

STARFLEET THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION, INC. COMMUNIQUE

STARFLEET CANINE CORPS

Postal Permit Number (USPS 017-671)

CQ:#168 • DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012





STARFLEET THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION INC. COMMUNIQUE

Starfleet Canine Corps Hosts Dog Obedience Trials 13

Daring to go where no obedience trial has gone before, they happily welcomed dogs from around the Southeast United States to be the guests of the Starfleet Canine Corps.

Contents

Below Deck Notables	4
Letter From The Editor	4
Subspace Communications	5
Let Us Help: The USS Star League Partners with Regal Cinemas to Help Stamp Out Hunger	14
USS Heimdal has Float in Local Christmas Parade	15
The Nexus Scenes in a Life	16
Astronomy: How to Get Started Part II	18
USS Susquehannock Sci-Fi Day	19
Symposium: Our Finest Hour	20
"What Would Santa Do?" A Book about Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard	22
Photos From The Anbinder Archives	24
Project Linus Blanket Day	26
Comm Signal from the Third Fleet	27
Chaplain's Chat	28
USS Ronald E. McNair Celebrates 18 Years	29
Charitable Teamwork Spotlight - The USS Firebird and 314th MSG	30
SFI Fleet STO	31
Warp Theory for Dummies: Warp Drive Explained - How Starships Move Faster Than Light	32
Sal Lizard Visits The USS Angeles	33
Executive Committee Reports	34
Report From The Commander STARFLEET	34
The Second Fiddle	35
STARFLEET Academy News	36
Featured Colleges	38
Computer Operations Report	38
CFO Report	39
STARFLEET Marine Corps Reports	40
State of the SFMC	40
State of the NCO Corps	40
INFOCOM Report	41
State of TRACOM	42
FORCECOM Report	42
FINCOM Report	43
SFA Course Catalogue	44
STARFLEET Promotions and Awards	45
STARFLEET Staff	46



Below Deck Notables

Members who do the little things that make a big difference.



Anna Duch • USS Navras

LCMDR Anna Duch, or as we have come to call her by her Vulcan name, T'laina, doesn't just fit as a member of the U.S.S. Navras... she has carved her own way among this crew, and is someone that inspires a great many of us on a daily basis. It would be difficult to imagine things without her aboard, giving her insights, providing her expertise and experience, and even going out of her way to care for the Captain, when he's been dipping into the supply of rum.



Shawn Jipp • USS Sandstorm

When you need help, who are you gonna call? Ghostbusters? Well, not if you are aboard the USS Sandstorm. Since its launch in March of 2011, the USS Sandstorm has been kicking butt and taking names. All this with a great Chief Engineer, LCDR Shawn Jipp. Shawn has been a dedicated Trekkie since the first episodes aired. An avid engineer, who is willing to explain just about anything to anyone, Shawn is also a kind person who answers the call for help, be it a ride home, covering a bill when someone is short on cash, or even helping someone move. Shawn has been responsible for a number of our fun events including visiting the Pinball Hall of Fame and walking in the AFAN AIDS Walk. Shawn Jipp is a valued member of the Sandstorm crew and any vessel in the fleet would be lucky to have him.



Paul Bell • USS Hadfield

Paul is an avid collector of comic books, Star Trek memorabilia, and movies from the Golden Era of Hollywood, but he's also a long-time member, having had two trips through STARFLEET with two different chapters. If you want to know just about anything about the classic superheroes like Batman, Superman, and many more, Paul is definitely the guy to ask. As a Registered Practical Nurse, Paul served in his community at various nursing homes, caring for the elderly in Palliative and Long Term care. He is also active where it comes to the performing arts, whether it be singing in Karaoke competitions (and often placing very highly), or on-stage in musicals such as The Music Man, The Pajama Game, The Wizard of Oz and The Odd Couple and even entertaining children at Christmas as Santa Claus, accompanied by his wife, Nadine, as Mrs. Claus.

Letter From The Editor

Welcome, finally, to Communique' issue number 168. To say this issue is a bit late would be an understatement. Still, it is complete, and I'm glad to get it out the door to you.

I apologize whole-heartedly for the continuing lateness of the Communique'. Believe me, I share your frustration on this matter and I have a strong desire to resolve it. I've even discussed resigning with Dave, but realized this would really only add more problems and not really resolve anything.

What will help, though, is bringing in some additional help on the Communique'. To that end, I'm pleased to announce that I've asked CAPT Cody Glenn to take over as Editor-in-Chief of the Communique'. He will be helping out with issue 169, and then will take charge of Communique' 170. Cody will not be doing this alone, we'll continue to have our team of copy editors to help out, and Christina Sievers as Layout Editor, and I'll do whatever I can to assist him as a writer, copy editor and publisher.

Putting together the Communique' is a large job, but hopefully with more members on the team we can get 169 and 170 done quickly and out to you.

Thanks again for your patience. Once we get this Communique' schedule resolved, we'll be moving Communications to some cool new places.

We Need Your Articles!

The Communique depends on your articles and information. While we need articles of all types, this page features a new section that needs your help: Below Decks.

Below Decks is an opportunity to profile members that may not otherwise be known to most of the members of STARFLEET. Please submit your small profiles (usually no more than a few sentences) and a photo to our submission address: cq@sfi.org

Deadlines for upcoming issues are:

CQ 171 (June/July 2012) – July 15th

CQ 172 (Aug/Sept 2012) – August 20th

As always, articles may be submitted to: cq@sfi.org

Subspace Communications

News from around the fleet.

USS Hornet's Crew Packs Shoeboxes For Operation Christmas Child

CPT Carolyn Peters
USS Hornet

This year our shoeboxes were sent to Ghana, Honduras, Central Asia, and East Africa.



Carolyn Peters, XO of the Hornet, delivering shoeboxes to collection site.



Alex Alexander, Devon Schulman, Donna Parker & Abbey England, Lauren Bigelow, Bruce Schulman, Mary Kane with our shoeboxes.

You Wouldn't Like Me When I'm Angry

LCDR David Fricke
USS Justice

What happens when a captain just totally loses it? "Doctor, I've seen the captain feverish, sick, drunk, delirious, terrified, overjoyed, boiling mad. But up to now I have never seen him red-faced with hysteria."

When have we seen Kirk totally, jaw-dropping angry?

Obviously "KHAN!" leaps to mind. Kirk's Enterprise has been damaged due in part to Kirk's own negligence. Khan has stolen the Genesis Device; and Captain Terrell commits suicide to stop himself from killing Kirk

on Khan's order. But is Kirk losing it or cunningly trying to keep Khan engaged so that he, Kirk, has an opportunity to turn the ongoing situation to his advantage? Maybe Kirk is a better actor than we think (obviously method).

Okay! Proceeding to the next example, in "Shore Leave" Kirk beats the tar out of Finnegan. It is an amazing example of how, when someone from our past shows up out of nowhere, suddenly we revert to our youth and interact with them like the teenager we were at the time. Kirk is cut-off from his ship and his friend Doctor McCoy has been killed. At first Kirk tries to get answers out of Finnegan, but finally Finnegan irritates him into a rage and he pummels Finnegan into unconsciousness. At this point in his life, probably nobody else could incite such a cathartic rage in Kirk. But what about later in life, when he has had a chance to accumulate more unresolved issues?

We turn to "The Search for Spock". Klingon Commander Kruge has had Kirk's son killed, the Enterprise has been destroyed, the Genesis Planet is breaking up, and Kirk is offering a hand to Kruge, who is hanging on to the edge of a cliff. Kruge rejects Kirk's help and grabs Kirk's ankle. Kirk has finally had enough and proceeds to punch Kruge in the face with his other foot until finally Kruge loses his grip and falls to his death. Years later in "The Undiscovered Country", Kirk still dislikes the Klingons enough to say "Let them die", but ultimately he is willing to go the extra mile to make peace with them and overcome the plot by rogue factions. Would Kirk have been willing to go to such lengths if he had not had the catharsis of killing Kruge? Ironical, that killing one man may have led to saving millions.

The Adventures of the Ravensclaw

COMM Beau T Thacker
USS Ravensclaw

The Ravensclaw, formerly the USS Azrael, has changed its name and begun a new road in Starfleet. Most of the crew changed to the SFMC, and we've become a Marine focused Chapter, with the 345th Grim Reapers as our Marine MARDET, since October of last year. The Chapter, while being a Correy Chapter, is really involved in charity work and other Chapter events. Recently, we won 2nd place

in the Fleet Admiral's Challenge and did a whopping 4 meetings in December alone. We have been focused on training our cadets and other younger non members, teaching them about weapons safety with air soft guns, wilderness survival, and repelling off towers, along with running obstacle courses. We have also been working on our Academy courses and getting all members involved. As Director of Correspondence Chapter Operations, I just wanted to show you that Correy Chapters can have just as much fun as meeting Chapters. Meeting and Correy chapters, join forces and let the fun begin in your Region.



At Wizard world in New Orleans, I encountered the singing group Fiveyearmission.net. They put songs to the Star Trek series. Check them out. They are even thinking about joining Star Fleet as a Chapter.



Cadets, members, old members waiting to renew, and new members joined at Colonel David Bailey's house for some air soft fun and cook out.

USS New Orleans and Wizard Con 2012 A beautiful combination!

ENS Gillian Shearwater
USS Majestic

Dateline 01/31/2012
New Orleans, LA

Wizard's Comic Con 2012 descended upon the Big Easy. Scores of fans, young and old, came to the Ernest Morial Convention Center along the river front of Mississippi to take a look at favorite stars. Guests with names like Stan Lee, Adam Baldwin, and Erin Gray filled the hall. But no doubt the biggest attraction was William Shatner of Star Trek fame.

STARFLEET was there, represented by the crews of the USS New Orleans (New Orleans, LA), USS Corsair (Baton Rouge, LA), and the USS Haise (Jackson, MS). All three crews immedi-

ately realized that the interest in Star Trek was very much alive and well. Those that signed up to be contacted for more information on chapters were mostly those in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

At the end of the weekend, the USS NEW ORLEANS had managed to get 60 people signed up for additional information on the next chapter meeting. Those were from the Big Easy and out to the neighboring parishes of Jefferson and St. Tammany, and the Mississippi county of Hancock.



Accord Trektionary

Photo by Mark H. Anbinder

Commander Lisa Stuckey, USS Serling, and Captain Will Devine, USS Accord, in a round of Trektionary at the December USS Accord meeting and holiday party.



30 Years in STARFLEET

COMM Howard Cronson
USS Ares

In January of 1982, I was reading a local weekly paper in my hometown of Pawtucket, Rhode Island when an advertisement in the Classifieds section caught my eye. The headline said "Attention Star Trek Fans" and the ad went on to talk briefly about a Star Trek fan club and gave a Pawtucket Post Office Box address to request more information.

I was immediately interested. I had "discovered" Star Trek back in 1975, when I was in grade school. I was a devout fan, watching the reruns of The Original Series, reading the books and picking up whatever collectibles I could get my hands on. Up to that point, though, I had not been involved in organized fandom and, other than a couple of school friends, I didn't know anyone else who shared my interest in Star Trek.

So, I pulled out my typewriter and my best "Live Long and Prosper" stationery and sent off a letter. A few days later, I heard back from the president, or Commanding Officer, of the USS Ursa Minor,

Captain David Ryan.

We met a few days later at his house, which was only a short walk from my high school. The club was just starting up, so Dave asked me if I wanted to be his first officer. He also told me about the umbrella organization that the Ursa Minor was part of, STARFLEET.

I could probably fill the entire *Communiqué* with stories of our adventures in fandom, but suffice it to say that we had a lot of fun and caused our share of trouble over the years. Although we now live on opposite sides of the country, I count Dave and his wife Leslie among my closest friends. In fact, many of my best friends are people I met through STARFLEET, especially once we started the original USS Christa McAuliffe in 1986.

What has changed in STARFLEET and in Star Trek/Science Fiction fandom overall during the last three decades? Here are a few observations:

- Without a doubt, the biggest change in fandom (and the world as a whole) has been the incredible changes in communications technology over the past 30 years. In 1982, pretty much the only way for most of us to contact our fellow fans were to (1) make a phone

call, (2) write a letter and put it in the mail, or (3) meet in person. Today, we have email, online forums, Twitter, Facebook, Skype, web pages, smart phones, tablet computers... things that would have been considered science fiction back then!

- There is a lot more Star Trek. At the time I joined STARFLEET, the only filmed Star Trek available was the 79 Original Series episodes, Star Trek: The Motion Picture and the Animated Series. There were also probably a few dozen professional novels and printed fanzines which could only be tracked down by mail or at conventions. Today we have four more television series, 10 more movies (with another in production), numerous fan-produced audio and video adventures, hundreds of novels and stories published professionally and thousands of fan fiction stories easily available online.
- STARFLEET has become more professional and has a better sense of its "mission". The club I joined 30 years ago was essentially a loose association of Star Trek fan clubs and the work of STARFLEET HQ got done (and some-

times didn't) pretty much out-of-sight of the general membership. Today's HQ has become much more transparent to the membership and, despite the occasional late CQ, things work pretty efficiently in terms of membership kits getting out, questions getting answered, and people who are interested knowing pretty much what is going on. It seems to me that STARFLEET and its chapters have evolved into a Star Trek and science fiction fan club that, in many cases, has a strong public service component. While this isn't true of every single chapter, it does seem to be an overriding theme of the organization.

- "Geeks" have become a lot more mainstream over the past 30 years. Fans of science fiction, fantasy, comic books and science fact were seen as a bit "odd" back in the early '80s. Today, they are the stars of a highly rated sitcom on CBS.

Of course, the most important thing I have gotten out of my 30 years in STARFLEET is the relationships with the people I have met through this club. And isn't that what this is really all about?

Region One Awards

Phoenix Award

Tina Bellman- USS Liberator – ongoing battle against cancer

Legion Of Merit 20+ years

Fleet Captain Betty Downing

R 1 Commendation

Rear Admiral Steve Harper

USS Columbus

During the 2011 Christmas season, he spent 21 days at the Karl Road library branch collecting toys and cash donations for the Firefighters for Kids toy drive. He stood outside of the library for three hours each day, no matter the weather.

Final Frontier

Vice Admiral Darlene Harper

USS Columbus

In 2011, she made displays highlighting the space program and its connections to Star Trek for the Columbus International Festival, Mid Ohio Con and several events at Starbase Columbus. She also developed a SFA course for the history of the manned space program.

Ambassadorial Award

Starbase Columbus

This chapter has assisted two R1 chapters as well as several independent clubs in their area. When the local library cut back its hours, Starbase stepped in and fixed an area in their warehouse where all the clubs could meet. They held food drives, collected for breast cancer research, and set out boxes to collect toys for the USS Columbus annual toy drive. Employees have donated toys and school supplies.

IKV Kem'pec

In 2011, the Kem'pec joined the USS Columbus in a challenge for collecting school supplies and then again toys. This is an ongoing challenge between the two clubs.

Campaign Citation

USS Columbus

In 2011, this chapter participated in a challenge with the IKV Kem'pec for school supplies. Both clubs collected school supplies to assist needy children. The clubs donated the supplies to 2 different places: the Columbus adopted the Hawthorne School and the Kem'pec donated to St. Stevens Community House.

Meritorious Unit Commendation

USS Kitty Hawk

The Food Challenge project netted 306 lbs, 12.85 oz. They had set a goal of 300 lbs. The Pischke family donated an indoor RC helicopter to the angel tree kids (one boy, one girl, brother and sister). The CO, J R Fisher, and his wife decided that they would rather buy Christmas for these kids than buy each other more things we did not need. So they spent \$400.00 to be sure that all the clothes and toys on both lists were acquired with the help of Mrs. Poole and her daughter.

Region One Honorary Membership

Starbase Columbus owner, BJ Mathias

Good Conduct 5+ years

Wesley Kincaid – USS Columbus

Morgan Harper – USS Columbus

Stephen Cook – USS Columbus

Fay Handley – USS Bennu

Good Conduct 10+ years

J Eric Davis – USS Columbus

Kyle Curry – USS Columbus

Tommy Pope – USS Bennu

Johnny Pope – USS Bennu

Chad Shelton – USS Bennu

Good Conduct 15+ years

Jane Van Bibber – USS Columbus

Pamela Bryant – USS Columbus

Ben Redding – USS Bennu

Fred C. Parsons – USS Bennu

Aubrey Parsons – USS Bennu

Trek Cookies!

Photo by Mark H. Anbinder

Classic Trek uniform cookies made by Maryse Quinn, a member of USS Serling, at the USS Accord holiday party.



THE NEEDS OF THE MANY...



**DONATE TO THE STARFLEET
SCHOLARSHIP FUND & HELP
EDUCATE THE WORLD!**

USS Inferno Adopts a Highway

COL Jim McClure
USS Inferno

The crew of the USS Inferno recently joined the Pennsylvania Adopt-a-Highway program. I am sure you have all seen the signs for the program with the name of the persons or organization who has committed to taking care of a stretch of roadway. The area that the Inferno now maintains are the ramps leading to and from the Highland Park Bridge, which is near the Pittsburgh Zoo. We have passed this area on several occasions and noticed an old Adopt A Highway sign listing USS Potemkin. We knew that ship had been decommissioned many years ago, and we felt this reflected badly on STARFLEET, as one could clearly see that the roadway was badly in need of attention.



So on August 28, 2011, the crew of the Inferno met to do our highway clean up. Members participating were Larry French (CO), George Edwards (XO), Debbie French (Chief of Ops), D C Barricella McQuade (Personnel Officer) and myself, Jim McClure (CMO/Intelligence Officer). We were joined by Paul from the USS Hecate. Our area included 3 ramps leading to and from the bridge, and a large landscaped area beside one ramp. We took several hours to get the place all cleaned up. The crew worked hard to make the place presentable. While we were working, we had several motorists honk and shout "thank you" to us. While we were just working to do something positive for the planet and wanting to make our little area of the city a nicer place, hearing the motorists was an extra bonus and really made us feel great.



Remarks at the 12th Annual Peace Walk in Port Alberni, British Columbia (Canada)

ENS Gillian Shearwater
USS Majestic

Each New Year's Day, an ad hoc committee coordinates this event to start the year by focusing on peace -- from personal to global. Community members walk the route, then gather at a seniors' care facility for musical performances and an open mic. The event concludes with lunch for all participants hosted by a local Sikh temple. Can you count how many of Gene Roddenberry's visionary goals are included in this one (free) community event?

I've had the privilege of contributing to the open mic for a number of years, each time including quotes from the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius. The recent loss of a major community member led from Aurelius to thoughts on the impact each of us can have, now and in the future:

The future is out there, waiting for us, and Peace is the key to the future. Peace makes possible an end to poverty and hunger. It makes possible cures for deadly diseases, universal education, saving our planet, and more.

But to get there, we have to start here. It's not enough to take a walk today. We need to think beyond -- way beyond -- today's crisis, or this week's, this year's challenges. We need to think even beyond our own lifetimes. We will build that bright and shining future, but it's going to be hard, slogging work and there will be no shortcuts. There's an awful lot to get through, and it's going to take every person on the planet working toward that goal, in every way we can -- from

youth combating bullying to engineers reclaiming acidified lakes.

Three centuries from now, none of us will be here. But we -- all -- matter. We are the foundation of humanity's future. Let's dig deep and build strong -- a solid, lasting base for centuries to come. Because those centuries will come, and they will be brilliant. We're here today to make sure of that.

Peace and long life.

For reference, the quote used for 2012 January 1 was:

Try how the life of the good person suits you -- the life of one who is satisfied with his portion of the whole, and satisfied with his own just acts and benevolent disposition.

Marcus Aurelius, Meditations, Chapter IV, xxv

Which is also a pretty fair reflection on STARFLEET's "Let me help" aspect of Roddenberry's vision.



USS Isaac Polar Bear Plunge

LCDR David Fricke
USS Justice

New Year's Day!! What better way to freshen up after a New Year's Eve party or blow away those cobwebs from the previous year, and get ready for what the new year has in store, than to take a plunge in the North Sea? And that is exactly what members of the 399th MSG, aboard the USS Isaac within Region 20, undertook. A plunge into the winter waters of the North Sea, off of the coast of the Northeast of England, in a coastal town know as Whit-ley Bay.

It was a chilly day when SGM Marie 'M' Wilson, Capt Angie Smith, Lt Sam Wilson and Cdt LCpl Sean Wilson took the short walk to the Panama Swimming Club down on the beach, where we were to meet other participants at 10.45am. There were over 160 people taking part, dressed in a variety of costumes. From penguins to Smurfs, from footballers to super heroes, all were about to take that plunge, either for charity or for their own personal reasons.

