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THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

Communique

Happy Spring!

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HE'S ONE OF US.



Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard served as Commander, STARFLEET from 2008-2010.

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COMMUNIQUE

◀ I'm late, I'm late! For a very important date.
No time to say "Hello, Goodbye".
I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!

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Subspace Communications

News from around the fleet.

Leading by Example

VADM Sunnie Planthold
USS Gasparilla

On September 15, 2011 in Washington, D.C., President Barack Obama presented former USMC Sgt. Dakota Meyer the highest U.S. Military honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

This fine Marine made five death-defying trips in his armored Humvee saving 13 Marines and Army soldiers, and an additional 23 Afghan troops pinned down by enemy fire. He killed 8 insurgents while receiving only a shrapnel wound in his arm.

Now honorably discharged, this 23-year-old continued to finish his shift at a construction job before he would even take the phone call from a White House staffer trying to schedule a congratulatory call from the President.

"Dakota, I know that you've grappled with the grief of that day; that you've said your efforts were somehow a failure because your teammates didn't come home," Obama said. "But as your commander in chief . . . I want you to know it's quite the opposite. You did your duty, above and beyond."

Here is one bright spot, a quiet hero, on what is good and positive about our country. It isn't easy in these times for common, average men or women to keep their hearts uplifted from day to day on moving toward a better future. Even amid the many issues of change, he set an example of quality, of American humility, morals, and work ethic.

Thanks, Dakota, for leading with your living example!

May we do the same.

Away Team Report:

Academy of Science's 'Into Space' Nightlife Event

LTCMD Tom Hesser
USS Loma Prieta

Chief Engineer's Log: Having successfully traveled back into the early 21st century, we arrived at the California Academy of Sciences. The crew of the *USS Loma Prieta* split into teams to examine various aspects of this historic building. (Note: By the mid-22nd century, this bastion of scientific wonder was relocated to make way for the construction of STARFLEET Headquarters and STARFLEET Academy.)

Leading the Engineering team, and accompanied by Ensign Cindy Bee, I proceeded to examine future engineering technology as it applied to space travel during the early 21st century. Our attention was drawn to the NASA table containing the Kepler project. The Kepler project, or just "Kepler" is NASA's first attempt to find class M planets outside our own solar

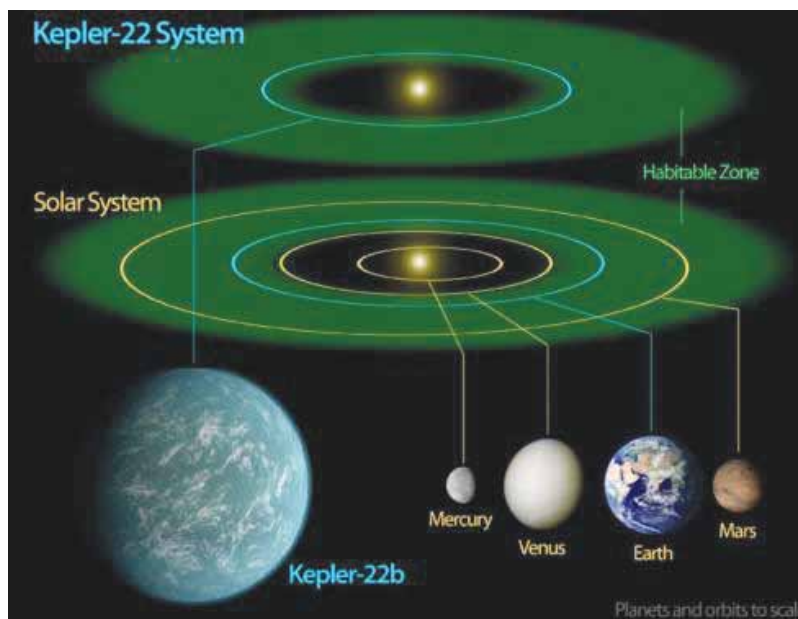
very sensitive, wide-field telescope called a photometer, Kepler seeks to detect planets that can support life. It does this by detecting light from nearby stars that is periodically blocked by orbiting planetoids. Kepler was launched into orbit around the Earth's sun (Sol) on March 6, 2009 and functions as a very precise light meter. Data from at least three transits of a planetoid must be collected in order to ensure that it is indeed a planet orbiting the given star. Transits occur when the orbit of a planet is along our line of sight to a star. These transits can last from a few hours to about half a day and happen once per orbit.

Once enough data has been collected, scientists can determine both the planet's size and its orbit from the transits. The planet's size determines if there could be a life-sustaining atmosphere. Knowing the orbit and type of a

can exist on a planet's surface. With the current understanding of carbon-based life, water is required for the chance for life to develop on a planet outside our solar system, at least life similar to our own. Of course, finding such a planet does not guarantee that it will support life, but this is the first step that NASA has taken to determine this without resorting to further manned missions within the galaxy.

Kepler is pointed at a rich star field in the Cygnus and Lyra regions of our galaxy, the Milky Way, and continuously monitors more than 100,000 stars to look for planets. In the early 21st century, Terra was still using a system called the Internet to communicate and store information. By current STARFLEET standards, the system was laughably inadequate. Using this medium, information regarding the project could be found at the internet address of <http://kepler.nasa.gov>.

It is amusing to note that STARFLEET crews have visited thousands of class M planets in its history, and one has to wonder if the Kepler project had detected any of those beforehand. Upon completing our research, Ensign Cindy Bee and I concluded our reports and went in search of synth ale. However it hadn't been invented yet so we had to drink a regional version of beer instead. I have to say, programmers for the replicators and manufacturers of synth ale should really come back in time and get some samples of beer so that they can more closely duplicate the flavors. If only the Academy had been dispensing whiskey, now that would've been a wonderful history lesson.



system. At this point in Earth history, the only manned space exploration has been to the Earth's moon.

Using a specially designed,

star, scientists can determine if the planet is in the "HZ" of that star. The HZ refers to the "habitable zone" and is the range of distance from a star where liquid water

Elden Simmons
USS Ludington

June 17th was a day that a Star Trek message saved my job, and my future. I am not going to go into complete details, but suffice to say, if I did not tell the complete truth when I did, I would have been terminated on the spot. I am sure that you will recognize the following quote:

"The first duty of every Starfleet officer is to the truth, whether it's scientific truth, or historical truth, or personal truth. It is the guiding principle on which Starfleet is based. If you can't find it within yourself to stand up and tell the truth about what happened, you don't deserve to wear that uniform." The above quote has saved me from several sticky situations that would have af-

fected my life a lot more than a job loss would. Seeing as I now have a chapter in Region 13, the quote has more of a meaning now than it had ever had. Now that I wear a uniform and attend Fleet-wide events, the quote has the same meaning for my crew as well. As I see it, every member that I trust with any sort of responsibility should be guided by that quote.

One thing that none of you may know about me is that Star Trek has influenced and developed my beliefs and morals. I have been watching Star Trek since I was three years old. As I see it, there are life messages, lessons, and morals in almost every episode and I model my life around them. Here are a few examples of them:

(Info from <http://www.dirjournal.com>)

The buyer should always beware:

In the Star Trek: The Original Series second-season episode, "The Trouble With Tribbles," Lieutenant Uhura buys a mysterious little pet while on shore leave. The animal is called a tribble and she has never heard of them before. She doesn't ask any questions about its care and doesn't seem curious about any problems or pitfalls of the species. She just falls in love with the cuddly, trilling thing and buys it. The next day, Uhura's tribble has babies, which she gladly gives away to other crew members. Before you know it, the *USS Enterprise* is overrun with tribbles. They crowd the bridge, have gotten into the ship's mechanical system (much to Scotty's chagrin) and they are eating all of the food. It turns out that 50% of each tribble's system is devoted to reproduction and they have babies about every 12 hours. Like any infestation they must be collected and removed from the ship immediately, which means many lost man hours.

This could have all been avoided if Uhura had realized that the salesman might not be trustworthy, and had done some independent research about her new pet before purchasing it. Once she

found out how quickly tribbles reproduced, she would not have purchased one. While you and I probably won't make any purchases that procreate that quickly and easily, we should always be wary of deals that seem too good to be true and we should find out all the upsides and downsides of our potential purchases before we buy.

Logic + emotion = balance: Spock and Captain Kirk are each like a different emotional extreme. Spock is almost completely unemotional (except during mating season) and Kirk is very emotionally empathetic. Spock has no pride or hubris while Kirk has a little too much. Together they work as a team to soften each other's attributes and create decisions that are founded on both logic and emotional responses to situations. We regular folk could benefit from learning how to mix objective logic and reason with our emotional side to make decisions that aren't lacking in either brains or heart.

A doctor is a doctor, is a doctor: I could not tell you how many times the *USS Enterprise's* Chief Medical Officer Leonard "Bones" McCoy explains to Kirk that he is a doctor and not some other type of professional able to hypothesize or fix things outside of his specialty. This lesson can be taken two ways:

a) Understand what you know and admit what you don't. How much trouble could they have gotten in if Bones had gone outside his specialty?

b) Find the right person for every job. Don't ask your dog walker to opine on an injury your dog has—go to the vet. When laziness and accessibility come together you end up with the wrong person for the job.

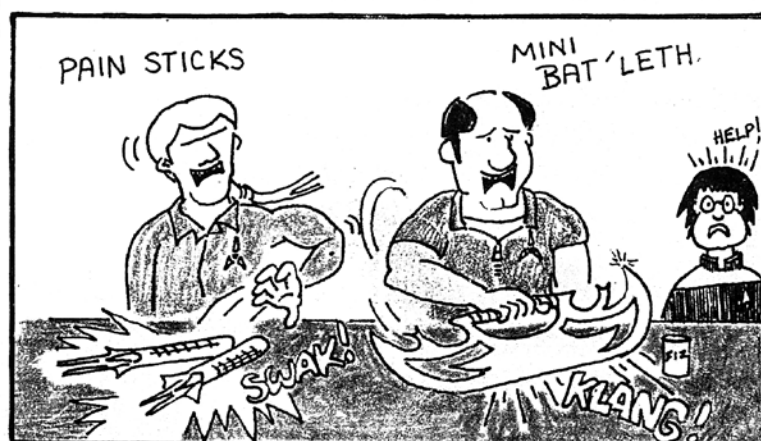
In conclusion, Star Trek has in fact shown us how we should act within society, but also keep in mind that our level of society is not at the same status as what is seen in Star Trek. But every society level is not without its own problems as well. Take a page out of Star Trek, and look deeper into each episode.

DESTROYER: LUDINGTON



© 3-11

From Elden
Simmons,
USS Ludington
cartoon



Restoring Galileo: A Thank You for Your Support!

Doug Drexler
North Hollywood, California

When I first came to the Star Trek art department, I vividly remember Mike Okuda telling me that the purpose of a Starfleet shuttle was to get lost.

What could be more poetic than the *Galileo* fulfilling its dramatic, and theatrical purpose, in a way that absolutely defies imagination.

A twenty-four foot shuttlecraft, 50 years lost... caught in the currents of time, ravaged by the elements, vanished from the face of the Earth, dropping out of inter-space, crashed in a junkyard, spotted on a Google satellite image from space... you want science fiction?

There could be some logic to the belief that time is fluid, like a river, with currents, eddies, back-wash... and the same currents that swept *Galileo* to a certain time and place might sweep us there, too.

Presto change-o, abracadabra, energize, and RESCUED! After 50 years of uncertainty, she is miraculously no longer adrift. Billy Pilgrim, no more. Locked back into the space time continuum... and now, with you by our side, we will return it to its original filming condition, just as it appeared on stage, all those many, many, miles, and years ago.

Star Trek has inspired young people to

become scientists, astronauts, explorers, inventors, writers, and human beings (and, yes... even low-life Hollywood designers). This larger than life artifact is a relic of Hollywood, a relic of the space age, a relic of aviation, and a relic of automotive design. This survivor is a tangible part of something of social significance, and it deserves to be preserved for future generations.

I've been a Star Trek fan since day one. I watched the entire first season in black & white. I was a part of the Save Star Trek campaigns that saved it back in the 60s. I know how powerful Star Trek fandom is. I saw it become. I saw it bend the studios in the 70s. I saw it bend Congress to name the space shuttle Enterprise. It's really something, and I'm sure Gene would say that it is much more remarkable than the show it loves.

Thank you STARFLEET for getting

behind this project. Thank you to all of the fans and fan groups that will join in to make the *Galileo* the showroom and museum piece it deserves to be... and for all time. Thank you Alec Peters and Adam Schneider for securing the artifact... and thank you for making sure that I am a part of it.

There is no doubt that Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek will continue to inspire us to strive for truth, beauty, imagination and, most importantly, to value that which makes us human.

Eddies and back-washes, indeed!



Visit <http://galileorestoration.com/> to help in the restoration



STARFLEET Academy A Plethora of Interesting Knowledge

CAPT Cathey "Denah" Osborne
USS Firebird

Starfleet Academy is one of the shining stars in STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. While it is not the university of our dreams as portrayed in movies, episodes and novels, it is a wonderful learning institution in its own right. The only stipulation to its use is that you must be an STARFLEET member in good standing.

The Academy attracts and supports individuals who enjoy self-study and learning new and interesting things for the sake of learning – and, of course, curiosity.

The Academy offers a way to help maintain and enhance skills in writing, research, detail orientation, and memory, as well as boosting any personal collection of trivia.

There are a wide variety of courses offered. There are plenty of subjects for the Trek oriented, as well as for those interested in more practical skills. From the every day to the truly geeky, Academy offers something for just about everyone. Even the Cadets are included with their own course sets created just for younger minds.

For those who aren't in the loop, Academy courses can also lead to recognition in the form of special awards for academic achievement. Gold Squadron (family involvement at the College level), Red Squadron (Best achievement at the College level) and Blue Squadron (Best achievement at the Cadet level) are all top honors available to Academy participants. The Boothby series of awards, named for the Academy groundskeeper Mr. Boothby, may be awarded at levels of

fifty successfully passed courses per level. In addition, some courses may assist with promotions such as Officers Training School, Officers Command College and Flag Officers School.

It may seem as if little of this has anything to do with real life. Check out the school of Medicine, Law, and even Cryptology! Real life information is available for real life situations. While these courses do not offer any certificates usable in the real world, they do offer plenty of information that is applicable, and may even lead to a career in one of these fields.

Stop by the Academy website at academy.sfi.org and take a look for yourself. It's sure to be an interesting experience.

