

STARFLEET
THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION INC.

Communique

Celebrating Black History Month



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Got Questions? We've Got Answers.

The STARFLEET Helpdesk is here to help you with everything from database access issues to renewal questions. Changing chapters? Updating your address? We do it all.

helpdesk.sfi.org • helpdesk@sfi.org



Communique



Celebrating Black History Month ————— 10
Star Trek was a pioneering show for black actors, and STARFLEET celebrates this rich history.

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Below Deck Notables

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



Dan Gonzalez • USS Chicago

Dan Gonzalez has been a member of STARFLEET since August 2012, and is a proud member of the USS Chicago. A long time artist and published author, Dan designed the first banner linking the Chicago with their charity of choice, Autism Speaks. Under the guidance of the Chicago's chapter president, Dan is on the forefront of bringing to life an online comic series of the crew of the Chicago in 2013 and is also the engineering chief of his charter.



Mark Tyler • USS Ronald E McNair

Mark has been watching *Star Trek* since it premiered in 1966, and has been hooked ever since! He is an avid writer of fiction and poetry, both Trek-based and non-Trek based. Mark is currently working on a sitcom "spec" script and is also developing his own DIY *Star Trek* role playing naval combat game called "Fantasy Trek". Mark has served as the Ronald E. McNair's Tactical Officer since January 2011, as well as having taken on the responsibility of being the Officer in Charge of the McNair's Marine Strike Group, the 151st "Wolves of the Stars".



Tony Ruble • USS Oklahoma

Tony Ruble has been a member of STARFLEET and the USS Oklahoma since July 2010, presently serving as the Chief Science Officer of the chapter. Tony enjoys spending time with other members of the Oklahoma, as is demonstrated by his attendance and participation at chapter meetings and activities, submits science articles for the chapter newsletter, and helps with the yearly citywide cleanup and with the Adopt a Highway project cleanup. Tony's participation and enthusiasm is very appreciated by the Oklahoma. Tony's favorite series is *Star Trek: Voyager* and likes all of the characters in the show. He attends the Tokyo in Tulsa convention yearly and loves anime, is a collector of comic books, *Star Trek* action figures and anime figures.

We Need Your Articles!

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

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

Letter From The Editor

Welcome to the shiny new magazine-format Communiqué. And welcome from a new Chief of Communications, though perhaps not quite so shiny. I've been around STARFLEET for a while now, so a few of you may know me.

This has been a bit of a rough patch for the CQ, but after the mad dash of catch-up at the end of 2012 and a few growing pains as we add staff and adapt to the new format, we're looking forward to being able to get back on schedule and keep your CQs coming.

I need to extend a ton of thanks to FADM Dave Blaser, who really took charge of things while the CQ was in flux. I also need to thank the editing team, especially Mary Kane, who wrangle scores of comma splices and dangling participles to get articles ready for layout. And, of course, our layout editor, Christina Sievers, who performs miracles with InDesign. They, and the members who submitted articles, are the people behind the issue you're holding in your hands (or viewing on screen), and they deserve far more credit than the person writing this note does.

We say this all the time, but that's because it's always true -- the CQ is your newsletter, and we print what you send us. With the CQ Online, we're able to publish articles very quickly, and the magazine layout gives us the ideal format to feature more introspective feature articles.

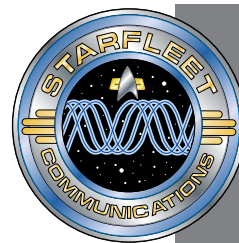
So tell us what you're up to, tell us what you're interested in, and tell us how we can make the CQ even better! We'd love to hear from you. Articles can be submitted to cq@sfi.org, online at cq.sfi.org, and I can always be reached at comms@sfi.org.

On a slightly personal note, I want to thank Mike Dugas for his service as Chief of Communications and CQ Editor. I will miss working with you very much. I'd also like to thank Dave Blaser for being crazy enough to pick me as Mike's replacement!

- COMM Liz Woolf
Chief of Communications, STARFLEET

Election season is your chance to show up, participate, and help decide the future of STARFLEET. We look forward to seeing you there.

Welcome to Election Season!



Yes, it's that time again. The time when STARFLEET comes together in accord and harmony and, with civil discourse and passionate debate, we come to a consensus and rally behind the chosen team who will lead our organization for the next three years.

Okay, maybe it's not quite always exactly like that. Sometimes tempers get heated. Sometimes discourse is not entirely civil. But it's always interesting, and it's a journey upon which we are about to embark together.

You can find a lot of detail about the Commander, STARFLEET elections in Section 4 of the STARFLEET Membership Handbook, but I'm going to summarize the most important items and key dates here.

The Chief of Communications serves as the Election Coordinator, with the assistance of the Inspector General. Well, unless the Chief of Communications is planning on running, which I most certainly am not. Although I'm new to my job, Rear Admiral Jeff Victor, Inspector General, has been working for months on his part of the election duties, and I look forward to working with him.

Here is our time-line for the next few months:

Prior to June 1:

No campaigning of any kind is allowed. The Membership Handbook states: "Campaigning is defined as announcements of platform, announcements of candidacy, or announcement of intent to seek candidacy. Announcements are defined as a statement or request for consideration made in person or by mail or other communications medium, to a group or substantial portion of a group, or in a public forum. Prospective candidates are encouraged to solicit advice from the Election Coordinator as to which proposed activity may or may not adhere to the guidelines set forth above." So,

if you have a question, drop me a note at comms@sfi.org.

June 1st:

Candidates may begin campaigning to solicit nominations.

June 1st to July 15th:

Nominations for the position of Commander, STARFLEET are accepted. Here's how nominations work:

First, nominations must be submitted to the Election Coordinator (me) by mail, fax, or e-mail. The dedicated e-mail address for nominations is csnominations@sfi.org. My mailing address is 24180 Newhall Ranch Rd. #9210, Valencia, CA 91355. If you need to fax in a nomination, please contact me privately at comms@sfi.org and I will provide you with a fax number.

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

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

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

Fourth, any nomination that is faxed or mailed in must be signed by the nominator. Also, it is the responsibility of the nominator to verify that their nomination has been received. I will send a confirmation e-mail out to all nominators whose nominations I receive. If you do not receive an e-mail confirmation from me within 24 hours (longer for mailed nominations) you need to assume I have not received your nomination. I will use the date of the e-mail, time-stamp of the fax, or day I receive any mailed letter to determine the date of the nomination. The window for nominations opens at 12:00 a.m. Pacific Time on June 1, 2013 and closes at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on July 15, 2013. Please note that the Bylaws states that nominations must be received during the nomination period; therefore, nominations postmarked earlier but received after July 15 cannot be considered.

July 16th:

I will announce via the online STARFLEET Announcement List, SFI-L Business Discussion Chat List, STARFLEET-L Chat List, the STARFLEET 2013 Election List, and the CQ Online the names of the members who received enough valid nominations to qualify to run

COMM Liz Woolf
USS Odin
Region I

Chief of Communications,
STARFLEET

for Commander, STARFLEET for 2013.

In order for a nominee to be declared an official candidate, he or she must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Bylaws and MHB, receive at least 5 valid nominations, and must announce his or her intention to run within 10 days of the announcement on July 16 (in other words, by July 26). This announcement must include the announcement of the candidate's running mate for Vice-Commander, STARFLEET. A nominee can also turn down his or her nomination. Failure to make an announcement in this time period will be the equivalent of declining the nomination. Any announcement made by a nominee (either accepting or declining a nomination) must include an e-mail sent to comms@sfi.org. I will reply to any e-mail sent to me, so the lack of a prompt reply from me could mean I did not receive the e-mail or announcement. It is up to the candidate to verify with me. As a backup, the candidate can also follow up with Inspector General Rear Admiral Jeff Victor at ig@sfi.org on anything sent to the Election Coordinator. In fact, I recommend cc'ing both Jeff and me on everything just to be safe.