At 11am the whistle blew. SGM Wilson and Capt Smith made their way toward the sea, somewhat apprehensively, taking their first steps into the icy ocean. The cold temperature of the water was a shock to all at first as we sank into its bleak, freezing depths, the piecing chill of the waves splashing against us. But as we paddled out, skin tingling, we all felt fully exhilarated. We found ourselves dashing back in again to enjoy the sensation and atmosphere of the event.

Afterwards, once dry and in fresh warm clothes, we enjoyed a brew with the members of the Panama Swimming Club and then we held a small medal presentation on the beach. We raised £98 for the Special Olympics that day and also discovered a new passion in cold water swimming. So why not try something new and raise some money for a good cause? And who knows, you may find yourself a new hobby at the same time



A Letter To The Editor

CAPT Joshua L. Andrews
USS Sandstorm

Space. The Final Frontier.

These words started my (and most of you all reading this) love affair with Star Trek. For me it was the introduction to The Next Generation when I saw my first ever episode of Star Trek that hooked me for life, pretty much. I even remember the date. September 30th 1991. That episode was probably one of the best TNG episodes ever, Darmok.

I was fascinated in the way that the characters spoke to me. I really never considered myself a science fiction nerd or anything before... but trust me... from that day on, I never missed an episode of TNG if I could. I watched the Original Series as reruns, I saw the premiere of Deep Space Nine, I saw Janeway and her makeshift crew of Star Fleet and freedom fighters, I was even there when Archer took command of the NX-01.

Star Trek celebrates its 45th Anniversary this year. In fact, this September starts its 45th year. As Such I think it would be a great idea for each chapter or even region to schedule Star Trek-related events throughout the year. Let Trek fill your heart and soul like it has been doing for years. I thought I would share with you a few things my chapter does to infuse us with the spirit of Star Trek!

First off, about every three months, my crew and I have what we call "Today is a Good Day to Dine." It is a dinner taking place in a restaurant where we do not normally go. We have gone to such places as Sushi, Thai, and some Southern Cuisine and all in the name of exploration! We do try to keep it reasonable in price. So no

expensive steak houses or the like. We try to keep the price about what one would pay to go to an Applebee's or Red Robin. We sit and enjoy food and each other's company and friendship.

Our next thing to we do to fill your heart with Trek is a Star Trek Game Night. In fact, we just finished a game night as I write this. We went to the Pinball Hall of Fame, here in Las Vegas, its a location with at least 300 useable pinball machines from like 1940 or so until now. We had pizza first at Metro Pizza, and then went to Pinball. Its tons of fun and doesn't cost much. The most expensive game is a buck. Other times we play Trek games either at someone's home or even at our monthly meeting. We can even plan a meal around it! Whether its Potluck or a collection of funds for some Pizza or Sandwich Delivery! You can have hours of fun playing Star Trek themed games such as the STAR TREK KLINGON Monopoly.

Well before this gets very long I will give you one more idea... WATCH SOME TREK EPISODES!

Whether its a single episode at your meeting or someone's house, or an marathon on a Sunday afternoon, come together to enjoy the company and to watch Trek!

Let's all get together this year, 45th Anniversary of STAR TREK, for some Fun, Friendship and Fandom! After all that is why thats the motto of Big K, K'Ehleyr Station.

Enjoy Trek this year and See You in the Future!

BGN Rolando Gomez
USS Jeannette Maddox

On January 7, 2012, the USS Jeannette Maddox held its annual Yule Party. "A bit late," you say? Well, you're right! The Maddox has always had its Yule party on the 1st Saturday after the new year. Why this crazy date? It was always easier to throw a party after the actual holidays instead of in the middle of December.

Another tradition is the Klingon Gift Exchange, which is basically a white elephant gift exchange where everyone brings a wrapped gift, picks one and then starts stealing each other's presents! The two hot items this year were a Star Trek children's picture book and a Star Trek "I Can Read Your Mind" trivia game.



CRM Kimberly Landen
USS Powhatan



Here is IZZY with one of the blankets. Picture of IZZY taken by Alana Miller

Meet IZZY, the USS Powhatan's first Correspondence Mascot of Pet Fleet.

As a member of Pet Fleet, I enjoy Swag Bucks (<http://www.swagbucks.com/>) and with the Swag Bucks points I earn, I have been sending blankets to the Blind Cat Rescue and Sanctuary in St. Pauls, North Carolina. Meet Izzy, the USS Powhatan NCC-1967 E's first correspondence mascot. Izzy lives at the blind cat sanctuary. The USS Powhatan NCC-1967 E enjoys having IZZY as their correspondence Mascot. WE LOVE YOU IZZY!!!!!!!!!!

A note from Alma Miller, her owner. "Izzy came to us from the Cumberland County Animal Control Center (a HIGH kill shelter). She was very lucky that there is one very good ACO that tries to find a rescue for the animals whenever possible. When we took her to be spayed, etc., we discovered that her blood count was so low that it would not be safe for her to be operated on yet. We brought her back home and, by feeding her vitamins and high quality food, got her in better condition. She is a very sweet little girl. Finally got her hemobart cleared up, got her spayed and she is doing really well now."

**Blind Cat
Rescue
& Sanctuary Inc.**
Help Blind Cats See A Future.

CAPT Brian Pickett
USS Aurora

The USS Aurora is again inspiring others. Let me explain...

I went shopping for some holiday gifts the other day. While at one store, I picked up a couple of kids' beginner art sets at Michael's craft store for under \$10 (buy one, get one free). While in line, I mentioned to the cashier that I was getting them for Toys For Tots, as a donation on behalf of the Aurora. She bought two and the lady behind me did as well, making me wait until they had made their purchases so I could take those donations too for a total of eight extra art kits. The lady behind me also got our info in case her son and his family might be interested in joining us, since they're also sci-fi/fantasy fans. I left the store with a total of 10 art kits, having only paid for one myself!

Then I went to Toys'R'Us, since they were right next door to Michael's. Toys'R'Us was also having a special. Classic children's games like Candy Land, Chutes & Ladders and others were on sale for \$5 each, and for every 2 you bought, you'd get 1 free. I got Candy Land and Hi-hi Cherry-o with Chutes & Ladders as the freebie. As the cashier was ringing me up, I again mentioned why I was making the purchase and how I hoped some lucky child would get the chance to play these old games I had played with grandparents, mom and dad, sibs and cousins too.

The cashier loved the idea, and the teenage girl behind me in line begged her mother for her allowance a few days early to buy two games to donate, too. I also gave my contact information for the Aurora to each of them, as well as the stock-boy who was up front for a price-check and he was also prompted by this spirit of giving to donate enough for more games to be donated that day. I left there with a total of 15 games, having purchased two! And I'd been able to pass along information about the Aurora (and Firebirds) and her mission to four people who were interested in our club and our organization.

As the local Marine Recruitment office just happened to be right across the parking lot, I took all the games and art kits in and let the fellows know that the Aurora crew (and Firebirds) had a nice collection of donations for them. They were ecstatic, and I again gave them the Aurora's contact information, before taking a call from the XO and excitedly relating this wonderful experience.

It was a fantastic day out! I encourage you (as our Firebirds often say and do) to also "Rise Above". Promote yourself, your friends and family who are your crew and/or unit, and the organization that encourages you to do great things. It not only helps to spread the word to others who might be interested, but it can inspire and bring hope to those in your community – and to yourselves, particularly when you get such a response as I did.

DATA HAS ONE... WHAT ABOUT YOU?



PETFLEET
THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK PET ASSOCIATION

**PETS
BELONG
IN FLEET.**

**JOIN
PETFLEET
TODAY!**



PETFLEET.SFI.ORG

USS Storm – 2011 Year in Review

CAPT David Sladky
USS Storm

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" that quote from a tale of two cities sums up how the year went for our chapter. Moving forward, we covered a lot of ground as far as events and promoting our ship and STARFLEET to the area. The worse has to be some of the most strange and scary events to hit New Jersey that I can ever recall, this being an Earthquake, Hurricane and tornadoes all in the same week! Sobering things like the loss of life due to random acts of violence or how our men and women in the military face danger every day to ensure the safety and security of our country. But the Storm weathered all of this and pushed forward to create some of the best time of the year. Starting with the Polar bear plunge in February for the Special Olympics, our Launch Party in March, April meeting and mixer that was able to get on new members, June we had our first annual Bar B Que, July was the Shore Leave convention in Towson Maryland and winning Shakedown Chapter of the year for region seven, as well as our first Game day, August was the 2011 STARFLEET International Conference at Pocono Manor, September was our first Marine brunch at the Cosmopolitan Restaurant in Vineland New Jersey that also seen us pick up a new member, October we donated to the juvenile diabetes walk, sponsored a family for the 21 down fun day for families with children who have downs syndrome, our first Star Trek day at Eagleview Nursing home in Pittgrove New Jersey, hosting the Region Seven Halloween Party along with raising 65 pounds of food for the local food bank and 25 new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots, in November going to the Region Seven command summit and at the writing of this article the first annual Holiday party for December.

(And I wonder why I am tired) But it's a good tired, the kind that comes from a good day's work and knowing that you were able to improve other people lives and help for the greater good. I think these ideals are what Star Trek and STARFLEET as a whole are all about and I hope then I have at least met the expectations of the public and crew and the chapter commander of the USS Storm. As we move forward I hope to keep up the pace as far as our fun and community service goes. Work and play are always good things.

At this point I would like to thank my crew for everyone doing their job and contributing to our projects, our fellow chapters who have always showed us support in our projects, the region Seven command staff who have been there like ancient sages, guiding us through the darkness and the command staff of STARFLEET who without their help none of this would have been possible.

See you all next year!



USS Wind Spirit Christmas Report

Keira Russell-Strong
USS Wind Spirit

The little group here in Utah got together 19 December 2011 to pass out our new t-shirts, watch a Christmas episode of Eureka, and sort the gifts into the stockings for our Sub for Santa families.

The two families we adopted are super nice. One mother lost her job in September, has a five-year-old with cerebral palsy, and a three-year-old. The other

mother has two boys, is going to school full time, and is working part time. We wish to give thanks to Cheryl Jean and Randy Bateman who sponsored one of the four children by themselves.

We are frequently asked how we find our families to adopt. We go through the United Way; there is a form on-line which makes the process easy. In the past we called and then waited, and waited. This year the response was fast enough that we were able to make some matching scarves for the children and their stuffed animals.



Rob Strong, Julia Clawson, (holding flag) Keira Russell-Strong, Stephanie Christensen, Captain Jeffery Beckstrom, (on floor) Janet Shepherd. Photo by Shelby Silveira Straup



Admiral Keira Russell-Strong, Commodore Janet Shepherd, and Stephanie Christensen. Photo by Julia Clawson

Starfleet Canine Corps hosts Dog Obedience Trials

LTJG Connie Fleming
USS Continuum

The Five Flags Dog Training Club held its annual AKC Obedience Trial Aug 13th & 14th in Pensacola, Florida. Again this year, daring to go where no obedience trial has gone before, they happily welcomed dogs from around the Southeast United States to be the guests of the Starfleet Canine Corps who, once again hosted the trial.

Spearheaded by Starfleet Lieutenant JG Connie Fleming and her two PetFleet companions, Kaitlyn and Morgan, handlers and dogs competed to the stirring themes from all of the Star Trek TV series and movies. They later enjoyed a lunch time serenade by none other than Vic Fontaine singing songs

from his DS9 album, "This one's from the Heart". Club members wore Starfleet shirts and insignia, greeted each with "Live Long and Prosper" and in between appearances in the ring, answered trivia questions about the Enterprise, from NX-01 to 1701-E. And, to celebrate successes in the ring, they chowed down on a piece of appropriately decorated cake.

Everyone seemed to enjoy this little step into our favorite alternate reality and the club has been asked to continue this theme next year as well. To quote my favorite Captain... "Sounds like fun..."





Let Us Help: The USS Star League Partners with Regal Cinemas to Help Stamp Out Hunger

It was so successful that Regal Cinema has already asked us to partner with them next year (anticipating that the replicator of the Food Bank will undoubtedly malfunction at that hectic time of year).

The chosen mission of the crew of the USS Star League in August 2011 was a food drive benefiting the local Golden Harvest Food Bank. Since the replicator of the Food Bank was malfunctioning, the crew sought donations of preserved rations and funds from all species on all planets. The Star League also partnered with Regal Twenty Cinemas, an old fashioned "movie theater" in the area which projects images on a screen . . . and you have to be present to view them!! Folks flock to see this archaic form of entertainment to experience the nostalgia of a bygone era.

To catch the flocks of folks, on December 17th the Star League beamed down to the Regal Cinemas and set up large Star Trek posters, displays and bins for donations of rations. We gave away Star Trek posters, tee shirts, and information on STARFLEET. Folks who donated four units of rations or made a donation of credits were entered in a raffle for two sets of two free movie passes, donated by Regal Cinemas. Many who

saw our "quaint, old-timey" public service announcements dropped off bags of rations, and browsed our Star Trek tables. It was so successful that Regal Cinema has already asked us to partner with them next year (anticipating that the replicator of the Food Bank will undoubtedly malfunction at that hectic time of year).

Our special thanks go to Regal Cinema and to crew member Ensign Michelle DeLoach, who orchestrated

and recorded the event. Crew members who braved the elements all day and half the night in these primitive theater conditions were Admiral Cindy Krell (CO), Capt Jana Sandarg (XO), Captain Mary Holden (Second Officer), Captain Jerry Holden (DC Security), LTJG Lucille Skipper (DC Science), Ensign Michelle DeLoach (DC Special Ops), and Cadet Apprentice Megan Faglier-Krell. On December 28th, Ensign DeLoach and

her husband, 2nd Lt James DeLoach, delivered a shuttle-full of rations to the Golden Harvest Food Bank, and made a digital image of Admiral Krell handing the associate director, Barry Forde, a donation of 325.53 Terran dollars. The Food Bank will "let us help" through January, 2012. We helped.... and we made a difference. And we're working on that replicator!

Front row:
guest
Back row L-R:
Capt Jerry
Holden, Adm
Cindy Krell,
Cadet Megan
Faglier-Krell,
Capt Mary
Holden, Capt
Jana Sandarg



CAPT Jana Sandarg
USS Star League
Region I



Adm Cindy
Krell and
Golden
Harvest
Food Bank
Associate
Director
Barry
Forde



Cadet Megan
Faglier-Krell

The parade crowd was delighted. They called out to us as we went down the road, “Wonderful!” “Best Float in the Parade,” “Unique!” “Fantastic!”

USS Heimdal has Float in Local Christmas Parade



In September, the members of the USS Heimdal voted to once again enter a float in the Amherst Christmas Parade held on December 2, 2011. In mid-October Heimdal members Carl & Bonnie Davis and Linda & Willy Smith sat down for a brain-storming session and came up with an idea for a float that fit the parade theme, Candy Canes and Christmas Carols. At the end of October, construction had begun on the float.

The Heimdal's float took shape as a Living Christmas Card.

Karen Delano, Jennifer Whitten and Carl Davis were to appear on the float as 1800s Christmas carolers dressed in period costume. They got together for a photo session in costume standing as they would on the float. Heimdal artist, Bonnie Davis worked from the photo & drew / painted the carolers in costume on an 8' plywood sheet that eventually became the front of the Living Christmas Card.

Construction continued by Carl, Bonnie, Willy & Linda & the 8' plywood panel became the “door” or front on a box that became the inside of the card where our “live” carolers stood. A wreath of green garland & lighted candy canes surrounded the giant card. The effect with the painting of the carolers on the front of the “card,” then opening the front to reveal the actual, real live carolers was stunning.

Twelve Heimdal members gathered on the side of the street along the parade route on December 2 to complete the last of the “on site” assembly. A brick skirt was added to the float to resemble a brick fireplace & gave the illusion that the card stood on a brick mantle.

Pre-recorded Christmas carols were piped onto the float through a PA system, the “living” carolers stepped into the box, the door was closed & Lights! Camera! Action! ... the Heimdal's float came to life & began moving down the street.

The only automated float in the parade, as the float moved along the parade route, Willy Smith ... from a very cramped, uncomfortable & cold

location underneath the float decorations ... opened & closed the front of the card by hand as a spray of fog surrounded the “living” carolers. Willy was the “automation.”

Kenny Proehl & Daryl Gooch walked ahead of the float wearing Next Gen uniforms and Santa hats carrying the Starfleet banner. Bonnie Davis drove the van that pulled the float and Linda road along with her, both also in uniform and Santa hats. Glenda Blanks & Robin Hudson walked beside the float in uniform and Santa hats representing Heimdal officers. Dee Stinson, dressed as a candy cane and Chris Thompson, dressed as the Heimdal's Vulcan elf, walked beside the float & passed out real candy canes to the crowd. The kids in the crowd especially liked Dee & Chris.

Karen, Jennifer & Carl did a fantastic job as “living” carolers & the parade crowd was delighted. They called out to us as we went down the road, “Wonderful!” “Best Float in the Parade,” “Unique!” “Fantastic!” Although the Heimdal's float didn't win the Best Float trophy, the comments from the crowd made us winners.

The Heimdal has entered a float in the Amherst Christmas Parade since 1991, missing only 3 years, & winning the trophy for Best Depiction of the Parade Theme in 2006.



ADM Linda Smith
USS Heimdal
Region I



The Nexus Scenes in a Life

Fifth Place Winner in the Annual STARFLEET Short Story Contest

WHEN JAMES KIRK DIED, a strange flux occurred in the Nexus. It followed the events on Varidian III. The valiant Starfleet legend had battled the mad El-Aurian scientist Soran on the uninhabited world, trying to save an unknowing neighboring Veridian IV. Kirk was subsequently joined by another Enterprise Captain, one from the 24th-Century: Jean-Luc Picard. Together, the unlikely duo had sacrificed much to save the blissfully unaware Veridians. One man lost his ship.

One man lost his life.

The Nexus was a galactic, wandering energy barrier, an interdimensional limbo, described as like “being inside joy.” Another El-Aurian, Guinan, had said that; she also described leaving the Nexus, as “being ripped” away, a terrible and maddening experience. Guinan had said it was as if a part of her were still there. The traumatic encounter Guinan had experienced in 2293 with the anomaly, had certainly driven her fellow El-Aurian, Soran, insane.

The effects of James Kirk’s death on the Nexus, seemed to make it waver in its wanderings--Was it sentient? Was it another universe? Federation researchers could only speculate. It never went through the same galactic sector twice, though it did have a kind of predictability, one that Soran had wanted to adjust, returning to “be inside joy,” at the cost of a world, the pre-warp culture of Varidian IV.

But from the Nexus, the strange wavering of the anomaly was strongest, after Soran’s demise.

A flicker, a trembling, a wave of--something. The wriggling, interstellar ribbon of energy seemed to be--nervous? grieving? The incredible energies were tracked by deep range starships and the Argus Array.

But these sensors didn’t detect the true reason for the “reaction” of the Nexus.

...The Captain of the NCC-1701 and NCC-1701-A, lay at the base of a deep gully. The remains of a metal walking bridge lay on and around the gravely injured man. James Kirk didn’t feel pain--just numb. He saw the small but wiry form of his new friend, the Starfleet captain from his future, Jean-Luc Picard. The man was trying to shift metal beams to rescue him--to no avail. The 24th-Century Starfleet officer had just lost his own Enterprise; her primary hull had crashed not far away. Picard looked like he was barely hanging on, but he quickly realized his rescue effort of Kirk was in vain.

Kirk asked whether they had succeeded, if they had made a difference. Picard has stoically answered yes, they had indeed saved Veridian II, and most of his Enterprise’s crew had survived the crash. Kirk was relieved--still couldn’t feel anything other than a little dizzy and short of breath. Then the man out of the 23rd Century stilled, and then seemingly recognized something in the sky. It seemed to overwhelm him, saying softly, “Oh, my...”

Then Captain Picard of the Enterprise-D was alone.

But to Kirk, something significant happened. He heard a cry. A baby was being born.

The tiny life took its first breaths, keening thinly in the rocking aft com-

partment of a shuttle. The newborn’s mother, a lovely Starfleet scientist named Winona Kirk, held her son. The alien nurse was stabilizing his life signs, but the debris from the Starship Kelvin made the little craft buck like a new colt. She was hearing the cries too, but the grief she felt welling in her made her not react with motherly instinct...She couldn’t feel it, not yet. Her husband George had just sacrificed his life, ramming their starship into the mystery vessel that had attacked them. Was it Klingon? Gorn? One of the shuttle’s med crew had said it may have been Romulan. Whatever, it had taken her spouse. Now she had another life to deal with--but how? The cries continued, and slowly she turned to the newly-named son James, and pulling gently to her breast, she began crying too. As the mother began to get to know her infant boy--and grieve--a rhythmic “tchoonk, tchoonk, tchoonk” sound was heard. Perhaps it was a heartbeat?...