Away Team Report Rendezvous at Comic Con Austin

ENS Micah Jolly
USS Loma Prieta

The past few months on assignment in the Texas Nebula have been quiet and lonely. Much to my joy, I was notified that the *USS Navras* and other STARFLEET vessels of Region 3 would rendezvous in Austin for Wizard World Comic Con 2011! I immediately grabbed my communicator and contacted Crewman Natalie Raff to ask her to join me for what was to be an interesting away mission.

Not having the foresight to don 21st century attire, we were immediately spotted before even entering the building and made to pose for pictures. Upon enter-

ing, we were amazed at the amount and variety of people and creatures who/that had traveled from distant star systems to congregate at Wizard World (kind of a small world, so to speak!). Apparently some had even traveled through time, as we were told by a pair of "Storm Troopers" that they had come from a distant galaxy long, long ago. Their technology wasn't quite as advanced though, as they could only travel at "light speed" instead of warp. There was even a fellow who claimed to be a god-like creature named Thor, but when confronted with a phaser to his head, he

quickly admitted to his mortality.

We couldn't allow ourselves to be distracted by any of this as our primary mission was to make contact with the *USS Navras* crew. We searched high and low and were about to contact the *USS Loma Prieta* to report a failed mission, when I spotted Fleet Captain Reed Bates, the Region 3 Regional Coordinator! We were both very happy to connect with each other in such a strange place. Fleet Captain Reed informed me that the *Navras* crew had ended their away mission early and headed back to Dallas for debriefing. She also wanted me to let the *Loma Prieta* know that, if they're interested in conducting some war games, that they would like to engage in a round of ARTEMIS, the Starship Bridge Simulator!

Having verified the whereabouts of the *USS Navras*, we decided to explore the

other cultural aspects of Austin. We found ourselves wandering the streets of the East Austin Studio Tour where artists, painters, sculptors, and other craftsmen were showcasing their work.

After the art tour, we were asked by some of the locals to join them at their favorite watering hole. The bartenders welcomed us with open arms and even invited me behind the bar to act as guest bartender! We ran into a couple of young ladies who apparently had been in contact with the Vulcans as they greeted us with the Vulcan sign for prosperity. After a night of heavy celebration, it was time to call the mission a success and end the night with something called an "Irish Car Bomb." This may have led to climbing things and making silly faces, but I honestly don't remember.



STARFLEET Members Witness History In The Making

CAPT Carnell Eubanks
USS Star League

July 8, 2011 the last Space Shuttle Mission was flown and members of STARFLEET were present in the crowds of people from around the world who had descended on the area around Cape Kennedy to witness this moment of history in the making.

Several members of the *USS Star League* had arrived early Thursday morning the day before the scheduled flight with little hope that the ship would fly as scheduled. The weather was predicted not to cooperate and was showing little improvement. Still there was a chance! After a long day and a very hot sleepless night, the day of the launch finally came. We began listening to the countdown on the radio, our hopes rising with each step of the countdown process, which was breathing life into the ship, preparing it for its final mission. Right up until the very final few seconds it was questionable as to whether luck would prevail and we would see Atlantis slip its earthly bonds one final time.

Just when it seemed it was over, a last moment equipment repair and a break in the weather occurred and we could hear Mission Commander Christopher Ferguson telling the flight director "Let's light this fire one more time, Mike, and witness this great nation at its best," the countdown clock resumed after a flight director Mike Leinbach replied back: "And for the final time ... Good luck, godspeed and have a little

fun up there.

The next few words were the announcer counting down the final moments, the count hits t-minus 7 and the main engines fired. A small sun blazes to life on the horizon, at zero the twin boosters roared to life and thus began the final flight of America's Space Shuttle program. For those of us watching; all too swiftly the ship rose from its pad and began its rise towards the sky. In what seemed less than a moment it was embraced by the very clouds which had threatened to keep it Earth bound. With a bright flare it was gone, much like its fabled namesake, Atlantis disappeared from sight and entered into the realms of history. Although the ship had vanished from sight we stayed there basking in the roar as the sound rolled over us from across the river, listening to the flight controller, waiting for confirmation that the ship and crew had made it safely to orbit .

With that confirmation and renewed feelings of gratitude for the safety of those onboard the flight, national pride and awe of what we had witnessed for the final time, we said our goodbyes to the new friends in the crowd we had made, we set out on the rest of our journey.



USS Navras at the Irving SciFi Expo

CAPT Cody Glenn
USS Navras

The *USS Navras* hosted a recruiting table at this year's Sci-Fi Expo convention in Irving, Texas, on the weekend of February 11th and 12th. With nearly 40 members of the chapter present, on hand, in uniform, and in some cases, in prosthetic appliance makeup to greet convention goers, the Navras succeeded in raising a sizeable contribution for Habitat for Humanity.

Captain Glenn, Commander Mayes, and several members of the *Navras* were also interviewed by D Magazine, Prop-Freaks.com, and the Dallas Observer. Following the convention on the evening of Saturday, February 11, members of the *Navras* relocated to the I Fratelli's restaurant in Irving, where we celebrated the one year anniversary of our Commissioning with a dinner and ship-level awards/promotions ceremony. 21 merit promotions were awarded to various members of the *Navras*, along with 42 ship-level awards for accomplishments throughout the 2011-2012 award year





Imrani and the Tale of Two Winters

The Trill Home planet.
4433.10.05, Trill Calendar.
November 27, 211 A.D., Earth calendar.

The snow had gathered on the arched rooftop window, the many diamond-shaped panes strewn with lines of red, green, and blue; the colors of Trill. Outside the world had started again, and in the constantly rearranging banquet of colored snow a pride of essian lions stalked a herd of ungulated aldertropes, an ancient snow-seer painted a soothsayer's mural and a wheeled ballerina danced, all in a forest of yellow fiddle headed ferns.

I could not have been more comfortable, nor welcome, nor warm, as I was that day seated between my two close friends, Ravere and A'too, and I gave myself over to the joy that stirred all our gatherings, letting the rare reunion sink deep, taking me to that childhood place where we had all once met, and still meet, down the drain of history that was both the past and the future.

A third friend, Collandra, always the curious one, was hovering over the salamander exhibits at the rear of the conference hall trying to squeeze a final answer out of the exhibit manager. But, with her, there was always one more question.

Collandra was the eldest and for as long as any of us knew had always wanted to be a medical doctor. An occasional few have wondered how, or if, such inspiration was in fact so deeply rooted in her, but her patients spoke for themselves. My childhood Baconda doll, just one example, had, under her skillful ministrations, evolved into a bag of sutures that held every proper hand-drawn organ in every proper place, a recipient of countless desperate, last minute and always successful operations. "He was one of my best volunteers," she recently quipped.

For what would be the final year that all four of us would gather as

students, Collie was committed to outdoing herself. Already infamous for selecting topics and venues that were at once irreverent, whimsical and outrageous, it was becoming increasingly harder to imagine how she could possibly one-up her past triumphs.

So when Collie discovered that the 37th anniversary of the rediscovery of Crook's Salamander was being celebrated the following weekend in Mak'ala City we had soon received our embossed invitations. "It will be fun," she said.

We agreed, and it would have been, had history not made other plans.

After all these years my best theory is that Collandra, still lingering near the salamander exhibits and late for the chair we had saved her, had observed an interesting behavior, and asked about it, when inexplicably the entire collection of amphibians curled up in into tight little black fists.

As the distant sound of an explosion rattled its way into our room, Collandra watched as the exhibit manager probed a specimen for a reflex response. There was nothing, no movement at all, other than an expression of disappointment rapidly spreading across their already surprised faces. The creatures were dead, every last one of them.

Not knowing if we had been spared from one disaster, or merely primed for another, the entire audience sat as if frozen in place. No one dared speak. When one of the glass rooftop panes suddenly gave way releasing a shower of red and blue snow that streamed towards the floor, melting on its way down, the few that were in its path stood up. That seemed to instantly break the spell that had been cast upon us and soon entire rows of patrons were on their feet noisily pushing their way to the exits.

But we were not complete, and the furtive glances exchanged in

An intelligent and peaceful species, the Trill had enjoyed the guidance of the Phedian race for many years, benefactors that had pledged themselves to the reformation of the Trill civilization. When a terrible event occurred, one that would test their resiliency as a species, a leader arose. Would the Trill have the wisdom to learn from loss? The courage to remember it?

that moment needed no translation. Where was Collie?

Ravere was the tallest and instinctively pressed that advantage, standing on her toes. "I see her," she said, her finger making the direction clear. "It looks like some people have passed out."

Collandra was on her knees as we approached, attending to those that had collapsed, her medical training now dictating her every action. Her complexion looked worse than many of her patients, but I could tell when she turned her face towards us that there would be no stopping her. And no asking her to leave.

It must have been disappointing for Collie to see her three best friends, myself included, reduced from the bright science-majors we were to trembling schoolgirls, still recovering from shock. A thousand questions pummeled my brain, but came from a place that had not yet accepted what had happened. They were as useless as our complete lack of medical training and Collie knew it. What she told me I remember to this day, "There are lives to save here today and whether we were ready or not we have to get on with that business."

I'm not sure why Collandra chose me. I've spent years thinking about that moment, weighing the pros and cons while knowing that I was the youngest and the smallest. There was something in her eyes, though, something she either saw in me or didn't see in me. I am sure of only this: In that strange, terrifying pandemonium a different set of rules applied, and I had no idea of what they were.

But Collie did. "Imrani," she instructed, "get as many of these people as you can to the north hospital, even if you have to walk them through the snow yourself. Start with the front rows."

I could tell that Collie knew something and I grasped her hand, my eyes begging of her tell me, tell

me. I know now that she had already put the whole thing together by that time but had the good sense to surrender only part of it. "Tell admitting that the symptoms I am seeing are consistent with a dose of ionizing radiation." I instantly felt that same cloud of questions swirling in me again but kept them to myself as we said our goodbyes.

Selecting two of the most elderly patrons each, one on each arm, our small group soon stepped out onto the street, leaving our courageous friend behind. The roads were clogged with vehicles, many of them appearing abandoned. Snow was falling, and drifts were growing on the sidewalks, the tops of them wind-blown and crested with black – not one of the colors of Trill. It was obvious that whatever had happened – whatever this event was – it was far more widespread than one building. The journey to the hospital should have taken us less than an hour, but one of Ravere's patrons was stumbling badly and needed frequent rest breaks. Whenever we stopped we were approached by dozens of distraught people asking if we had seen their children, or their wives, or someone, while trying their best to look composed.

It was gut wrenchingly sad. We told them what we knew and tried our best to keep spirits high, which was made enormously more difficult when we turned the corner and faced the monstrous line that led to the emergency hospital entrance. 'Emergency,' I muttered under my breath. 'Yeah, right.' But what could we do? The line was torture, literally. I saw many poor souls fall face down in the snow only to be carried to the front of the line where a doctor with a stethoscope stood shaking his head, over and over. One particularly morbid young man commented that you had to be dead to get into this hospital and stormed away. We never saw him again.

When our group finally staggered to the hospital reception desk an older man with a large map asked where we were when it happened. When I pointed to the map, his eyes opened wide, turned up, and he gave me a long, serious look.

"You're all admitted. Pick up a tag. Write your name beside the tag number in the book."

If I remember correctly, that was when Ravere collapsed. She had not made even the smallest hint of a complaint all day, oftentimes cheering up our entire group, and I clearly remember being lifted only seconds earlier by the unmistakable giggle that she called laughter. The next time I saw her she was face down on the floor. We placed her on a gurney and the doctor with the stethoscope leaned over her and seemed to take forever making up his mind. I looked on, my fingers locked behind my back while silently chanting to myself, 'Please don't shake your head, please don't shake your head...'

"This girl should have the serum," he then pronounced confidently, "and as soon as possible. Take her to the second floor and tell them it's a code 47." A'too and I looked at each other and at that exact moment said in unison under our breath, 'Thank the Great Mother,' before A'too reached for the gurney handles and rushed Ravere to the elevator lineup shouting 'Code 47, code 47' even as the doors slid shut behind her. Collandra would have been proud. Before the doctor could pull away I explained to him that we had all been seated close to one another when it happened and when he asked, "How close?" I told him. He replied that we should all have the serum. I thought as much.

Racing up the stairwell I arrived to see a tall orderly wheel Ravere away. Before receiving our shots, which made us feel even worse, a doctor arrived to tell us that Ravere was in a coma and then showed us where we could wait; a large room, crammed beyond capacity with sick people, and every one of them seated on the cold floor.

When I sat down, for the first time in hours, I buried my head in my hands and cried. A'too held me, and I desperately hung on to her, as the impossible events of the day tilted and rolled inside our heads, knock-

ing against the familiar reality that once kept us safe but now had all but completely deserted us.

I remembered what Collandra had said, about taking care of that business, but her words failed to take root as they once did, now that we were patients. Still, I tried to not let the sadness of this nightmare overwhelm me.

Who had caused it? Why? And why was Ravere in a coma but not me? I was seated right beside her. But the nightmare stubbornly refused to fit inside anything, least of all my head, and I lay down on the hard floor and slept.

I woke up the next morning to the lilting music of A'too's voice as she spoke to a young doctor, not much older than us. In those few seconds their conversation just floated above me, beautiful, meaningless, but was brought to an abrupt and traumatic close with one word: aneurysm. I heard myself say, "No!" as I jumped to my feet, asking the doctor what I feared most. He said it was true, that Ravere did have an aneurysm. She had it for years, but it ruptured yesterday, and he doubted she would ever wake up. He suddenly broke down with the rest of us, "So much death," he said. "I'm sorry." A'too threw her arm around him first and together we thanked him. That's when the clarity of what Collie said returned to me and I knew again that she was right; there was plenty of business to take care of.

And so we were three.

On the third day the hospital began delivering carts of food to the waiting rooms. They brought us blankets and pillows, and began taking our temperatures. On the fifth day A'too and I were given real rooms with real beds but complained constantly until we were allowed to share a room on the seventh floor. After a few days alone it made us very happy to be together again but the change did not improve our deteriorating condition. We were pale, easily bruised, losing weight and had many sores that wouldn't heal. 'It's all the blood tests,' joked A'too, but inside we were frightened.

We had asked about Collandra many times, beginning with the day we arrived, but no one could find any trace of her. It wasn't until her parents arrived and spent a few days driving

to every hospital in Mak'ala City that we finally found her. But she wasn't a patient. She was in the morgue, down in our own basement, since the day after we arrived.