August 1st:

The mailing list for election ballots consists of STARFLEET members in good standing as of this date. If you are due to expire between now and then, consider sending in your renewal a little early to make sure you are an active member on August 1 and can vote in the election.

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

not received your submission.

Each candidate will get one double-sided piece of white letter-sized (8.5" x 11") paper to include in all Election Packets. Literature will be photocopied in black-and-white only, no color.

Each candidate may use one or both sides of his or her sheet of paper. No more than one sheet of paper per candidate—no exceptions. A candidate is allowed to use only one side and leave the other side blank if preferred. Also, any candidate who does not submit their campaign literature before the deadline will have only his or her name and running EC slate printed on a single sheet of paper along with the words: "Campaign Literature not received before deadline."

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

September 1st:

Election packets are mailed. There will be one Election Packet mailing per single and/or family membership but with enough ballots in each packet for all members at that mailing address. The ballot will contain the names of each candidate for Commander, STARFLEET and his/her running mate for Vice-Commander. If there are two candidates, a member puts an "X" or a "check" in the box of their choice. The candidate receiving the most votes via marked box will be declared the winner. If there are more than two candidates, a member ranks the candidates in order of preference, and, Instant Runoff Voting will be conducted to determine the winner of the election.

Instant runoff voting (IRV) is the American English term for a voting system in which voters rank candidates in order of preference. If no candidate is the first preference of a majority of voters who cast a vote, the candidate with the fewest number of first preference rankings is eliminated and that candidate's ballots are redistributed at full value to the remain-

ing candidates according to the next ranking on each ballot. This process is repeated until one candidate obtains a majority of votes among candidates not eliminated. The term "instant runoff" is used because the method is said to simulate a series of runoff elections tallied in rounds, as in an exhaustive ballot election. For more details on IRV, consult section 4:2 of the MHB.

November 15th:

All the ballots must be received by the CPA by this date. Any ballots received after November 15, 2013 will not be counted for this election, so be sure to mail your ballots in plenty of time.

November 20th:

The CPA provides the results to the Chief of Communications and the Inspector General, and we will inform all candidates of the results. Those results will also be made public on the official STARFLEET chat lists and the Communiqué Online shortly thereafter, and also printed in the next issue of the print Communiqué.

November 20th – January 1st:

The current EC begins the transition to the new EC. The new EC takes office on January 1, 2014. For other details on candidate eligibility, withdrawals, etc., see the current Membership Handbook and Bylaws.

The STARFLEET Election List

To keep election chatter off the general STARFLEET lists, there will be a separate chat list open to all current members of STARFLEET to discuss the candidates, discuss the issues and any proposed changes to our governing documents, ask the candidates questions, and allow the candidates to campaign and debate amongst themselves publicly. Admiral Greg Trotter, a former Chief of Communications and Election Coordinator, has volunteered to be the Election List Moderator.

The Election List will start up on June 1st when the campaigns kick off and run until the election is over. Instructions on how to join

the Election List will be posted on the SFI.org website in the "Links" section.

And, on a personal note...

By the time the next Commander, STARFLEET is sworn in, my STARFLEET membership will be old enough to buy a drink. I've been through a lot of elections – some of which I barely paid attention to, some of which I vocally engaged in. Although many of us cynics decry the start of election campaigning as "STARFLEET's silly season," it's also a really important time in the club and can be very exciting. I love seeing who's ready to step up and lead the organization, and the new ideas that always come out during the campaigns.

In Diane Duane's Spock's World, we learn that the word for "idiot" in the Vulcan language is derived from a word that means "one who fails to participate in civic affairs." Or, as my favorite fake President, Josiah Barlet, liked to quote: "Decisions are made by those who show up."

Election season is your chance to show up, participate, and help decide the future of STARFLEET. We look forward to seeing you there.

Money for School from STARFLEET

Yes, it's true! Ever since 1990, our organization has presented monetary scholarships to special active STARFLEET members who are attending community colleges, four-year colleges, most technical schools, junior colleges and universities or graduate school, or any other accredited institution/organization that offers a certificate/certified program. If unsure, just ask the Director.

Scholarships are awarded in amounts of up to \$1,000 based on number of applicants and availability of funds. **Applicants must have been a member of STARFLEET for at one year prior to the application deadline, and must be a current member in good standing.** The application period runs from January 1 through June 15 of each year. June 15 is the Application Deadline. At our annual International Conference each summer, the scholarship winners are announced for the next academic year beginning in the fall semester.



Applications are due by June 15th! Be sure to have your information submitted before that time to be considered for a scholarship.



Keeping Busy with the USS Navras

Many Warp Core Breaches and Andorian Ales consumed, and by the time the evening was over, we had raised over \$4,000.00 for the local USO.

Most Star Trek fans are probably familiar with the phrase “fortune favors the bold,” but it’s a concept that the USS Navras has opted to put to the test. As such, we spent the end of 2012 trekking through four back-to-back events, with the goal of getting our chapter, and STARFLEET as a whole, as much exposure as humanly possible. We’ve lovingly dubbed it CONPOCALYPSE.

On the weekend of October 19-20, we started out with Fan Days, in Irving, Texas. This is one of three events hosted by Official-Pix, the company behind Dallas Comic Con. We had over 17 members in attendance, and several of us got to meet Dina Meyer (Donatra from Star Trek: Nemesis), Casper Van Dien (from Starship Troopers), Anne Lockhart (from the original BSG), and voice actress Tara Strong.

With less than five days to recover, we made the drive down to Austin on the weekend of October 26-28 for Wizard World’s Austin Comic Con. One of the wonderful things about Wizard World’s events is that they offer fan groups free tables and exhibitor passes, if you fill out the PDF file on their website and submit it back to them. Of course, my family and I had only just arrived when the convention owners opted to upgrade the Navras from a single 8-foot table to a full 15-foot by 15-foot booth, right next to the 501st Legion.

While we were there, we got pictures with Sir Patrick Stewart, collected donations for the USO, promoted the upcoming STARFLEET USO Show, and Wil Wheaton himself actually stopped by our table.

We weren’t done yet, though. Arriving back home after the weekend, we managed to get through Halloween, only to hit the road again a few days later and end up on a plane—to California!

We had been invited, along with members of Region 4, to make a showing at this year’s

Long Beach Comic Con, where we would be working alongside several other fan organizations and helping to raise money for the Mandalorian Mercs’ “Little Warrior Fund.” It was an amazing weekend, with beautiful people and beautiful scenery, and we had to come home way too soon—but we still had one more event to do, and this was one that we’d been preparing for since June.

The STARFLEET USO Show was an officially sanctioned USO event, hosted by the USS Navras and Louie Louie’s Dueling Piano Bar in Arlington, Texas. We’d spent the past several months preparing for this event, and we had collected a huge number of monetary and item donations from celebrities like Alexander Siddig, John Billingsley, Barbara March, and many more. The event had been publicized via the Dallas Observer, Dallas Examiner, and CBS Local syndicated radio stations across the country.

When the night came, we had STARFLEET on-hand, the 501st Legion, and even a Klingon and a Dalek. The music was great, there were many Warp Core Breaches and Andorian Ales consumed, and by the time the evening was over,



LT Cameron Wilkinson (left) and Erica Kenney (right) at Wizard World Austin Comic Con.

we had raised over \$4,000.00 for the local USO. Louie Louie’s estimated somewhere around 450 in attendance.

So ended our exhausting marathon of events. It was an amazing month, with a lot of thrilling experiences. Now it’s over... but that’s alright, because 2013 has just begun...

FCAPT Cody Glenn
USS Navras
Region 3



(left to right) Christian Oertel, ENS JG Steven Olvera, LT Adam Dugger, ILT Vince Silmon, Erica Kenney and LCDR Chris Prewitt at the STARFLEET USO Show.