The rhythmic chopping sound was a sign Kirk was getting his second wind...Kirk worked the woodpile down, and after a while he slowed... Wasn’t someone supposed to be here? To talk with him? The retired captain looked around his Idaho cabin lot, but no one was within sight. He caught his breath. Since a few of his closest friends and Starfleet Officers even knew he had this retreat, he was puzzled. Had Spock arranged for a visit? No, the Vulcan had just left for a mission to the Romulan frontier, very hush-hush. Peter? No--Kirk’s nephew was in the Beta Quadrant mapping star systems. Antonia? She’d left for a morning ride. He’d thought she was back, because Kirk had

heard her taking a sonic shower in the loft in the cabin. Then Kirk had the definite impression that a small man,

but one who had a commanding presence, was supposed to have approached the cabin from the mountain pass behind the lot. He didn’t know anyone by name who was --bald? Was he a friend from the Academy? Kirk turned around and looked for the phantom Starfleet officer, the one he didn’t seem to recall...

But Kirk saw no one but the landing party. Bones, drugged and enraged by the hypospray that had malfunctioned on the bridge, had driven him to beam down from the Enterprise. The maddened physician then managed to evade Scotty and Kirk, and leap through the large oblong, doughnut-shaped Gateway. The time and space portal, answering to the name of the “Guardian of Forever,” announced that history had changed; there was no longer an Enterprise in orbit. The strange edifice was now replaying the timestream of Earth’s history. Spock was monitoring so they could follow and try rescuing the out-of-control doctor. Kirk gave instructions to Uhura and Scotty. Spock counted down, they tensed, then the captain and first officer of a non-existent starship leaped through the Guardian of Forever...

Kirk landed alone--alone except for Kruge. The very ground they were standing and then fighting on, was heaving as if alive...But that was wrong. The Genesis planet was dying. Kirk thought bitterly that it figured that a Klingon would attempt to stage a battle to the death on a dying planet. The arrogant warrior was trying to gain honor by killing the legendary Kirk of Starfleet. Kruge seemed not to care whether Genesis might blow up. Beaten, battered and burned by the oven-like volcanic air, Kirk felt none of it. This Klingon bastard--this pataQ--had killed David. My son...my SON!! The Captain also had had to destroy the Enterprise to rid himself of Kruge’s boarding party.

Kirk was so angry, he felt like



Timothy Wilson

Kirk asked whether they had succeeded, if they had made a difference. Picard has stoically answered yes, they had indeed saved Veridian II, and most of his Enterprise’s crew had survived the crash.

the planet itself--volcanic, ready to shatter at a moment's notice. He saw Kruge's mouth working, mouth-ing curses at Kirk. The captain of the Enterprise only heard the sound of the Klingon dagger, that had stabbed David. It had come over the communicator. The remembered stabbings grotesquely matched in Kirk's head, with the thuds his boots made, connecting to the Klingon captain's skull. Kirk told him to Get-Off-My-Legs! Finally the grasping, raging Klingon went to Klingon Hades, falling to the lava bed below. Slowly, Kirk stood and seeing the revived flesh of Spock, gathered the katra-less boy to him. James Kirk felt the tingle of the Klingon transporter, as he used the Klingon communicator to have Maltz, the last Klingon crewman, beam him aboard the Klingon Bird of Prey...

The Starfleet captain materialized aboard the Enterprise. But something was wrong. He felt a slight draft, and looking down, Kirk saw he was in a gold metallic wrap-around tunic. He realized the Halkan landing party

could actually touch here--wherever here was. He could see stars, nebulae, but only intermittently was he shifted back through interphase and aboard the Enterprise. The Starship Defiant was gone. If Kirk weren't careful, he would get lost in the reverie of looking into another universe, and the draining oxygen would lull him to death. With nothing here but himself, he was his own savior--and his own worst enemy. Kirk looked at his distorted reflection in his visor...

The reflection was real. In fact, it was alive, and holding a phaser on him. Kirk was screaming, "I want to live! I want to live!" The Other Kirk, the calm one, was so, so tired. But by the time he gathered himself in the transporter room, Kirk was literally hugging the spent form of the Aggressor-Kirk, and as the transporter began to hum, he wished only to be whole again--he wanted to indeed live...

As Kirk materialized, he was suprised to find himself alive, and in one piece. The captain felt different, energized and warm. The improvised

That paraphrase from Peter Pan just seemed right...

The Starship Enterprise slowly passed over, slowly pulling out of Earth's gravity well. The United States' fighter jet had been tracked, tractored, and accidentally crushed. Captain Christopher was aboard, for better or ill. Kirk just wanted the banter--the bickering--of Bones and Spock to pause, so he could think...

Kirk couldn't breathe, couldn't think. He watched as his Starship Enterprise slowly faded into the sky, while surrounded by the bridge girders that had injured him. Picard was still there, the grief of losing his own Enterprise still on his face. But Picard's face now also showed the grief of losing this new friend in Kirk. The future Enterprise captain held Kirk's unfeeling hand. Yes, Veridian IV was safe. Picard's crew was safe. Kirk and he had indeed made a difference. As James Kirk saw his Enterprise, the gossamer starship, make her warp-snap and fade into the sky, Kirk recognized--something? somewhere?

someone? Kirk then recognized something. He said softly, "Oh, my..."

As the Nexus moved away from Varidian III, the anomaly wa-

vered, shaking in its mysterious way. James Kirk's Human Adventure continued into frontiers only reached by those who truly went where no one was normally able to go before.

The Great Bird of the Galaxy smiled at that; it just seemed right

The tiny life took its first breaths, keening thinly in the rocking aft compartment of a shuttle. The newborn's mother, a lovely Starfleet scientist named Winona Kirk, held her son. The alien nurse was stabilizing his life signs, but the debris from the Starship Kelvin made the little craft buck like a new colt.

was in trouble. Was that Lieutenant Kyle, with a phaser? Spock--with a beard? Kirk had to think, and quickly. He herded Bones, Uhura and Scotty to Sickbay to strategize...

The turbolift doors closed, but only part of Kirk was there. Sargon's powerful mind echoed endlessly, as if he and the alien were speaking in a large cave. But the essence of him, Kirk knew, was in the Sickbay labs, inside a large orb from Sargon's planet. Witnessing what the aliens did in his and the others' bodies, was like watching ancient television 2D programs. The disembodied captain didn't like not being in control. Kirk thought for the umpteenth time, that he couldn't wait for Sargon to vacate his body for the android form he was working on. Kirk's mind drifted...

The floating feeling was worse in its way, than in the shift to being here. Kirk's spacesuit was intact, but he had only a finite amount of air. The inside of the cool suit was the only thing he

beam out worked. Suddenly, banging started nearby--the coolant tank? And then Kirk saw it was Scotty! The hapless engineer was being shoved down the piping, drowning, if he didn't get shredded by the coolant turbines first. By sheer luck, he found the water emergency valve release, producing a wet, spluttering engineer. He and Scotty started to head up to the Bridge, escorted by Crewman "Cupcake" and his security team, after being captured by them, at Acting Captain Spock's command...

The Bridge door opened, to show James T. Kirk sitting in his command chair. Spock as usual was at his right side, and Bones, Scotty, and the other bridge crew were at their customary posts. Uhura gave the news that the USS Enterprise-A was ordered to return to base, for decommissioning. When Sulu asked for course instructions, Kirk smiled and didn't hesitate. He said, "Set course--Second star to the right and straight on till morning."





Astronomy: How to Get Started Part II

“DON’T BUY A TELESCOPE,” I said last month. What instead? Well there is the naked eye, of course, and it is worth spending some time seeing what is there free for the seeing. The next step is a pair of binoculars. If you have less than \$300 for a telescope (my recommended starting point, as will be discussed in a later column), spend it on good binoculars. For example, a pair of Nikon Extreme Actions are about \$250. If you have less money than that, a pair of Orion Scenix binoculars (\$99) will work almost as well. You may be able to find a used pair for less, and if nothing else is available, a pair of birding binoculars will still be a big step from the unaided eye. The recommended size of binoculars for astronomy is 10 x 50 (10 = magnification, 50 = diameter of the big lenses).

There are much bigger binoculars available, and some astronomers prefer them to telescopes. 10 x 50 is the largest that can be comfortably hand-held and therefore are recommended for beginners. Larger binoculars require a tripod or special binocular mount to use—not recommended for most beginners. A good pair of 10 x 50s are something that one will use even after one acquires a large telescope.

Four good beginner books on Binocular Astronomy

- *Touring the Universe with Binoculars* by Phillip S. Harrington
- *Observing the Night Sky with Binoculars* by James O’Meara

- *Stargazing For Beginners: A Binocular Tour of the Night Sky* by the Editors of The One-Minute Astronomer
- *Binocular Highlights* by Gary Seronik

The next most important thing to acquire in the beginning is membership in an astronomy club. This will exponentially accelerate your knowledge of astronomy. Club members are very helpful, and glad to take on beginners. You can get lots of advice on observing techniques and equipment, and particularly on how so spend your money wisely. Most clubs have regular meetings with speakers on various topics. They usually have regular observing sessions, dubbed

The next most important thing to acquire in the beginning is membership in an astronomy club. This will exponentially accelerate your knowledge of astronomy.

where you may find used equipment. Many of us love to upgrade our equipment, and since we generally take good care of our stuff, used is a good way to go. Your club may have a newsletter or a website. The latter may have files of helpful information, or links to other useful sites.

There is, of course a wealth of information online. Three forums that are particularly helpful are.

CloudyNights.com
Astronomyforums.com
Astromart.com

Cloudy Nights in particular has a strong Beginner’s forum where you can get lots of helpful advice and can feel free to ask “dumb questions” without risking ridicule. The major astronomy magazines also have sites with lots of information, and there are several sites that can help you find a local astronomy club.

“star parties,” where they all gather in a good spot for viewing, and spend the night gazing at heavenly bodies. Attending star parties gives you the opportunity to look through other folks’ scopes (generally, though not always, we love to share the view), and get an idea of what can be seen, and how different telescopes perform. You will learn what you need to know here before you buy your first telescope.

Other benefits of joining an astronomy club may include reduced rates on subscriptions to astronomy magazines, social events such as dinners or picnics, group trips to places of interest to astronomers such as planetariums, launches, or observatories, and perhaps swap meets,



CMDR Willie Yee, MD
USS Abraham Lincoln
Region 7

Achievements:
Specialist II in
Astronomy



Early in the event, fans were treated to an advance reading of Mr. Cox's new Star Trek TOS novel, *The Rings of Time*.

USS Susquehannock Sci-Fi Day



"Sci Fi Day Gang Poses in Klingon Jail"
People in photo are: Scott Taylor, Lt. Jr. Grade, Tina Maxwell, Lt., Captain Stacey Cress, John Radle, Petty Officer First Class, MJ Rogers, Lt, Carl Deitrich, Lt, Andy Wagner, Marine Captain, and in front is me, Doris Hutley, Commander.

"Sci Fi Day Oliver, Captain America and Greg Cox". People in photo are Oliver Maxwell, Lt., Jim Hutley, XO of our chapter and author Greg Cox.



The USS Susquehannock put on their first annual Sci Fi Day on Saturday, October 22 from Noon to 7:00PM. We wanted to put on a fun and family oriented event that appealed to our fellow Science Fiction fans. Olde Towne Books and Brew in Mechanicsburg, PA was nice enough to allow us to use their store for our event.

Having been a pharmacy in the past, this bookshop / coffee bar / ice cream parlor was a very picturesque setting for the event. In the back of the main room, many old-fashioned poultices and pharmaceutical equipment are on display in a sort of museum-like display case and at the side is a Victorian-style tea room which looks to be straight out of the 1800s! Early in the event, several members of a local science fiction / science meet-up group called "The Science, Society and Science Fiction Meet-Up Group" came to the event. A local chemist who is a member of this organization was impressed with the classic medicines as well as the science-fiction events.

We were lucky enough to get New York Times Best Selling Author Greg Cox to speak about his career and to sign books for science fiction fans in attendance. Mr. Cox has written quite a few books on popular TV shows which include Star Trek, Xena and Warehouse 13. He has also done the novelizations for several movies such as Daredevil and Ghost

Rider. He was a super accommodating person who was only too happy to talk to fans and share advice.

Early in the event, fans were treated to an advance reading of Mr. Cox's new Star Trek TOS novel, *The Rings of Time*. In this novel, set for release in January 2012, Colonel Shaun Christopher, son of Captain John Christopher from The Original Series Episode "Tomorrow is Yesterday" is leading the first manned mission to the rings of Saturn in the year 2020. Meanwhile (or rather in the 23rd Century!) the USS Enterprise and Captain Kirk are answering a distress call at a Saturn-like, ringed planet. Suddenly, without warning, Capt. Kirk finds himself inside an old-fashioned spacesuit near Saturn's rings! Thus, a transfer between himself and Cl. Christopher had occurred. Being no stranger to writing Star Trek novels and an avid fan himself, Mr. Cox did an excellent job of grasping Kirk's reactions and response to such a situation and made all the listeners hungry for more! *The Rings of Time* is thus highly recom-

mended for all Classic Trek fans.

Other exciting guests were in attendance as well. Ute Perkins is an author who currently lives in the South Central PA area. He is the author of *Timeless Conflict* which several members of our chapter had been fortunate enough to pick up prior to planning the Sci Fi Day. Mr. Perkins brought along the artist who did poster art for the novel, Alex Levinsky. Alex showed us quite a few of his drawings which were quite impressive!!

All day long our resident Klingons were manning our "Klingon Jail" which was raising money for Canine Rescue. Canine Rescue is a no kill shelter run by local people in the South Central PA area. The Klingons had a lot of fun playing up their parts. Our Grand Finale was the Capital City Jedi. They are quite an impressive group that does stage combat with Light Sabers. They are incredibly skilled and a lot of fun to watch. They allowed people to participate by providing them with Light Sabers and showing them the basic moves.

It was kind of cool to watch because as it got dark they turned the Light Saber blades on. My boss's eight year old son is a huge Star Wars Fan. He and a buddy had fun participating. The Jedi were really good with working with kids. Several children (of all ages) were impressed to learn that one of the light sabers owned by a Capital City Jedi member is a modified actual prop from the Star Wars movies! Meanwhile, back at the bookshop, things really started picking up as numerous people showed up- some to meet Mr. Cox and others dressed as creatures from the Star Wars Cantina Scene. Also, some staff from "Fortress Publishing" which is a local publisher of sci-fi, fantasy and horror titles came to show their support. Other book lovers who just wanted to experience the events and shop in a really cool location made the event as well!

All in all this was a super fun event which we had always hoped we could do. The managers of the shop, the USS Susquehannock, and all guests and visitors seemed enriched from the Experience. We're already working on ideas for next year's Sci Fi Day and hope some of our STARFLEET friends will be able to come.

Lt Carl Deitrich &
Doris Hutley
USS Susquehannock
Region 7



Symposium: Our Finest Hour

All in all, this symposium was spectacular. We were honored to have such prominent figures speak with us, and we were further honored to do our part to remember those who fell in service to our space program.

On January 28, 2012, the USS Dejah Thoris, which is the Hartselle, Alabama-based chapter of STARFLEET International, held a symposium on the history and experiences of members of the U.S. space program. The symposium was entitled “Our Finest Hour”, and featured speakers who were an integral part of the space program, during its birth and its heyday. Speakers included William Snoddy and Stephanie Osborn.

The Dejah Thoris held this symposium to give the public a chance to hear about being a part of America’s space program from people who were actually there, and to give the speakers a public forum to pass along their experiences and memories of the part they played in sending mankind into space. Other planned events included a tribute to fallen as-

Alabama.

The speakers were vibrant and informative. Mr. Snoddy spoke about his work with Wehrner von Braun himself during the early days of NASA, and the amazing things they did during that time. He spoke of their shocked reactions to learning of Russia’s launches of Sputnik, and later Yuri Gagarin, and how their group

vative use of an incredibly sensitive infrared telescope.

Mrs. Osborn was also fascinating to hear, speaking about many of her experiences as a flight controller with the space shuttle program for more than 20 years. She spoke of the shuttle program’s triumphs, tragedies, and even told us about dangers faced by certain shuttle crews of which

The memorial for fallen astronauts was an emotional and tear-filled experience. I reminded everyone that these brave heroes risk the ultimate sacrifice every time they launch. They deserve every bit of honor and remembrance that we can give. Astronauts are heroes, every bit as much as soldiers, police officers, firefighters and the like. Captain Childers presented the poignant and uplifting poem “High Flight” by John Magee. This was followed by a recitation of the names of all of our space program’s fallen astronauts, with each honored by a single toll of a ship’s bell in honored naval tradition. Then a memorial video was viewed, showing the pictures and names of each of the astronauts along with footage of a Missing Man formation in their honor, all set to the haunting tones of “Amazing Grace” on bagpipes.

All in all, this symposium was spectacular. We were honored to have such prominent figures speak with us, and we were further honored to do our part to remember those who fell in service to our space program. We should always remember that these heroes are paving our way to the final frontier. They are the Christopher Columbuses, the Magellans, the Lewis-and-Clarks of our day. They are furthering the boundaries of mankind’s knowledge and experience. They are the vanguards of mankind’s future as we realize our destiny, within our solar system and beyond.

About the Speakers

Bill Snoddy was a senior in physics at the University of Alabama when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik - the world’s first artificial satellite in October, 1957. After graduating a few months later, he joined the von Braun team in Huntsville and remained a member until his retirement 37 years later. He will discuss, from a personal point of view, the excitement and national concern gen-



tronaunts and a look at what the future of manned spaceflight may hold. The chapter also held the symposium as a recruiting platform to give space enthusiasts who may also be science fiction fans an opportunity to learn about and join STARFLEET International. The symposium was held at the Ministry Center of First United Methodist Church in Hartselle,

stepped up to meet and surpass the challenges that resulted. He spoke of their work on the Gemini, Mercury and Apollo projects, and his team’s role in getting man on the surface of the moon. Among other things, his team won an award for correctly determining surface conditions and temperatures on the moon before anyone else did, through the inno-

the general public was never aware. And she poignantly spoke about her friend Kalpana Chawla, one of the astronauts killed in the Columbia disaster. Stephanie trained Kalpana and they became good friends. Stephanie said that the thing she remembered most and best about Kalpana was that “she always had a smile on her face.”

COM Duncan Cameron
USS Dejah Thoris
Region 2

erated by the Soviet's space accomplishments and the steps taken by the U.S. to respond to the challenges represented by these achievements. Huntsville did its part by building and launching the "free world's" (as op-

of the early satellites; Chief of the Astronomy and Solid State Physics Division; Chief of the Solar-Terrestrial Physics Division; Manager of the Skylab/ATM Data Analysis Program; a one year assignment to NASA

Shuttle flights and the International Space Station, and counts the training of astronauts on her résumé. Of those astronauts she trained, one was Kalpana Chawla, a member of the crew lost in the Columbia disaster.

The memorial for fallen astronauts was an emotional and tear-filled experience. I reminded everyone that these brave heroes risk the ultimate sacrifice every time they launch. They deserve every bit of honor and remembrance that we can give.

posed to the communist's world) first satellite, Explorer 1. Huntsville also built the rocket that launched Alan Shepard into a sub-orbit trajectory, making him American's first astronaut. Other significant accomplishments for the Huntsville team included building the propulsion system (Saturn V) that took men to the moon; building the Lunar Rover used in the Apollo missions; building, launching and managing the Skylab Space Station; building the propulsion for the

Headquarters in Washington as Planner for Solar Terrestrial Physics and Manager of the Science and Applications Space Platform study activity - a job he continued upon his return to Huntsville (this concept lost out to the current International Space Station now in orbit); as Deputy Director of the MSFC Space Science Laboratory; Deputy Director of the Program Development Directorate (future projects office) and as MSFC lead in Space Commercialization. He re-

She holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in four sciences: Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics, and she is "fluent" in several more, including Geology and Anatomy. She obtained her various degrees from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Stephanie is currently retired from space work. She now happily "passes it forward," teaching math and science via numerous media including



Space Shuttle; building and managing the Space Lab which flew many times in the Shuttle; building many satellites including the Hubble Space Telescope and the Chandra X-ray Observatory and building key portions of the evolving International Space Station.

During his professional career, Bill worked on the thermal design

tired in 1994 and has kept busy managing a family timber farm in Double Springs, Alabama.

Stephanie Osborn is a former payload flight controller, a veteran of over twenty years of working in the civilian space program, as well as various military space defense programs. She has worked on numerous Space

radio, podcasting, and public speaking, as well as working with SIGMA, the science fiction think tank, while writing science fiction mysteries based on her knowledge, experience, and travels.



“What Would Santa Do?” A Book about Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard

By the time I'd heard over a dozen or so of these anecdotes, I said, “Sal, you’ve got to write a book! Your stories are amazing!”