As we lay in our beds, Collandra's parents told us that they had spoken to one of the survivors from our conference, someone that was with Collandra in her final hours. They said she had saved dozens of lives that day by organizing groups that took the injured to the hospital. She succeeded in getting everyone to the lineup but died shortly after that. It was believed her location in the extreme south end of the conference hall was the cause, and that she had probably received the strongest dose of anyone in that room.

A'too and I were inconsolable. Our beautiful, spirited, and happy friend had been taken from us and we were numb. Between her tears A'too tried to help, telling me stories from better times, but I kept nodding a head that wouldn't stop buzzing and didn't hear a thing. I struggled hard to put into words what I was feeling, but hated them when they arrived. 'How am I supposed to go on without her?' And now we were two.

The event had been given an ugly name, one that I wish I had never heard: neutron bomb. This terrible weapon was designed to cause deaths, not damage, as if death was not damage enough. It was known that a Phedian conference was the likely target, but only the Phedian ambassador to Trill, Eldran Pholanan, was in the building at the time of the explosion. How he had survived the intense radiation was baffling but as we later discovered the answer to that question was also the answer to many others. Maybe the answer to us.

Every Trill knew and respected the Phedians. For many generations they had guided the Trill towards a more enlightened existence, providing scientific, spiritual and moral knowledge of all kinds, while never asking anything in return. And although in outward appearance looking very much like the Trill, Phedians had life spans of only 30 to 40 years, and that was becoming shorter with every generation, and rapidly so. The Phedians knew what this meant.

But, above all, was the Phedian moral code, a fundamental state-

ment of principals from which all of their laws, knowledge and rules of conduct had arisen. And although the Phedians had provided open access to their moral code for many years, few Trill could understand it. The words of the code could be easily translated, but not so easily their understanding.

When Ambassador Pholanan was injured he insisted on admitting himself into a Trill hospital and politely turned down the many offers of help he received. "I require no special treatment," he said emphatically. Not knowing who he was, I first saw him in the waiting room weeks earlier, on the day we arrived, and I remember him waiting for the serum, too, and receiving his blankets and pillows when we did.

Since Phedians dressed modestly and avoided the public eye, no one knew he was their ambassador. I found out by accident. Noticing a tiny pin fall from his collar, I picked it up and returned it to him, addressing him formally as father followed by a customary Phedian greeting, almost whispered. I told him the pin was beautiful and asked him in his native tongue if it came from his home planet, Phodius.

"Yes," he answered. "It is a consul's pin, and I am honored by your use of the language of my forefathers."

I didn't need to be told who wore a consul's pin. "Thank you, father, I was studying Phedian diplomacy in school and hoped to find a career as a diplomatic attaché."

He seemed to take a special interest in me, asking me where I was from, what brought me to Mak'ala City and where I was studying. Then he asked me my name.

"You will find such a career, Imrani Sadu, of that I can promise. You must believe that, just as we all must believe this tragedy will pass." His words of encouragement strengthened me at a time when he knew I needed them. I didn't know, even from this brief meeting, how much he had already changed my life.

Three weeks after arriving at the hospital both A'too and I were diagnosed with leukemia. Whether we were now accustomed to loss, or just determined to not leave the other behind, I don't know, but we pledged to



USS Susquehannock Completes Largest Charities Project to Date

-Crew and Friends Walk for 24 Hours to Raise Money for Cancer

Recently, during a beautiful June Friday and Saturday, the USS Susquehannock and friends successfully completed a 24-hour walk or “relay” for cancer research and caregiving during the Relay For Life event in York, Pennsylvania. For the past two years of the USS Susquehannock’s existence as a STARFLEET ship, I have personally had the pleasure of serving as Charities Coordinator and we have kept active in doing many things to benefit others (people and animals alike!!) by providing food and clothing for people less fortunate than ourselves, donating to a no-kill dog pound, sending care packages to soldiers overseas, and for supporting the American Cancer Society.

The American Cancer Society (as mentioned in previous articles) is America’s largest non-government anti- cancer organization, supporting cancer research, caregiving for cancer patients, education for cancer prevention and proposing legislation for providing for individuals who have cancer. Each year, around late spring / early summer, the American Cancer Society (ACS) holds the Relay for Life events in the United States and 21 other countries. These events have raised over 7 billion dollars to date! Generally going overnight for 24 hours, a Relay consists of “Teams” who have raised money for the ACS and form a “camp” at a local athletic track. Different team members walk the track for 24 hours in the spirit of endurance, just like those suffering from cancer have to endure the disease. Usually starting with a “Survivors’ Lap,” Relays continue by providing a free meal under a tent for cancer survivors and caregivers and host a variety of fun events during the 24-hour period, often having a “Luminary” ceremony where candles are purchased and lit after dark in order to remember those lost to cancer. Often, a Relay is a carnival-like event with food vendors, entertainment, fun activities for children and team tents with games and items sold to raise money for the ACS.

The USS Susquehannock participated in numerous fund raising activities prior to the Relay. First, we sold dry soup packages which were provided at one of several monthly rallies. We also dined at a great local restaurant that donated a percent-

age of proceeds to the event, and we wrote letters or simply asked friends and family members for financial support. Two events that were “near and dear to our hearts” were the “Bark For Life” event and the “Sci-fi Saturday” mini-convention at a local book store. The “Bark For Life” is a mini-relay for dogs. Susquehannock members Doris and Jim Hutley brought their pug, Briseis, (a member of our “Porthos Fan Club”!!) who won a dog race and raised \$100 for the ACS because of her cuteness!

Other fun events at the “Bark for Life” included a mini relay where the dogs walked, demonstrations of dog-training, dog obstacle courses and a “Bone Drop” where purchased milk bones were dropped from a fire-engine ladder and the one that landed closest to a designated point won a prize! At the “Sci-fi Saturday” event crew members sold cookies and brownies while others took turns listening to authors present works, watching the camp movie “Plan 9 From Outer Space” and even seeing an original Mr. Spock Halloween mask from the 1960s!

Another fund-raising project that showed that we are tried and true “Trekkers” was the creation of a Star-Trek themed gift basket by myself and Andy (AKA- Klingon “Kala”) which was auctioned off at the Relay. Hand crafted with a basket-bottom and Star-Trek themed sides, the bas-

ket contained several novels, a Borg action figure, an autographed portrait of “Kala”- the USS Susquehannock’s Klingon Securities officer,, the latest issue of “Star Trek” Magazine , a “Star Trek Collectables” book and a collector’s recording of the 1975 “ALL New Star Trek Adventure Stories” produced by Pater Pan Records. The alien voices in these “new” dramatized adventures will certainly get a smile from any fan!

Finally, on the afternoon of Friday June 17th the final phase of the

Wagner, (Kala), Doris Hutley, Jim Hutley, Joe Cress, Stacey Cress, Michael Seim, Jason Seim, “Mike”- the Organizer of the local Meet-up, “Science. Society and Science Fiction” and a friend of Carl’s from his church, Dianne Creagh.

On Friday the 17th of June, Andy, Carl and Stacey arrive at the football field a little after 12:00 noon to set up the site. We began walking at 1:00 PM that day and walked until 1:00 PM on Saturday for 24 hours straight. Those mentioned under the Roll Call portion of this report did their part in the 24 hour trek around the track at York Technical Institute. We had Iggy, the Corn, from the original Star Trek series sitting next to our table offering support to our team and getting the attention of those who walked by our campsite.

The Relay for Life staff who organized the event worked hard to make

Generally going overnight for 24 hours, a Relay consists of “Teams” who have raised money for the ACS and form a “camp” at a local athletic track. Different team members walk the track for 24 hours in the spirit of endurance, just like those suffering from cancer have to endure the disease.

mission got started! Around 12 PM Captain Stacey Cress, Carl and Kala met with Craig, a friend of Carl’s who donated a canopy for the camp and set up the camp near the stage area to the tunes of Jimmy Buffet which were being broadcast via Satellite. We were one of over 70 camps participating- and the theme was Las Vegas, so many of the other camps had Vegas Themes, even down to a wedding chapel with a dressed bride. Before long, 1PM arrived and Captain Stacey began walking. Her own Away Mission Report sums it up quite well: Date: 6/17/11-6/18/11 Stardate: 330617-18

Location: Track at York Technical Institute in York PA

Roll Call: Carl Dietrich, Andy

sure there was something going on all the time. There were at least three guys dressed up as women in skirts, an Elvis Presley impersonator and a lot of other people walking around the track. Some of the campsites had things for sale that went to support this fund raising effort. We all had a great time, and are talking about what we can do next year to raise more money for this organization. A Special Thanks to all those who walked in this event; we all had a good time.

Indeed, as Stacey says we all had a good time at the Relay for Life! When myself and Andy walked in uniform for part of the evening we got the Vulcan Salute from several people and a woman even mouthed



Lt Carl Deitrich
USS Susquehannock
Region 7



Captain Stacey and Commander Doris at the USS Susquehannock camp, being guarded by "Iggy" the Gorn!!

"I love it!!" as we walked by! Also, we owe a special thanks to Mike who organizes a local sci-fi Meet-up group, Dr. Dianne Creagh from Penn State York for walking as our team members even though they are not officially on the crew of the Susquehannock, as well as Craig for donating use of the canopy for our camp. We also thank our members Mike and Jason who donated use of our banner and walked the "graveyard shift before Dr. Creagh. Another special thanks to Doris and Jim who drove to York from Harrisburg, PA twice for the event and to Captain Stacey and Joe Cress for being there whenever needed. Although we were originally worried about walking in stages for 24 hours, thanks to a little help from our friends, WE DID IT!!

Although those of us who spent many hours walking were very tired by the end of the Relay, we had a great feeling of accomplishment that in its first year, our team Away Mission with the York County Relay for Life was a success. By raising money for cancer research / caregiving and showing our support by walking in the relay we helped support the American Cancer Society's goal of having more people celebrate more birthdays, or as Star Trek fans would say, we helped others to "Live long and prosper"!!

Finally, if someone in your life is

currently suffering from cancer and you are unaware of what the ACS offers, information can be found at the following:

www.cancer.org
or at **1-800-227-2345**



XO Jim Hutley does his best Kirk impression at camp!!



Carl (left) and Andy ("Kala" The Klingon) receive approving looks from spectators as they begin a stretch of the Relay in full uniform!!



Chaplain's Chat

STARFLEET Chaplain Services is designed as an outreach to the spiritual and moral needs of Fleet members in order to express an avenue of love and hope to those who may require assistance.

Greetings and blessings to all our readers. I would like to take the time in this issue to provide to you, the STARFLEET membership, our version of the "State of the Chaplain's Corp" report. This information, I believe, will assist in giving you some more in depth knowledge of who we are, where we are, how far we have gone, and some of what we will be seeing in the future.

Let's begin with our Chaplain Services staff. Having started out roughly 2 years ago with just 3 members, this service has grown to 11 primary level staff members, which includes myself, my deputy chief chaplain, his assistant and most recently a Chaplain Services adjutant, with 7 Regional Chaplain Liaisons representing Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 & 12. A Faith Advisory Council was created with 12 or more members representing their individual faiths to help spread a spiritual concept of IDIC within and for the fleet membership. Last but certainly not the least, as of the end of March 2012, the number of chapter-level chaplains in our database was at 20. We are certain that there are more chapter level chaplains out there and I highly encourage ya'll to contact us & let us know who you are. It may not seem like much to some, but when you think about the fact that the total staff has grown from 3 to 43 within the last 12 months, then that's quite an accomplishment.

OK, now to answer the question that has been posed several times over the last year. What does Chaplain Services do? I can sum that up by simply quoting our mission statement as published on the main chaplain services website: www.starfleet-chaplainservices.webs.com.

STARFLEET Chaplain Services is designed as an outreach to the spiritual and moral needs of Fleet members in order to express an avenue of love and hope to those who may require assistance in those areas and will be made available at the discretion of the Chaplain Services team in order to provide said assistance throughout all regions within STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association.

Additionally, we provide e-mail

contact regarding condolences for member/family member passing's, congratulatory messages concerning new births, well-wishes for speedy recovery and good health during hospitalizations, and receipt/distribution of prayer requests as appropriate. We provide other types of spiritual support as well, but these cover the main features of our availability to the fleet.

Oh, did I mention a website? Let's talk about that next. Not only is there a main website available as noted above, but several of our regional liaisons and a couple of our faith advisory council members have websites for your information as well. These websites not only provide a working knowledge of the services available and serve as a very successful communications outlet, but also provide useful links and photos of activities within their respective regions in the area of the chaplaincy and some chapter level functions too. A lot of hard work and time has been placed into the creation of these websites and it would be worth your while to check them out. I'll list our staff emails at the end of this article if you would like to contact anyone for their website information.

The main website for Chaplain Services has grown to 60 members at last report and we are hoping to increase that number to 100 members by the end of April 2012 which shall of course already have passed by the time you read this article. Membership is easy by just clicking the membership link on the home page and submitting the appropriate basic requested information. You will not be sent any spam or useless stuff; only that which is published in the message page section is made available to our website members. Photos are

posted on occasion, prayer requests can be submitted and personal contact with myself is available by clicking the page link. Changes to all these websites are made on a regular basis so you can log on often to get the latest updates in our program. Surf now, surf often!

Communication has always been a primary source of difficulty in all aspects of life. I can very truthfully state that this area is not a problem within Chaplain Services. Not only is information submitted thru the many list-serves in the STARFLEET organization, but our staff transmits information on an almost daily basis thru channels such as yahoo groups, Google groups and most recently Facebook pages/groups. Some of our liaisons write articles in their respective regional newsletters and at least one liaison has his own regional chaplaincy newsletter. Of course, I do my best to submit the Chaplain's Chat article in every issue of the CQ for your reading pleasure. You see, there is just no end to the communication network within the chaplaincy and for you.

One of the items available to the STARFLEET membership and within the chaplaincy is the Chaplain Services College of Spirituality thru STARFLEET Academy. This college consists of five primary 100-level courses and just recently approved, five 200-level courses and two 300-level courses. All of these courses cover areas of chaplain basics, chaplain history, military chaplains, and the two 300-level essay courses. All one has to do is go the STARFLEET Academy website and request the course they desire to take. If a member is already serving as a chaplain in their chapter or MSG or wishes to become a chaplain of their

chapter/MSG and successfully completes the first five 100-level courses with a score of 90 or better than they have the option of receiving a special certification as a designated STARFLEET Chaplain for use within the Fan Association and as a way of our thanking them for their interest and accomplishment.