LTCMDR Chris Prewitt (left) and actress Dina Meyer (right) at Fan Days.



Actor Rick Fitts (left) and Voice Actor Stephen Stanton (right) at Long Beach Comic Con.



LTJG Nathan Adams (left) and LCDR Patrick Hall (right) at Long Beach Comic Con.





The USS Storm Celebrates Black History Month!

She made history by being part of the first interracial kiss on broadcast television. The USS Storm is proud to be a part of the dream that Nichelle Nichols helped to launch!



Nichelle Nichols: Grace Dell Nichols December 28, 1932 was cast as Nyota Uhura, the African American Communications Officer on the Original Star Trek, being one of the most prominent black women on a televised program; she had her doubts about being nothing but a "Switchboard Operator." Her mind was changed when she met with another prominent African American (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) Told her to stay the course and provide inspiration to other black men and women to reach for the stars. Staying on the series, she made history by being part of the first interracial kiss on broadcast television. The USS Storm is proud to be a part of the dream that Nichelle Nichols help to launch! This is the first in a series highlighting African Americans featured in Star Trek.

Levaris Robert Martyn Burton, Jr. (stage name Lavar Burton), born February 16, 1957 made, Star Trek history as the first impaired crewmember of the USS Enterprise, on Star Trek: The Next Generation. He came to prominence portraying Kunta Kinte and Alex Haley's 1977 mini-series Roots. He also executive produced and hosted the long-running children's program Reading Rainbow, encouraging kids to read. Once again, Star Trek is the home of a leader of the African American community!



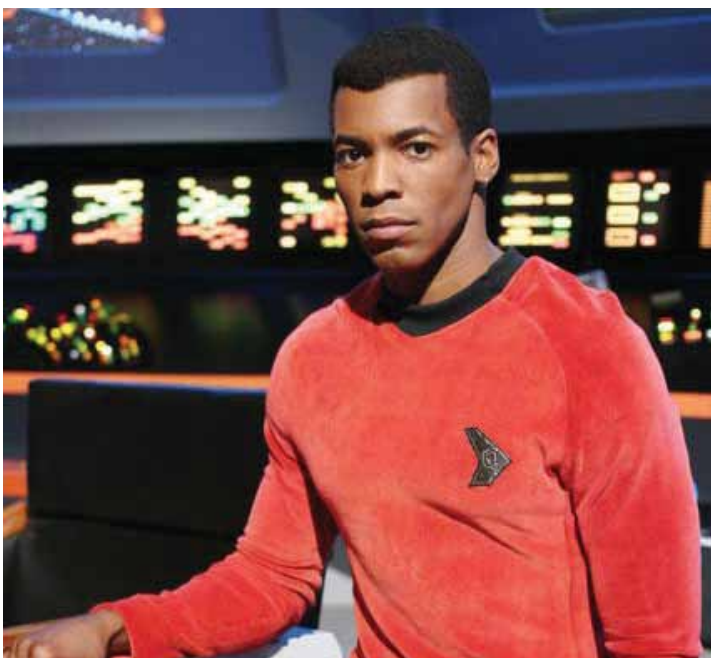
MCPT David Sladky



Timothy Darrell "Tim" Russ (born June 22, 1956) made Star Trek history by being the first African American to portray a Vulcan on a Star Trek TV series. Russ has been extensively involved in the Star Trek franchise, as a voice and film actor, writer, director and producer. He played several minor roles before landing the role as the main character Tuvok. Russ originally screen-tested for the role of Geordi La Forge on Star Trek: The Next Generation before gaining the role of Tuvok. While many Trek actors claim to have had little interest in the franchise before they signed on for their role, Russ went into Voyager as a dedicated Trekkie with an extensive knowledge of Vulcan lore. (Excerpt from Wikipedia Bio)



Avery Brooks (Avery Franklin Brooks born October 2, 1948) Made Star Trek history as the first African American commander in a Star Trek series, Benjamin Sisko. Having already made a name for himself in the American television show Spencer for Hire, he not only brought a new intensity to the Star Trek universe, but was key to pointing out the plight of the African American in several episodes. He not only was a role model of a strong black man in charge, but also that of a single parent. From 1993 to 1996, Brooks was Artistic Director for the National Black Arts Festival in association with Rutgers University. Held biannually since 1988 in Atlanta, Georgia, the internationally renowned festival celebrates African-American culture and people of African descent. In addition, Brooks has done extensive work with the Smithsonian Institution's Program in Black American Culture.



Anthony D. Montgomery (born June 2, 1971, in Indianapolis, Indiana) made Star Trek history by portraying Ensign Travis Mayweather on the fifth Star Trek series, Enterprise. He is an American film and television actor. Montgomery is the grandson of jazz musician Wes Montgomery. He graduated from Ball State University with a degree in performance theater and drama. Montgomery did stand-up comedy briefly after graduation, before moving to California. (Except from Wikipedia Bio)



**Bam! Zap! Pow! "SING!?"-
USS Susquehannock
Members Attend "The
Adventures of a Comic
Book Artist"**

In her "Broadway World" article, MJ describes Sarah as an "eight-year-old spitfire" who certainly has great drive and much potential.

This September, USS Susquehannock crew members Marakay Rogers and Carl Dietrich had the pleasure of attending the dress rehearsal of Pat Lyderson and Wendy Wolf's play "The Adventures of a Comic Book Artist" at the York Little Theater in York, Pennsylvania. Marakay (MJ) attended the event as a critic for the publication "Broadway World" and Carl for "The Subspace Telegraph," the USS Susquehannock's newsletter.

As long-time comic book / sci-fi fans they were both excited to experience this musical, family-friendly children's theater production. After being treated to snacks and beverages at the reception MJ and Carl were delighted to see the stage area decorated with super-

hero pictures projected on a background screen and walls adorned with Batman- Style comic book onomatopoeia such as "Whamm!" and "KA-Bam!"

Following a brief practice session where precocious high-school freshman Stephen Baker

sang about the wonders of being a comic book artist (putting on his best "Geek Gear" with unkempt hair and shirt tail hanging out!), MJ and Carl both agreed that they were doubtlessly in for "the best children's theater production ever!"

Narrated by local by local young talent Cora Seibert and Ava Markel, this production of "Adventures of a Comic Book Artist" told an action-packed and humorous tale! Baker (mentioned above) played the role of aspiring comic book artist Stanley Leonardo Sap-povitz who has just landed a job in his dream company, Wonder Comics- as a janitor!! Trying to impress his boss, the strong-willed and authoritative publisher DC Wunderman, Stanley submits sketches that are quickly thrown away without even so much as a glance. Played by a very impressive third-grader (with an immensely powerful personality and stage presence), Sarah Stark, Ms. Wunderman's goal is to make Wonder Comics rich and popular by having her comic artists create a new superhero using the recently acquired "powerful pens from Peloponnesia!!" These pens are guaranteed to make any character drawn with them come alive in the flesh. Unwittingly, her artists create a villain- the hilariously evil Dr. Shock Clock (Alex Wilkinson) who can stop time. Sporting his best "Dr. Evil" feel, Shock Clock freezes Ms. Wunderman and the Wonder comics artists in their tracks, preventing them from re-drawing him as a hero. With his evil henchmen and henchwomen



LTCMD Carl R. Dietrich
USS Susquehannock
Region 7

the 12 Minutos (Angelique Rodriguez, Annabelle Arnold, Catie Dinneen, Khaliah Nelson, Sarah Minnick, Theresa Burgess, Hetta Saatman, Hunter Shaffer, Rachel Ritchey and Shaeleigh Daugherty) Dr. Shock Clock travels the city freezing time and taking treasures from bank vaults and jewel collections.