Mark your calendars, Fleeters! Next Christmas, you'll be able to walk into your local bookstore and buy a book written by former Commander, STARFLEET Sal Lizard and his Chief of Communications Jon Lane. But don't look for it in the science fiction aisle. Y'see, this is a book about Sal Lizard's other claim to fame, and it's called *What Would Santa Do?*

Members who've been in STARFLEET for more than a year might remember that our previous Commander bears a striking resemblance to Santa Claus. Some Fleeters are even aware that Sal plays Santa Claus for about two months every Christmas season, and that he's been doing so for over 20 years! But few members have actually heard Sal's

and a few more after that. I found I couldn't get enough of these wonderful tales of how children (and adults, too) reacted and interacted with Sal, both in and out of costume. These stories made me laugh, cheer, and a couple even made me cry.

By the time I'd heard over a dozen or so of these anecdotes, I said, “Sal, you’ve got to write a book! Your

anywhere.

“Well,” I said, “Would you mind if I wrote it? You could tell me your stories over the phone, and then I'd record the calls and write down what you say.” Sal was agreeable to the idea (after all, why not?) And I figured it'd be hardly any work at all.

Boy was I wrong! Nothing is ever as easy as you think it's going to be...

I quickly discovered that I couldn't just transcribe Sal's conversations verbatim. After showing a few early chapters to friends and relatives, I got a disappointing reaction from nearly everyone. “What went wrong?” I wondered. Well, it turns out that stories you tell over a few drinks at the bar or even over the phone don't necessarily translate well to the printed page. Readers want more details—descriptions of people and places, dialog, and thoughts and feelings from the protagonist. My first attempt at simple transcribing would up with a very bland and boring reading experience.

So I went back to square one, tossing out everything I'd written and starting over completely. I re-interviewed Sal, and this time, I really drilled down and pressed for as many details as I could get. And I truly have to commend Sal on his amazing memory for details. If you ultimately buy and read this book, you'll likely marvel at the depth of Sal's recollections...even for events that happened decades earlier.

The process took us nearly two years, and I've got about 50 hours of recorded phone conversations that I sorted through and replayed countless times, trying to get these stories organized and sorted. Granted, we took a few breaks during that time—especially when the holiday months hit from October through December and Sal became hard to reach. But those interludes allowed me to catch up and write several chapters at a time, and then come back later to press Sal for more details that I hadn't

realized we'd missed during the initial conversations.

Finally, in May of this year, we finished. The manuscript had 34 chapters and just under 90,000 words. But now what? Of course, thanks to Kindle and other e-book readers, authors can self-publish with almost no start up costs and sell their book digitally for a few dollars. Unfortunately, e-publishing is not a path to guaranteed success and unbridled wealth. Going that route, one has to massively market the book and get the word out to reviewers and potential buyers...and even then, if you're lucky, you'll make maybe a few thousand dollars. Not bad, of course, but the real money happens if you can find a print publisher to get your manuscript into bookstores.

But to get a publisher, you first need to find a literary agent (not always, but the path to publication without an agent is exponentially more difficult). Finding an agent is usually challenging, since you don't just go out and hire one...at least, not a good one. Getting professional literary representation is like applying to a college or university. They have to accept you first—in this case, based on your writing and book idea(s). And the better the agency, the harder the “admission” process becomes.

So Sal and I hunkered down and prepared for a long agent search. It can take an author months or even years to find a willing agent. Fortunately, I have a friend who knows a literary agent in New York City. This guy specializes in biographies (mostly sports and political figures; we would be his first Santa Claus biography), and he's represented a number of authors who've gone on to publish bestsellers. Indeed, as I looked through this guy's website and discovered that he actually employs a half dozen other agents who work for him, and as I looked at his extensive list of authors and published books, I began to feel pretty intimidated. Here



stories of his Santa encounters.

Back at IC 2009 in North Carolina, I was one of those members who knew nothing about Sal's “other life” in the red and white suit. But as the weekend progressed, I heard a few of Sal's stories...and then a few more...

stories are amazing!” Sal said that he'd thought about it and even started trying to write some down a few times. But he's not a very disciplined writer, and he tends to be really busy most of the time...so his book sat on the back burner and never really got

RADM John Lane
USS Angeles
Region 4

we were, Sal and I, first time authors writing the memoirs of a professional Santa Claus. I feared we might be aiming too high by trying to impress such an accomplished literary agent, and I quietly prepared myself for our first rejection.

so he could send it out to publishers the following week.

I worked fast, and on Monday, he sent the manuscript to ten different publishers. Two were interested enough to make us offers within the week...both identical bids. I asked

told by other people in the publishing industry that such a fast sell is almost unheard of...especially for first-time, unknown authors. But a feel-good book about a professional Santa Claus is a sure Christmas seller in bookstores, and it really does read

What Would Santa Do?

ences to Sal's non-Christmas activities like his computer consulting business and, unfortunately, any mention of STARFLEET. Apparently, according to the editor, customers buying Christmas books about Santa Claus aren't necessarily Star Trek fans. They expect to read a book about Christmas encounters, not about building websites and running sci-fi fan clubs. But Sal and I understand the reality of the situation, and we're actually quite relieved by how much of the original manuscript is being kept with minimal or even no changes whatsoever.

And that's our big news, my friends. The book will be titled *What Would Santa Do?* and it should be hitting bookstores and Amazon.com sometime in October of 2012...just in time for next year's holiday season. I'm told that, in the late spring, early reader copies will be sent out by the publishers to key reviewers in the industry...and with luck, folks will like what they see. Please keep your fingers crossed, and we'll be sure to give you any updates as soon as there's any more big news.

The process took us nearly two years, and I've got about 50 hours of recorded phone conversations that I sorted through and replayed countless times, trying to get these stories organized and sorted.



After a brief e-mail introduction by my friend, I gave the agent a little background on both Sal and myself, and I sent this fellow the full manuscript just a few days before the 4th of July weekend. And I waited. (Sal waited, too. But he has traveling from Indianapolis to Kentucky with lots to do, so he had more to distract him from pacing back and forth while waiting to hear back. Me, I paced a LOT!)

We didn't have long to wait, though. On July 5th, the agent called me to say he'd finished the manuscript over the weekend, and he liked what he'd read. He wanted to represent us! I literally felt my pulse start racing. This was huge! He asked me to rush through a number of minor changes and additions to the manuscript, trim a couple of early chapters, and get him a new PDF version ASAP

the agent, "So what do we do now, flip a coin?" He said no. He'd already asked them both to increase their offers. I kinda panicked over that, fearing they'd both be insulted, walk away, and leave us with nothing. But our agent assured us that this was how deals got done in this business and not to worry.

Turns out he was absolutely right. By that afternoon, one of the publishers had doubled their offer! The other wouldn't go any higher. Both publishers were equally qualified at marketing successful books, so we happily went with the higher offer, the agent got a tidy 15%, and Sal and I are splitting the rest of the advance and royalties fifty-fifty.

It still blows my mind to think about how quickly this all happened once the manuscript was finished. It took only three weeks! I've been

well. The stories make you laugh, and a few choke you up. Even my dad cried at a couple of points when he read it...and my dad doesn't cry.

In late September, after finalizing and signing the contract, Sal and I started working with the editor at the publishing company to tweak and perfect the manuscript. After all, they know what will sell in bookstores better than Sal and I do. And so far, the editorial process has been relatively painless and even kinda fun. I'd feared having an evil ogre editor chopping out entire chapters to reduce the word count or slashing my favorite parts without listening to why I thought they should be kept. Instead, however, she's been a pleasure to work with, and she's had some wonderful ideas.

Granted, we've still trimmed a bit. Gone are most of the refer-

Photos From The Anbinder Archives

Photo by Mark H. Anbinder



Paisley: The Next Generation
Tommy rockin' the Paisley:TNG look.



FADM Dave Blaser - IC 2011 General Session



What happens when Mark leaves his camera alone near Jack.



Jon & the Photo - Jon showing off Roddenberry.com's awesome lenticular photos.



The Final Mission
SFMC: The Next Generation!



SFMC Dress Mess - IC 2011 General Session



Project Linus Blanket Day

WEST HILLS, Calif. — A 7-year-old girl lies, critically ill and afraid, in the hospital. The nurse brings her a special blanket. Tinkerbell! She loves Tinkerbell! The child insists the blanket must always be on her bed. She lies beneath it, her own personal cloud of fairy dust.

A 14-year-old boy has just lost both parents. Having no other relatives, he is afraid, alone and in shock. During his ordeal, one of the policemen brings him a special blanket. It is emblazoned with planets and constellations. The boy numbly takes the blanket, still in too much shock to react. Yet, he never lets go of the blanket and takes it with him everywhere. He wraps it around himself as he waits to find what will happen next.

USS Angeles crewmembers gathered June 4, 2011 at my home in West Hills in the Los Angeles area to make blankets for children such as

these. The blankets were donated to Handmade Hugs, the Project Linus chapter serving the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles and nearby areas. The nonprofit's mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and Afghans.

Crewmembers were welcomed to this worthwhile project by the Vulcan piñata which sustained serious injuries at the USS Angeles Risa party, a testament to the power of caring. The Vulcan hung in the front yard, its own injuries having been tended by

The boy numbly takes the blanket, still in too much shock to react. Yet, he never lets go of the blanket and takes it with him everywhere. He wraps it around himself as he waits to find what will happen next.

Ambassador Soval (aka Lt. Cmdr. Luis Valentine).

The USS Angeles made nine blankets for Project Linus. Members who participated in making blankets were myself (coordinator of the Project Linus Blanket Day), Capt. Gloria Rodriguez, civilian member Estela Rodriguez, Lt. Cmdr. Candi Rosales, Ensign Renee Wike and Rear Adm. Janice Willcocks. Many crew members made fleece "no-sew" blankets while Janice crocheted two blankets. Candi even went so far as to sew a border on her fleece blanket.

The fleece patterns were adorable, and we had a nice selection! Those made included patterns such as Teddy bears, planets and constellations, spaceships and flying saucers, dinosaurs, frogs, Tinkerbell and a fairy godmother! It was nice; we covered both genders and multiple age groups!

Once the blankets were made, more crew members joined us, and we retired to the patio, where the potluck/barbecue began. We had a wonderful spread of food, and Lt. Christopher Mulrooney was an expert chef at the barbecue.

Fifteen crewmembers enjoyed the potluck. After eating, Capt. Dave Mason led a meeting. Some of us then moved to the living room and watched the movie "Galaxy Quest" while others visited and chatted. Yet another group retired to another room and watched an episode of "Enterprise."

Handmade Hugs knew of my plan to have a USS Angeles Project Linus Blanket Day. When I notified them of the number of blankets our ship made, Handmade Hugs replied "Thank you so much for making this happen!"

It was a very fulfilling day!



LTJG Karen Hoagland
USS Angeles
Region 4



We hope to see many of you at the International Conference in Memphis, Tennessee in August this year. Region 3 is hosting a hospitality suite and room party to promote the IC in 2013, which will be held in Dallas, Texas, August 1-4, 2013.

Howdy from Region 3! We're going to start submitting to the CQ for our Region on a more regular basis in the future, but because we've missed some recent items and the CQ hasn't been very regular either, I'm going to start you off with what the Region has done since IC 2011 in the Poconos.

What have we done?

In September 2011, the Region made a trip to the Space Center in Houston, Texas. We had a great day exploring the Center and learning about the space program as it currently is and the plans for the future. We also took a tour of NASA, which is always cool. My favorite part of the tour was something I had not seen before, the Rocket Park. I was amazed by the Saturn V Rocket that was "assembled" on its side in a big, giant storage building. We were allowed to walk all around the Rocket and in between each section of it, too. It was awesome! Later that evening, we commissioned a new chapter, the USS Zavala, which hails from the Houston/Clear Lake area. We had dinner at Noah's Ark in Bacliff, Texas, along the Galveston Bay. And, of course, after that in Region 3 style, we had room parties and hung out at a Motel 6 while using our STARFLEET membership discount rate.

In October 2011, the Region met in Abilene, Texas for Region 3 Game Day hosted by the USS Diamondback with assistance from their support chapter the USS Lone Star and a couple members of the USS Battle Born. There were many, many games to play. Games to play ranged from electronic to just regular card games. You could bring your own or play someone else's games, too, but many were already planned. One of the more popular games was Spades, as played by the USS Rachel Garrett's [CO] and IC 2013 Chair Marian Murphy, among many others. Debuting at R3 Game Day was the Artemis Bridge Simulator, where two "ships" assisted in the fight against many foes

while maintaining peace in the galaxy. Although, many who took the helm believed we all needed to go back to Flight School.

After the gaming competition was all done, we broke bread at Belle's Chicken Dinner House where we commissioned the USS Diamondback into the Fleet. The Region thanks the crew members of the USS Diamondback, USS Lone Star, and USS Battle Born for the hospitality that we were shown during Game Day and during the celebration (Donna Jarrett of the Diamondback makes wonderful cake!).

In the months of November and December 2011, the Region didn't have any events, but that doesn't mean that we stopped doing things or planning events. The Region Staff meets once a month on a conference call. The Region staff gives department reports and discusses all sorts of topics about events, awards, quartermaster, etc. My Chief of Staff Jeremy Carsten of the USS Battle Born worked hard on revising the Regional Handbook so it could be presented to the Region 3 Congress of Commanding Officers ("R3 CCO") for approval. Also, the Joint Summit Team has been working hard getting things ready for our Joint Summit with Region 2. We're having discussions on the charity, how to raise money for the charity, what panels are to be planned, where to have the Fleet Admiral's Dinner Friday night, and the list goes on.

January 2012, we had our first R3 CCO meeting through electronic means. It seems to have been well-received, even if it was a very long time to be on the phone. The R3 CCO

patiently went through each section of the R3 Handbook and revised it while it was on a shared desktop for those to see it being revised in real time. The R3 CCO also approved a budget for 2012, planned a calendar for the year, and even voted to hold more meetings than the usual two per year. The R3 CCO is now going to meet four times per year. Wow! I never saw that coming. But it is great that we have COs and Staff who care so much about this organization that they are willing to put in the time.

Region 3 has been up to a lot lately.

We're gearing up for our Joint Summit with Region 2 in Hammond, Louisiana, which is scheduled for March 16-18, 2012. Along with planning for Summit, which is much earlier in the year for us in Region 3, we're working on Awards nominations for the Region awards, and also promotions that the members wish to be presented at Summit. Then the winners of the big "Of the Year" awards will get passed on to the Fleet for the big awards to be presented at IC in Memphis.

We hope to see many of you at the International Conference in Memphis, Tennessee in August this year. Region 3 is hosting a hospitality suite and room party to promote the IC in 2013, which will be held in Dallas, Texas, August 1-4, 2013. While you're at the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, come on by Region 3's Room and sign up for 2013 and party with us, Region 3 style!

Comm Signal from the Third Fleet



Caption: Crew of the USS Navras, and me, the RC at Rocket Park at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, September 17, 2011.

Navras crew: LT Kurt Whittenberger, ENS Kenneth Shaw, ENS Adam F. Dugger, 2LT Vince Silmon, LCDR Anna M. Duch, CMDR Jeremy Mayes, LTJG Stephanie Naboshek, CAPT Cody Glenn, and LT Jason Edwin Oliver. R3 RC: FCAPT Reed Bates, Member of the Ark Angel Station.



The Artemis Bridge Simulator On Right is USS Battle Born's CMDR Norbert Kessen. On the left was a nephew of a USS Trinity River member.

Rank, Name
Chapter
Region
Position Etc



Chaplain's Chat

Recent research shows that while 52% of participants in a resolution study were confident of success with their goals, only 12% actually achieved their goals.

Since this is my first article for the New Year of 2012, I thought it might be interesting to make note of some particulars in the area of New Year's resolutions since they tend to affect individuals in many ways; physically, emotionally, and spiritually. After doing some research, I've come up with the following guide that I hope will enlighten my readers with some understanding of what this is really all about. You would be surprised at the number of people that make resolutions but don't really know why.

A New Year's resolution is a commitment that an individual makes to one or more lasting personal goals, projects, or the reforming of a habit. According to Gretchen Rubin, author of best-seller "The Happiness Project", "You hit a goal, you achieve a goal. You keep a resolution."

This lifestyle change is generally interpreted as advantageous. A New Year's Resolution is generally a goal someone sets out to accomplish in the coming year. Some examples include resolutions to donate to the poor more often, to become more assertive, or to become more environmentally responsible. A key element to a New Year's Resolution that sets it apart from other resolutions is that it is made in anticipation of the New Year, and new beginnings.

There are religious parallels to this secular tradition. During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashanah, through the High Holidays and culminating in Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), one is to reflect upon one's wrongdoings over the year and both seek and offer forgiveness. People may act similarly during the Christian fasting period of Lent, though the motive behind this holiday is more of sacrifice than of responsibility. The concept, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement annually.

Popular goals include resolutions to:

- Improve health: lose weight, exercise more, eat better, drink less alcohol, quit smoking, stop biting nails
- Improve finances: get out of debt, save money
- Improve career: get a better job
- Improve education: improve

grades, get a better education, learn something new (such as a foreign language or music), study often,

- Improve self: become more organized, reduce stress, be less grumpy, manage time, be more independent, perhaps watch less television, play less sitting-down video games
- Take a trip
- Volunteer to help others, practice life skills, use civic virtue, give to charity

For the year 2012, the top 5 resolutions, as identified by a SlideShare survey are:

- Be financially-savvy
- Read at least one book per month
- Eat properly
- Get enough sleep
- Keep a journal of awesome moments.

Recent research shows that while 52% of participants in a resolution study were confident of success with their goals, only 12% actually achieved their goals. A separate study in 2007 by Richard Wiseman from the University of Bristol showed that 78% of those who set New Year resolutions fail, and those who succeed have 5 traits in common. Men achieved their goal 22% more often when they engaged in goal setting, (a system where small measurable goals are being set; such as, a pound a week, instead of saying "lose weight"), while women succeeded 10% more when they made their goals public and got support from their friends.

The desire of improving, the commitment to outperform is somehow inherent to the human being. However, most of these resolutions fail. Making

a resolution is not enough, you need to structure a work plan to be successful and define the resolutions with a well thought methodology. We can create this road map with the following 7 steps:

1. Having the right mindset
2. Category identification
3. Selecting the resolution
4. Quantifying the resolution
5. Setting intermediate milestones
6. Setting the tracking tool
7. The tough decision: Abandon or persevere

Having the right mindset "The nearest way to glory is to strive to be what you wish to be thought to be." - Socrates

Before facing the complexity of making a resolutions list we face a vague desire to change. "My life is already good, what happens if I don't change; Nothing!" We need a mindset change.

The best usage of our time is improving ourselves. We can achieve great improvements if we are focused and motivated. Perseverance is key to get to our goals. More than an exercise at year end, to blame ourselves about the things that we have done poorly, this should be a new personal philosophy. A clear determination is that we aim to become better human beings in one or several categories. Certain people get more focused on their resolution if they share it with their friends and relatives. Others don't. Just get to know yourself and decide what works best for you.

Only after having this mindset, we can start with the first step: identifying the categories that we want to address.

Have a blessed New Year!

RADM Russell Ruhland
USS DaVinci
Region 2
Chief Chaplain

BDR Bryan Jones
USS Tiberius
Region 2
Deputy Chaplain

Ray Seay's vision for the ship was that it would perform the mission of charity and public service to the community.

USS Ronald E. McNair Celebrates 18 Years



December 18, 2011 found the crew of the USS Ronald E McNair gathering at Fatz Café in Columbia, SC having a celebratory 18th anniversary dinner. Christmas gifts were exchanged and we all had a great time reminiscing about things we have done as a chapter and how far we have come since being launched in 1993. members present for this event were McNair CMO Captain DJ Powers, Counselor Commodore Barbara Lariscy, Captain Denise James, CPO Wil James, their friend Amanda as well as their service dogs Ensigns Max and Titan, and Commanding Officer Commodore Pamela Michaud.

History of the USS Ronald E. McNair

Founded by Ray Seay and Cookie Williams, the ship started out as a new chapter, known as a shuttlecraft, under the sponsorship of the USS Olympus which was headquartered in Sumter, SC. We were launched as a SFI shuttle December 15, 1993. After working hard for several months the shuttle acquired the required number of members to qualify for full ship status and was commissioned as the USS Ronald E. McNair, NCC-61809) November 5, 1994 The crew (chapter members) chose that the McNair should be a Nebula

class starship that functioned in the Star Trek Next Generation timeline in their virtual storyline. It was named in honor astronaut Ronald E. McNair a mission specialist that was killed in the Challenger launch accident. Ronald was a native of Lake City, SC.