In 2011, Chaplain Services introduced the Capodanno Award for recognition of special accomplishment by our chaplains and also awarded to members for their continued support of the same. During IC 2011, 12 Capodanno awards were presented thru e-mail channels since both Bryan & myself were not able to attend. We were also privileged and honored to award one member a Capodanno award posthumously to the family in 2012. Bryan and I are both planning on attending IC 2012 in Memphis and hope to announce the 2012 Capodanno awards with some personal presentations for the awardees who attend. Nominations can be submitted anytime throughout a given year with presentations being made during the weekend of each STARFLEET International Conference. You can receive more information regarding this prestigious award by contacting Bryan or myself at our e-mail addresses listed at the end of this article.

Where do we go from here? Chaplain Services is currently listed and operates under the venue of the recently renamed STARFLEET Hologate Program, formerly known as STAR, FDC or FRC. This program also includes areas such as medical, special ops, sciences, counselors, and emergency management. You can access any of these programs by using the link available thru the STARFLEET main website. It is the primary goal of Chaplain Services to "break the Warp 10 barrier" and become an independent department under the VCS which will allow us to expand our services even farther into

RADM Russell Ruhland
USS DaVinci
Region 2
Chief Chaplain

BDR Bryan Jones
USS Tiberius
Region 2
Deputy Chaplain

the known universe. As members of the STARFLEET Fan Association, you can help greatly with our achieving this goal by spreading the word, getting involved, and by joining us as a member of the main Chaplain Services website. In the spirit of IDIC, let's all make 2012 the best year ever for STARFLEET Chaplain Services.

Here's our contact list:

- Chief Chaplain, RADM Russell Ruhland; trekchristian@gmail.com; www.starfleetchaplainservices.webs.com; Facebook page STARFLEET Chaplain Services Staff.
- Deputy Chief Chaplain, BDR Bryan Jones, deputychiefchaplain@yahoo.com.
- Assistant to the Deputy Chaplain, LTC Anne Zecca, SFMC; anne_sb04@yahoo.com.
- Chaplain Adjutant, COL Douglas Reagan; dreagan@bellsouth.net; Buddhist Chaplain, www.dharmatrek.weebly.com.
- Region 1 Liaison, FCPT Harold Spears; chappyspears@yahoo.com.
- Region 2 Liaison, CPT Phillip Bower; r2chaplaincorps@gmail.com; www.sites.google.com/site/starfleetr2chaplaincorp; Facebook page STARFLEET Region 2 Chaplain corps.
- Region 3 Liaison, CMDR Rufus Barr; grimwulff1@yahoo.com; Facebook page Starfleet-Chaplain-Corp-Region-3
- Region 4 Liaison, LTJG Stephen Griswold; r4chaplain@gmail.com; www.starfleetr4chaplaincorps.webs.com.
- Region 6 Liaison, MCPT Aaron Clark, SFMC; aeclarksfi@gmail.com.
- Region 7 Liaison, CPT David Grate; thedavyg@me.com.
- Region 12 Liaison, RADM Lee Schmidt; lvsmo135@juno.com.

There you have it! I hope you have enjoyed reading this report as much as I have writing it. Look for more new and exciting things in future articles & don't forget that we still afford you the opportunity to have your questions answered in an open article format without using your name to protect your own moral integrity. Until next time, may the force.....oh, I mean Live long & prosper!

New Jersey Polar Bear Plunge 2012

ADM Bob Vosseller
USS Challenger

"Live Long and Prosper - Yabba Dabba Doo!" That was our battle cry for the annual NJ Polar Bear Plunge on Feb. 25 off the coastline of Seaside Heights.

I was among the 5,947 people who plunged into 37 degree water along with my long time crewmate Dave Singleton.

This marked our 10th year of participation with the event, our eighth in our home state.

What was probably only a few seconds felt like an eternity when we ran into the cold water. This year's plunge raised about \$1.4 million for the cause of Special Olympics. It beat last year's total of \$1.2 million. The event is coordinated by local and state law enforcement agencies and the Seaside Heights Improvement District.

I noticed this year that a lot of folks were plunging in bathing suits so there was a lot of cold skin out there.

Many teams or even individuals, come in costume adopting a theme such as Vikings, super heroes or in one case this year, the NY Giants who won this year's Super Bowl.

Five years ago member Patrick Barnes began creating costumes for the plunge, adding a new element to our participation in the event. He also joined us for the plunge but was unable to make costumes this year and due to a new job, could not join us for the plunge either.

Dave and I took up a prior theme from those costumes that Patrick made in years past. We decided on "Trek Rock" which is what you get when classic Star Trek collides with The Flintstones.

While it has been getting tough to raise the \$100 minimum required to plunge, Dave was able to raise \$605 this year which is a great total. Our contribution will be close to \$700.

To be an official team, we need 10 members and that has not been possible since the days when Starfleet Region 7 came together those first two years in Maryland to do the plunge there.

Fellow Challengers Ken Diehl and Ken Dohn were there to cheer us on. They were joined by Avengers Todd Brugmans and Annie Slonski.

Ken Diehl, Annie and Todd joined me as I wore my Stone Trek attire complete with "Grand Pooh Bah" helmet at a restaurant called "Shut Up And Eat," a favored eatery in our area where the owner and staff wear pajamas and where they place is decorated like a collectible store. I fit right in and enjoyed my fried baloney sandwich something I had not had since I went to a BBQ restaurant near the location of IC2010.

Normally we have an after plunge activity and more people involved, but this weekend proved a bit problematic for many people in other things going on but there is always next year.

I plan to plunge next year if I can raise the \$100, and it may well mark the conclusion of our plunge project which Dave and Patrick are urging me to be a part of in 2013.





Slinging MUDD in Region Two: The USS Harry Mudd's Coming Out Party at the R2-R3 Summit

The Region 2-Region 3 Joint Summit held in Hammond, LA, this year was also the coming-out party for the newly-launched USS Harry Mudd from Milton, FL, and the crew saw to it they came out with a bang.

First, upon the announcement of the ship during roll call fists flew into the air and the shout of, "Our name is MUDD!" rang through the hall. Moments later, Captain Sandy Dolan—also the Vice-Region Coordinator for R2—appeared in the doorway dressed as Harry Mudd's haranguing, nagging wife Stella from the classic Star Trek: The Original Series episode "I, Mudd". She pointed a finger at the Commander of STARFLEET and shouted, "David Erich Blaser!" before stalking across the room and showering the Fleet Admiral with verbal abuse. Sandy was followed by fellow "Stella's", Brigadier General DJ O'Brien and Lieutenant Sharon Hammonds, and the three had our CS literally turning purple with laughter. It was the culmination of weeks of work and a month-and-a-half of planning, and—the crew of the 'Mudd would gladly tell you—worth every moment of it.

Later in the day, this crew would show they could think on their feet as well. When the charity pie toss was mentioned it gave the ship's XO, Commodore Bruce Dolan, the idea of replacing the usual whipped cream fare with "Mudd Pies" of chocolate pudding and whipped cream; CO Commander Chris Ham-

monds wanted to use actual mud in the Mudd Pies but was talked out of it. This may not sound like a big difference but this year's pie toss raised over \$1200 for charity, with bids of over \$450 and \$500 for R2 RC Rear Admiral Jack Eaton and Fleet Admiral Blaser, respectively (apparently, R3 RC Fleet Captain Reed Bates just doesn't anger people enough to garner the big bucks here; people just don't want to mess her up enough). Blaser thought enough of the idea to give CO and XO a personal "thank you" in his final posted notes on the Summit.

So where did this new juggernaut, dubbed "The Funnest Ship in 'Fleet'" by its captain, who works hard to see it lives up to the title, come from? How did it come to be? How does this crew get things done so quickly and easily? And, most importantly, who's to blame?!

Well, that last is the easiest question to answer, and it is the wisest to start with as it answers all the others, as well. The USS Harry Mudd is the brainchild of XO Bruce Dolan and CO Chris Hammonds. Bruce is a former Zone 1 Coordinator for Region 2 and was CO of the USS Continuum for over a decade, while Chris was the Continuum's XO for two years

and its Officer of the Year for three years prior to that. It was Bruce's idea to form a new ship in Milton, 20-odd miles from Pensacola and the aforementioned USS Continuum, while Chris gave the ship its name (and then subsequently lost the coin flip and was forced to assume the captaincy). The two also decided the ship would be a Brownwood-class assault/tug with a

As CO Hammonds says, "The main reason for the existence of any fan organization is to ensure its members have a good time. Therefore, everyone having a good time is the essence of good leadership."



command structure based on ST: TOS. But don't get the idea this is a two-man shuttle. "Ship's Doctor" Sandy Dolan brought the idea for the "Stella's" (who were originally to be a "gift" from the ship to R2 RC Eaton) along with the expertise for designing and sewing together the costumes. "Ship's Navigator" DJ O'Brien brought treasurer experience as well as STARFLEET Marine moxie in getting things done. Finally, most definitely in the Last but Not Least Department, "Ship's Yeoman" Sharon Hammonds brought organizational skills and a little computer savvy, and coffee to her Captain during those late nights of "crises" when things just have to get done. These five people began this ship with around five decades of accumulated STARFLEET experience. This should explain why they have only been together as a ship since 4 Feb 2012 and already have their Constitution, By-Laws, and Promotion Points System worked out. They have a banner and polo shirts with the club logo already put together and being carried and worn, respectively, by crew members, and membership packets approved. And they have cake at every meeting (so far).

This core of five has fostered an atmosphere of fun while showing they can get things done even through the laughter. As CO Hammonds says, "The main reason for the

existence of any fan organization is to ensure its members have a good time. Therefore, everyone having a good time is the essence of good leadership." XO Dolan concurs, "Our members know they're going to have fun because they know that's all we really want them to do." The fun, of course, comes with some hard work at times. The "Stella" prank, as previously mentioned, was weeks in the making, but even that work carried fun and camaraderie—along with pizza and making fun of The Voice (CO Hammonds is notorious for hating singing shows almost as much as he hates Star Wars)—as well. The night they worked out the Constitution, By-Laws, and Promotion Points System was also a night of pizza and episodes of Terra Nova at the Dolans' house. (These people sure eat a lot of pizza and cake, come to think of it; if they're not careful they may be "The FATTEST Ship in 'Fleet'.") There have also been nights of movies and even roller derby (a new member, Ashe Platts, is the bench coach for Emerald Coast Roller Derby, a women's team based in Milton), with planned camping trips and movie outings and fishing trips and cookouts in the near future.

Yes, the USS Harry Mudd is a ship to watch, with a crew that knows where they want to go and how to get there.

CMDR Chris Hammonds
USS Harry Mudd
Region 2



I think the event went very well and I want to thank everyone who helped the USS Storm have another successful party!

USS Storm Anniversary Party Report



Captains Log Stardate: 022012.27

Sorry for the late report, but I needed to get some rest after staying awake for 24 hours for the Anniversary party, I also wanted to make sure everyone knew what a great time we had and to give credit where credit was due!

0700 hours

After a slow night at work, I got home where Sargent Major Mike Sladky was waiting to drive me and Director Dave J Bailey to the drop point at the Cosmopolitan Restaurant in Vineland, New Jersey. After communications from Chief Science Officer Barbara Boyd, Chief of Communications Donna DiMatteo and Executive Officer Robert DiMatteo. We launched at 1100 to pick up Director Bailey at the Hamilton Mall and made best speed to the Cosmopolitan. The trip was uneventful, aside from the shuttle going sideways at a few points. Mike dropped us off and then went on to run some errands.

1200 hours

Dave and I got to the restaurant and then started to make contact with the rest of our party. Captain Judith Oliveri and Fleet Captain Michel Hess were next door at the Cumberland Mall. Lieutenant Colonel Ken Kadin, New member Ann Marie Delgesso and Nurse Joann Delgesso were en-route from Somers Point. Captain Dave Lynch of the USS Avenger came with his Chief Science Officer Jennifer Thompson, they were nice enough to bring the Candy bars made by Joe Horton for the party. Vice Admiral Larry Neigut missed the drop point, so I had to go out and wave him into the Space port. Barbara, Bob and Donna got there in a timely manner and the eating begun in earnest! One problem arose due to Judith's severe food allergies, future events will make sure to accommodate her food needs as we do not want her to become ill due to unforeseen ingredient. I am allergic to Shellfish and know how dangerous food can be.

1300 hours

I really didn't get to eat anything as I was worried about people still coming in and then getting to the Fairfield Inn to check into our Hospitality suite. Mike Hess and Judith were good enough to drive me to the Fairfield as that is where Mike Hess had booked a room for the night before. Checking in, I was carrying our Anniversary cake that so impressed the front desk clerk Jessica Mooney, that she joined the ship right then and there! To our surprise Mike Sladky showed up and was able to join us for our festivities. The room we got had two televisions, so there was entertainment to go around, the SyFy channel was running Star Trek: Insurrection, it was wonderful to have it on the TV while we talked and had fun. As with most occasions, my brother was the only NCO in the room, and as always he rose to the occasion when the Officers screwed up and forgot the obvious. At any given point in the party he ran out the get plates, chairs, silverware and helped our Chief Science Officer, who needs the use of a wheel chair, to get to and from the restroom. The pool and Jacuzzi were open, but Joann was the only one who wanted to jump in and get wet.

1400 hours

Our awards ceremony commenced with, Communication Officer Donna DiMatteo, printing the Awards out in the next room.

Plank awards to all members who were with the ship in its first year. These included David Sladky, Mike Sladky, Larry Neigut, Theresa Trees, and Marybeth Simkins.

Lifesaver awards were issued by Chief Medical Officer Hess to David Sladky, Wayne Obermann, Edmond Daugherty and Hector Santiago.

The Jeffries Award was issued by Chief Engineer Dave J Bailey to David Sladky for his work on the Space Battleship Yamato model in LEGO.

A gift basket, donated by Judith Oliveri, was won by Donna DiMatteo.

The official change of command ceremony was held for former Executive Officer Larry Neigut and Current Executive Officer Robert DiMatteo.

1700 hours

After a very full day our guests left and we cleaned up the mess. I think the event went very well and I want to thank everyone who helped the USS Storm have another suc-

cessful party! I would like to thank Mike Sladky, Donna DiMatteo, Ken Kadin, Michael Hess, Judith Oliveri, Joe Horton and Dominic Colomestra (The baker of the cake) for helping this party be very enjoyable and entertaining!