Meanwhile, finding his sketches in the garbage bin, Stanley is determined to provide better drawings for Ms. Wunderman. Unwittingly being given a Peloponnesian pen by his admirer, the office worker Viola (Ginny Peck), Stanley creates four delightfully funny Superheroes: Star Guy (Austin O'Connell) who uses his "Charisma Ray" and self-touted good looks to make others his instant admirers, the super-fast Triple Time (Zach DePorter), the magic flower-wearing Blossom (Allison Thomas), and the disgruntled, wardrobe obsessed Wombat Woman (the talented Vail Varone) with the ability to burrow through any object. Realizing that it is up to them to stop Dr. Shock Clock and his minions of Minutos, Stanley and his newly created "Fabulous Four" must spring into action. Can they come up with a plan? Are they up to the task? See your local production of "Adventures of a Comic book Artist" to find out for yourself!

Carl and MJ were also treated to personal interviews with lead actors Stephen Baker and Sarah Stark. Stephen plans to study English and writing in college, and his dedication to hard work as displayed in his portrayal of Stanley Sappovitz will doubtlessly make him successful. In her "Broadway World" article, MJ describes Sarah as an "eight-year-old spitfire" who

certainly has great drive and much potential. She stated, "I just love my character," when being assured that Ms. Wunderman was the perfect role for her. It was also made known that between performances of the play on the following two Saturdays, York Little theater was holding a mini-Comic Con in the lobby, complete with costumed superheroes and comic book dealers!

Not wanting to miss such an opportunity, Carl returned to York Little Theater for one of these "mini-cons." He was impressed to see a nice display from a local comic book shop where youngsters were very excited to receive free comic books and talk to "Batman" and "Thor" who had arrived in costume. What's more, local comic artist / illustrator, Mike Hawthorne arrived and presented examples of his artwork. Mr. Hawthorne has worked in the Star Trek Universe in IDW Publishing's "Aliens Spotlight: Tribbles" where he illustrated and colored stories about everyone's favorite furry aliens! Talking to Mr. Hawthorne and seeing his art was a treat for comic fans both young and old present at the day's showing.

Needless to say, MJ and Carl will fondly remember their experience with "Adventures of a Comic Book Artist" as a treat for comic / sci-fi and theater fanatics for a long time to come!





Where's the KABOOM? – A Look Back at Destructive Explosions in “Star Trek” Films

Immediately after the opening credits, Praxis explodes. BIG KABOOM! In fact, it's the biggest explosion in any Trek film thus far.

I'm writing this in January, months before the release of “Star Trek: Into Darkness” but well after the release of the trailer that shows what appears to be a very exciting movie: full of grand vistas, emotional intensity, and lots of what Marvin the Martian would call “earth-shattering KABOOMS!”

It was this last item that got me to thinking. It seems these days that you can't go to the movies to watch a big blockbuster film without seeing a whole bunch of destruction, mostly in the form

first blew up some TIE fighters and X-Wings, those models actually had to be blown up. KABOOMS were real KABOOMS that required explosives and pyrotechnics and specially trained techni-

cess Leia shot a hole in a wall in the detention area.)

But hey, we're here to talk about that other “Star” franchise, and “Star Trek” has had its own interesting evolution of destructive KABOOMS during the past three and a half decades of feature films. (I hesitate to include the original television series because explosions back in the 1960s were pretty unimpressive, and it's really the big-screen cinematic “Star Trek”



of things exploding, things being knocked over or knocked down or trampled or squashed or ripped apart or...well, you get the idea. Heck, watch a “Transformers” movie and it's hard to find a scene where something ISN'T being destroyed in some way! Superhero movies, space and sci-fi movies, fantasy movies, even action movies—if something can be incinerated or blasted into a billion pieces, we're sure to see it (often in 3D) in as grandiose, visually stunning, and loud a way as possible.

But it wasn't always this way. Not all that long ago, explosions cost money. When George Lucas

cians who understood things like physics and chemistry. Now all we need to cause destruction on film is a decent PC and a 3D rendering program.

Because of the costs involved, explosions used to be included very sparingly in even the biggest and most action-packed of blockbusters. Think about it: nothing really blew up in the first “Star Wars” film (1977) until the end of the movie when the Millennium Falcon blasted four TIE fighters while escaping the Death Star and then the Rebels went back to destroy it. (Well, that's not entirely true. Han did shoot a comm panel and Prin-

that I want to focus on...otherwise this article will go on forever!)

So as I thought about what I'd seen in the “Star Trek: Into Darkness” trailer—which included quite a number of destructive KABOOMS blasting apart an entire city—I began to think back to what “Star Trek” films had been like in 1979...and in the 34 years since. And since we don't have the Guardian of Forever, let me be your guide to a journey through the significant silver screen KABOOMS of “Star Trek.” While unscientific and totally subjective on my part, I'm going to give each film a “KABOOM rating” from 1

RADM Jon Lane
USS Angeles
Region 4

to 10 (lowest to highest) based on how destructive each film was in blowing things to bits. Then I'm going to see if there was in fact, a trend toward more and bigger explosions as the years and decades wore on.

"Star Trek: The Motion Picture" – In the beginning of the first Trek film, three Klingon cruisers and then the Epsilon 9 space station are "digitized" by V'ger. But if you think about it, they never actually went KABOOM. They instead just kinda disappeared into blue lightning. In fact, the only real KABOOM in the entire movie is one lone asteroid that got pulled into a wormhole along with the Enterprise. KABOOM rating: 1.

"Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" – Compared to its predecessor, the second Trek film was

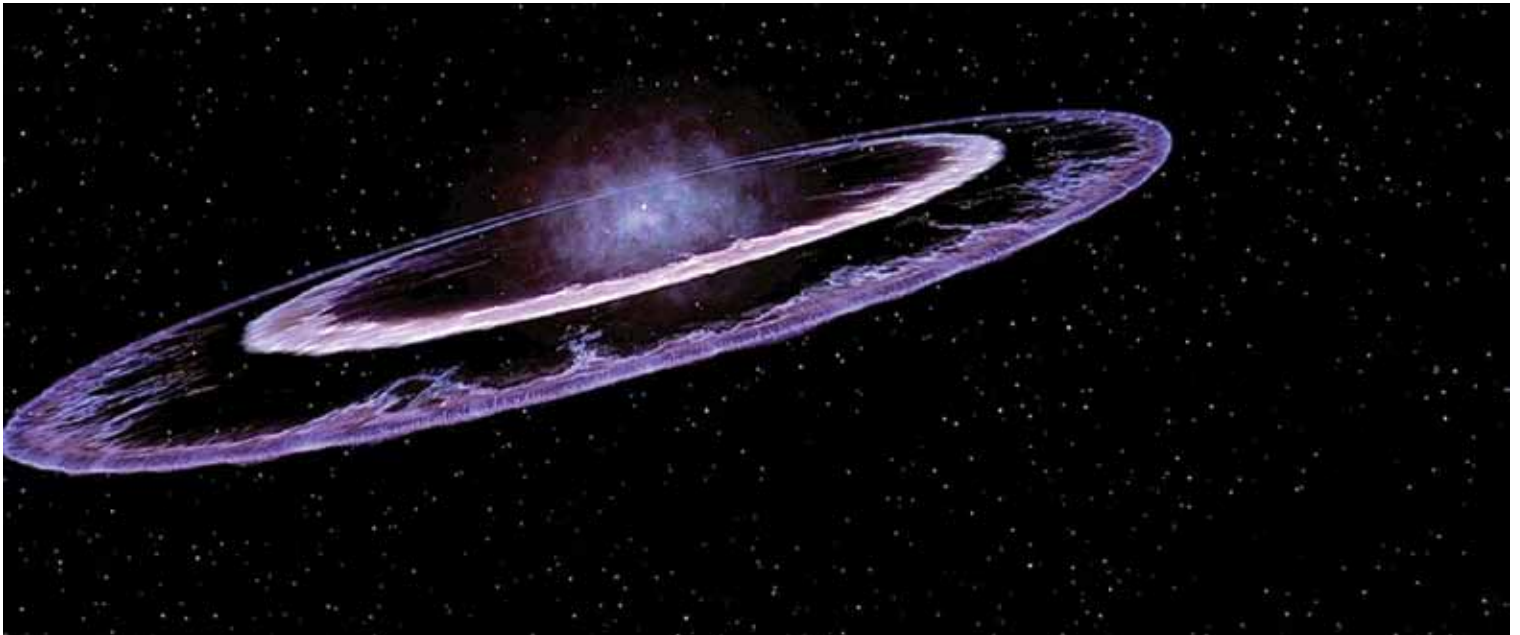
Nebula that we saw anything big enough to destroy an actual starship. In later movies, the objects getting destroyed would increase greatly in size and scope...but not for a little while yet. So my KABOOM rating for "Star Trek II" is a balance between quantity (quite a few) and quality (relatively small) explosions. KABOOM rating: 5.