Ray Seay's vision for the ship was that it would perform the mission of charity and public service to the community. This was the heart and spirit of Gene Roddenberry's vision of help and fellowship that he fostered through the creation of the Star Trek television series. The crew of the McNair performed numerous services such as blood drives for the Red Cross, Adopt a Highway clean up missions, serving as participants in the world famous Jerry Lewis Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy and many other services. The crew also did various projects to generate revenue for charities and operating costs by having bake sales, car washes, and selling items at local flea markets.

The crew of the ship not only did charity work but also enjoyed participating in trips known as away missions to various Star Trek and science fiction related conventions and events. As a member of Region One of Starfleet International, the ship's crew participated in the annual Region One conferences as well as serving as security volunteers for many conventions conducted throughout the North and South Carolina area to include some excursions to events in Georgia and Virginia. In 1995 at a convention conducted in Columbia, SC, Ethan Phillips, the actor who portrayed Neelix from Star Trek Voyager, was a guest host. He was recruited by Ray Seay and became a charter member of the USS Ronald E. McNair. Over the next year the ship would continue with its core mission of helping others but was able to sponsor two conventions of their own in the Columbia area. The first happened in November of 1996 and had as its main guest William

Shatner. This was significant in that Mr. Shatner had not performed for a convention crowd in many years. Ray Seay stepped down as captain of the McNair in February of 1997 and was replaced by Stephen Stott. Stephen Stott's tour of duty as captain was short but in that short time the McNair was able once again to sponsor a convention in the Columbia, SC area. Actors that played Nog from Star Trek Deep Space Nine and Chewbacca from Star Wars fame were the guest stars, and this event, once again, served to increase the prestige and popularity of the USS Ronald E. McNair as a leading science fiction club in the region. Due to military commitments and a move, Stephen Stott had to step down as captain of the McNair and turned over command of the ship to Jerry Ward. Over the years the McNair has had various Commanding Officers. We still hold true to the original vision set forth by Ray Seay.



Barbara Lariscy, Pam Michaud (behind Barbara) and DJ Powers



From left to right Wil James and Max, Back row from left to right: Barbara Lariscy, Pam Michaud, Denise James and Titan, Madame Q

COMM Pam Michaud
USS Ronald E.. McNair
Region I



Charitable Teamwork Spotlight – The USS Firebird and 314th MSG

The members of the USS Firebird and the 314th MSG have become known for their dedication to animal welfare and environmental support. The crew is a study in the possible diversity of group actions. Sound odd? Maybe it is, but it works for us.

Rather than maintaining a single 'official' charity as many chapters in SFI and SFMC traditionally do, we elected to diversify and encompass individual interests. We work toward annual goals as well as indulging in spur of the moment activities.

With our interest in animals, especially pets, and their being treated humanely, we are not fanatics. We understand that for a group as small as ours to make large changes in the way society thinks and deals with animals is statistically very low. Instead we work from the underside of the issue, promoting good pet care habits (both by example and article publication), proper choosing of pets (informal talks, and article publication), and adoption rather than purchasing from puppy mills (discussions with possible pet adopters and article publication). We pick up strays off the side of the road and get them into no-kill shelters, often rehoming them before they ever even get to a shelter. We collect materials including pet food and old linens for donation to our local animal shelter. We strongly encourage others to do the same – on all counts.

Our current command staff alone has between them five dogs and three cats -- all rescues from the road side or shelters. Some of these pets are already members of PetFleet, with more to come.

The collection of old towels and other linens for the animal shelter ties directly in to our reduce/reuse/recycle activities. Collecting these items for donation keeps them out of landfills. We diligently recycle plastic grocery bags, either by dropping them into collection bins or using them in crafts. Paper is collected from numerous sources, including not only our own junk mail, but bro-

ken cardboard shipping boxes and old catalogs from various members workplaces. The paper material is broken down as needed and dropped in a collection bin, usually with the Montgomery County Central Library and the USPS collection box at the post office.

Several of us maintain home composting projects and pocket gardens. Rather than raking our yards and bagging the material to be hauled off, we compost it and use the resulting dirt to maintain our gardens, flower boxes and hedge rows. Using the material in this manner helps to control erosion, increase the health of our yards, reduce low spots where water can collect and promote mosquito growth, and annually keeps several hundred pounds of biodegradable material away from landfills. The gardens, while they can be time consuming, offer a variety of fresh produce that has not been exposed to harsh chemicals or other potential toxins.

Speaking of food, we make donations to the Red Barrel collection points when grocery shopping or cleaning out our kitchen cabinets. Any non-perishable food item that is not expired is welcome in the barrels. Similar donations have been made to the Houston Food Bank and its Conroe equivalent. Untouched leftovers from large gatherings and holiday feasts have been donated to a local soup kitchen.

Our kids and their parents volunteer time and materials to their schools, including helping with the preparation of holiday luncheons and room parties, Career Day volunteers,

Rather than maintaining a single 'official' charity as many chapters in SFI and SFMC traditionally do, we elected to diversify and encompass individual interests.

chaperoning parties and field trips, assisting with fundraisers, and buying goodies from those same fundraisers.

We volunteer with at least one sci-fi convention a year. If we can get to more, we volunteer there as well, regardless of whether we have paid to attend. We assist in their marketing by word of mouth and sharing flyers to promote fandom wherever we may.

Then there are the donations of clothes and toiletries to the local women's shelter, clothes, shoes and toys to the Houston Area Charities

checkout in the grocery store and into firemen's boots, and pretty much any other worthy cause we stumble across in the course of our daily lives.

We maintain annual memberships with the Museum of Natural Science Houston and the Houston Zoological Society. We have a sponsor's brick at the zoo (a donation marker), and hope to add another one in 2012.

There's more that doesn't come to mind at the moment. We are always looking for ways to lend a helping hand in our community, and those communities we visit.

We have donated thousands of points from MyCokeRewards.com to Toys for Tots in the past. MyCokeRewards has also allowed us to donate hundreds of points to Artic Home (a polar bear support project), and the USO.

donation boxes, Purple Heart and the Salvation Army. There are lots of children in our crew, and they outgrow clothes fast. What is not given to other kids of friends, neighbors, or family is bagged up and donated in order to help others.

Toys for Tots is a special seasonal favorite. We collect new, unwrapped toys throughout the year for donation at a Toys for Tots drop point in early December every year. We have donated thousands of points from MyCokeRewards.com to Toys for Tots in the past. MyCokeRewards has also allowed us to donate hundreds of points to Artic Home (a polar bear support project), and the USO.

We have members with a special interest in women's health, who participate in several walkathons each year, with sponsorship from the crew as we are able.

We drop change into the Salvation Army collection buckets during the holidays, Ronald McDonald House change boxes, give a dollar or two to PetsMart Charities when shopping at PetsMart, make donations for Muscular Dystrophy at the

All of this from just one small crew. We are not big or flashy, but we get a lot done.

What is your crew up to?

CAPT
Cathay 'Denah' Osborne
USS Firebird
Region 3

I will say that of all of the MMO's that I have played over the years, this is the first one that not only do I enjoy crafting (weapons etc) but I also very much enjoy the missions (quest).

SFI Fleet STO



Greetings Starfleet; We have built a Fleet (like a guild in other MMOs) specifically for SFI Members, with in the game of Star Trek Online. This is a Massive Multi-player Online game that is free to play and free to download. Yes, it costs you nothing to hook up with your shipmates or for that matter, with members from other regions.

The Voice Chat available and the fact that you can invite several people onto your ship means that you're entire SFI ship/unit can meet up digitally and hold a cyber meeting at no cost to any of you. This can be done even if your computer is old. Your graphics may not be as pretty, but you can still join a meeting this way. With today's fuel prices, and units stretched all over this can be a good option.

Once you have played with the character creator and found your way past the intro mission then contact us using global chat. Right click on any Chat Tab in the chat window to bring up the Chat Configuration Window. Click on the Channels Tab and enter the name of the channel you wish to

join (sfi-org) in the Join/Create window. Then click Join. The maximum number of channels you may be subscribed to is twenty. If there is someone online then we can bring you into the Fleet at that time. Sometimes its not very fast because we are not all on at the same time. You and I for example, must be on at the same time for me to invite you to the SFI Fleet.

We do not have a Fleet for the Red or KDF Side as yet. So all factions of SFI are welcome here, and this includes SFMC, Regions, Ships, General Staff, Fleet Staff. All of which contribute to the Fleet Ranking System for our Online Fleet. Example, we have a specific rank and access set up for Ships Captains and First Of-

ficers. And another for Regional and Higher Officers/Enlisted. Then we also have Senior Officers and Enlisted in the same ranking. Junior Officers and Enlisted, Civilian Attache's and Red Shirts. Civilian Attache's are SFI friendlies and non SFI Ship members. RED Shirts are prospective members to SFI that have no Ship Affiliation.

I will say that of all of the MMO's that I have played over the years, this is the first one that not only do I enjoy crafting (weapons etc) but I also very much enjoy the missions (quest). There are also player made story lines, my First Officer tells me this is a blast but I have yet to try it. In the beginning the ground combat left a lot to be desired, but they have worked out those bugs. You can also

turn off the silly grid lines when flying through space by the lower right hand button (Turn Off Astrometrics).

I personally, like my brother (the other moderator) have a monthly paid account. So I have a couple lvl 50s (maxed) and some pretty impressive ships. You do not need to become a paid subscriber, and if you do then its the standard 15 dollars a month. For me it is worth it, but again seriously not needed to have many hours of fun.

Lastly, we would like to start holding Fleet Missions, but we have around 20 people right now. When I look at the number of SFI members that play MMO's I think to my self that it would be great if everyone that could, would download and make even just one toon (character) for the Fleet. For soon STO is coming out with full Star Bases for Fleets. On these we can run around, make repairs, get missions and generally have our own chat area.

COL Mitch "Raven"
Dunn
ISS Pinguin
Region 5



Warp Theory for Dummies: Warp Drive Explained - How Starships Move Faster Than Light

If you've ever watched a rerun of Star Trek and wondered what the crew of the Enterprise means when they say they're traveling at "warp speed", then this is the article for you: an explanation of the theory behind warp drive.

The galaxy's a big place. In fact, just going from one star to the next involves distances so great they break the mind. Take our sun, for example. Our closest neighbor is a star called Alpha Centauri. It's 4.4 light years away. A light year, by the way, is the distance a beam of light covers in the span of a year. (Keep in mind that light travels 186,000 miles in one second.) This means the 4.4 light year distance to Alpha Centauri translates to 25.81 trillion miles, equivalent to going around the world a billion times. Yes, a billion. And that's our closest neighbor!

So if you're going to make a TV show where people fly around in a starship having adventures in different solar systems, the ship should probably have some way of traveling faster than light in order to make the show exciting. Let's say you want it to be plausible, not 100% true-to-life documentary-quality accurate, but it should at least be sort of believable. It's a good goal, right?

There are a couple of problems with trying to travel faster than light:

1.) The laws of physics. Technically speaking, light's the fastest thing there is, which makes lightspeed the speed limit of the universe. Nothing can go faster than light. It's the law!

2.) Energy. A rocket engine, the best kind of engine we currently know how to build, works by creating thrust: it makes a controlled explosion whose force is vectored out the end of the rocket, making it move. But rockets can be inefficient: the rocket engines needed to make a single space shuttle go fast enough to escape the pull of Earth's gravity are huge, noisy, and messy, and they don't go anywhere near lightspeed. Think about how fast light travels. How would you build a rocket big enough to push something that fast?

Where would you put all the fuel? The design challenges are immense, even for a TV show.

3.) Relativity.

The short version goes like this: Einstein's theory of relativity states that the closer you move toward lightspeed, the slower time will move for you. Say you get on a ship and I stay here on Earth. Your ship somehow manages to get close to lightspeed while you're looking at your watch, and you count ten seconds before the ship comes to a halt. Ten seconds passed on your watch, but on mine at home, a year went by. We celebrated my birthday, somebody had a kid, and a whole season of Parks & Rec came and went while you counted off those ten seconds on your ship! The relativity problem makes faster-than-light travel a little weird, to say the least. If you want to make a TV show about a starship, not time travel, you've got to find a way around relativity.

On Star Trek they have warp drive. That's not a name they chose at random. The Enterprise doesn't use rockets; its engines don't create thrust or leave a trail of exhaust. Two basic things make warp drive work:

Magical TV sci-fi technology that bends the fabric of space. The

Warp drive literally warps the fabric of space to propel a ship faster than it should legally be allowed to go.

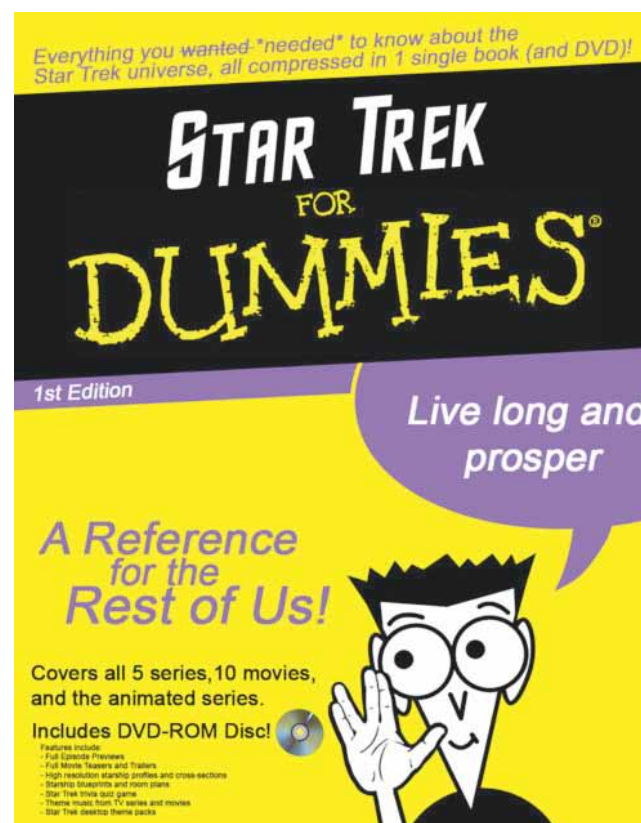
universal truth that objects that are twisted up will always try to untwist themselves naturally - crumple up a

creating a kind of bubble of twisted space around the ship that's like a giant greased-up football. That's the first thing in action. The second thing (objects that are twisted up always try to untwist themselves) comes into play immediately thereafter: the fabric of space is always trying to untwist itself around the warp bubble, which is shaped in such a way that the untwisting closes on its tail end, squirting the ship forward.

And since they're doing it by warping space itself, they don't have to play by its speed limit. The Enterprise can move faster than light. Much faster, as it turns out: the top speed of the Enterprise on ST:TNG is about 1500x lightspeed.

This is also how they get around the relativity problem. Inside the warp field bubble, time moves at the usual rate because technically speaking, the ship isn't actually moving - space is warping around it, making it move.

That's the theory behind warp drive. According to quantum physicists, it's apparently mathematically sound. The trouble is that nobody knows how to actually do that first thing: how to make that warp field bubble. The technology, if it even exists, is way beyond us, at least for the moment. But at least we can imagine how it would work, and that's pretty cool, too.



Information adapted from *Star Trek For Dummies*, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

sheet of parchment paper and watch it relax, for instance.

Warp drive literally warps the fabric of space to propel a ship faster than it should legally be allowed to go.

Imagine a football. Now dip it in some lard or engine grease (or both, why not). What would happen if you tried to grab it? The football would squirt out of your grip. The act of trying to close your hands on its tail end causes it to pop out of your clutches.

That's what the engines on the Enterprise do. They put out a "warp field" that bends the fabric of space,

Sal, the former commander of STARFLEET, came to a party where we drank Romulan ale (the non-alcoholic kind), laughed and celebrated “Star Trek.”

Sal Lizard Visits The USS Angeles



ENCINO, Calif. — STARFLEET’s top Santa Claus beamed down the proverbial chimney for a night of “Star Trek” games.

Santa — aka Sal Lizard, the former commander of STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. — visited a party on January 14 hosted by Kayla Zaraka and her son Alex O’Neill. More than a dozen USS Angeles members and guests attended the party in Encino, a community in Los Angeles.

Sal, came to a party where we drank Romulan ale (the non-alcoholic kind), laughed and celebrated “Star Trek.” Not even the presence of a Borg (or at least a life-size cutout of one) could break up our fun.

Not to say that things didn’t get dramatic. There were intense rivalries between players who found ways to make each other pick up card after card after card. No mercy was shown as we played a relentless game of Star Trek Uno!

We also successfully stumped a “Star Trek 20Q” game, which tried to identify objects from “Star Trek” lore. This small starship had a screen, and on that screen, it asked us questions, figuring out obscure “Star Trek” names and events. We suspected it had artificial intelligence!

We figured out the best way to beat the device was to use terms from the animated “Star Trek” series, which was apparently not in its memory banks.

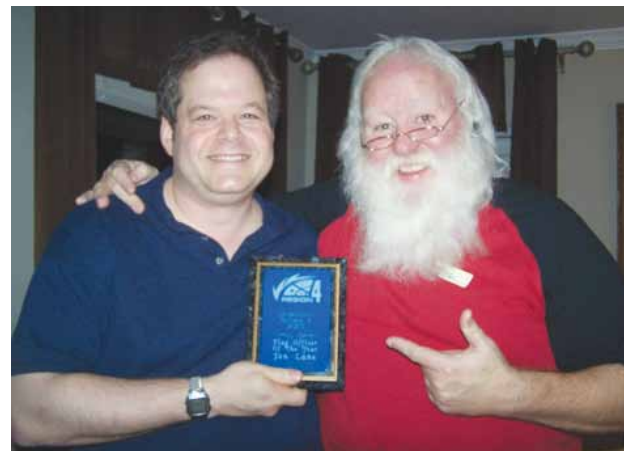
Also at the party, Alex, a teenager, showed his uncanny knowledge of “Star Trek” as his team won the “Star Trek Scene It?” game. Seriously, Alex blew us away when he looked at a “Scene It?” picture on the TV screen and identified the missing character from a simple table and a circle with fancy lights! We knew it had something to do with the Borg. Alex knew it was a “Star Trek: First Contact” scene and that the missing

character was Data. What’s more, Alex knew it in a second!

Besides proving “Star Trek” is in good hands with the next generation, Alex was promoted to crewman, as was Kayla. Chris Mulrooney, who oversaw the “Scene It?” game, was promoted to lieutenant commander. And as Sal watched, the man who worked for him when he was STARFLEET Chief of Communications, Jon Lane, received his Region 4 award for Flag Officer of the Year. I received the award on Jon’s behalf in October at the Region 4 Conference in Henderson, Nevada, a Las Vegas suburb, but this party was the first chance to present it to Jon. (Sal, whose home is in New Hampshire, was in the Los Angeles area visiting Jon.)

During the party, Sal, who has played Santa in appearances for children and in the 2009 thriller “The Box,” entertained us with his stories and showed us his “sleigh” — a red 2009 Chevy HHR decked out with flashing lights. Sal told us he has convinced kids that the sleigh really flies, and Sal has his own genuine Santa beard. He said the beard is so effective that motorists on freeways and streets have given him the right-of-way after seeing his face. Everyone wants to be nice to Santa!

Thanks for hosting, Kayla and Alex!



CAPT Dave Mason
USS Angeles
Region 4

Executive Committee Reports

News and updates from the head honchos.



Report From The Commander STARFLEET

Hi there, and welcome to another edition of The STARFLEET Communiqué!

As I'm writing this, I've been hearing the first comments from our International members about their impressions of CQ166, and reception has been pretty good so far!

I'm told that there will be a survey in edition 167 for the members to send in their feedback on the magazine format (which I hope as many of you have taken part in and sent in your thoughts and told us what you think), which at the time I'm writing this is at about 90% completion and should be finished shortly... so the Communications Department has already told the EC that next couple of editions are going to be fast turn-around in order to get us back on-track and on-schedule again.

Again, we do very much apologize for the lateness of the CQs.

Moving on to more pleasant things happening in STARFLEET, and something that we had posted about on our Facebook page, but we've had a pair of our more famous and notable members return to STARFLEET as members.

I'd like to take a moment to welcome Bjo and John Trimble back to STARFLEET! It's been a while, and we've missed you!

For those of you who don't know who Bjo and John are, they were part of the "Star Trek Welcomittee" who, back in the 1960's, organized the "Save Star Trek" campaign that helped to get Star Trek renewed for a third season.

According to an article I read on the web, the campaign started after a visit to the set around the time that the show was to be cancelled after the second season. On the way home from their visit, John had apparently said that there should be something that they could do to help, and by the time that they had arrived home John and Bjo had a basic plan worked out, after which they called and cleared the idea with Gene Roddenberry, and were given the green light.

