and he will be attending on the Pilot Track. (You have the option of attending on the Pilot or Mission Specialist Tracks.)

A special thanks must go out to Tiffany Scruggs, Sponsorship Coordinator for Space Camp, for all of her help. Also, Ruth Lane, R1 Coordinator, for her support and donation. And, above all, Lt. Colonel Robert McGreal and his staff at the Louisville Composite Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Without their support in making the time and effort to help us do this, the entire project would never have left the ground.

Though space precludes showing you all of the essays, I would like to show off the paper turned in by our winner, Cadet MSgt. Alex Hinckley:

A few weeks ago, I learned about a program that would send one cadet from our Civil Air Patrol squadron to space camp. I learned that several cadets would take a test to see who the U.S.S. Indiana would send to space camp. I thought to myself, “Hey, why not! I know several things about space. Plus, it is such a great opportunity!” I took the test, and ended up with the highest score in my squadron! I was left with an essay to write. Why I want to go to space camp.

So let's get to the topic, why do I want to go to space camp? There are several reasons, maybe too many for one paper. The beauty of space and the mysteriousness. The vastness and the complexity. I want to learn and be around all of

these things. I want to gain an understanding of something I have so many questions about. It's a chance to have a new adventure. It's a chance to meet new people. It's a chance to have fun. It's a chance see things that those who went to the moon would have seen!

“I looked and looked but I didn't see God.” - Yuri Gagarin. There is something about space. The mysteriousness, the wonder, and the awesome beauty. Maybe it is some psychological link between man and the one we know is God. Maybe it is some artwork of the great thing that created us. Look at the stars and planets that are all suspended in this great vast place. I want to see all of this. I want to get close to these things.

Because the universe is so vast and mysterious, there are so many questions I have and so many things I don't know about space. There are so many things that I wouldn't be able to know unless I went to space camp. For example: Where does gravity come from? What causes gravity? Why doesn't space itself have gravity? What is a wormhole? How does the space shuttle work? Why does the space shuttle not burn when entering the earth's atmosphere? Why don't other planets have atmospheres? So many questions that space camp might answer.

I have never been to space camp before, so it will be a new adventure. New adventures open doors to new worlds unexplored, and will be another thing I can say I have done. Space is the “final frontier”, but a frontier that I have not ventured in to. I want to be able to go and maybe get new ideas for a future career. I have a chance to go to an experience that I may never again be able to have. I want to be able to take the chance to do something that few kids are able to go and experience.

Along with new adventures come new people to meet. I would love to go and meet people with the same interests as I have. Martha Beck, a life coach and author once said, “Basic human contact - the meeting of eyes, the exchanging of words - is to the psyche what oxygen is to the brain. If

you're feeling abandoned by the world, interact with anyone you can.” People are an important part of life, especially those who have the same interests as you. They give you an opportunity to interact with each other, and have a chance to bond with the people who we share this small planet with.

With having new adventures and meeting new people, comes fun! I would love to have a time full of fun! This sounds so appealing! Just to have a time to be immersed in something I have a passion for. To see beauty and greatness of space. To be around people I don't know, but have something in common with. To just get away from the home and learn things I could never imagine learning. To see things that I may never have the chance to see again. To just have something I could go to and be completely immersed in something that I love.

The astronauts experienced the most amazing endeavor the world has ever seen. I want to get as close to that experience as physically possible. Neil Armstrong said, “It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth.” Imagine what it would have been like, to stand on that moon and look at the planet that we know as our home. Imagine looking at the stars and planets, from a little ball 221,463 miles from your home. I want to have an experience as close to that as I can. Who wouldn't?

So why do I want to go to space camp? It's a chance to go and see magnificence and answer questions. It's a chance to go have new adventures, meet new people and have fun. It's a chance to have an experience very close to the ones the astronauts had. More so, it's a wonderful encounter that someone has offered me. I would be crazy not to do everything in my power to go to this camp. I want to personally thank you, whoever may be reading this. I want to thank you for taking the time and reading my essay. I would also like to thank the U.S.S. Indiana for giving me the chance to run for a scholarship that may change my future.