As a side note, in "Star Trek II" we discover only after the fact that Khan tortured the scientists on Spacelab Regula One. I suspect that, were that film to be made in today's Hollywood, we would have been shown those torture scenes in explicit and gory detail. What do you think?

"Star Trek III: The Search for Spock" – Okay, the U.S.S. Enterprise self-destructs, and that's a mighty big KABOOM! But beyond

entire film? Nope. The Probe never blows anything up; it simply shuts down power and then vaporizes earth's oceans. The closest we got to an explosion during the entire movie was the shattering of a window in the Starfleet command center. The stolen bird-of-prey did ultimately crash into San Francisco Bay, but no KABOOM...only a splash. KABOOM rating: 1.

"Star Trek V: The Final Frontier" – Believe it or not, this "cowboy-style" Shatner-fest had almost nothing in the way of a decent KABOOM. Klingon Captain Klaa blows up a floating 300-year-old space probe and later fires one torpedo at Enterprise (which misses). The shuttlecraft smashes into the hangar bay, which kind of counts as a KABOOM (more of a SCREECH



practically a KABOOM-fest, from the opening scenes in the simulator room to the two space battles between Reliant and Enterprise to the big finale of the Genesis device exploding...and a phaser disintegration of an unfortunate Ceti eel thrown in for good measure. But for all of its supposed destruction, this movie featured a more "intimate" kind of kaboom (no capital letters): the Kobayashi Maru test consoles, the targeted phaser hits to the two starships with very specific damage, the explosions in Engineering and one the two bridges. It wasn't until the final KABOOM inside the Mutara

that, what did the third Trek film offer in the way of explosions? Not much. The Klingon bird-of-prey destroys two ships with one shot each, and the Enterprise's later battle with the Klingon warship lasts less than a minute. The Klingons take a hit or two and so does the Enterprise. Beyond that, we've got Kruge shooting a fellow Klingon, and we've got some explosions on Genesis as it ages and becomes unstable, but do we ever see the entire planet go KABOOM? No, we don't. KABOOM rating: 3.

"Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" – Think back: do you remember any KABOOMS in this

and CRASH, but we'll count it). There's some minor weapons fire in Paradise City during the rescue attempt. Then there's God. He gets all threatening at the end with flashy lightning, but there's no real KABOOM until Spock shoots God from the bridge of the bird-of-prey. KABOOM rating: 2.

"Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" – Immediately after the opening credits, Praxis explodes. BIG KABOOM! In fact, it's the biggest explosion in any Trek film thus far (up until this point, nothing as large as a moon had been blown to smithereens...and we never saw the Genesis planet



actually go bye-bye). But then nothing gets blown up until Enterprise allegedly fires a torpedo at Gorkon's ship. Two security people who beam over shoot a few Klingons, but it's quiet weapons fire. Then things stay relatively calm (in terms of explosions) until the five-minute space battle at the end between Enterprise/Excelsior and Chang's bird-of-prey, and finally Scotty shoots the assassin and he falls through the glass window (again, more of a SHATTER than a KABOOM). So despite a big initial bang, the sixth "Star Trek" film remained pretty tame. KABOOM rating: 3.

Let's take a brief pause at this half-way point to note the average KABOOM rating for these first six films is a mere 2.5 out of 10. Not very explosive, was it? But what happened when the torch was passed to the Next Generation?

"Star Trek Generations" – In the opening sequence, the Nexus did some nice KABOOMing both to the two El Aurian ships and then to the Enterprise-B, ultimately "killing" Captain Kirk. A little later, the Amargosa star collapsed and exploded nicely (beating out Praxis as the largest object to explode in a Trek film so far). Later on, of course, the Enterprise-D stardrive section goes KABOOM and the saucer does a slow frisbee crash into Veridian III before Soran shoots yet another star (which is

a very distant explosion but rips through the planet with an impressive swath of destruction). And let's not forget that, after Picard and Kirk hit the Nexus "reset" button and emerge back on Veridian III, Soran gets blown up good when Picard locks the missile into the launcher. At the time, "Generations" unquestionably ranked as Trek's most destructive movie to date. KABOOM rating: 7.

"Star Trek: First Contact" – We have to admire the opening sequence with the Borg attack on Earth, one of Trek's finest multi-ship battles ever...filled with an impressive array of KABOOMs. But once the Enterprise-E travels back in time, the Borg sphere is quickly destroyed, and that completes the blowing up for a while. Instead of loud and audacious explosions, the film shifts into an eerie and ominous game of cat and mouse (where the cat is trying to assimilate the mouse), culminating with the capture and attempted positronic brainwashing of Data. We get a little noisy temporarily with Picard's "Scarface" freak out in the holodeck (bullet fire is a minor KABOOM-like moment), but the next big KABOOM doesn't happen until Picard and Worf (and Hawk) liberate the main deflector from the Enterprise's hull. Then there's one last torpedo miss (at the Phoenix), a little phaser fire by Data in Engineering, and then all

is nice and quiet again. KABOOM rating: 4.

"Star Trek: Insurrection" – If the eighth "Star Trek" movie dialed the KABOOMs down a little, the ninth film pushed the lever right back up. The initial sequence with Data and the Ba'ku and the phaser fire at the duck blind is pretty exciting. Picard and Worf have that shuttlecraft chase with Data before capturing him. No big explosions yet, but definitely action sequences. Then things quiet down for a while until Picard steals the Captain's yacht and flees with the Ba'ku. Then lots of KABOOMs as they all run away to the mountains and fire back at the hovering Son'a transport enhancers. Meanwhile, the Enterprise-E has to deal with Son'a ships firing at it...until the Riker maneuver with the ram scoops makes for a very, very big KABOOM! Not to be outdone, Picard destroys the collector array with another big KABOOM. Explosions are definitely back! KABOOM rating: 7.

"Star Trek: Nemesis" – There's a lot of destruction in this film, but not all of it with a KABOOM. The movie begins with the Romulan Senate being dissolved (literally). Then Picard takes the Argo off-roading and gets shot at while rescuing the pieces of B-4. Things stay almost excruciatingly quiet until Picard gets kidnapped by Shinzon, and during the rescue he and Data

use a Scorpion fighter to do some nice damage to the Scimitar from the inside out. This leads directly into the final flight-and-fight scenes which take up the last quarter of the film. The Remans fire on the Enterprise. The Enterprise fires on the Remans. The Romulans fire on the Remans. The Remans fire on the Romulans. (It's just like an outer space version of Fight Club, except we can talk about it.) And it all culminates in the awesome ramming scene that takes out a quarter of the Enterprise's saucer hull. Add in a few phaser fights on the Scimitar's bridge and the final KABOOM of the Scimitar itself, and the second-half of this film was a veritable KABOOM-fest! KABOOM rating: 8.