CAP David Sladky
USS Storm
Region 7



USS Heimdal's 2011 Annual Charity Auction Nets \$2960

On August 13, 2011 the USS Heimdal, based in Madison Heights, VA, Region One, held her Annual Charity Auction in the ballroom of the Kirkley Hotel in Lynchburg, VA. 59 guests attended the "open to the public" event that featured 243 donated auction items. A grand total of \$2960 was raised at the auction, which will fund the chapter's 11 adopted charities and the Heimdal's Space Camp Program.

Each January, the Heimdal's crew designates areas to canvas merchants and restaurants for auction donations and begins the actual canvassing effort. Public Relations Officer Martha Stimpson begins a letter-writing campaign to Virginia state attractions such as Monticello, Natural Bridge and Smith Mountain Lake, to name a few.

By August 6th, the Heimdal had amassed 243 auction donations. These donations included gift cards to state attractions, restaurants, furniture stores, local merchants and a night at the Holiday Inn Select for two in the King Suite, including breakfast (a donation worth \$160). Several local artists donated original artwork from their collections.

In early August, Communications Chief Glenda Blanks and Chief Medical Officer Tammy White were guests on CO Linda Smith's local television

talk show, "Lynchburg Live" advertising the auction, displaying some of the items to be auctioned and discussing the Heimdal and Starfleet in general. After the show aired twice, Linda and her husband, Willy, put the show on YouTube where it reached an even larger audience. (To access the show, go to YouTube, search for "Lynchburg Live Linda Smith" and it you can view all the shows).

Advertising for the auction is done through local TV, radio, local newspapers, flyers and word-of-mouth.

Every year, each auction guest receives a guest packet that includes a Starfleet membership flyer, information about the Heimdal, local coupons, a couple of small gifts such as a leather coaster and magnetic clips, several pieces of hard candy, a pencil and a questionnaire regarding the guest's enjoyment of the auction.

Unfortunately, Debbie lost her battle with ALS in the spring of 2011 and the Heimdal decided to dedicate this year's auction to Debbie's memory.

We enjoy including several small "thank you for attending" gifts. This year's packets also included twenty \$5 grocery store gift cards, each of which were placed in a random packet.

Auctioneer for the event was Heimdal Security Chief Carl Davis. His special wit kept the guests engaged and amused throughout the event. We believe that Carl and his humor are part of the reasons that so many of our guests return year after year. Carl's wife, Bonnie acted as his "Vanna [White]" (assistant).

Members Karen Delano and Willy Smith computer tracked bids during the auction and accepted payment for purchases. Members also manned the Welcome Table, presented door prize and 50/50 Raffle tickets, sold chapter cookbooks, took photos for the newsletter and acted as Security.

Many auction attendees are repeat guests and the Heimdal crew is starting to know them by name and they have become friends. Bud and Debbie Smith have been like that: Attending every Heimdal auction since they began in 2006. Though they don't have time to be Heimdal crew-

members, they asked for and enjoyed receiving the chapter's monthly newsletter.

At the 2010 Annual Charity Auction, Debbie walked in with a cane and told us she had been diagnosed with ALS ("Lou Gerig's Disease"). When she left, she promised she would see us all at the 2011 auction. Unfortunately, Debbie lost her battle with ALS in the spring of 2011 and the Heimdal decided to dedicate this year's auction to Debbie's memory. Her husband Bud told us that before she died, they decided to make a donation to the Heimdal because of the wonderful helping work we do within the community. At the beginning of the auction, Bud presented the Heimdal with a check for \$500. There was hardly a dry eye in the ballroom.

There is something especially overwhelming about learning that people believe in you and what you do. As long as we are able, the Heimdal will continue to present our Annual Charity Auction to raise funds to support the less fortunate in our area. Bud Smith will always have a special place at our auctions and in our hearts.

ADM Linda Smith
USS Heimdal
Region I



CO Linda Smith welcoming auction guests & introducing auctioneer, Carl Davis.
Photo by Willy Smith



Auction Cadet Review (LOL). Left to right: Heimdal members Jeanne Wilson, Tammy White, Kathy Whatley & Martha Stimpson. Photo by Willy Smith

On Friday, we had our “Fleet Admiral Dinner”. Before dinner, our Fleet Admiral wanted to do some sightseeing, so he requested to go to the beach before the dinner. As a great host committee, we granted his wish and he went to the beach.

2011 Region 2 Summit



My name is CAPT Alvin Dozier and I am the Public Information Officer of the USS Judah NCC-4205. In March of this year, the crews of the USS Judah, USS Gasparilla, USS Tiberius, and the USS Victorious worked together to host the 2011 Region 2 Summit.

The theme of the Summit was “Science Facts meets Science Fiction”. For the first time in regional history, we hosted our summit at two different locations. The main portion of the summit was at the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) in Tampa, Florida, while the “relax” time was at the hotel.

This was a big task because of the two different locations, but it was worth it because it was the best summit that the region ran. On Friday, we had our “Fleet Admiral Dinner”. Before dinner, our Fleet Admiral wanted to do some sightseeing, so he requested to go to the beach before the dinner. As a great host committee, we granted his wish and he went to the beach.

On Saturday, we opened our summit with our STARFLEET Marine Color Guard presenting the flags of USA, STARFLEET, and the SFMC (sorry, we did not have a Canadian flag) and we did the US & Canadian anthem. After that, we had our panels and workshops. I attended the Klingon workshop that Sunnie Planthold of the USS Gasparilla ran, and it was a great workshop.

We had our STARFLEET Marine Muster meeting at the Museum, too. We had everybody there, even a member of Region 3 out at our summit. We also had a special event happen before our banquet known as “The Final Mission”. If you do not know what that is, the final mission is a special service to pay tribute to members of our region, fleet, or those who have worked in Star Trek who have passed away in the past year.

This year, we had a member that was part of the Andromeda Station who passed away in February, Chief Science Officer LCDR Doris Standbury. She will be missed.

After the final mission, we had our banquet and regional award ceremony in the lobby of the Museum and we had a very good meal. After the ceremony was over, we went back to the hotel to hold a “Region 2 No-Limit Texas Hold-em Tournament” for our charity. There were two tables and the final two players were CAPT Alvin Dozier of the USS Judah and Ray Crew of the USS Khai Tam. When the battle was ended CAPT Alvin Dozier won the poker tournament.

On Sunday at the Museum, we had a new tradition that started with USS DaVanci called “Pie the Brass”. The person who bids the most money gets the honor of shoving a whipped cream “pie” in the face of the brass (in this case: the Fleet Admiral, Regional Coordinator & Summit chairperson).

Well, the Summit Chairperson did not want to get pied, so Captain Alvin Dozier took one for the team and stood in for BDR James Reed. Our Fleet Admiral raised \$90, our Regional Coordinator raised \$100 and CAPT Alvin Dozier raised \$129. So with everything that was raised during the weekend our summit gave \$500 to the Ronald McDonald House in Tampa, Florida.

After we got done with the Closing Ceremony, some of the people including our Fleet Admiral took a special trip to the Bay Area Renaissance Festival right next to the museum, and the Fleet Admiral had great time.

Plans are in the works for a joint summit between Region 2 and Region 3 in 2012, and I hope that is going to happen.



CAPT Alvin Dozier
USS Judah
Region 2

Executive Committee Reports

News and updates from the head honchos.



FADM Dave Blaser
USS Hadfield
Region 13

**Commander,
STARFLEET**



MGN Bran Stimpson
USS Tiburon
Region 17

**Vice Commander,
STARFLEET**

Report From The Commander, STARFLEET

As I write this, I've just been to the Region 2 / Region 3 Joint Summit in Hammond, Louisiana, where I had a great time, and enjoyed a surprise.

I think I've mentioned before that I really enjoy going to regional summits because it gives me a chance to meet new friends and to reconnect with old friends, and this summit was certainly no exception to that, but what was different was to see how this summit was executed.

Regions 2 and 3 are very different in how they do things and in their regional personalities, but this summit was planned out and executed very, very well. It took into consideration the needs and functionality of both regions, and blended things together into an excellent event with wonderful contributions from both regions. This was the first joint regional event that has taken place in

recent STARFLEET history (that I'm aware of) and the members of Regions 2 and 3 should be very proud of how well they worked together.

We have a great deal of diversity in STARFLEET. Every region is unique in the things that they do, in how they function and interact internally, and every chapter is unique from the others around them. STARFLEET is a demonstration of infinite diversity in infinite combinations, but many regions and chapters still share many things in common, from a desire to have fun and enjoy life, to trying to make the world around them a little bit better.

Regions 2 and 3 showed their diversity during their joint summit, but in a way that demonstrated that diversity could work together in harmony, to have fun and enjoy themselves, and to make the world around

them better – Regions 2 and 3 raised \$3,300 in support of their charity, the "Our Daily Bread" food bank in Hammond, Louisiana. I feel that this is an excellent achievement, and I hope that other regions might make a similar effort to try a joint event like this one.

Regional summits really are a great opportunity to meet other members, and a great chance to make new friends in STARFLEET, and I would really like to encourage our members to get out, take part and have fun at their summits.

When I'm out talking to people about STARFLEET, and what sets us apart from other clubs, I tell people about how interactive we are, and how people typically enjoy themselves more when they join a fan club if they're more interactive and socialize with the other members.

I think that it's pretty safe to say that we all enjoy Star Trek, and that we're more likely to enjoy ourselves when we can hang out and have fun with people who enjoy some of the same things that we do, and that's what summits and conferences are all about.

Some people will say "what happens at the summit, stays at the summit", and on some things, like Region 3's gummies, skull shaped drink glasses, and jokes about crickets, I'd probably agree, but I hope that each of you who attend your regional summit or conference will share the stories about how fun it was, the things you did, the people you met, with people who haven't been to a summit and encourage them to get out to a summit soon and to join in on the fun too!

Until the next CQ...

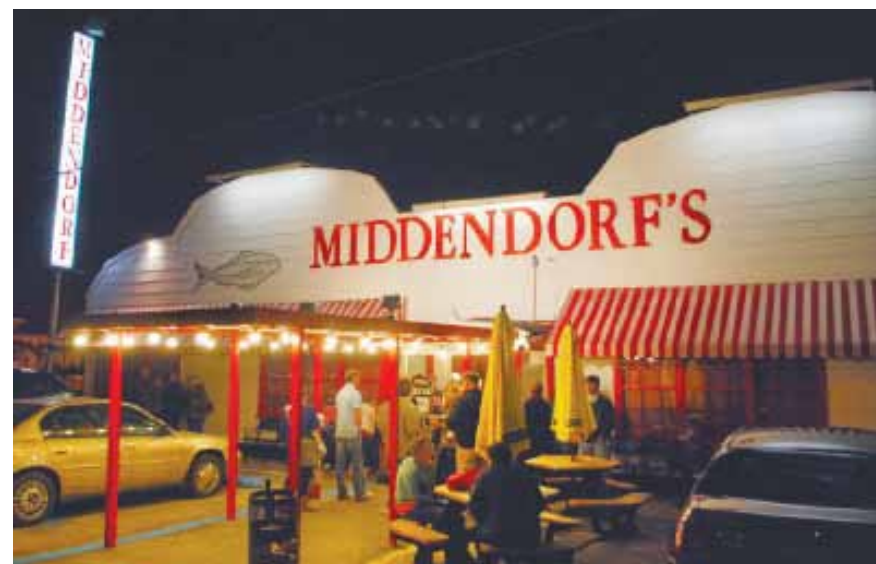
The Second Fiddle

It was my great pleasure to be able to attend the Region 2/3 summit in Hammond Louisiana. Prior to the summit, I was able to spend several days in New Orleans, a place that Christina and I had never been. Then after the summit we were able to spend an evening drinking and walking Bourbon St. with some great members from Region 3. At the summit, I was able to meet some great members from across Fleet. I learned that some Regional Coordinators keep their staffs in-line by giving them oh wait, never mind, I shouldn't give away Region 3 secrets. I was introduced to the Third and Second Brigades of the STARFLEET Marine Corps and what these fine members do for their Brigades and STARFLEET. Oh yeah, and I was reminded how funny people, well certain people, can be when they have a few drinks.

My attendance at the summit was a secret from our Commander STARFLEET and just about everyone else. I was able to convince Dave that due to work I was unable to attend, when in fact because of work I

would be able to attend. At the Fleet Admirals dinner, which was held at a very nice steak and seafood restaurant called Middendorfs. I was able to sneak in and surprise Dave. I must admit, it was pretty cool to walk up to his table and make some sort of comment, which I am sure was sarcastic in some way, and see the surprise on his face. Dave truly had no idea what was going on.

I was able to spend that summit meeting many new members of this fine organization. The creativity, resourcefulness and talents of the members of STARFLEET will always impress me. Watching members from across the south central and south eastern United States come together in the interest of STARFLEET and friendship and place this summit together was fantastic. It was wonderfully successful and completely enjoyable weekend. I was able to talk STARFLEET, Star Trek and all sorts of other topics. I learned about the interests and lives of many members and find that connection to be the best part of STARFLEET. It is amazing



that a television show that only aired for three years, one that showed a future where we all get along, spurred the creation of this fine organization that connects people from all walks of life and all nationalities. That allowed me to travel to Louisiana to meet people and experience new food and cultures is a spectacular thing. That is what STARFLEET is about: meeting people and making

friends from across the country and around the world

Thank you to the organizers of the Region 2/3 summit! I hope that the success of this regional combo event leads the way for other regions to consider combining resources as well.

Hello From the Vault

As you all probably know by now the past month or so has been difficult for me. We were without internet for almost 5 weeks due to a storm and incompetent service provider. During that time I had no contact with the “outside world” and Wade had a major car accident, totaling his Blazer. Then this past week I had my first, and hopefully last, kidney stone. So, things have been less than fun in the Olson household for the past couple of months.

I would like to say a big thank you to my Vice CFO Tammy Willcox and our new assistant Pat Spillers for all their work during the time I was out of touch. They did a great job of keeping the office neat and tidy while I was away.