So, Star Trek's longevity has



something to thank the Trimble's for. It was also this campaign which has since inspired so many other letter writing campaigns through the years because of its success!

If you are so inclined, please post a note on our Facebook page welcoming Bjo and John home again to STARFLEET.

I'd like to take a few minutes now and talk about something that I saw when I was reading various chapter and regional reports in January.

One chapter reported in their Monthly Status Report that they're having some issues in keeping things fresh, entertaining and engaging for their members (not quite in those words, mind you) and that several of their members have decided to not renew their memberships over the course of the last few years because "the club doesn't do anything."

In their MSR, the CO of the chapter noted that they're a correspondence chapter, so their primary means of communication is through their chapter newsletter, but the chapter seems to have the same peo-

ple contributing month after month, and the ones who are concerned are the ones who don't send in anything for their chapter newsletter.

So, the CO asked if there were any suggestions that could help them. And I think that the answer for this chapter might be in what other chapters are doing.

A few hours before reading this, I was reading a different regional report that noted what the chapters were doing in that region, and there was something in there that immediately jumped to mind for this other chapter in need.

What I read was that a correspondence chapter was taking advantage of one of the newer methods of social networking and are in the midst of a Twitter-based role playing game that has taken them from visiting a starbase, to encounters with aliens like Klingons and Cardassians, to vacationing on Risa.

When I saw this, I thought it was a great idea for a correspondence chapter to take part in! It's something that, with how prevalent smart-

phones and tablets have become, can be taken with you everywhere you go, takes only a few minutes to get caught up on and to participate with the other members of your chapter

Another option, especially now that Star Trek Online has opened as Free to Play, is getting online with your chapter members to play STO, fight a few Klingons, Orions or some Gorn, explore some of the galaxy and hang out with your friends in the game. With the unlimited options available in the game, you can play cooperatively with your friends and live for a little time in the world of Star Trek!

The message that I'm hoping that is coming out of this is that there are plenty of ways to have fun and interact with the members of your chapter, and of STARFLEET, some that we may not have given thought to before, all you have to do is to give something a try, and see how well it goes.

And with that, I'll close out for this edition, and talk to you again in CQ169.



FADM Dave Blaser
USS Hadfield
Region I3

Commander,
STARFLEET

The Second Fiddle

With this article I would like to cover what is happening in the Annual Campaign, a great department within STARFLEET under my office.

The STARFLEET Annual Campaign is hard at work to bring some friendly competition to us all. In late December 2011 the winners of the 2011 Short Story contest were announced. I personally want to pass on my apologies to all those participants that had to wait so long in order to find out who won. We encountered some difficulties along the way that caused that delay. In case you did not see that email announcing the winners here is the winners again

- 5th place with *The Nexus: Scenes in a Life* - Timothy Wilson USS Riverside
- 4th place with *Imrani and the Tale of Two Winters* – Ken Hancock unassigned Region 10
- 3rd place with *Immortalization of the Flying Dutchman* – Daniel

Nye unassigned Region 15

- 2nd place with *Reliquary: The Letters* – Kandy Ray USS Corsair
- 1st place with *Paroxysm* – Brian Mullins USS Maquis

Congratulations to all the winners! In this issue of the Communique you will find the 5th place story *The Nexus: Scenes in a Life*

For the first time this past fall, the Annual Campaign ran the Fleet Admiral's Challenge. This first challenge was to donate as much food as possible to a local area shelter. Any chapter in STARFLEET could participate as long as the donation was an actual product and not a monetary donation. Below is a list of all the chapters that participated and the amount of food they donated.

- USS Constellation – 1325 lbs.
- USS Ravensclaw – 603 lbs.
- USS Anasazi – 400 lbs.
- USS Vre'kasht – 358 lbs.
- USS Kitty Hawk – 306 lbs. 12.85 oz

- USS Pillar L. Mitchell – 230 lbs.
- USS Heimdal – 184 lbs. 4 oz
- USS Haven – 184 lbs.
- USS Continuum – 139 lbs. 2 oz
- USS Justice – 139 lbs.
- USS Hadfield – 71 lbs.
- Dark Silence Station – 60 lbs.
- USS Zavala – 30 lbs.
- ISS Hexum – 20 lbs.
- ISS Pegasus – 12 lbs.
- USS Saint George – 11.5 lbs

That is a total of over 4000 lbs of food! Thank you for all the hard work of all of these chapters. I am sure that we will see more of these Fleet Admiral's Challenges in the future!

Some new contests for this year that already have been announced is the Recruitment Video contest and soon to be announced (if not already) the Recruitment Poster contest. We have a ton of talented members in STARFLEET that are in graphic design and fan film production, so let's see

those talents at work.

A few other things that the Annual Campaign is working on include a STARFLEET Blood Drive, Trivia contest and even bowling tournament. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on these or any other idea that you have for the Annual Campaign drop them an email at campaign@sfi.org

EC



MGN Bran Stimpson
USS Tiburon
Region I7

Vice Commander,
STARFLEET

Did you know your STARFLEET membership gives you access to exclusive discounts?

Log into the database at db.sfi.org under Member/Membership Perks for deals on everything from hotels, to printing, to costumes and uniforms and even special SFI only extras in Star Trek Online!



Best Internet Rate
GUARANTEED





STARFLEET Academy News

The year 2011 has come and gone in a flash. I remember my parents telling me as one gets older it seems the years go by faster. I totally understand what they meant.

Many things have happened to me in my personal life that has and is continuing to change my future. I do hope that early 2012 will find my life settling down somewhat.

In 2011, Jeff Davis who at the time of his death was our director with the College of Engineering and Orion Orientation College left us on May 13, 2011 and Gloria Hansen-Cooper who was a past director (Vulcan Academy of Science) of STARFLEET Academy left us on May 23, 2011. "Somewhere a journey begins at the end of the worldly existence we know....." Rest in Peace, Jeff and Gloria.

On a more cheerul note, 2011 was a growing year for STARFLEET Academy. The Institute of Cadet Studies has grown to include our much younger members, (ages 6-10). Other Institutes and colleges have also grown with additional courses.

I am pleased to announce that we have another recipient to the Cadet Honor Star Award. Nick Elder completed the entire Cadet College of Federation Studies with 1 Honor and 6 Distinctions. AWESOME! I'll be mailing out his special Awards certificate and gold star pin at some point today.

Remember those of you who direct Cadet Colleges that when you have a Cadet who has fully completed a Cadet College with Honors and/or Distinctions to let me know so I can send that Cadet the same Award. They can earn as many awards as there are Cadet Colleges.

I'd love to see a Cadet weighed down by loads of star pins. See further on in this article for a list of Cadet Colleges that I'm sure many cadets would love to try out.

The College of Federations Studies has gone through a complete overhaul with additions, which I'm sure many members have enjoyed just by looking at the numbers of graduates we have had since the restructure.

College of Unusual Knowledge was created and is continuing to add on new and interesting material out there for STARFLEET members to gain more "unusual" knowledge and have fun.

The College of Classic Detective Mysteries, another new college, will require investigation of various novels and research of television and movie adaptations of novels to find the clues to the courses presented.

Everyone remembers Buffy the Vampire Slayer and the handsome Angel who ended up with his own show. Well, we now have a college about them...the College of Buffy and Angel.

The Institute of Law Enforcement and Evidence has also added the College of Fire Fighting and Rescue Technology. It will not certify anyone to be public safety personnel; however it will allow the members who take the courses within this college to better understand what these public safety individuals go through for all of us along with the equipment and technology they use in their everyday

services.

Within the Institute of Sci-Fi on Television (IOSFTV) there is a college for Battlestar Galactica fans.

We have also seen an increase of new directors as well as an increase of interest from members of STARFLEET to become involved within our halls of STARFLEET Academy.

STARFLEET Academy, thanks to our webmaster Jayden Tyronian, has a new website, which he is constantly working on with improvements for both members as well as staff. Thank you JT as well as Carol Thompson who has been assisting him with all the additional information needing to be constantly entered due to the Academy's constant budding and blooming.

I thank everyone within the Halls of STARFLEET Academy for their hard work and determination that continues to make our part of STARFLEET the jewel it has been known to be. What a team; what a family.

HUGS to all and may we have as prosperous a 2012 as was 2011.

From the desk of Coordinator of Academics: ADM Carol Thompson

The turn of the year saw the formation of two Institutes from the Institute of Science Fiction Studies: the Institute of Sci-Fi on Television (IOSFTV) and the Institute of Science Fiction in Cinema (IOSFC). The IOSFC's Dean is Annie Wheeler and the IOSFTV's Dean is Larry French.

Early in 2011, it was obvious that the IOSFS had outgrown itself. Year-long preparations were made to divide the Institute into two smaller ones. Pending exams and Colleges were pushed through approval. A new Dean was trained to take over one of the Institutes. The webmaster, having been given an early heads up, created the new webpages to upload on New Year's Eve. The Support Administrative Assistant planned out the changes that would have to be made to both databases and in the printed catalog. Everyone was ready for the Big Day!

New Year's Eve came. All our preparations paid off! The division went off flawlessly with the Webmaster and the Support Assistant working in concert. The two new Institutes

were set up and the Colleges were moved to the respective Institutes. It all took less than an hour!

The changes in the STARFLEET database automatically showed up on member records.

This is the third split of the IOSTS since 2008, when the Institute of Star Trek Studies was created. In 2010, the Institute of Fantasy, Horror, and Superheroes was created out of the IOSFS.

In development are a number of new Colleges for the Institutes of Law Enforcement, Arts, Science, Leadership, Military Studies, and Star Trek. With the development of new Colleges, we will see new faces in the faculty. New blood means that Academy will keep up with the times and will be infused with new ideas and new vitality.

There has been some confusion on where to go with portions of the old and new websites on line. Here are my recommendations for quickest access to the courses and to the Academy newsletter.

*College pages and Request

Course system:

<http://acad.sfi.org/courses/index.php>

*Printed catalogue for those who cannot apply online:

http://www.sfi.org/portal/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=12&Itemid=99

Chose "STARFLEET Academy Application" which lists all current courses. Though not an application form in the strictest sense, it can be used to check off what you have taken and to obtain the contact information for the Directors you wish to take courses from.

* Academy quarterly newsletter The Monitor:

<http://www.pfrpg.org/sfa/news.htm>

The index page allows you access to past, as well as current, issues of the newsletter. The Monitor features quarterly lists of the Academy graduates, as well as changes in faculty and Colleges.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on a well-deserved promotion:

Chris Tolbert to Fleet Captain

From the desk of the SFA Newsletter Editor: FCPT Cher Schleigh

A mirror site of STARFLEET's Quarterly Academy Newsletter has been set up at: <http://www.pfrpg.org/sfa/news.htm>

Not only will you read about the latest happenings at Academy, but the Quarter's Academy graduates are also listed.

Newsletters from 2009, 2010, and 2011 are uploaded for your reading pleasure.

5,012 total courses taken = 1,670.66 monthly average courses were taken during the fourth quarter.

The total of exams created/taken for 2011 = 18,256. SFA people were busy and so were members taking exams.



ADM Peg Pellerin
USS Constitution
Region I5

Commandant,
STARFLEET
Academy

We are currently working on our choices for the Squad Awards that will be presented at the 2012 IC. These Awards are for the Best of the Best of 2011 in the Adult colleges (Red Squad), Cadet Colleges (Blue Squad), Family participation of colleges (Gold Squad) and the SFA Staff/ Faculty of the Year.

NOVEMBER BOOTHBY AWARDS

- Bronze 50*
11/23/2011 Clark, Aaron
11/22/2011 Johnson, Kevin
11/11/2011 Hamilton, Steve
11/11/2011 Bonham, Richard
11/05/2011 Radle, John
11/01/2011 Rutter, Troy
- Silver 100*
11/03/2011 Barr, Rufus
11/01/2011 Purdie, Ken
11/01/2011 Bingisser, Dewayne
11/01/2011 Jones, Bryan
- Gold 150*
11/26/2011 DeSpain, Jeremy
11/20/2011 Lechner, Leslie A
11/16/2011 Bingisser, Dewayne
- Latinum 200*
11/27/2011 Conner, Jerome
11/10/2011 Polanis, Mark
11/04/2011 Hof, William
11/01/2011 White, Joseph
- Diamond 250*
11/20/2011 White, Joseph
- Titanium 350*
11/20/2011 Leverence, Betty Ann

- Zirconium 400*
11/08/2011 Buffington, Barbara
- Platinum 450*
11/15/2011 Garcia, Ricardo
- Garnet 600*
11/20/2011 Schleigh, Cher
- Amethyst 700*
11/03/2011 Ruhland, Russell
- Pearl 750*
11/12/2011 Schaller, Scott
- Opal 800*
11/01/2011 Miller, Marlene
- Sapphire 850*
11/23/2011 Miller, Marlene
- Emerlad 950*
11/26/2011 Dobrin, Donald
- Bronze Star 1050*
11/25/2011 Newman, Franklin
11/16/2011 Pawelczak, Thomas
- Truman Temple 1100*
11/16/2011 Allen, TJ
- Gold Star 1150*
11/18/2011 Tipton, Jill
11/01/2011 Diebold, Glendon
- Latinum 1200*
11/14/2011 Diebold, Glendon
- Diamond Star 1250*
11/23/2011 Killough, Wayne
- Titanium Star 1350*
11/08/2011 Johannson, Eric

- Platinum Star 1450*
11/01/2011 French, Larry
- Trilithium Star 1500*
11/24/2011 French, Larry
11/10/2011 Smith, Wayne
- Amber Star 1550*
11/20/2011 Fisher, Josephine
- Opal Star 1800*
11/01/2011 Thompson, Carol
- Sapphire Star 1850*
11/18/2011 Thompson, Carol
- Bronze 50*
12/31/2011 Satonick, Stephen
12/28/2011 Toole, Daniel
12/27/2011 Wilson, Jonathan
12/11/2011 Garrett, Jason
12/08/2011 Bailey, David
- Silver 100*
12/09/2011 Conner, Kara
12/01/2011 Mullins, Brian
- Gold 150*
12/05/2011 Wagner, John
12/04/2011 Hutley, Jim
12/01/2011 Schoenthaler, Joanne
- Latinum 200*
12/15/2011 Bingisser, Dewayne
- Diamond 250*
12/17/2011 Baxter, Patricia
12/10/2011 Wandall, Ed
12/08/2011 Polanis, Mark
12/07/011 Baxter, Bobbie
12/01/2011 Labbe, Amy

DECEMBER BOOTHBY AWARDS

- Dilithium 300*
12/01/2011 Herring, James
- Trilithium 500*
12/10/2011 Garcia, Ricardo
- Amber 550*
12/26/2011 Skelton, Jeremy
- Pearl 750*
12/11/2011 Ruhland, Russell
- Bronze Star 1050*
12/04/2011 Hewitt, Richard
- Diamond Star 1250*
12/08/2011 Diebold, Glendon
- Dilithium Star 1300*
12/15/2011 Stubblefield, Erik
12/01/2011 Killough, Wayne
- Titanium Star 1350*
12/06/2011 Killough, Wayne
- Zirconium Star 1400*
12/14/2011 Killough, Wayne
- Platinum Star 1450*
12/19/2011 Killough, Wayne
- Trilithium Star 1500*
12/26/2011 Killough, Wayne
12/14/2011 Wheeler, George Ann
- Amber Star 1550*
12/27/2011 Killough, Wayne
12/20/2011 French, Larry
12/03/2011 Smith, Wayne
- Garnet Star 1600*
12/28/2011 Killough, Wayne

Riddle Me This

Buckets, barrels, baskets, cans;
What must you fill with empty hands?

Look for the answer in the next issue!
Last Issue's riddle: *Brought to the table. Cut and served. Never eaten.*
ANSWER: *Cards*



EC

Featured Colleges

COLLEGE OF CLASSIC DETECTIVE MYSTERIES

Colonel Leo Rogers,
Director
pillarmitchell@yahoo.com
1718 E. John St.
Appleton, WI 54915

The College of Classic Detective Mysteries will require investigation of various novels and research of television and movie adaptations of novels to find the clues to the courses presented in this college.

INSTITUTE OF CADET STUDIES

(Not new but several new colleges & courses)

Cadet Cardassian Orientation College
Cadet College of Borg Technology
Cadet College of Federation Studies
Cadet College of Law
Cadet College of Mathematics
Cadet College of Science Fiction Studies

Cadet College of Security
Cadet College of Space History
Cadet College of Spooky Friends
Cadet College of Superheroes
Cadet College of Xeno Studies
Cadet Preparatory College
Cadet Romulan Orientation College
Cadet Vulcan Academy of Science
Cadet Vulcan Orientation College

The Cadet Studies Courses are courses specifically designed for the youth members of Starfleet, or those members due to some handicap are unable to complete the standard course.

If you are an adult without limitations, do not apply for the Cadet Studies courses.



Computer Operations Report

They say that time flies when you're having fun. If the old adage is true, then the Computer Operations department has been having a LOT of fun lately as time just seems to be flying by! As most (if not all) of our members know, the CompOps department has been remaining busy with the project to update and upgrade the Membership Database to something more up-to-date and streamlined. As of the writing of this article, our database is being upgraded from it's current versions of PHP and MySQL to the most current versions. There have been snags along the way, but what snags we have hit we have been able to smooth out quickly. Once these updates are done, we'll be able to start adding new forms and upgrading the current ones which will allow general members, CO's, and the ECAB to do a lot more within the database.

Our webmaster, VADM Laura Victor, is also keeping busy with a lot of projects including the moving of the Region 15 website from a

privately hosted web server onto our sfi.org server. Those who make use of the Region 15 site should be able to access the first version of the site (the new URL is <http://r15.sfi.org>) as of the publication of this article. As the months go by, more features will be added on to the site.

Also on our webmaster's plate is taking part in a PR Taskforce which is gearing up to start a BIG recruitment push for the release of the new Star Trek movie (slated to be released on May 17, 2013) in theaters. This push will include providing new recruitment materials and downloads to chapters as well as collaborating with other online communities to get the word out about STARFLEET. Anyone interested in joining this task force can email ADM Brandt Heatherington at pr@sfi.org.

On the fun side of things, be ready to fire up your DeLoreans and travel back in time to 1985.....with the online editions of CQ's #10 and #11! Thanks to long time STARFLEET member (and USS Avenger charter

member) FCAPT Brenda Bell, who graciously offered to scan her collection of well preserved print Communique's, our CQ archives are stretching WAY back to a golden time when our only new Trek came from movies and novels (oh wait, that's TODAY!). Head over to SFI.org's Document Center at <http://docs.sfi.org>, click on "Starfleet Communique Archives" and download CQ's #10 and #11. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll kiss three hours goodbye as you pore over fan fiction, laugh at ancient Trek "gossip", and marvel at classic photos (WOW! Look how much hair we had back then!!) Fortunately we have a generous supply of plutonium here at CompOps HQ (no Libyan terrorists to worry about....we are still working on getting a hold of the blueprints for Mr Fusion). If that fails, there is always the "slingshot a starship around the sun at warp speed" option! So, expect more intrepid time travel adventures in the near future. Keep an eye out for more classic CQ's in the coming months!

Finally, if you are looking for an opportunity to do the same kind of work our intrepid webmaster does, only with a lot more pins on your uniform, the STARFLEET Marine Corps is looking for a webmaster to maintain its site at <http://sfi-sfmc.org> including updating news and staff listings, maintaining report forms, and adding new features to the site. SFI and SFMC membership and Web design experience is required. Experience with Joomla or other CMS experience is optional. Please send your resume to infocom@sfi-sfmc.org.

That about ties this up. In closing I must say a big thank you to my staff: ADM Sam Black, VADM Laura Victor, Ensign Andrey Kuznetsov, and all of my list moderators. You folks make this job a true joy and I couldn't do this without you. Thank you all! Until next time, Fleeters!



COMM Chris Carothers
USS Richthopen
Region 7

Chief Computer
Operations,
STARFLEET

CFO Report

Here it is 2012, according to some the last year of planet Earth. But my understanding from a descendent of the Ancient Mayans (he was our tour guide at the ruins in Belize last year) is that the Mayans, just like today, had calendars and when one calendar ran out (ie 2011) they merely replaced it with the next edition. So if this is true we just have not found the next edition of the Mayan Calendar. However, that is not relevant to the report that I am here to present.

The CFO office has been quite busy getting things lined up to file the yearly 990's. The 990's have been signed, sealed and delivered to the IRS in advance of our extension deadline. I would like to thanks Tammy Willcox and Pat Spillers for tackling this task. They have done a wonderful job in making sure our taxes have been taken care of! It has been a very difficult year for most of us real life wise and this required a large chunk of time and effort on their part.