"Star Trek" (2009) - KABOOMs from the very first minute! The film begins with the destruction of the U.S.S. Kelvin amidst a ton of weapons fire and a final ramming into the Narada. Young Kirk then drops his stepdad's Corvette Stingray into a quarry, and although we never see an actual car explosion, there was a lot of action in that se-

quence. We get a short break from explosions while Kirk gets in bar fights and goes through Starfleet Academy. As soon as he's about to get expelled (Kobayashi Maru), KABOOM time again. Nero destroys a good portion of the Fleet around Vulcan and then destroys Vulcan itself! Unlike Praxis and the two stars from "Generations", we get to witness Vulcan's destruction in extensive detail, finally seeing the planet literally dissolve from a vantage point in space. We then get a little break from KABOOMS to link up with Spock Prime on Delta Vega and meet Scotty and his Oompa Loompa. But then it's back to explosions (plus a little falling water from a pipe over the Enterprise's engineering brewery room floor). But once Kirk finishes his fistfight on the bridge with Spock, it's off to Saturn's rings and a sprint for Earth. Kirk and Spock have a nice phaser fight while a huge cutting beam misses the Golden Gate bridge by a few meters, accompanied by a very impressive KABOOM. But it's Nero's "Fire everything!" that reminds us, once and for all, that we've arrived in the KABOOM-ville of modern Hollywood movies. We get explosions on the ground, inside the Narada, in space around the Enterprise, and it all reaches a crescendo when Kirk destroys Nero's ship and creates a black hole (which, in turn, is destroyed by yet another KABOOM as the warp core expo-

des). KABOOM rating: 10.

So those most recent five "Star Trek" films give us an average KABOOM rating of 7.2 out of 10. Quite a jump from the first six movies! And from what I can see, "Star Trek: Into Darkness" looks like it could easily be another 9 or 10. (Heck, it might go all the way to 11!)

So whether you like a KABOOM-frenzy or not, that's what we'll probably be seeing for quite a while in the theaters when "Star Trek" films come out. Forget about exploring strange, new worlds... let's blow something up already!



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24th Century Technology Arrives Today

The possibilities are endless and it's exciting to think that Star Trek technology is being actively explored today on our shores.

While recently watching the BBC series "Stargazing Live," I was enthralled to learn about yet another piece of 22nd century technology becoming a reality in today's world. Space debris is a very real problem, from small pieces of spent space missions floating around low Earth orbit to large satellite installations no longer in use.

LTJG Alan Oshea
USS Ark Royal
Region 20

Millions of pieces, all with their own chaotic orbit, all creating a real potential danger to future space missions and humankind. Well, space engineers in the UK's leading space company, Astrium, based in Stevenage, has come up with an innovative way of dealing with this problem.

The answer, a modified harpoon, which will have a propulsion pack attached to it. Once

launched at a target, it will attach and will drag the object back to Earth to be burnt up safely upon re-entry. This is not the first time we have heard of such technology, for in the 22nd century in the cultural legacy of Star Trek, we have the first so-named Earth Deep Space vessel, Enterprise NX-01, which uses an advanced version of this harpoon. They call it the grappler. Is the harpoon the first precursor to

the futuristic grappler, and then on to the famed tractor beam?

Dr. James Reed, from Astrium, said that the proposal "is for a barbed spear about 30cm in length. It would be mounted on a 'chaser satellite' that would edge to within 100m of a junk object." (Source BBC website)

The possibilities are endless and it's exciting to think that Star Trek technology is being actively explored today on our shores. For the full story on the harpoon, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19803461>.



Welcome to the STARFLEET Medical / Fire Rescue / OEP Office

Attention Chief Medical Officers, on chapters within STARFLEET. Go to the following website and sign up using this link. We would like to get to know you and what you are doing with your chapters in the medical area.

Joining STARFLEET Medical @ <http://medical.sfi.org/>
Also we have "FACEBOOK"

STARFLEET Medical

- Fire Rescue
- Office of Emergency Preparedness

The Directors of these divisions are:

- Fire Rescue: Zach Perkins
- Office of Emergency Preparedness: Ross Manuel

These directors need help, and if your desire is working in these areas, please contact them. You will find them on their "Facebook" sites.

From the Office of the Deputy Surgeon General

For those who do not know me, I am Lieutenant Brigadier Douglas Reagan.

Periodically we will submit medical articles on various medical subjects.



Brigadier General
Oliver Savander SR
Surgeon General

Brigadier Douglas
Reagan
Deputy Surgeon
General

The 340th MEU proudly unveiled our unit shirts for this event. The red-and-black combination earned us several compliments, as did some of the dishes we brought to the potluck.

340th MEU Report of Activities



The 340th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) "Time Keepers" Temporal Surveillance crew is proud to announce resumption of operations! Personnel relocations and health issues having been, we hope, resolved in our January "stand down," we look forward to another season of chasing air shows, star parties, 'Fleet and Corps events, and having a lot of fun.

We had a busy December despite only being able to operate for half the month. On 2012.12.01, we attended the USS Tejas' Annual Christmas Dinner and Trivia Contest in Vernon, Texas, at the Calvary Baptist Family Life Center. We were delighted to see the Tejas crew and their captain, and the away team from the USS Lone Star in attendance.

Our thanks to Lone Star CO, VADM Lisa Pruitt, for her generous gift of their first official rank pips to both Captains Hays. The USS Lone Star is a fine ship, and we certainly wish all the very best to her crew and command staff. May all their journeys go to happy destinations.

Our landing party included our OIC, General Pat Spillers, and our DOIC, Major J.J. Kelley. Major Kelley is one of our personnel undergoing a permanent change of station, but he will retain his post with us; we anticipate maintaining contact via subspace channels with our DOIC despite his move to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Both Captains Hays also attended. The 340th MEU proudly unveiled our unit shirts for this event. The red-and-black combination earned us several compliments, as did some of the dishes we brought to the potluck. As they do every year, the Vernon chapter, commanded by Fleet Captain Brent Chapman ("Tiqhud") put on a detailed and well-conducted trivia contest... maybe a little *too* detailed. Along with the contest, which very nearly ended in a tie between the two teams made up of mixed Starfleet and SFMC crews, the Te-

jas hosted a Klingon gift exchange. Everybody had a fine time visiting, and many of the presents did in fact change hands the maximum number of three times. Possibly the largest gift in the exchange was a life-size, armed Yoda figure.

Next year, the Christmas dinner will mark the 20th anniversary of the USS Tejas' charter. Please contact the USS Tejas, NCC-9756, in Vernon, for details: karonmclain@gmail.com

En route to the pot luck / gift exchange, the landing party listened to Star Trek Outpost Behind the Scenes (<http://www.giantgnome.com/category/latest-episodes>). Because we made pretty good time, and had planned well for the day-trip, we were able to visit Copper Breaks State Park on the way to the Christmas Party. Members of the Tejas and the Lone Star took several photos during the event, of which we understand some were posted to subspace social media sites. The meeting broke up about 2000 hours local; during our RTB leg, we listened to several Planetary Radio podcast episodes (<http://www.planetary.org/multimedia/planetary-radio/index.html?keywords=podcasts-and-videos>).

Our December meeting occurred on 2012.12.12, concurrently with a local exploration of holiday decorative light displays. General Spillers commanded this journey in her personal shuttlecraft; both Captains Hays attended along with Major Kelley, marking his departure from the quadrant.

We're proud to formally wel-

come STARFLEET Marines Casey Biggs, Vaughan Armstrong, and Richard Herd to the 340th MEU. Our doors are open and our aims are simple -- we're a temporal surveillance unit in the STARFLEET Marine Corps Aerospace Branch. Look for us at air shows, star parties, and events with our brothers and sisters of the Corps and Fleet, and remember your history: we're keeping it.