I realize that this is summit season and the CFO’s office is doing its best to make sure that everyone has items needed for these events. If you have a summit planned for the next month or so, PLEASE let me know if you wish merchandise available for sale at your event. We are trying this year to provide items for every event possible. Have your responsible party contact me at cfo@sfi.org and we will be happy to work with you. Please do not wait until the last minute as it does take a bit of time to pack and ship merchandise and get it ready for the event. It is also tax time for this office and budget time, so we are not just sitting around watching the grass grow. So please work with us to make your event as special as possible.

FEBRUARY FINANCES

The Main SFI account opened the month of February with a balance of \$22,877.76

There were credits in the amount of \$6,585.40

There were debits in the amount of \$3,886.42

Closing balance for February 29th was \$25,576.74

The IC Even account opened the month of February with a balance of \$1,251.96

There were credits in the amount of \$0.00

There were debits in the amount of \$16.00 (regular maintenance fee)

Closing balance for February 29th was \$1,235.96

The IC Odd account opened the month of February 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 February was \$1,504.10

We’ve found that our bank charges no maintenance fees if the account balance remains above \$1500.00. Only \$500 of this actual-ly is attributed to IC2013 (the IC Seed Money), however it was decided to leave the rest in the account to avoid service fees.

The SFMC account opened the month of February with a balance of \$4,819.29

There were credits in the amount of \$357.16

There were debits in the amount of \$14.59

Closing balance for February was \$5,161.86

The STARFLEET Scholarship Savings account opened the month of February with a balance of \$24,197.51

There were credits in the amount of \$201.53

Closing balance for February was \$24,399.04

The SFMC Scholarship Savings Account opened the month of February with a balance of \$2,726.13

There were credits in the amount of \$0.18 (interest)

Closing Balance for February was \$2,726.31

We have one remaining Certificate of Deposit that renews in September that currently has a balance of \$1,108.63, with an interest rate of 0.35%.

MARCH FINANCES

The Main SFI account opened the month of March with a balance of \$25,576.74

There were credits in the amount of \$4,124.87

There were debits in the amount of \$4,449.54

Closing balance for March 31st was \$35,908.12

The IC Even account opened the month of March with a balance of \$1,235.96

There were credits in the amount of \$60.00

There were debits in the amount of \$16.00 (regular maintenance fee)

Closing balance for March 31st was \$1,279.96

The IC Odd account opened the month of March 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 March 31st was \$1,504.10

The SFMC account opened the month of March with a balance of \$5,161.86

There were credits in the amount of \$167.84

There were debits in the amount of \$67.83

Closing balance for March 31st was \$5,261.87

The STARFLEET Scholarship Savings account opened the month of March with a balance of \$24,399.04

There were credits in the amount of \$1.65 (interest)

Closing balance for March 31st was \$24,400.69

The SFMC Scholarship Savings Account opened the month of March with a balance of \$2,726.13

There were credits in the amount of \$0.18 (interest)

Closing Balance for March 31st was \$2,726.31

We have one remaining Certificate of Deposit that renews in September that currently has a balance of \$1,110.96, with an interest rate of 0.35%.



GEN Linda Olson
USS Relentless
Region 2

Chief Financial
Officer
STARFLEET



STARFLEET Academy News

As I sit here pondering on what to write from my desk, I look around me to realize that I have different surroundings since the last time I wrote for the Communiqué. I have a different home, which means different outside view that holds loads of beautiful flowers and a whole new different

life to become accustomed to. I had been away from the Academy from the end of February throughout most of March. Thanks to many who I hold dear to me from the Academy and STARFLEET, I have made it through some rough times in one piece, physically and emotionally.

I may have different surroundings and life, but one thing is for sure, but one thing that will never change are the friends who are like family to me. Thank you.

We do have always will have changes in STARFLEET Academy as you will note from the desk of Admi-

ral Thompson. To give you an idea of how busy we are, we had 5,373 total courses in the first Quarter of 2011 = 1,791 average per month. Not too shabby.

From the Desk of the Vice Commandant: ADM Marlene Miller

For years the idea has been batted around Starfleet Academy, to make several courses available on audio files or CDs in order to help those in Starfleet who are visually impaired, or perhaps some other impairment where the assistance in reading exams and resource documents is difficult for them.

Since completion of OTS and OCC are necessary to advance to quite a few positions in Starfleet, we've decided to start with these two courses.

Members of the USS McNair approached us to put OTS on CDs, and Erik Stovall and Ron Novak have offered to do the same with OCC.

By the time this CQ gets to you, we hope to have both courses ready to go, with all the final details in place.

If you are in need of audio CDs to complete OTS and/or OCC, please contact the course directors. OTS is Jill Rayburn at OTS@sfi.org; OCC is Marlene Miller at OCC@sfi.org.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on a well-deserved promotion:

Wayne Killough to Admiral
Doug Mayo to Vice Admiral
Jay Hurd to Commodore
Eric Johansson to Fleet Captain
Franklin Newman III to Captain

From the Desk of the Coordinator of Academics: ADM Carol Thompson

I have a lot going on in the development phase of several new Colleges. It is a full-time job to keep up with them!

The College of Unusual Knowledge is growing so fast that it is being

split up into several Colleges, most of them covering natural and biological sciences.

One of the schools in the College of Macabre is being upped to a separate College: The College of

Vampires and Werewolves with 31 existing exams and a goodly number of exams in development.

Other new Colleges are being developed by our most prolific writers.

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

The Monitor features quarterly lists of the Academy graduates, as well as changes in faculty and Colleges.

You can view the newsletter in one of two ways. Go to our website:

academy.sfi.org and click on "about us" or use the mirror site <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 quar-

terly lists of the Academy graduates, as well as changes in faculty and Colleges.



ADM Peg Pellerin
USS Constitution
Region 15

Commandant,
STARFLEET
Academy

Riddle Me This

**Everyone offers this thing.
But few will take it when it
is offered by someone else.**

Look for the answer in the next issue!

Last Issue's riddle: *Buckets, barrels, baskets, cans; What must you fill with empty hands?*
ANSWER: *Gloves*

From the Desk of the Assistant Boothby Awards Director: CAPT Scott Schaller



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.

JANUARY BOOTHBY AWARDS

- Bronze 50
01/20/2012 Cress, Stacey Linebaugh
- Silver 100
01/21/2012 Thacker, Beau
01/17/2012 Young Zebariah
- Gold 150
01/17/2012 Jones, Bryan
01/05/2012 Jackson, Barry
01/01/2012 Reinleib, Jordan
- Latinum 200
01/21/2012 Reinleib, Jordan
- Diamond 250
01/09/2012 Bingisser, Dewayne
- Dilithium 300
01/10/2012 White, Joseph
- Zirconium 400
01/27/2012 Beaulieu, E. Jerry
01/18/2012 Rogers, Leo
- Platinum 450
01/01/2012 Paul, Barbara
- Trilithium 500
01/18/2012 Paul, Barbara
- Topaz 650
01/16/2012 Schleigh, Cher
- Truman Temple 1100
01/20/2012 Hewitt, Richard
01/12/2012 Newman, Franklin
- Gold Star 1150
01/30/2012 Newman, Franklin
- Amber Star 1550
01/18/2012 Wheeler, George Ann
- Garnet Star 1600
01/20/2012 French, Larry
01/11/2012 Fisher, Josephine
01/08/2012 Smith, Wayne
- Topaz Star 1650
01/08/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Amethyst Star 1700
01/15/2012 Killough, Wayne

- Pearl Star 1750
01/17/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Opal Star 1800
01/21/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Sapphire Star 1850
01/25/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Ruby Star 1900
01/28/2012 Killough, Wayne
01/27/2012 Thompson, Carol

FEBRUARY BOOTHBY AWARDS

- Bronze 50
02/23/2012 Muller, Philip
02/19/2012 Ferber, David
02/14/2012 Seim, Michael
02/09/2012 Cupps, Marcus
02/05/2012 Peter, Scott
02/04/2012 Schreck, Jason
- Silver 100
02/23/2012 Bailey, David
02/02/2012 Satonick, Stephen
- Diamond 250
02/27/2012 Reinleib, Jordan
- Dilithium 300
02/17/2012 Polanis, Mark
02/11/2012 Baxter, Bobbie
- Titanium 350
02/03/2012 Waidlich, Judy
- Zirconium 400
02/26/2012 Waidlich, Judy
- Amber 550
02/01/2012 Garcia, Ricardo
- Garnet 600
02/29/2012 Wenclewicz, Adam
02/02/2012 Garcia, Ricardo
- Amethyst 700
02/16/2012 Schleigh, Cher
- Ruby 900
02/14/2012 Miller, Marlene
- Gold Star 1150
02/26/2012 Hewitt, Richard
- Dilithium Star 1300
02/03/2012 Diebold, Glendon
- Topaz Star 1650
02/23/2012 French, Larry
02/20/2012 Fisher, Josephine
02/03/2012 Smith, Wayne
- Amethyst Star 1700
02/23/2012 Smith, Wayne

- Emerald Star 1950
02/14/2012 Thompson, Carol
02/05/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Omega Star 2000
02/20/2012 Thompson, Carol
02/12/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Acamar Star 2050
02/28/2012 Thompson, Carol
02/18/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Aldebaran Star 2100
02/22/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Alpha Centauri Star 2150
02/27/2012 Killough, Wayne

MARCH BOOTHBY AWARDS

- Bronze 50
03/28/2012 Hadley, Melissa
03/14/2012 Childers, Richard
03/09/2012 Mabbitt, Robert
- Silver 100
03/18/2012 Schreck, Jason
03/16/2012 Radle, John
03/14/2012 Doane, Christina
03/01/2012 Lily, Tracy
03/01/2012 Schroeder, Megan
03/01/2012 Hamilton, Steve
03/01/2012 Garrett, Jason
03/01/2012 Webster, Tom
03/01/2012 Clark, Sharon Ann
- Gold 150
03/15/2012 Hamilton, Steve
03/10/2012 Satonick, Stephen
03/01/2012 Westfall, Robert
03/01/2012 Clark, Thomas
03/01/2012 Gregory, Shawn
03/01/2012 Cook, Cynthia
03/01/2012 Chiaromonte, John
- Latinum 200
03/13/2012 Chiaromonte, John
03/01/2012 Amor, Gary
- Diamond 250
03/15/2012 Amor, Gary
- Dilithium 300
03/05/2012 Norris, Sharon
03/01/2012 Wandall, Ed
03/01/2012 Bingisser, Dewayne
- Titanium 350
03/15/2012 Wandall, Ed
03/15/2012 Bingisser, Dewayne
- Zirconium 400
03/27/2012 Wandall, Ed

- Amber 550
03/01/2012 Paul, Barbara
- Garnet 600
03/20/2012 Paul, Barbara
03/01/2012 Skelton, Jeremy
- Topaz 650
03/27/2012 Wenclewicz, Adam
03/15/2012 Garcia, Ricardo
- Opal 800
03/10/2012 Ruhland, Russell
- Emerald 950
03/01/2012 Miller, Marlene
- Omega 1000
03/20/2012 Miller, Marlene
- Truman Temple 1100
03/25/2012 Pawelczak, Thomas
- Gold Star 1150
03/01/2012 Allen, TJ
- Latinum Star 1200
03/01/2012 Newman, Franklin
- Diamond Star 1250
03/19/2012 Hollifield, Gary, Tiny
03/13/2012 Newman, Franklin
- Titanium Star 1350
03/27/2012 Diebold, Glendon
- Garnet Star 1600
03/18/2012 Wheeler, George, Ann
- Amethyst Star 1700
03/22/2012 French, Larry
03/13/2012 Fisher, Josephine
- Aldebaran Star 2100
03/26/2012 Thompson, Carl
- Altair Star 2200
03/02/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Amargosa Star 2250
03/11/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Antares Star 2300
03/12/2012 Killough, Wayne
- Arcturus Star 2350
03/26/2012 Killough, Wayne

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

New Petfleet Coordinator, Colonel Bobbie “BobKat” Baxter, takes the helm.

PetFleet News



New Petfleet Coordinator, Colonel Bobbie “BobKat” Baxter, takes the helm.

Passionate about animals and their welfare, Colonel Bobbie “BobKat” Baxter, OIC of the 506th MEU, brings a history of dedication and service to her new position of Petfleet Coordinator. Just recently she received the Cross of Honor, the Cross of Valor, and the Starfleet Cross, and last year the Sword of Valor and the Region 5 Meritorious Service Award. She has been awarded the Order of Tarbolde of Canopus, the Leaders Commendation three times, and has earned a Special Ops degree, her Aerospace wings, Jump wings, Parachute wings, and Mecha Sash device. She is the past Region 5 Information Officer 2010-2011, and Region 5 Newsletter Editor 2010-2011 under FCAPT Joe Fuller where, as editor, she designed and wrote the regional newsletter. She currently holds the position of 5th BDE Information Officer and Logistics Officer under BGEN Norm DeRoux, and is OIC of the 506th MEU, and was recently made director of the Stargate Atlantis college. Previously she held the positions of Second Officer and Chief Science Officer. You can email her at petfleet@sfi.org

Get involved - make a difference

Pets can change our lives, which is why more and more of us now consider them family members - not just possessions. That is cause for celebration! Animals serve as companions to the lonely, the ill, the homeless, and children of all ages. They depend on us for their very survival, so how we treat them tells a lot about who we are as people, and as individuals. Sign up your pet in Petfleet for only \$1 so your nonhuman family can serve alongside you in the Starfleet universe. Your \$1 annual membership fee will be donated to an animal charity, which means you will be helping to make a positive impact in

the lives of defenseless animals who have suffered at the hands of heartless and cruel humans. Not everyone can do a lot, but everyone can do something. Your \$1 annual membership fee added to hundreds more like it will mean the world to some very needy animals. Go to Petfleet.org or email me at petfleet@sfi.org.

One of the first things I had to do after taking over Petfleet a few weeks ago was to move several dog and cat Petfleet membership ID cards to the memorial section of the Petfleet website. It was not done casually. As sad as it was to do, and among them was my own little guy of 13 years, it was a huge honor to be the one to transfer each pet to memorial wall where they will continue to live within our hearts. So, Trip, George, Brittany, Zeus, and Gizmo, thank you for your service to Petfleet.

I look forward to serving with you and your pets.

“Try to be the person your dog thinks you are.”

Keep Dogs Warm in the Winter

During the winter season, many dogs feel the cold as much as their owners do, especially dogs that are not habituated to the cold, or that have specific cold weather traits. Keeping your dog warm through the winter months is important to maintaining top health, and it won't take you much extra effort to ensure winter coziness for your canine pal. Here's how.