I would like to urge everyone to check out the Quartermaster Site and take advantage of the specials that Pete is running there at the current time. There are some vintage patches and t shirts available that will never be offered again. So if you are a collector NOW is the time to make your move before all the good stuff is gone.

I have completed the filing of the state sales taxes for the 4th quarter of 2011, although not without some drama. Once again I had problems due to the change in how Jefferson County, Alabama accepts their online filing. After much anguish and phone calling, I was able to get a paper return faxed to me this morning and I am glad to say that the USPS has it in their trusty hands for delivery.

The holidays saw a nice flow of traffic at both the SFI and SFMC quartermasters. We'd like to say a big thank you to all of the STARFLEET members who were patrons of your organizational stores.

I would also like to encourage everyone to take part in their regional Summits and the upcoming

International Conference/Muster. If you have not attended one of these events, you owe it to yourself to do so. It is always a great time with great people. Put faces to the names that you see on the lists and find out just how much fun these folks really are.

DECEMBER FINANCES

SFI Main account opened the month of December with a balance of \$20,038.33

There were credits in the amount of \$6,399.98

There were debits in the amount of \$5,219.42

Closing balance for December 31st was \$21,218.89

IC Even account opened the month of December with a balance of \$1,227.46

There were credits in the amount of \$0

There were debits in the amount of \$16.00 (bank fees)

Closing balance for December 31st was \$1,211.46

IC Odd account opened the month of December with a balance of \$1,504.10

There were credits in the amount of \$0

There were debits in the amount of \$0

Closing balance for December 31st was \$1,504.10

The STARFLEET Scholarship account opened the month of December with a balance of \$24,194.23

There were credits in the amount of \$1.64 (interest)

There were debits in the amount of \$0

Closing balance for December 31st was \$24,195.87

The balance in this account is high due to closing two CD's and placing the funds into the savings account until we can find a better rate that 0.35% This gives us access to the funds rather than having them tied up should we find a good rate. If anyone is aware of a better CD rate, please contact me at cfo@sfi.com and we will certainly look into it.

Remaining CD balance is \$1,110.26, the interest rate is 0.35% and it drew \$6.09 in interest last year.

SFMC Main account opened the month of December with a balance of \$4,398.46

There were credits in the amount of \$431.64

There were debits in the amount of \$55.81

Closing balance for December 31st was \$4,774.29

SFMC Scholarship account opened the month of December with a balance of \$2,725.78

There were credits in the amount of \$0.19 (interest)

There were debits in the amount of \$0

Closing balance for December 31st was \$2,725.78

JANUARY FINANCES

STARFLEET Main account opened the year (month of January) with a balance of \$21,218.89.

Credits to the account totaled \$4,149.36

Debits totaled \$2,490.49

The closing balance on January 31st was \$22,877.76

The International Conference Even Account opened the month with a balance of \$1,211.46

Credits to the account totaled \$56.50

Debits totaled \$16.00 (bank fee)

The closing balance on January 31st was \$1,251.96

The International Conference Odd Account opened the month with a balance of \$1,504.10

There were no credits or debits to the account therefore the closing balance was \$1,504.10

The SFI Scholarship Account opened the year with a balance of \$24,195.87

(This includes the two CD's that were closed due to low interest rates) Interest earned for January was \$1.64 Closing balance on this account was \$24,197.51

The STARFLEET Marine Corps Account opened the month with a balance of \$4,774.29

Credits to the account totaled \$67.30

Debits totaled \$22.30

Closing Balance was \$4,819.29

SFMC Scholarship account opened the month with a balance of \$2,725.78

Interest earned \$0.18

Closing balance \$2,725.96

All 4th quarter 2011 state taxes to Alabama, Florida and North Carolina have been remitted.



GEN Linda Olson
USS Relentless
Region 2

STARFLEET Marine Corps Reports

News and updates from the marines.



State of the SFMC

Greetings to all members of the SFMC

As usual, the timing issues associated with any regular periodical means that by the time you have written your copy, events and time have moved on. And by the time the piece actually gets read, the topic may seem a little out of kilter with the period in which it is published.

But notwithstanding that, or the timing of the publication of this article, I wish to welcome all marines to a whole new year, in which we will later in this year, celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the SFMC as an organization. No doubt there will be much written over the months ahead on this subject but for myself, it is simply excellent to consider that this organization has been running for three decades and still goes from strength to strength.

It is also very worthy to consider all that has gone before and that in those thirty years, the amount of effort, time, energy, passion and commitment that has been expressed and implemented by many, many marines, is quite simply worthy of our

absolute and utmost admiration.

The General Staff are currently working as a team to review and revise the SFMC manuals – most especially the Marine Forces Manual (MFM) – and in doing so, we have been taking the time to quite simply read, review to absorb the sheer volume of work that has gone before, in the compilation of the material in these wonderful resources we have on hand.

Sure, these have been built on over many years and have been contributed to by a huge array of people in that time (far too many mention here) – but the point being made is that we can use these manuals as a means of reflection of the efforts and outstanding achievements that many marines in our past went to, in the establishment to what is undoubtedly one of the best fan organizations ever created. Our manuals have provided the base platforms of our culture and the efforts and professional elements included within these are quite simply remarkable.

The SFMC has only withstood the test of time due to the commitment of

a lot of dedicated people. Certainly, there have been “issues” and a few problems from time to time – but it is very much doubted that anyone could point a finger at the SFMC and say “well they are lucky to still be around...” We stand almost outside the Star Trek fan world as sometimes something of an enigma (“there were no marines in Star Trek...”) but we have always stood here tall and proud.

I have no records to indicate the number of marines that existed when this all first began, but the fact that our membership over the last few years has equated to anywhere between 20 and 24% of total STARFLEET International membership, shows that many have come to recognize the importance of our place here and that becoming a marine means a whole lot more than just “playing at soldiers”. We have a rich and robust culture that carries with it a continually growing pomp and circumstance that is the absolute envy of other fan organizations. We have strong and sensible policies and a doctrine that supports every marine in passing pride of membership. We have a camaraderie

that once understood and acknowledged, brings acceptance that “once you are a marine you are always a marine...” We have an organization that is filled with men and women of all ages who take enormous pride in their uniform dress and that they can wear the SFMC Delta and Anchor to proclaim their membership and to display the personal honors earned in genuine effort to the Corps; to STARFLEET International, or to their local community.

And it is all this dedication of purpose; this sense of great pride in membership; and the friendly, passionate manner by which we express ourselves as marines to other people, that has enabled us to survive and more importantly to grow, over the last thirty years. There may have been no marines evident in the Star Trek movies or TV series but it is highly doubted that anyone can today truly question our right to ownership in that the SFMC certainly belongs in the world in which we all come to play and work in. Semper Fi Marines!

BGN Bruce O'Brien
USS Southern Cross
Region II

Commandant SFMC



State of the NCO Corps

Greetings Marines!

As usual, I am coming to you from my reserved booth in the back in the corner in the dark of the local NCO club, where we frown on practicing PLFs (parachute landing falls) from the top of the bar (the paperwork gets filed under Training Accident and the damages come out of your own pocket) and the cook knows more ways to disguise Spam than a shady 20th century Internet site.

As I write this, 2011 is in the books and it has been a busy year for the enlisted members of the SFMC. It started with the new General Staff and MSGT John “Kiwi” Kane being appointed as COFORCECOM. As the year continued, the various BDEs started passing out their annual awards, leading to a very tough deci-

sion when the International Muster rolled around that saw the Star of Honor being awarded to GSGT James “Fireball” Maarsingh and the first ever Cadet Star of Honor awarded to LCPL Noah Cook. Meanwhile, for the second year, the Cadet Star of Honor went to CDT SGT Anya Walker.

I am going to take a sidebar here, and remind you all once again that in spite of all the hard work these award winners put in, a big reason they got the recognition they did was because someone took the time to recommend them for it, and wrote nominations that spelled out not only how they qualified for the award, but why they deserved it. As we head into 2012, remember that assuming the Other Guy is going to nominate a deserving Marine for an award is generally a disappointment looking

for a place to happen.

The Other Guy also tends to fail at getting community service projects up and running. Remember that the MFM tasks the NCOs of the SFMC with taking a lead in their unit's community service efforts. No matter how small the community you live in, there is ample opportunity for Marines to make a difference. No effort is too small, and please let me know of special efforts' in your units so I can give you due praise in this report.

To that end, I would like to remind you that, although the SFMC is generous with recognition for your community service endeavors, whether it be hours spent on Toys for Tots, or simply helping clean up a local park, we should never lose sight of the words of CDT CPL Alexandra “Squirrel” Shepherd, who said she

did community service projects “because people need help”.

2011 also saw the debut of a new Recruiting and Retention award, which formally retired and replaced the old recruiting badge, while FORCECOM established a Recruiting and Retention office to help the SFMC continue to grow. Given that the MFM also charges NCOs with taking a lead in recruiting and retention activities, this was big news for the enlisted members of the Corps. Again, a key word here is “retention”. It is not enough to get people to join the SFMC only to drop out again. Take the time to get know those new Marines, help them fit in, and be sure to reach out through the NCO Chain of Support with any questions or concerns you may come up with. One thing that can not be stressed enough:

MSGT Jerome A.
“Hawk” Stoddard
USS Thermopylae
Region 5

Sergeant Major
SFMC

"I'm not sure, but let me find out." is an acceptable answer to any question where circumstances warrant it. Take the time to get the facts, and be sure to be clear on whether your answer is a hard fact (say, by citing the MFM) or your personal opinion.

As always, remember that the SFMC General Staff is here to serve you. 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. And, remember that some of us tend to read and follow the SFMC group on Facebook, so feel free to comment and share with your fellow Marines there.

Perhaps the biggest news for me, personally, in 2011 was when I started compiling some hard data on the actual number of enlisted members in the SFMC. Anecdotal data suggested that it was in the 10-15 percent range, but after a year of compiling real numbers drawn from the reports of 5 BDEs of various sizes and locations (comprising about 40 percent of the total SFMC membership), the real number appears to be over 25 percent, and the percentage in the sample is trending slowly upward. The enlisted membership of the Corps has proven to be widespread and apparently growing. There is no

hard and fast answer on why this is happening, but I suspect it is due to the example set by the many fine "career NCOs" of the STARFLEET Marine Corps over time.

Now, it's time for Top's History Lesson. To many people, the Korean conflict of some 60 years ago is the "forgotten war". Marines, of course, remember it for such things as the Inchon landing and "Chesty" Puller at Chosin Reservoir. But, we often forget it was an international effort, and soldiers from many nations of the UN fought there.

One of those was 24 year old PVT William Speakman, of the famous Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), at the time attached to the 1st BN, Kings Own Scottish Borderers'. On November 4, 1951 the Scots came under heavy enemy attack beginning in the early morning hours, and by late afternoon fierce hand to hand fighting was taking place all along their line. PVT Speakman, attached to company HQ, learned that the left flank of their line had suffered severe casualties, including all its NCOs, and was being overrun. He decided on his own initiative to do something about it.

Speakman gathered up six men and some grenades ...a LOT of grenades, and led his small party in a

series of furious charges against the enemy, driving them off the crest of the hill time after time, and inflicting heavy casualties on the superior enemy force. After the tenth such charge, he was wounded in the leg, and was directly ordered to stand down and get the wound attended to. So, Speakman had a field dressing applied to the wound ...and grabbed some more grenades. He continued to lead his small party in furious attacks on the enemy for a total of four hours, and his actions were credited with being directly responsible for the safe withdrawal of the rest of his troops.

According to reports of the time, at one point, with the supply of grenades running low, Speakman began throwing empty beer bottles at the enemy. Another report states that he threw rocks, sticks, or whatever came to hand. In all, he led 15 successful charges against an enemy force numbering thousands. His personal courage and outstanding leadership enabled his little band of troops to fight the enemy to a standstill, and a grateful nation recognized this, when William Speakman was granted the supreme honor of the Victoria Cross by a young Queen Elizabeth II (Speakman was the first person she gave her nation's highest award to).

Speakman was not one to rest on his laurels. Instead of courting the fame his decoration brought, he continued to serve the armed forces of Great Britain until his retirement in 1967 (after 22 years of service), eventually rising to the rank of Sergeant. As I write this, at 84 years old, he is the second oldest living holder of the Victoria Cross, and his story serves as an example to enlisted soldiers everywhere. The London Gazette had this to say on December 25, 1951:

"His great gallantry and utter contempt for his own personal safety were an inspiration to all his comrades. He was, by his heroic actions, personally responsible for causing enormous losses to the enemy, assisting his Company to maintain their position for some four hours and saving the lives of many of his comrades when they were forced to withdraw from their position.

Private Speakman's heroism under intense fire throughout the operation and when painfully wounded was beyond praise and is deserving of supreme recognition."

Semper Fi!

INFOCOM Report

Seasons Greetings Marines,

With Christmas now behind us, the personnel of the Datawarfare Center can move on to other things and not have visions of Sugar Plums dancing in their heads.

Let's get started.

Pingdom:

The Pingdom report for November showed us with 1 outage and an uptime of 99.65%. The average response time was 432 ms. These numbers are in line with previous results.

Infocom Bullet Points:

Tomorrow, Infocom will be turning in their bullet points for the coming year. I won't elaborate too much here, Infocoms main objectives for 2012 are a new SFMC website, AODE, updating the SFMC manuals,

and fleshing out the rest of the staff.

Attention on Deck Extra:

As you may already be aware, AOD:E is back. Thomas Carroll is our new editor at the helm and he did a great first issue. We are expecting great things from Mr. Carroll. You can download Tom's first issue as well as all back issues by visiting the documents center of the SFMC website.

Staffing:

When I took office, I had a great staffing plan laid out. Unfortunately, that plan took a back seat to necessity because Infocom had to get up and running. With the department running, I felt it was time to revisit the old plan.

I will be talking to the ADOIC's in January about staffing ideas and

how they would coordinate in their areas. Towards the end of January we will be announcing new positions and begin the application process. One key role that we have been looking to fill is a CGI/PHP Programmer.

Autonomous Testing:

The SFA has autonomous Testing in the form of their FACS system. It was in the Commandants Briefing at IC 2011 that Tracom and Infocom were asked to look into this. While not a bullet point for 2012, it will be something Infocom works on.

Communication Achievement Award:

The COINFOCOM awards the Communications Achievement Award. Have you done or do you know somebody who has done something worthy of this award?

Submissions can be made for designing a website or newsletter, writing a story or song, composing music, making a video. The sky is really the limit.

Some might say my work wasn't good enough or significant enough. To that, I say, you won't know until it gets submitted.

Well, that's all I got for this month.

To all my marine buddies out there, have a safe and Happy New Years and I will see you again in a month.

Semper Fi.



BDR Michael Timko
USS Vortex
Region I

CO INFOCOM SFMC



LGN Michael McGowan
USS Bortas
Region I2

CO TRACOM SFMC

Greetings Marines,
As you read this I'm sure that you, like us here at TRACOM, are preparing for the holidays. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

A few quick notes before we get to the rundown:

Currently, both the MO School and the ADC Office are experiencing some computer difficulties. The MO School is currently being backstopped by DCOTRACOM. ADC is running a bit behind, but is working around the problems to still get certificates out, albeit at a speed penalty. Please be patient with both. Both are expected to have problems corrected shortly after the first.

The basic rundowns for 2011 are as follows: (Jan 1 ñ Dec 9)

Total Grades Issued: 1920
Unique Students 233

School Grades	
AE	182
AR	92
Cadet Academy	70
CE	72
CA	1
IN	112
LD	114
MO	108
ME	34
MD	72
MH	8
NCO	94
OD	141
PD	377
SO	122
ST	4
SU	77
XA	37
XB	18
XC	63
XJ	18
XK	55
XR	26
XV	22

TRACOM Items Issued	
Academic Excellence Award	54
Advanced Medical Proficiency Award	3
Advanced Studies	1
Aeromedical Wings	6
Aerospace Wings	31
Combat Medic Insignia	3
Infantry Advanced Device Silver	16
Initial Entry Training	96
Leadership Silver Wreath	38
Leadership Gold Wreath	22
Leadership Gold Wreath w/Red Background	4
Marine Proficiency Ribbon	37
Mecha Cape	4
Mecha Sash	13
Mecha Wings	3
Medical Device	4
Medical Proficiency Award	13
NCO Development Ribbon	16
Parachutist Wings	21
Professional Development Award	25
Special Operations Device	5
TRACOM Commander's	1
Team DELTA	4
Total Issued	420

In the year since taking office, I have hired nine people to fill posts within the command, including creating 2 new posts. Generally, vacancies have lasted only the time required to allow the prescribed 30 day application period to expire.

Looking forward, TRACOM is moving towards complete replacement of all TRACOM manuals dated prior to 2010 and updates of 2010 manuals. We will be continuing toward improving our customer support response and effectiveness. Though there have been some difficulties, I'm pleased overall with the performance of TRACOM and the Academy in providing service to our members.

Again, please enjoy the holidays in both happily and safely. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the new year.



FORCECOM Report

As you were, Marines
This report is coming to you from the tiny officer just behind the front desk in the reception area of the Starfleet Marine Corps HQ Building where I'm currently sitting filing daily reports and pulling weekend duty as the Administrative Officer of the Day There's a small replicator in the corner of the office and a cozy cot to crash out on in-between walking security rounds of the building with one of the small collection of enlisted staff who have managed to annoy their immediate NCOs enough to find themselves sharing this weekend duty with me.

For me, it was just my turn as 'Low Sentient Being on the Alert Roster'. I'm simply trying hard to ignore the fact that my immediate 'Boss' [COFORCECOM] is currently suffering through his 'Off Duty Time' visiting 'sunny Southern shores' testing local 'field rations' and making sure he keeps his fluids up throughout the trip.

I'm still trying to ascertain what the addition of a small paper parasol to the container brings to the overall testing protocol, but I'm sure he'll

bring me up to speed on this when he returns.

Since I'm covering the FORCECOM Office during the time this article needed to be submitted, it's my turn to present the FORCECOM report as well. The subject of this month's report is 'PRTM'.

'PRTM' stands for 'Please Read The Manual' [which is the polite variant of that other acronym we all know and love].

'PRTM' comes into play in all sorts of things that happen in SFI in general and the SFMC in particular. Little things like 'How do I wear this?' or 'What does that color of shoulder cord mean?' up to larger things like '?'. SFI has it's 'Members Handbook' which well all fall under. The SFMC equivalent is the 'Marine Force Manual'.

The MFM is chock full of tasty little bits of information. Anything and everything from the steps you need to take to create a new unit to 'who qualifies for what awards'. The MFM is the last and final authority for SFMC Policies and Procedures. If you run into a conflict in another manual, you follow what the MFM

says.

Also, 'PRTM' can be extended to other things such as awards, reports, etc. Sitting behind my current 'Desk In the Back Room' the major problem I'm running into are things coming to me incomplete. Little things like submitting an award request with a name misspelled or without an SCC# can literally make the difference between an easy submission and spending a lot of time and hair pulling just trying to figure out who everyone is talking about. Believe me, there is a world of difference between 'LCPL John Snuffy III' and LCPL Jon Snuffy 3rd'. So long as we up here in the Records Center have the SCC# we're still good. But without something, it's a long hard data base haul. Now multiply that by all the members of the SFMC.

Not a pleasant situation.

Also, just because you call yourself a Marine [which, by the way, is the only real requirement for membership in the SFMC], that doesn't always mean we upstream know that. Take a moment to visit the SFI database and make sure your affiliation is listed correctly. It's simple.

Log in using your ID and password [if you haven't gotten your password yet, contact the very helpful folks at the SFI Member Services Helpdesk - <http://helpdesk.sfi.org/>]. Once in, look down the left column and click on 'Member'. You'll get a new list of options. Click on the one that says 'Affiliations'. You are now given three options: 'Active', 'Reserve' and 'None'. If you want to be a Marine your choices are 'Active' or 'Reserve'.

If you have questions about the difference, just ask anyone in your Chain of Command or check the MFM. If you check either of the first two [A or R], we here at the SFMC Personnel Office [otherwise known as FORCECOM] can find you and add things like awards, etc. If you check 'None', it's a lot harder for FORCECOM to find you. A little quirk of the database information access system limits the records we can access to Marine affiliated members only.

Finding you and your information isn't impossible, but it does become harder.

Now some of your are probably thinking [or saying out loud] 'Hey!

MMSGT
John "Kiwi" Kane
USS Hornet
Region I

CO FORCECOM
SFMC

It's not my job to keep track of things. That's what my Unit OIC is supposed to do.' Well yes, to a certain extent it is. But why make it a lot harder for them and every single person up the Chain of Command who gets those reports? A few moments

on your part can smooth the way for future entries and also give you the chance to review your records and see if everything is correct.

And as any Mud Marine who has been around the Corps for any length of time will tell you 'If you don't keep

up with what's happening to your own records, no one else will.'