**MCPT Sarah Hays
Region 3**



STARFLEET Day at the Infinity Science Center

We challenged the other chapters present to purchase a brick and have their name added to ours in supporting space exploration and science education in the Gulf area.

The new Infinity Science Center on the Mississippi Gulf Coast celebrated its first STARFLEET Day on January 12, 2013. Sponsored by the USS Haise, STARFLEET members and family members from seven chapters in Regions 2 and 3 converged on the science center that opened to the public on April 11, 2012. The sea of Star Trek uniforms was an amazing sight, enjoyed by other visitors to the center that day as well.

The fifty-three STARFLEET members and family members present were from the USS Haise, USS Neptune, USS Okatoma, USS Odyssey, and the USS Continuum in Region 2, and the USS Corsair and USS New Orleans from Region 3.

Fred Haise strolled around the center throughout the day to answer questions and explain some of the exhibits. He kindly and patiently answered Cadets when they asked him what it feels like to be in space. (I'm sure he's answered that question a few thousand times)



Apollo 13 astronaut and Space Shuttle Enterprise commander Fred Haise was on hand to personally welcome everyone to Infinity and to introduce the group to the history, purpose and features of the new science center. The center is a first for the State of Mississippi and the larger Gulf Coast area. The Infinity Science Center is located on land donated by, and adjacent to, NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center. Open for less than a year, the center is still developing, adding, and raising funds for additional educational exhibits. But there was plenty available to engage the Fleet members' attention and spark the curiosity of the Cadets.

His enthusiasm for the center is infectious. Fred was an integral part of the planning, construction and fund-raising over the course of the several years it took to make the center a reality. The USS Haise and Region 2 are proud to have been financial contributors during the development stage.

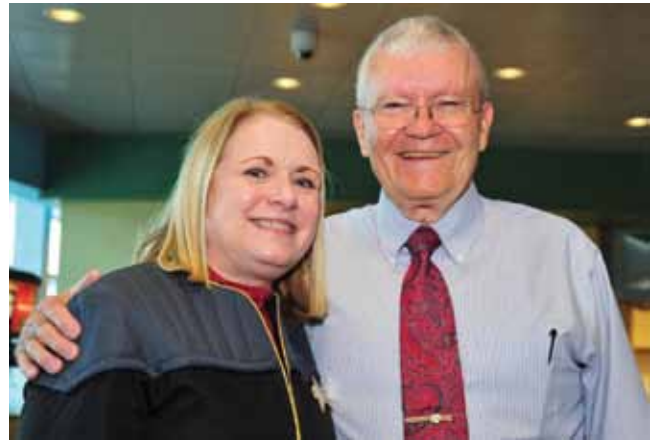
Features at the center include rockets (actual and replicas), experiments, exhibits, hands-on educational experiences, mock-up of the Mars landscape and a rover, shuttle flight simulator, space flight memorabilia, Fred Haise's Apollo spacesuit and tools, robotics, International Space Station module Destiny mock-up, plants

grown from seeds sent into space, contents from Werner Van Braun's office, videos, and a bus tour of facilities at Stennis Space Center across the road from the science center. There is a lot to see and do in one day!

And I can't forget food. The onsite café opened on Saturday just to accommodate our group. Everyone enjoyed a selection of burgers, fries, po-boys, salads, and more. Birthday cake was served to everyone in a surprise celebration of the birthday of the USS Corsair CO, Rear Admiral Trisha Tunis.

The brick walkway and plaza in front of Infinity Science Center contains commemorative bricks purchased by individuals and groups to financially support the center and its mission. Members of the USS Haise (OK, mostly me) just couldn't help themselves and showed anyone that would look at the brick the chapter bought. We challenged the other chapters present to purchase a brick and have their name added to ours in supporting space exploration and science education in the Gulf area. I would like to thank the Commanding Officers of the chapters in attendance for coordinating their groups for this away mission. Thanks also to Commander Mike Brown of the USS Neptune for handling media notification. It was an amazing day for all present. Everyone looked to be enjoying themselves thoroughly and I smiled so much with joy that my jaw hurt later. It was tremendous fun to have so many old and new STARFLEET friends from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida in one place for the day to explore together. To quote Buzz Lightyear, "To infinity and beyond!"

RADM Lucy Ferron
USS Haise
Region 2





Star Trek Fan Donates Gift To Local Ship

Doug has been building models for over 40 years. His work includes cars, ships, planes, and science fiction items. He also builds models professionally.

Last spring, I was attending a men's prayer breakfast held by my church (Macomb Baptist Church, Clinton Twp, MI). I had a STARFLEET activity later that day, so I happened to be wearing my STARFLEET polo shirt. During the breakfast, one of my fellow church members, Doug Cowles, asked me about it.

I proceeded to tell him about STARFLEET and my ship, the USS Sinclair. He told me about his modeling hobby, especially Star Trek models he has built. After our discussions, he proposed the idea of building a model that my ship could use as a display at future events.

Doug has been building models for over 40 years. His work includes cars, ships, planes, and science fiction items. He also builds models professionally. His work has been featured in museums, the starshipmodeler.com website, and the Kit Factory in Florida. He

is also a life-long Star Trek fan. His favorite series is TOS.

I took Doug's proposal to our CO at the time, Captain Richard Dean, letting him know that this was being offered at no cost to our ship. He agreed to it, and the work began. As Doug provided me updates, I passed them along to Captain Dean. When Captain McDonald took over this summer, I passed the updates onto her. The ship was completed in December. I accepted the ship from Doug on behalf of the Sinclair. I brought the model to our 2012 Holiday Party and formally presented it to the

captain and crew of the Sinclair.

On February 10th, it was my pleasure to present Doug a few small tokens of appreciation from the ship. I presented him with a framed certificate of appreciation, which included a photo of our crew with the model at the Holiday Party. He was also given a STARFLEET challenge coin, and a framed 3-D picture of NCC-1701. It didn't seem like much, considering the value of his donation to our ship, but he was very appreciative.

I believe that this model will be a wonderful addition to any future activities of our ship, such as recruitment tables and our upcoming Region 13 Summit. It is great knowing that there are such wonderful fans of Star Trek, such as Doug Cowles, who are willing to make such a generous donation to our organization.



CAP Franklin Newman III
USS Sinclair
Region 13



The person is shown a picture and, depending on the type of work selected, is then asked to catalog craters or to identify the type of craters.

Space Exploration From Home



Well, good news!! At this time there are two projects that any person with a computer, and access to the Internet, can participate in.

By far the most famous of these is the SETI At Home project. I have known of Project SETI for quite a while, long before the movie "Contact" with Jodi Foster, but I was first introduced to a layman's participation by an article in the 1999 CQ #92.

This project, hosted by Berkeley (<http://setiathome.berkeley.edu/>), makes use of home computers to analyze signals from space, recorded from instruments at the large radio telescope in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The signals are then converted into work units that a home computer can perform the analysis on. When it is finished with a unit, the home computer connects with the servers at SETI at Home, uploads the completed unit and downloads another one. The computer owner has various options available as to how the connection is operated and when the computer is to run the program, as a screen saver, or manually. Why do they need your computer? Well, Congress cut the funding some years ago in a fit of cost cutting. The project at that time was funded by less than one million dollars.

There is another project that has the home computer user do actual in-person work. That is the current evolution of NASA's Clickworkers program.

<http://nasaclickworkers.com/index.php> This program is very valuable because it allows Joe Citizen to help free up the scientists, by doing some of the mun-

How many times have you watched the launching of a rocket carrying a human or probe to some distant, or not so distant, body in space? How many times have you wished that you could be part of such a project aside from being a taxpayer-helping fund such a project? If you're like me, then many times is the answer.

dane and tedious searching and cataloging of objects. With our computers, we can be the Clyde Tombaugh of the 21st century.