Understand your breed's particular susceptibility. Some dog breeds are more prone to the cold than others, while some breeds are adapted extremely well to the cold. Dogs that find it hard include Dobermans, toy dogs, low hair or hairless dogs, and greyhounds. Any shaven or excessively clipped dog will fall into this category as well because the thick winter coat is a dog's insulation.

Provide appropriate shelter. It

is optimal if your dog can remain indoors throughout winter, going outside for exercising and answering nature's call only. This will ensure that your dog doesn't get cold while you're out or asleep. Young puppies should not be left outside as they don't have the ability of older dogs to keep themselves warm outside.

Ensure that the bedding is warm and well placed. Bedding is an important part of keeping a dog warm through winter. If your dog sleeps on the ground or somewhere with drafts, place the bed up off the floor. A custom-made bed with cushioned insert, blankets, and old clothing make good, warm bedding.

Use canine clothing options for particular dogs and situations. Canine clothing can help to keep your dog warm through winter, especially for small or toy dogs, dogs without long hair (for example, whippets and greyhounds), and old or sick dogs. One of the key signs of a cold dog is shivering, just like humans.

Use booties to protect your dog's paws when walking on snow and salt. Salt serves as an irritant on dog paws and snow is very cold. Booties will keep the feet warm and free from salt irritation. However, unless you've trained your dog to accept booties from puppyhood, this can be a bit of battle with some dogs who won't tolerate wearing them.

If you feel cold, chances are so does your dog. A hot water bottle can be tucked under a dog's bed to warm it up quickly.



In memoriam

George Legleu, age 15 years 8 months, a feline member of Petfleet who served on the USS Corsair chapter of SFI in Baton Rouge, passed away 8/5/12. His owner, Tani, volunteers at her local humane society where she bottle-raised George's litter of four from their first day of life. His personality captured Tani's heart so she adopted him. For nearly 16 years he was her constant companion - whether laying on the computer mouse while she worked or sleeping cuddled up with Tani on the couch watching TV, he always had to be by her side. He had to “boldly go” where all of us must one day go, far too soon, and his absence leaves a great void. “Thank you, George, for trekking with me for so long. I miss my “murph-man” and you will always be Mommy's most precious kitten.”



COL Bobbie Baxter
Region 5

PetFleet
Coordinator

STARFLEET Marine Corps Reports

News and updates from the Marines.



State of the SFMC

Although by the time of writing this some things will have possibly changed due to timeliness, let's first talk about the membership of the SFMC

As this goes to publication, there are 1,104 members of the Corps - being 565 Active and 539 reserves, spread over 147 Units. This figure represents an exact total of 25% of current STARFLEET membership - meaning that 1 in 4 members are also members of the SFMC and an increase since my last report. Regardless of recent discussions regarding membership levels, that's got to be pretty fabulous in anyone's book no matter how you look at it.

Allowing for some shrinkage due to 'retired subscriptions' but also taking into consideration that the SFMC has seen nothing but continued growth over the last decade (for instance) - this gives a pretty clear example that the SFMC is very much alive and well, and heading towards its 30th Anniversary in fine fashion.

We sometimes hear of the apathy that affects the Corps and comments that we are a shrinking organization. Well I for one disagree with that (but acknowledge the need to be continually striving for growth all the same) as the evidence towards the membership of the last several years belies such remarks, especially as there has been no downward trend evident

Of course there is some apathy evident - what fan club does not suffer that? And sure, we will lose members who are dissatisfied, bored, disgruntled for some reason or other or (sadly) go unrewarded for their efforts and therefore depart.

We must therefore recognize that apathy is a real, live thing but that it is up to each and every one of us to do something about it where we can.

My point in raising this is that although all of the aforementioned elements can sometimes be easily 'talked away', there is also the truth that as a body, we need to understand and identify those concerns of the group membership as a whole,

that can indeed accelerate any apathy/dissatisfaction to the point that people will leave because they simply don't get what they seek from the organization.

This responsibility falls squarely to the GS first; to Battalion and Brigade leaders second, but also to the Corps as a whole thereafter

Providing a concise overview, the GS must seek to satisfy the needs of the total membership as best as they can and at same time, retain "order, authority and example" as required. Members of the Corps also must buy in to this philosophy by ensuring that they have best opportunity to maximize the fun elements they seek from their membership but working within the bounds of the 'rules and regulations' that have been set.

"And what does all this mean?" I hear you cry... from my viewpoint, simply this: Many of the major issues that arise from time to time, do so because of one simple fact - people have not read the manual.

Or maybe they HAVE read the manual, but have decided to interpret what they have read in their own fashion, or they simply just don't understand what it tells them and charge on regardless. This leads to confusion, conflicting viewpoints, incorrect information being communicated, frustration, anger, contempt of any 'authority' and ultimately, dissatisfaction and discontent. You would be surprised as to how many of our 'leaders' in this organization are just as guilty as everyone else of not first, simply having read the manual.

The SFMC manuals are our most important documents. They provide the summation of almost thirty years of organizational structure, compiled from long experience and intelligence into a fashion so as to ensure this organization works from a solid base foundation.

Without the 'rules, policies and regulations' placed within them, we would have almost chaos, because what all this text therein is designed to do, is to ensure that the SFMC is a

well-structured, well-defined organization and to provide clear, concise information on how to be a member of the Corps.

This applies most especially to our Dress Code - because this Code was simply established to ensure uniformity of dress for members of this club and to protect against 'possible concerns' from anyone in the real-world not recognizing what we wear as being a "fan uniform" - a bit hard sometimes perhaps with BDU's and S&Ps, but I am sure you will understand the meaning.

Without such a Uniform Code, we could wear any style of uniform we like and still call ourselves members of the SFMC.

So how many Star Wars storm troopers would we see with SFMC patches slapped on maybe? US Army ACU's in digi-camo would abound (yep, let's all look like real soldiers...) - and there could even then be a few wearing US Civil War re-enactment uniforms with phasers strapped on.

Fun? Heck yes for sure! But reflecting us as being members of a Star Trek fan club? Don't think so. And hence a very simplistic and narrow viewpoint as to the need for 'dress regulation'.

These rules are our guidelines - made to ensure that as a body, members reflect that simple act of membership in a uniform manner. We don't NEED an SFMC uniform to be a marine, but for those who wish to dress as one, then they should have a guideline for how to dress to attend an official SFMC function. If not, then let's all drag out our old military uniforms and pin some ST delta's on. (Don't know what ever happened to mine and it wouldn't fit me anyway...)

But enough of all that ranting. Finish this bit off with that age-old cry made by many Commandants before me - if you have any suggestions; ideas; comments; etc., then PASS THEM ON. Don't sit back waiting to pounce and criticize just when the occasion appears. Talk to us. Talk to the leaders in your Unit, Battalion or Brigade. Make sure you ARE getting

your opinions and viewpoints across - because if you don't, then you will have to accept those ideas, elements and any 'rules' that get forced upon you... This is YOUR club remember.

The SFMC Wilderness Challenge (WC) - Moving to another topic, the WC under the exceptional guardianship of GEN Wade Olson and the Wilderness Challenge Committee, is very alive and well and should be brought to your attention. As the Northern Hemisphere summer season approaches, Units, Battalions or Brigades may be looking to plan such an event and the WC Committee would love to hear from you

GEN Olson has authorized the creation of an SFMC Wilderness Challenge Manual, which will shortly appear within the SFMC library on the SFMC website.

Anyone interested in learning more of the WC should be able to find the majority of answers to any questions within this manual, but if not, then I am certain GEN Olson will look forward to helping you as required. He can be contacted on captwho@wildblue.net.

The WC will also soon have its own information page(s) on the SFMC website and this too will help provide clear overviews of this great program

Devices & Awards - there have been some recent discussion surrounding this topic - some relevant, some not. It is appreciated that there are criticisms associated with how long some things seem to take, but it should also be acknowledged that the current devices and awards have been in place for many years and any significant changes to these should be made cautiously and correctly. We may be slow but we plan to be exact.

Also, look for a new announcement shortly to another award to be added to the list - one which I might add fills a very good need and is not simply "just another award"

SFMC Scholarship Fund - as you will have seen from the recent Fin-Com report, the SFMC Scholarship Fund has a healthy balance of some

BGN Bruce O'Brien
USS Southern Cross
Region II

Commandant SFMC

\$2,700.00. To the best of my knowledge, there has only ever been one application/recipient to this Fund and surely there must be others out there who could make great use of this resource? Have a read through the criteria on the SFMCA website http://sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=85&Itemid=514 and post any queries you may have to COTraCom (tracom@sfi-sfmc.org).

We sure would love to see these funds being used for what they were

gathered for.

And I guess that's enough from me. I trust that this report provides some insights and overviews. If it doesn't I remind you all once again that my door is always open and that I am more than happy to hear of anyone's concerns, suggestions or ideas so do feel free to express them to me.

Lastly, I close with this reminder (speaking of SFMC uniforms) which you see pop up all over from now on - just as a reminder as to why we have need for such a Code:

The STARFLEET Marine Corps has a wide variety of uniforms authorized in the MFM, suitable for any 'Trek era, as well as designs whose primary value is that they are relatively inexpensive and consist of components widely available through a variety of commercial sources.

Remember that at no time is any uniform required, but if a STARFLEET Marine Corps uniform is worn, it should be one of the designs authorized in the MFM and the uniform should be worn correctly.

The MFM contains a caution that bears repeating often: Uniforms should not be worn to functions where the majority of attendees would not recognize it as some type of fan uniform. The Mess White and Class C uniforms are not readily recognizable as a non-military uniform. Marines should avoid wearing the uniform in any context where it may appear paramilitary or intimidating to the public.

State of the NCO Corps

Greetings Marines!

Once again I am here in the booth in the back in the corner in the dark of my local NCO club, where in hindsight, we are cutting the Meteorology boys a bit of slack since the weather even has groundhogs scratching their heads, and after a recent unfortunate incident at the holographic shooting game, we request that all sidearms be checked at the door.

In the STARFLEET Marines, we are NCOs by our own choice, for reasons that are often very personal and deeply felt. Unlike the fictional Starfleet Marine Corps, we are a minority of the membership. The path of the "career" STARFLEET Marine NCO is the proverbial road less travelled.

In the fictional Starfleet Marines, NCOs are found in many posts; from low level supply clerks to the dark world of SpecOps to the backbone of the Corps, the Infantry fire team, NCOs have many duties and many responsibilities depending on their MOS. But what about the real world STARFLEET Marines?

By now, you should all know that the MFM tasks the NCOs of the SFMC with taking a lead in their unit's community service efforts. NCOs are also tasked with taking a lead in recruiting and more importantly, retention of new members. So, how do we accomplish those assigned tasks?

To help with the first, remember, community service need not be some large scale effort. No matter how small the community you live in, there is ample opportunity for Marines to make a difference. No effort is too small. Even a few hours here and there will help. Think outside the box, and encourage and help your

fellow Marines to do the same.

Now, as to recruiting and retention, I am going to sum it up first in two words: have fun.

One thing that people often lose sight of is that the STARFLEET is primarily a social organization, not a real-world military command. People should be having fun, enjoying time spent with people of similar interests. Perhaps the biggest reason people leave any sort of club is that, for whatever reason, it's just not fun anymore.

Do not get so caught up in your real world duties and responsibilities that you lose sight of this. Let your enthusiasm be an example to others, whether it be taking classes from TRACOM or SFA, or simply refusing to let a gathering or event fail because poor planning is making everyone miserable.

As the saying goes: Adapt, Improvise, and Overcome. Refuse to be a source of negativity, but instead find a way to make things work. Most importantly, have fun yourself. You will do the rest of your Marines no good if you are constantly feeling over worked and burn out.

However, while you should be having fun, you should also remember that as a STARFLEET Marine NCO, you should always strive to lead by example. You should not only "talk the talk", but you should also "walk the walk". For instance, it is no use telling other Marines that they should take care in their appearance if you show up at meetings or events looking like an unmade bed, or advising a professional approach to a problem if you are constantly flying off the handle publicly. Remember the slogan of the SFMC NCO Corps:

Excellence in Everything We Do.

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.

Now, it's time for Top's History Lesson. (As a reminder, if you would like a compilation of all the monthly History Lesson segments of my report, feel free to email me, and indicate whether you prefer a PDF or a Word doc file)

If you ever get a chance to visit the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, you will probably come across a simple uniform shirt with Airman First Class stripes on it displayed in a place of honor. Nearby are personal effects and other memorabilia of a remarkable young man: William H. Pitsenbarger, "Pits" to his fellow members of the USAF's 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron.

Pitsenbarger was a PJ, one of the elite Air Force Pararescue Jumpers, who had gone through the demanding training of his specialty. He arrived in Vietnam in August of 1965 and by April 11, 1966 had more than 250 missions under his belt, including one where he rescued a wounded South Vietnamese soldier from a burning minefield. On that fateful April day, two HH-53 helicopters from his squadron were sent out in response to a call for assistance from a company of the US First Infantry division who were engaged with

an enemy battalion. Outnumbered about 5 to 1, they were surrounded and pinned down, and casualties were mounting. To make matters worse, they were in a heavy "triple canopy" forest, with no clear area for a helicopter to set down.

Pitsenbarger rode a cable down through 100 feet of forest canopy, and once on the ground set about treating and evacuating the wounded. Time after time, he elected to remain on the ground despite heavy enemy fire, and sent others up via the hoist. Finally, when one of the helicopters was damaged by ground fire, he waved his ride out off, and stayed with the beleaguered soldiers. Due to the intensity of the enemy fire, no further rescue missions would be attempted until the next day. It was a situation described by one of the soldiers there as "a hellhole".

The 21 year old PJ kept treating the wounded, improvising when necessary. When ammunition started running low, he exposed himself to enemy fire to collect magazines from dead or wounded soldiers and re-distribute them to the dwindling number of effectives in the company. Perhaps mindful of the ammunition situation, survivors of the action report that he only fired on semi-auto, presumably being able to better see where the enemy fire was coming from because he was constantly up and moving instead of safely behind cover. Even after being wounded, he continued to treat casualties, collect ammo, and snap off some careful shots. Eventually, his luck ran out. Eyewitness reports say that his body was found with his rifle in one hand and his sorely depleted medical kit in the other.