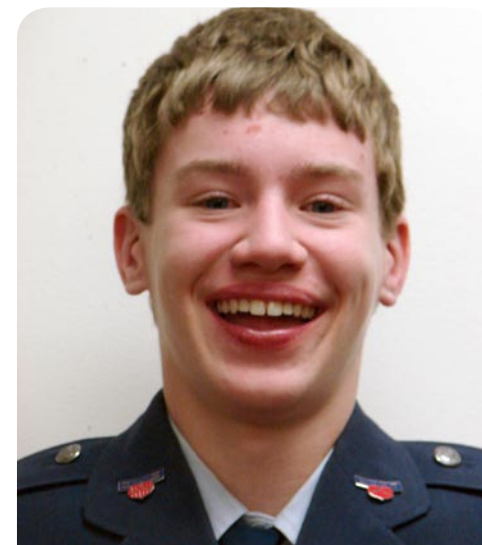
Well, Alex, the *USS Indiana* has decided to give you a shot at it. Congratulations, good luck, and “May the Wind Be Always At Your Back.”



ALEX HINCKLEY, THE WINNER OF PROJECT TOP GUN 2010. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JEFF DAVIS.



KYLIE SMITH, FINALIST FOR PROJECT TOP GUN 2010. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JEFF DAVIS.



DAVID WARD, FINALIST FOR PROJECT TOP GUN 2010. PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JEFF DAVIS.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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**The International Star Trek
Fan Association, Inc.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

North Carolina Charter #0289164, a Registered IRS 501(c)7 Organization

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.

▶ To join, complete this form and mail with payment (US Funds payable to STARFLEET) or Credit Card information to:
STARFLEET Membership Processing - PO BOX 94288 Lubbock, TX 79493-4288 USA

MEMBER INFORMATION

NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE/PROV.: _____ POST CODE: _____
COUNTRY: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
CHAPTER AFFILIATION: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

NOTE: If your billing address differs from above, please provide the info on the back of the form.

☐ CHECK/MONEY ORDER☐ CREDIT CARD

MEMBERSHIP PACKET TYPE:

☐ PAPER PACKET☐ CD-ROM PACKET

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION

CVV/CVC CODE
REQUIRED
(Located on the
back of the card)

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DATE

MEMBERSHIP RATES

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES	CIRCLE PACKAGE		
	USA	CA	INT'L
INDIVIDUAL	\$15	\$16	\$20
FAMILY OF 2	\$22	\$23	\$27
FAMILY OF 3	\$25	\$26	\$30
FAMILY OF 4	\$28	\$29	\$33
FAMILY OF 5	\$31	\$32	\$36
FAMILY OF 6	\$34	\$35	\$39

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP☐ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

SCC: _____

☐ CONTACT INFO CHANGED

NOTE: List additional members of your household in the family information area below. List the SCC# of the additional members if they are renewals.

ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS INFORMATION

Please list additional household members here. Please print.

	MEMBER NAME	SCC NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	CHAPTER	OFFICE USE
02					
03					
04					
05					
06					

PLEASE NOTE: Household memberships are limited to six members, and include only copy of each Communiqué issue per primary membership.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION [optional]

STARFLEET, in cooperation with Star Trek personalities, supports educational efforts with contributions made by our members. If you would like to support this effort, please make a donation (minimum \$1 per box checked) to one (or more) of the following scholarship funds. Please note: Donations are not required and must be included with your membership fees. Information on each fund can be found in the Academy documents in your packet, or on our website. Scholarship donations are not currently tax deductible.

☐ LeVAR BURTON☐ PATRICK STEWART☐ MARINA SIRTIS☐ ARMIN SHIMMERMAN☐ JAMES DOOHAN☐ DeFOREST KELLEY☐ GEORGE TAKEI☐ GENE RODDENBERRY☐ LAW & ORDER☐ SPACE EXPLORERS

Total Scholarship Donations Enclosed \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP PACKET NOTES

NOTE: All packets include a certificate and laminated ID card, your choice for packet type will determine how you will receive the handbook, and other documents included in the membership packet.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

ONLINE JOINING / RENEWING

JOIN ONLINE: <http://join.sfi.org>RENEWING MEMBERS: <http://database.sfi.org>VER.: 05/2008 - Check <http://www.sfi.org> for updated form.