With all of that said, it's time for me to go back to work making sure all the 'Building Entry Access' records are correctly filed and start clearing space for the upcoming year's 'Memo

for Record' notices to start pouring in.

Time, tide and paperwork records wait for no Marine, let alone the Offices of Forces Command..

Stand Easy, Marines.

FINCOM Report

Happy holidays from FINCOM!! Everything seems to be running smoothly at this time. I would like to thank those of you that have been very supportive of my first year as COFINCOM, and look forward to 2012 with expectations of more exciting things happening here. Since it is the holidays and many of you are probably engaged in holiday festivities, I will keep the report short this month. Here are where the finances stand at this point: Have a safe holiday season and see you all in 2012!!

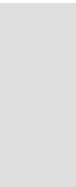
Bank of America SFMC Checking Account		Bank of America SFMC Scholarship Account	
Opening Balance	12/1/2011 \$4,398.46	Opening Balance	12/1/2011 \$2,725.59
Credits		Credits	
12/2/2011 - USPS	(\$6.84)	None	
12/5/2011 - Walmart-Shipping supplies	(\$11.64)		
12/9/2011 - USPS	(\$5.81)	Debits	
12/13/2011 - USPS	(\$17.80)	None	
12/15/2011 - USPS	(\$9.86)		
12/23/2011 - USPS	(\$3.86)	Net Change in Scholarship Account \$0.00	
Debits		Ending Balance	
None			12/27/2011 \$2,725.59
Net Change in Checking Account (\$55.81)			
Ending Balance			
	12/27/201 \$4,342.65		



MGN Patrick McAndrew
USS Antares
Region 5

CO FINCOM SFMC





SFA Course Catalogue

Institute of Leadership Studies (IOLS)

Dean | Admiral Wayne Killough
Email | robynhuntermgs03@gmail.com

Officer's Training School
Officer's Command College
Flag Officer's School
STARFLEET Officer's Leadership College
Academy Degree Program

Institute of Foreign Affairs (IOFA)

Dean | Commodore Jayden Tyronian
Email | jayden_tyronian@thunderdownunder.org

College of Down Under
College of Foreign Language Knowledge
College of United Kingdom

Institute of Alien Studies (IOAS)

Dean | Admiral Peg Pellerin
Email | mrspeapod@myfarpoint.net

Andorian Orientation College
Bajoran Orientation College
Caitian Orientation College
Cardassian Orientation College
College of Borg Technology
Ferengi Orientation College
The Gorn Academy
Klingon Warrior Academy
Orion Orientation College
Romulan Orientation College
Vulcan Orientation College
College of Xeno Studies

Institute of The Arts (IOTA)

Dean | Fleet Captain Wayne Smith
Email | academy@exemail.com.au

College of Classic Detective Mysteries
College of Communications
College of Economics
College of English
College of Genealogy
College of Humour
College of Law
College of Mythological Studies
College of Unusual Knowledge

Institute of Fantasy, Horror, & the Supernatural (IOFHS)

Dean | Lieutenant Colonel Erik Stubblefield
Email | erik.stubblefield@gmail.com

College of Buffy and Angel
College of Charmed
College of The Fantasy Realm
College of Macabre
College of Superheroes
College of Vampires and Werewolves

Institute of History and Government (IOHG)

Dean | Admiral Robert Westfall
Email | rwestfall99@kc.rr.com

College of History
College of Military History
College of U.S. Presidents

Institute of Intelligence and Espionage (IOIE)

Dean | Admiral Carol Thompson
Email | betazoid@mosquitonet.com

College of Bond, James Bond
College of Cryptography
College of Intelligence in Movies
College of Intelligence Operations
College of Intelligence in Sci-Fi
College of Intelligence in TV
College of Military Intelligence

Institute of Law Enforcement and Evidence (IOLEE)

Dean | Rear Admiral Glen Diebold
Email | ussniagara@roadrunner.com

College of Emergency Technology
College of Evidence
College of Fire Fighting and Rescue Technology
College of Law Enforcement
College of Law Enforcement Assets
College of Law Enforcement History
College of Law Enforcement Resources
College of Worldwide Law Enforcement Agencies

Institute of Life Science Studies (IOLSS)

Dean | Admiral Carol Thompson
Email | betazoid@mosquitonet.com

College of Animal Knowledge
College of Abnormal Psychology
College of Food Knowledge
College of Medical Knowledge
College of Medicine
College of Psychological Perspectives
College of Vertebrate Biology

Institute of Military Studies (IOMS)

Dean | Vice Admiral Will Burhans
Email | smiley35633@comcast.net

College of Military Knowledge
College of Military Movies
College of Security
College of Security in Trek
College of Starship Operations
College of Strategy & Tactics
College of Survival Studies
Vessel Readiness Certification Program

Institute of Science and Technology (IOST)

Dean | Admiral Sharon Clark
Email | sac@wolfnet.com

College of Archaeology and Anthropology
Chaplain Services College of Spirituality
College of Chemistry
College of Computer History
College of Engineering
College of Geographical Science
College of Mathematics
College of Physics
College of Spaceflight History
STARFLEET Officers Radio School
Vulcan Academy of Sciences

Institute of Science Fiction Cinema (IOSFC)

Dean | Marine General Larry French Sr.
Email | kmoghjih@gmail.com

College of Alien Contact
College of Artificial Intelligence
College of Sci-Fi Science
College of Space Travel
College of Time Travel
College of Star Wars

Institute of Science Fiction Television (IOSFTV)

Dean | Commodore George Wheeler
Email | ppgannie@mystarship.com

College of Alien Nation
College of Babylon 5
College of Battlestar Galactica
College of Doctor Who
College of Farscape
College of Sarah Jane Adventures
College of Sci-Fi Television
College of Stargate

Institute of Special Operations (IOSO)

Dean | Captain Donald Dobrin
Email | dstypalace@hughes.net

College of Special Operations in Movies
College of Special Operations Resources
College of Special Operations Training
College of Special Operations Units

Institute of Star Trek Studies (IOSTS)

Dean | Commodore Judy Waidlich
Email | waidlich@rci.rutgers.edu

College of Federation Studies
College of Parallel Studies
College of Star Trek Actors
College of Star Trek Literature
College of Temporal Physics
College of Treknology

Institute of Cadet Studies (IOCS)

Dean | Vice Admiral Richard Hewitt
Email | caphewitt@yahoo.com

Note | The Cadet Studies courses are specifically designed for the youth members of STARFLEET or those members due to some handicap are unable to complete the standard course.

Cadet Star Award | When a Cadet completes all courses in a college with grades of Honors and/or Distinction, he/she will receive a special certificate along with an Honor Star that he/she can pin to their uniform, bag, or whatever one wants in order to show how he/she did. The Cadet can earn as many pins as there are colleges.

Colleges | The following Colleges are located in this Institute

Cadet Cardassian Orientation College
Cadet College of Borg Technology
Cadet College of Federation Studies
Cadet College of Law
Cadet College of Mathematics
Cadet College of Science Fiction Studies
Cadet College of Security
Cadet College of Space History
Cadet College of Spooky Friends
Cadet College of Super Heroes
Cadet College of Xeno Studies
Cadet Preparatory College
Cadet Romulan Orientation College
Cadet Vulcan Academy of Science
Cadet Vulcan Orientation College

STARFLEET Promotions and Awards

Promotions and First Class and Second Class Orders of Merit

Awarded between August, 2011 and January 2012

To O-6 (Captain / Colonel)
Susan Beck - USS T. George

To O-7 (Fleet Captain / Brigadier)
Brent Chapman (USS Tejas)
Chris Tolbert (USS Aux Arc)
Harold Spears (USS Revelation)
Joesph White (USS Lone Star)
Norm Liddel (USS Haven)
Scott Christopher Schaller (USS Sinclair)
Dr. Caroline Singal (USS Tiberius)
Christina Doane (USS Jaresh-Inyo)
Christina Anderson (USS Revelation)
Christopher Bayonet (USS Vortex)
Julie Rickard (USS BortaS)
Michael Romero (USS Jamestown)
Dan Steenburg (USS Richthofen)
Maria Torres (USS Osiris)
Martha Ingles (USS Constitution)
Michael Soucy (USS Constitution)
Rick Driver (USS Richthofen)
Rosy Dorffner (USS Edinburgh)

First Class Orders of Merit
Alejandro Barreiro (Order of Roddenberry)
Gregory Jasmin Jr (Order of Samaritan)
Jeff Victor (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Laura Victor (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Wade Olson (Grankit Order of Tactics)
Sean Niemeyer (Order of Cochrane)
Betty Sivis (Order of Surak)
Bobbie Baxter (Order of Tarbolde of Canopus)

Second Class Orders of Merit
William Hof (Order of Babel)
Randy Dunn (Order of Babel)
Russell D. Ruhland (Order of Babel)
Wayne Smith (Order of Cochrane)
Scott Smith (Order of Samaritan)
Bob Vosseller (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Bobbie Johnson (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Emily Vosseller (Grankite Order of Tactics)
JJ Kelley (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Joe Dorffner (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Julia Victor (Grankite Order of Tactics)

To O-8 (Commodore / Brigadier General)
Anne Glover (USS Blue Sun)
Brian Griffen (USS Revelation)
Charlie Hess (USS Revelation)
Jay Ansky (USS Sovereign)
Linda Leonardy (USS Endeavor)
Rolando Gomez (USS Jeannette Maddox)
Eric VanArsdale (USS Endeavor)
James Pugliese (USS Ascension)
Jayden Tryonian (USS Atlantis)
Kris Dobie (USS Joan of Arc)
Mary Ann Pugliese (USS Adament)
Traci Giorganni (USS Sovereign)
Matthew Ingles (USS Constitution)
Oliver Savander (USS Tiberius)

To O-9 (Rear Admiral/Major General)
Allen Glenn (USS BortaS)
Jerry Conner (USS Yeager)
Judith Waidlich (USS Avenger)
Edward Tunis III (USS Corsair)
Fleona Dysast'ar (USS William O. Darby)
Neil Yawn (USS Hephaestus)

Ken Diehl (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Kevin Victor (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Kristie White (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Mike Allen (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Wayne Augustson (Grankite Order of Tactics)
Brian Landry (Order of Axanar, Order of Babel)
Charles "Ken" Bradley (Order of Babel)
Daniel Walker (Order of Babel, Order of Dionysus)
Darlene Patterson (Order of Babel)
Carl Christianson (Order of Dionysus)
Johnathon Pittman (Order of Dionysus)
Tracy Clark (Order of Dionysus)
Aaron Murphy (Order of Samartian)
Ben Slavin (Order of Samartian)
Bruce Schulman (Order of Samartian)
Carolyn Peters (Order of Samartian)
David Brandwein (Order of Samartian)
David Sladky (Order of Samartian)
DJ O'Brien (Order of Samartian)
Donna Parker (Order of Samartian)
Jack Eaton (Order of Samartian)
Joe Horton (Order of Samartian)
John Kane (Order of Samartian)

Debbie French (USS Inferno)
Jeffrey Victor (USS Challenger)
Michael Allen (USS Pride of Baltimore)
Wayne Augustson (USS Britannic)

To O-10 (Vice Admiral / Lietenant General)
Glen Diebold (USS Niagara)
Sunnie Planthold (USS Gasparilla)
Thomas Restivo (USS Richtofen)
Laura Victor (USS Challenger)
Patricia Lewis (USS Arizona)
Joseph Dorffner (USS Britannic)

To O-11 (Admiral / General)
Greg Franklin (SS Basilone)

Keith Shikowitz (Order of Samartian)
Laurie McFarland (Order of Samartian)
Mark Van Houten (Order of Samartian)
Mary Kane (Order of Samartian)
Michael Urvand (Order of Samartian)
Paul Reid (Order of Samartian)
Rosy Dorffner (Order of Samartian)
Sal Lizard (Order of Samartian)
Tom Guertin (Order of Samartian)

STARFLEET Staff

COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Fleet Admiral Dave Blaser
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK
(888-734-8735) Ext.: x701
E-mail: cs@sfi.org
Mailing Address:
74072-260 Guelph St.
Georgetown, ON L7G4B5

Chief of Staff to the CS
Fleet Admiral Les Rickard
E-mail: cs-cos@sfi.org

Historian
General Wade Hoover
E-mail: historian@sfi.org

International Conference Liaison
General Mark Anbinder
E-mail: ic@sfi.org

Inspector General
General Wade Hoover
E-mail: ig@sfi.org

Judge Advocate
BGN Larry French
E-mail: jag@sfi.org

Member Recognition
Admiral Linda Kloempken
E-mail: recognition@sfi.org

Director, STARFLEET
Scholarship Program
Fleet Captain Reed Bates
E-mail: scholarships@sfi.org

Director of Public Relations
Admiral Brandt Heatherington
E-mail: pr@sfi.org

VICE COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Major General Bran Stimpson
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK
(888-734-8735) Ext.: x702
E-mail: vcs@sfi.org
Mailing Address:
1114 Racine St.
Aurora, CO 80011

Chief of Staff to the VCS
Admiral Gary Halverson
E-mail: vcs-cos@sfi.org

Membership Processing Administrator
Brigadier Matthew Ingles
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK
(888-734-8735) Ext.: x2
E-mail: membership@sfi.org and
mp-vcs@sfi.org
Mailing Address:
STARFLEET International
P.O. Box 8213
Bangor, ME 04402

Member Services Administrator
Commodore Christina Sievers
E-mail: helpdesk@sfi.org
Need help? Visit the STARFLEET
Helpdesk at <http://helpdesk.sfi.org>

Orientation Director
Commodore Jason Schreck
E-mail: orientation@sfi.org

HR Director
Commander Robert Page
E-mail: hr@sfi.org
<http://hr.sfi.org>

Commandant, STARFLEET
Marine Corps
Brigadier Bruce O'Brien
E-mail: dant@sfi-sfmc.org

STAR Program
Lieutenant JG Anthony Dowling
E-mail: star@sfi.org
<http://star.sfi.org>

Pet Fleet Corps Coordinator
VACANT
E-mail: petfleet@sfi.org
<http://petfleet.sfi.org>

Annual Campaign Director
1st Lieutenant Aaron Clark
E-mail: campaign@sfi.org
Learn more about our Annual
campaign at <http://campaign.sfi.org>

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Brigadier General Joe Sare
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK (888-
734-8735) Ext.: x703
E-mail: ops@sfi.org and shoc@sfi.org
Mailing Address:
2716 Sinclair Avenue
Waterford, Michigan 48328

Vice Chief of Operations
Admiral Alex Rosenzweig
E-mail: ops-vice@sfi.org

Vice Chief of Shakedown Operations
Admiral Johnathan Simmons
E-mail: shoc-vice@sfi.org

Department of Technical Services
Admiral Alex Rosenzweig
E-mail: shoc-dts@sfi.org

Office of Technical Information
Admiral Alex Rosenzweig
E-mail: shoc-oti@sfi.org

DTS Schematic Artist
Captain George Flanik

Adv. Starship Design Bureau
Major General Joost Ueffing
E-mail: shoc-asdb@sfi.org

Correspondence Chapters Operations
Commodore Beau Thacker
E-mail: ops-correy@sfi.org
<http://correy.sfi.org/>

Recruiting & Retention Officer
Captain Chris Tolbert
E-mail: recruiting@sfi.org
and retention@sfi.org

Alumni Outreach Program Director
Colonel James Jones II
E-mail: james@mythicallegends.com

Monthly Status Report Officer
Captain Arthur Vaccarino
Monthly Status Reports (MSRs)
by email: msr-submit@sfi.org

Support Staff Director
Commodore Steve Bowers
E-mail: ops-support@sfi.org

CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Admiral Michael Dugas
E-mail: comms@sfi.org
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK
(888-734-8735) Ext.: x704
Mailing Address:
404 NW 36th Street
Blue Springs, MO 64015

Vice Chief of Communications
Fleet Captain Karen Mitchell-Carothers
E-mail: comms-vice@sfi.org

ACADEMY COMMANDANT

Admiral Peg Pellerin
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK (888-
734-8735) Ext.: x705
E-mail: academy@sfi.org
Mailing Address:
180 So. Reynolds Road
Winslow, ME 04901

Vice-Commandant,
STARFLEET Academy
Admiral Marlene Miller
E-mail: academy-vice@sfi.org

Coordinator, Academic Services
Admiral Carol Thompson
E-mail: academics@acad.sfi.org

Coordinator, Support Services
Admiral Gregory Staylor
E-mail: supportservices@
starfleetacademy.co

Chief, Electronic Services

Webmaster/Support Services Assistant
Fleet Captain Jayden Tyronian
E-mail: webmaster@acad.sfi.org

Academy Accessibility Program
Commodore Ron Novak
E-mail: sfaleadership@
zoominternet.net

CHIEF OF COMPUTER OPERATIONS

Commodore Chris Carothers
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK (888-
734-8735) Ext.: x707
E-mail: compops@sfi.org
Mailing Address:
2762 Yarnall Road
Halethorpe, MD 21227

Vice Chief of Computer Operations
Admiral Sam Black
E-mail: compops-vice@sfi.org

Database Operations
Andrey Kuznetsov

SFI-list Moderators
Colonel Rolando Gomez
Captain Marie Anderson
Fleet Captain James Cecil
Lieutenant JG Gregory Kleiner

SFI.org Webmaster
Rear Admiral Laura Victor
E-mail: webmaster@sfi.org

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Lieutenant General Linda Olson
Phone: 1-888-SFI-TREK (888-
734-8735) Ext.: x708
E-mail: CFO@sfi.org
Mailing Address:
9020 N STATE ROAD 53
Madison, FL 32340-3541

Vice Chief of Finance
Rear Admiral Tammy Willcox
E-mail: cfo-vice@sfi.org

Quartermaster
Admiral Pete Mohney
E-mail: quartermaster@sfi.org

Fundraising
Captain Joseph Horton
E-mail: fundraising@sfi.org



THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.sfi.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

STARFLEET is the fan organization with something for everyone. Members the world over are united in appreciation of the human 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 6-8 weeks for your membership packet to arrive. If you provide an email address or self-addressed stamped postcard, you will be notified as soon as your membership is processed. 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.

To join STARFLEET, complete this form and mail with payment (US Funds payable to STARFLEET) or Credit Card information to: **STARFLEET Membership Processing: PO Box 8213, Bangor, ME 04402.**

Member Information

Name:	Date of Birth:																		
Mailing Address:																			
City:	State/Province:	Postal Code																	
Country:	Telephone:																		
Email:																			
Chapter Affiliation:	Rank:																		
PAYMENT INFORMATION:																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check/Money Order																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card # <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa/Mastercard <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>																			
<input type="checkbox"/> Discover <table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>																			
Expiration Date		CVV Number (located on Back of Card)																	
Authorized Signature		Date																	

Membership Rates

Membership Classes	CIRCLE WHERE APPROPRIATE		
	USA	Canada	Other
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 has Changed

Membership Materials:

- ☐ I would like my material on a CD.
☐ I would like my material on Paper.

Please Note: List all participating family members names in the section below. List SCC numbers only if renewing memberships

Family Membership Member Information

			numbers only if renewing memberships			
Family Member Name		SCC Numbers	Rank (if Applicable)	Date of Birth	Chapter	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
02						
03						
04						
05						
06						
Family memberships are limited to six family members, and include one copy of each issue of the Communiqué.						

Starfleet Scholarship Donation (Optional)

STARFLEET, the International Star Trek Fan Association, 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. Additional information on specific programs available upon request. Scholarship donations are not currently tax deductible.

LeVar Burton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patrick Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marina Sirtis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Armin Shimmerman	<input type="checkbox"/>
James Doohan	<input type="checkbox"/>	DeForest Kelly	<input type="checkbox"/>	George Takei	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gene Roddenberry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law & Order	<input type="checkbox"/>	Space Explorers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Scholarship Donations Enclosed: \$_____			

October 2011 - CHECK
WWW.SFI.ORG FOR
UPDATES

Join on the Web

New Members please visit <http://join.sfi.org>
Renewing Members please visit <http://db.sfi.org>



IC 2012

Is Coming to Memphis, TN

August 3 - 5, 2012



The host hotel for IC 2012 will be the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center in Memphis, TN. The room rate for the IC will be \$99.

Rooms can be booked by calling 1-662-895-2941 or toll free at 1-866-851-0393

Be sure to mention you are with STARFLEET 2012.

Early Bird Registration has closed.

Registration for the IC is \$32 for adults and \$15 for children 6 to 12 years of age. Children 5 and under are still free.

Friday Dress Mess is \$30
Saturday Banquet is \$29.50

Special Guest at IC 2012 will be Eugene Rod Roddenberry

More info can be found at www.ic2012.com or
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/138023782902709/>