MSGT Jerome A. "Hawk" Stoddard
USS Thermopylae
Region 5

Sergeant Major
SFMC

State of the NCO Corps, Continued

For coordinating the successful rescues, caring for the wounded and sacrificing his life while aggressively defending his comrades, Pitsenbarger was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross in July of 1966, but ... as the years went by, survivors of

the action and his hometown Chamber of Commerce began to lobby for a review of the award. Testimony was provided from the handful of survivors of that action (the company suffered 80 percent casualties), and on December 8, 2000, a ceremony

was held at the Air Force Museum. There, his family was given Pitsenbarger's Medal of Honor, and it was announced at the same time that he had been promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. The ceremony was attended not only by his family, and

survivors of the battle, but by literally hundreds of PJs, past and present that came to honor one of their own, a young man who embodied the Pararescue motto "That others may live."



BDR Michael Timko
USS Vortex
Region I

CO INFOCOM SFMC



GEN Mark Anbinder
USS Accord
Region 7

Deputy
Commandant

INFOCOM Report

Greetings Marines,
Love was in the air several weeks back... that was until I trained my Type 3 Phaser Rifle on Cupid and winged the sucker. Now things are finally getting back to normal here at the Datawarfare Center.

Let's talk about what going on shall we.

Pingdom:

The Pingdom report for December showed us with 3 outages and an uptime of 99.76%. The average response time was 407 ms. These results are better than last month where

our response time was higher.

Attention on Deck Extra:

Tom is still prepping his next issue, so if you would like to contribute to the next issue you can reach Tom as emttc911@yahoo.com or you can still send me submissions at michaelj.timko@gmail.com and I will just forward them to Tom.

Staffing:

Additional staffing plans are still in progress and have taken a back seat to other projects. One position that we are definitely seeking is a CGI/PHP Programmer role. If you have

these skills or know someone who does, then we need to talk.

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.

Recent Events

As you all know from my previous email, the SFMCA site was hacked. In record time, Laura Victor in CompOps came through for us (do I see another Naval Unit Citation in her future... hint, hint). I will not go into specifics now, but I can say that the Commandant will be addressing us shortly about the issue.

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

Pomp and Circumstance

Regional Conference and Brigade Muster season is upon us, and before you know it, we'll be enjoying each other's company in the Memphis area for this summer's STARFLEET 2012 International Conference and the International Muster. When people ask me what sets off SFMC events from STARFLEET events, the answer I always come up with is that STARFLEET's Marines put just a bit more pomp and circumstance into their events.

What do I mean? Well, that bit of extra formality, of ceremony, that's apparent from a member's first glimpse of the crisp Class A uniform, and becomes even more evident at a Dress Mess dinner.

The Uniform

The word as we know it today dates back to the Middle French word *uniforme*, which not surprisingly meant, simply, "having one form." Its use to describe one form of attire for a group has been traced to a first usage over 250 years ago.

Members of the STARFLEET Marine Corps take pride in assembling accurate uniforms, often from a variety of disparate sources. After all, we're not really on duty, and there isn't a "real" Starfleet Quartermaster

we can obtain our uniforms from.

A couple of months ago, I wrote about requests for variations to the uniforms specified in the SFMC's Marine Force Manual. Lack of availability of specified items is a tough problem to solve, and that and allowing for some regional variation are the two reasons we'd be most inclined to be lenient about variations to the uniform. Of course, we also realize that in many cases, members are making their own epaulets, or other accoutrements, and we expect some variation on all handmade items.

There's also lots of flexibility in allowing Marines to decide which uniforms to wear under what circumstances. Not everyone can afford to outfit themselves with every possible variation. Some will go all out and design fatigues for relaxing or for paintball tournaments, put together salt-and-peppers for meetings, and get Monster Blacks for formal events, but if you need to pick and choose, that's fine.

The Dress Mess

If you've never been to an SFMC Dress Mess dinner, I highly recommend it, either at this year's IC or at a smaller event being held by a unit, a battalion, or a brigade. This is some-

thing that anyone can put together, using the helpful guidelines in the Dress Mess Manual that's available for download from the SFMC website's documents section. If you're planning a regional conference or summit, a Dress Mess (to which all attendees should be welcome, of course) can be a great way to spruce up the weekend's banquet.

It's not just about getting fancy, of course. The Dress Mess invokes the traditions not just of the Corps, but of the real-world militaries on which we've modeled ourselves. Whether you've been to a Dress Mess before or not, I hope you'll join us this August at the IC.

In Memoriam

Finally, one important tradition, and one occasion for which we turn to pomp and circumstance, is remembering those who have gone before us — those who were part of our extended SFMC families, either as members or as relatives or friends of our members. An important part of the Dress Mess is commemorating these absent people from our past. In addition, the IC in recent years has included a Final Mission ceremony, specifically recalling folks who've passed away in the previous year. I

hope you'll take a few moments to take part in this, as well, or observe. What has your SFMC unit, battalion, or brigade been up to? Take a few minutes to send some photos or an article to Attention on Deck or the CQ.

In Service to the Corps...

STARFLEET QUARTERMASTER

The featured items in the Starfleet Quartermaster inventory this issue are Starfleet Flags, grey polo shirts, Starfleet hats, Starfleet Challenge Coins, and Starfleet padfolios.

STARFLEET FLAG

Just what every chapter and region needs, a Starfleet Flag! Digitally printed in glorious multicolor on a traditional dark blue background, this flag is a full four feet by six feet. It has two grommets for hanging, and is printed on a single-side. It is made of 100D polyester.

STARFLEET GREY POLO

These polos come with an unconditional manufacturer's 10 year guarantee.

The Starfleet logo has been enlarged about 25% larger than some of the older polos, which makes it clearer and more attractive.

These shirts are solid, substantial and soft. Jersey is a very "flat" stitch

and gives maximum contact between the fiber and the skin. When that fiber is ring-spun, combed 100% Pima cotton, you experience a whole new level of comfort. Pima is the softest, silkiest and strongest cotton on the planet! The professional cut was engineered to help you make it through those long office hours and still look good at the end of the day.

Features include a ribbed knit collar, contrast taped neck, and classic two-button placket. Once you experience the long-lasting pleasure of wearing a pima jersey polo, you'll never want to wear an ordinary, department store polo again!

STARFLEET HATS

You can now get a Starfleet hat in blue or black, with the Starfleet logo embroidered larger than ever before. These hats have a Velcro closure, which makes them more secure and adjustable than any other type. These hats have an unconditional ten year guarantee!

STARFLEET CHALLENGE COINS

The Starfleet Challenge Coin, made in late 2011. This coin is 1.5" across, 3mm thick, and is finished in a gold color. The surface has been sandblasted to give a 'brushed' finish, and it has been epoxy coated to protect the coin from damage. A limited number are available in a silver color, for a premium price; these coins will not be reordered in silver.

STARFLEET PADFOLIO

Embossed with the Starfleet logo, these durable, black faux-leather padfolios have compartments for CDs and business cards, two large inner compartments for documents and other items, and zip closed for carrying. This full-sized folio holds a standard 8.5" x 11" pad, and has slots for business cards, CDs, and additional storage on the inside cover for larger items.

You can make your purchases and pay online at qm.sfi.org, or you can fill out an order, print out an invoice and make payment via check or money order through the mail. Payment can be made via paypal to epayments@sfi.org (please make a comment in the Notes section at paypal.com as to what you are buying), or via the mail with a check, money order or cashier's check, made out to Starfleet, and mailed to : Pete Mohny, 3152 Dolly Ridge Drive, Birmingham AL 35243. Please send any questions to Pete at qm@sfi.org. If you do not have online access, write up what you would like to order and send your order to the QM, and he will mail back a detailed invoice that will include shipping and any taxes.

For order forms, pictures of all the other items the QM carries, and other information, please see the web page at qm.sfi.org.



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each other solemnly that day to stay alive, no matter what. We began our chemotherapy and as spring gradually unleashed the colors of summer we began to feel and look better. Those were happy days, filled with joy and hopeful dreams.

But we had known all along that bone marrow surgeries would be necessary and I was scheduled first, a few days before A'too. After my surgery she was there at my bedside every day, encouraging me, making me laugh, and I began to feel better again. I am certain I would not have survived those early days of recovery if it were not for A'too.

It was A'too's turn next, but things did not go well. She developed a serious infection and died the following day, while I was holding her hand. She never woke up and I couldn't let go of her.

And then there was me.

It would have been so easy to stop pushing back against that veil of darkness that had pursued so many of us for so long, and for a few days I think I did. But I saw the ambassador in the hospital corridor and he asked me how my friend was doing. As I struggled to tell him, each word becoming more of a strain, he stepped towards me with his arms outstretched. 'I understand,' he said, embracing me. As he held me I felt a surge of energy renewing me, forgiving me. 'Come to my room,' he said, 'tonight,' and I said I would.

Taking my wheelchair proved a wise decision. The ambassador had much to say. He said that a Trill extremist group had been found guilty of detonating the bomb of the previous year. The group had accused the Phedians of not being forthcoming with cures that could save thousands of Trill lives every year. "They're half right," the ambassador said, adding that although he would never condone the use of force it was time that the complete truth about the Phedians was told.

"The Phedians are a joined species," he began. "We are implanted as young adults with a symbiont that enhances our intelligence, our immune systems and allows us to live longer. It is the only reason I survived the attack."

I felt very surprised and a little betrayed. "Why did you not tell us you were joined?"

"For the same reason you didn't tell us you were not," the ambassador

replied. "We considered it normal."

"But you knew that we were not joined, and also knew that we had no knowledge of joined species at all," I said.

The ambassador said he agreed fully and apologized to me on behalf of all Phedians. To me. I could not understand why I should be selected from among all Trill for such an important distinction, but he said there was a very good reason. His race was going extinct. With every passing generation the lives of all Phedians were becoming shorter requiring the symbiont to be implanted at an earlier age. They were rapidly reaching the point where, in order to survive, they would have to implant the symbiont in their children before the age of decision, and that they would never do.

The ambassador's host was dying, too. His symbiont, known as Til, was no longer able to control the cancer that had spread to his pancreas. I asked him if the symbiont could survive by itself and he said no. Once it had been implanted, a symbiont cannot live outside of a host for more than a few hours.

I still didn't understand why he said the extremists were half right and at that question the ambassador took a deep breath. He said that it had long been known that Trills would make excellent hosts, better than the

Phedians, but they had believed they should keep this information to themselves. They did not want the Trill to believe that the help the Phedians were providing was dependant on anything, and most of all on the Trill becoming hosts.

The ambassador smiled and lay quietly on his bed. It was not the Phedian way to ask for something, no matter how desperate the circumstances, even if that something would save their entire race. The Phedians believed that all change began with the generosity and willingness of a single giver and the wisdom of that approach suddenly became very clear to me.

"I will do it," I said. "I will become host to your symbiont."

The ambassador thanked me for my offer, but turned me down. He said that he could not ask me to make such a sacrifice. 'You haven't asked me,' I replied. 'I do this on my own accord, from a desire to help both my people and yours. There

are thousands of Trill that can yet be saved.' I was no expert on Phedian morality but I knew something had changed when I saw him smile.

The next morning I was awoken by a Phedian doctor who had traveled all night to see me. He came to organize the many people that would be involved with my joining procedure, both Trill and Phedian. Soon many doctors began arriving including a symbiosis expert named Jo'an who was to teach me about becoming a host.

Jo'an brought me to the ambassador the day before the operation. He was very sick, and I asked him how he remained strong. 'Til is overjoyed,' he said, 'at the bright future that now awaits all symbionts, and I am happy for him.'

"But will not the Phedian hosts still go extinct?"

"The fate of the Phedian hosts has been known for many generations. If your joining is successful they will have achieved more than they had ever hoped, and a portion of them will live inside every joined Trill. You will come to know all Phedians in a new way. Til will see to that."

The Phedians worked day and night converting a surgical ward into the first symbiosis operating theatres on Trill.

After my joining they wanted to immediately begin saving other Trill lives. So many had suffered the effects of the bomb.

And then I was two.

I was only 21 when I left the hospital. There was not a trace of my leukemia, thanks to Til. Two years later I founded what is now the Trill Symbiosis Commission and have assisted with the joining of many thousands of Trill.

From the beginning we were caretakers for the last generation of Phedians, children that would never know joining or maturity. Many Trill willingly moved to Phodius to become foster parents and to repay a debt that could never be fully repaid. We honor them today.

Beneath this building lie the caves of Mak'ala where symbionts are spawned and raised to maturity. As once promised these gentle, generous and beautiful creatures have extended our lives and enhanced the health of all Trill, joined or not. And although only a tiny part of our population act as hosts, we consider

ourselves a joined culture.

On the way here today I saw again the Great Mother's wondrous beauty, paintings done in snow. I think back to an earlier winter, now over eighty years ago, and the black that had descended upon us. That color has never been seen again, on snow or land, thanks to the forgiving spirit of one man, Ambassador Eldran Pholanan.

Without his public acknowledgement that the extremists were half right, our world would be a very different place. I still remember him as I did when I was Imrani Sadu, and now as Imrani Til.

On this the occasion of my retirement, I am grateful for your allowing me a moment to tell my story, one that has tested the patience of some of you many times before. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve.

Thank you for your help in the reformation of our culture, a process that will never be complete. Thank you from the very warmth of my heart, from two planets, two souls and two winters.



Don't forget to register
for IC13 in Dallas, TX
August 1-4, 2013
<http://www.ic2013.com>

STARFLEET International Conference 2013

It is an honor and a privilege to personally invite you to the STARFLEET International Conference 2013, to be held at the beautiful and luxurious MCM Elegante Hotel in the heart of Dallas, Texas on August 1-4, 2013. We have a lot of surprises in store for those in attendance, in addition to all of the wonderful things you've come to expect from an International Conference!

The theme for this IC is "The Year of the Phoenix", as 2012 is supposed to be the year the world comes to an end. From the ashes, the phoenix will arise, reborn. As Gene Roddenberry was often referred to as the Great Bird of the Galaxy (which was also referred to in the Star Trek: New Frontier books by Peter David) and the Phoenix was the name of Zefram Cochrane's ship in Star Trek: First Contact, we felt it would be a fitting theme for this 2013's International Conference.

Information will be added to the website as it becomes available, and we strongly encourage you to keep checking with us as 2013 approaches — we'll be posting some very exciting information between now and then.

In the meantime, if you are planning on attending IC2013, we suggest that you take this opportunity to lock in the early registration rates by printing your information on the downloadable registration form and returning it to us with your full payment to the address provided below:

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