STARFLEET *Communiqué* Submission Guidelines

1) WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

The STARFLEET *Communiqué*, the bi-monthly newsletter for our fan organization, welcomes printable submissions from any member of our club. Among the items most frequently submitted are:

- 1.1) Articles about chapter, regional, or fleet events,
- 1.2) Articles about some aspect of *Star Trek* or science fiction,
- 1.3) Articles about opportunities and/or resources for STARFLEET members and *Star Trek* fans in general,
- 1.4) Articles about important issues for our fan organization,
- 1.5) Photographs of chapter, regional, or fleet events--including members, activities, and items of interest,
- 1.6) Photographs of famous *Star Trek* and/or science fiction celebrities,
- 1.7) Drawings, cartoons, schematics, or other printable artwork,
- 1.8) Other fun *Star Trek* or sci-fi items--such as short stories, poems, or recipes.

Please limit any written submissions to 5,000 words or fewer, unless you have first requested permission from the Chief of Communications for a longer submission.

2) WHERE TO SEND IT:

- 2.1) All submissions to CQ should be e-mailed to:

cq@sfi.org

or postal mailed to:

Rear Admiral Jon Lane
Chief of Communications, STARFLEET
3858 Lamarr Avenue
Culver City, CA 90232

2.2) Please note that any physical submission mailed will not be returned unless the sender includes a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a written request that the submission be mailed back.

2.3) Submission deadlines are usually printed in previous issues of the *Communiqué* and posted to the various STARFLEET chat lists. However, if you are ever curious when the next submission deadline will be, feel free to contact the Chief of Communications. Please note, the earlier a submission is received, the more likely it is to be included in the upcoming issue instead of having to wait until a later issue is published.

3) FORMAT OF SUBMISSIONS:

3.1) Please send all written articles in Microsoft Word .doc format. Make sure the document contains only text. Do NOT embed photos or other images inside of Word documents. Send images separately.

3.2) Images should be sent as jpeg files with no compression (or the highest quality jpeg setting). Photos and artwork should also be saved at the highest possible resolution. Photos that are less than 800 pixels wide or tall will usually look pretty bad when printed.

3.3) In certain cases, .pdf and .xls files can be sent as submissions, but please check with the Chief of Communications before sending a submission in either of these formats.

3.4) Please proof-read your written submissions carefully before sending them. Use a spell-checker, and if possible, read the submission out loud to make certain all of your sentences are clear and make sense. Submissions do not have to be completely free of typos, but the editorial team prefers to have to do minimal corrections of articles, if possible.

4) WHAT YOU NEED TO INCLUDE:

4.1) All photos that you submit should include a separate text file containing captions. Do NOT rely on file names for your captions; file names are usually changed and simplified during production and lost once photos are placed into page layouts.

4.2) Photo captions should include the names of all people pictured (if available) and preferably their chapter name, as well. Also, PLEASE include the name of the photographer, even if you are the photographer and are also submitting the photo.

4.3) For the author, please include as many of the following as you can:

- Author's full name
- Author's rank and position in their chapter
- That chapter's name, NCC number, home state (or country, if not U.S.), and region
- That chapter's logo (if available)
- A head shot photo of the author (if available)
- A brief list of some of the author's best achievements while in STARFLEET

5) WHAT TO AVOID

5.1) The *Communiqué* is read by a wide and diverse audience around the world, including people of different ages, genders, religions, and political beliefs. Please write in a professional manner using language that would be appropriate for the widest possible audience.

5.2) Photos or artwork that might be of questionable taste run the risk of not being accepted for publication. The *Communiqué* editorial team errs on the side of caution in most decisions of what to publish. If you push the envelope, do not be surprised if your submission does not make it into the publication.

5.3) Try to avoid talk of politics (either inside or outside of STARFLEET), and talk of religion. Informal spiritual references are acceptable, but remember that IDIC allows for a wide diversity of beliefs, and we want to respect and be open-minded about all cultural perspectives.

5.4) No personal attacks against any individual, either inside or outside of the STARFLEET organization.

5.5) No blatant advertising. Because of our periodical mailing rate with the U.S. Post Office, any advertisements contained within our publication increase our postage costs. As such, any advertisement needs to first be approved by the Executive Committee.

6) AND FINALLY

6.1) Please submit ONLY YOUR OWN WORK. Or if you are submitting on behalf of another person, be certain he or she is credited as the author and has given permission for the submission and publication of his or her work. Do not violate another's copyright or plagiarize another's work.

6.2) Space in the *Communiqué* is limited. Not all articles will fit. Sometimes a submission will need to wait for one or more issues until there is space for it. Some submissions may not be used at all. The final decision of what gets published in the *Communiqué* and when is made by the Chief of Communications and his or her editorial team.

6.3) Please try to carefully proof-read any text submission. However, be aware that we reserve the right to make editorial changes to any submission to correct typos, clarify meaning, and in some rare cases, to shorten length. Every effort will be made to keep the integrity of the original submission, but understand that changes may likely be made before the final publication.

6.4) That said, we make mistakes, too. We apologize in advance if we misspell your name or the name of someone in one of your photos or articles. We strive to be perfect, but we don't always make it. The most important thing for all of us when it comes to the STARFLEET *Communiqué* and our overall organization is to enjoy *Star Trek* and have fun.

THANKS FOR READING ALL THIS.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
 RECEIVING YOUR SUBMISSION!**



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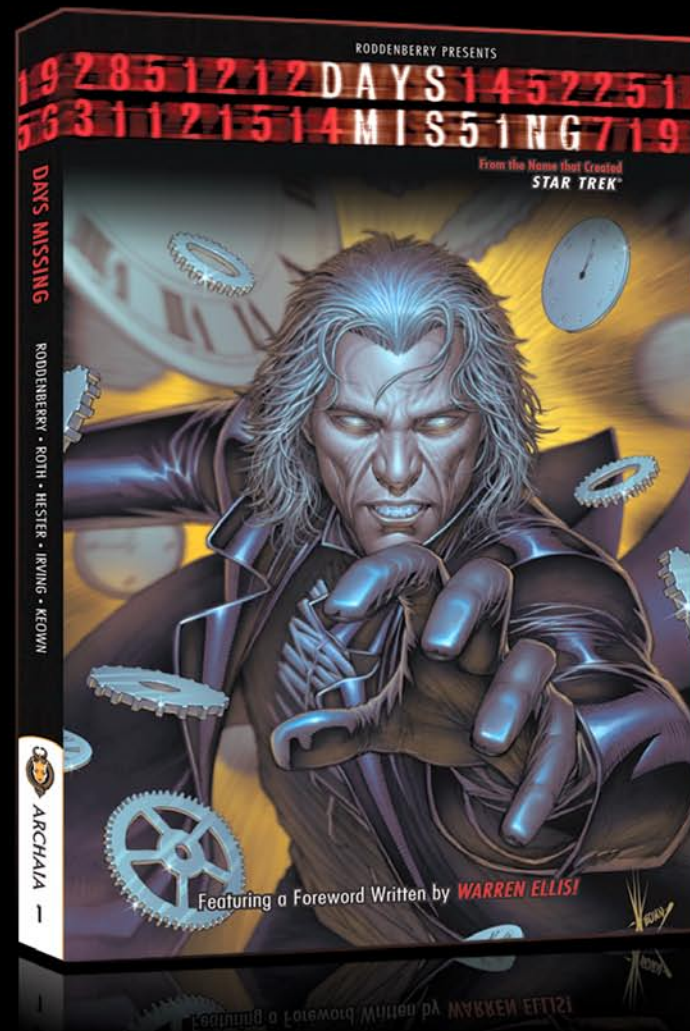


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