Clickworks has the user identify and catalog craters and features on the Martian surface. The person is shown a picture and, depending on the type of work selected, is then asked to catalog craters or to identify the type of craters. There is a very good tutorial that provides the user with the knowledge needed to make the correct identifications. This project will soon be expanded to include cometary and asteroid bodies. The purpose of the project is to assist NASA scientists with the tedious job of cataloging, thus shortening the time spent on this task and freeing them for other endeavors.

Stardust@Home was similar in scope. However, the project had the computer user catalog and identify the entry tracks and samples stuck in the aerogel of the sample collector of recently returned sample modules of the Stardust spacecraft.

For more information, or to participate in SETI@home or Clickworks, please visit the web addresses listed above.

Good luck and good hunting!



Clickworkers
Classic



RADM Peter J. Lutz
USS Tang
Region 15

Executive Committee Reports

News and updates from the head honchos.



Report From The Commander, STARFLEET

Hi, and welcome to the return of the magazine format Communiqué!

In an effort to focus more on member content, and to make the CQ a lot less of "this report and that report", the Communications Department has asked the Executive Committee and SFMC General Staff to make their articles as short as possible. This way, we can put in more about what's happening with your chapters, put in more feature articles, and see about finding ways to improve the quantity and quality of our Star Trek content!

So, with that being said, here's a very brief synopsis of what's been happening in the Commander, STARFLEET's Department:

Member Recognition

November, December and January were all somewhat quiet months for Linda Kloempken. However we did address 2 promotions each in November and December, as well as 13 requests that came in during December: 1 first-class, 1 second-class, and 11 third-class. January sees Linda with about a dozen promotions in the works and no orders of merit.

Congratulations to all members who were promoted or received awards during the last few months! Keep up the great work!

Historian

SFMC Deputy Commandant announced the openings of departmental offices with the SFMC Historian Office. Jeff Higdon has been drafting an announcement that would include both the STARFLEET and the SFMC Historian's Offices to be released very soon, if they haven't been already by the time of this printing.

Inspector General – Jeff Victor has been taking care of Regional Coordinator elections for Regions 2, 6, 13 and 20. At the time of this writing, Region 20's RC Election is still on-going due to a tie between

two candidates. However I'd like to congratulate Jack "Towaway" Eaton, David Kloempken and Dan Toole on being the respective winners of the Region 2, 6 and 13 RC Elections.

Jeff was also a participant in both the December and January AB Conference Calls, tallying votes for AB Resolutions AB12-20 through AB12-23 in December.

Judge Advocate General

Larry French has one of the quietest jobs in STARFLEET as our JAG. His work only starts when there's an IG investigation or appeal of a decision made by the EC or AB, and he hasn't been called upon to participate in an investigation or appeal since November.

Public Relations

Brandt Heatherington has been hard at work compiling a list of movie theatre chains in North America that we may be reaching out to, in order to collaborate with publicity for STARFLEET during the release of J.J. Abrams' next Star Trek movie this coming May.

Brant is collaborating with Chris Tolbert, our Recruiting and Retention Officer, on this effort. He would like chapters and regions, who are planning on running Membership Drive events, to be in touch with him at pr@sfi.org so that he can potentially help put you in touch with a local movie theatre for any event you might be planning. We'd also like to put together a list of where chapters are going to be running Membership Drive events so that we can put that on our website and Facebook pages to promote your chapters.

Scholarships

Did you know that we've changed our scholarships and that now, instead of being only \$500, they're \$1,000? Reed Bates has been busy working with our webmaster, Laura Victor, getting the STARFLEET

website updated with the information and with the new names of the scholarships (with the increase of the dollar amount for scholarships, we did reduce the number of available scholarships from 10 to 5. Unfortunately that was part of what we needed to do in order to keep within STARFLEET's budget).

Reed is regularly fielding questions from members (as well as non-members!) about our scholarship program. If you'd like to know more, drop Reed a line at scholarships@sfi.org.

We are also very much in need of your support of the scholarships, and we need donations in order to make sure that we're going to be able to keep giving out scholarships annually to our members. Please consider donating a few dollars to the scholarship program when you renew, or if you'd like to hold a fund raiser for the STARFLEET scholarship program (a Region 3 CO has been in touch about that recently), send Reed an e-mail and ask her how you can help support our scholarships!

That's all from me for this edition of the CQ. I'll talk to you all with my next update next quarter!



FADM Dave Blaser
USS Hadfield
Region 13

Commander,
STARFLEET

The Second Fiddle

Greetings to the members of STARFLEET!

PetFleet has been a program in STARFLEET for quite a few years now, and yet many in our organization really do not know why it exists. In essence, the program is a way to show our appreciation to our pets for what they give us. This thank you is expressed in the form of a special membership in STARFLEET so that, together, you and your pet may enjoy the STARFLEET experience more fully. If you do not have a pet as a companion, this relationship might be a little hard to understand. The best way to explain this is to outline what exactly a pet does for their owner. Perhaps this will help us all to embrace the program as a feel-good opportunity that will enhance the membership experience.

There are three basic reasons why we should say "thank you" to our pets:

1. Pets can improve your mood. Has there been a time when you were feeling sad and

wanted to be alone? But then a cat rubs up against you and suddenly you feel not so sad after all! They look cute, and their loving eyes make you forget all your negative emotions. Recent studies have shown that people with AIDS are less likely to suffer from depression if they have a pet. It's almost impossible to stay in a bad mood when you see a cute puppy wagging its tail, with those big eyes saying, "scratch me, please!"

2. Pets provide unconditional love. Pets, if they are properly cared for, offer unconditional love and companionship. They will always be there to give support, enjoy moments of silence with you, and keep your secrets. Pets know who you really are and love you unconditionally, because of, and perhaps in spite of, that. Amazingly, what is often hard to find in human beings can easily be found within our pets.

3. Pets actually encourage you to exercise. Research shows that urban dog owners spend more time walking and moving compared to non-dog owners. Pets can help take away some of the resistance to exercising, if you know you will have a happy partner.

The relationship between a pet and its owner is a special one. A bond is developed and should be respected. PetFleet is the program that recognizes this and allows our members to say that special "thank you." May all of us in STARFLEET smile in appreciation of these "special members" who give so much, but ask for so little in return.

We encourage all of those who are interested to take full advantage of the program, and we are here to serve that very purpose.



MGN Bran Stimpson
USS Tiburon
Region I7

Vice Commander,
STARFLEET

Computer Operations Report

As we move through our final year in this administration, the Computer Operations department is as busy as ever, making sure that everything is finished and smoothed over for a new administration to take over. Obviously our biggest project has been the finalizing of repairs and bug fixes on the new database. I am proud to say most of them are complete.

Our main concentration right now is on fixes to STARFLEET Marine Corps forms and making sure they all work. It should not be much longer before everything is done and the new database is at 100%. First, I want to thank the membership for being so patient during this process. The number of bugs caught everyone off guard. Secondly, I want to thank my department, especially VADM Laura Victor, for all the hard work in getting these fixes done.

Our second project is the website. Quite a few members have pointed out issues with the website. The chief issue was that pages were being replaced by pharmaceutical pages and making our lives much more difficult. I am happy to say that our webmaster, VADM Laura Victor, is now moving our Joomla pages over to WordPress, which is much more stable and less buggy. Once this move has been made, I am sure the membership will notice a difference in performance.

Outside of this, our department is doing its best to keep up with help requests and fix requests. It has been a very eventful and interesting past two years. I look forward to getting all things in this department ironed out before the new administration (whoever that may be) takes over, to make the transition as smooth as possible. If

you have any issues, problems, or questions, please drop me a line at compops@sfi.org. My door is always open!



COMM Chris Carothers
USS Richthopen
Region 7

Chief Computer
Operations,
STARFLEET



STARFLEET Academy News

Welcome to the great Halls of Learning.

Things will now look a bit different within the Academy News from what you've been accustomed to. For reports from the 'Dant (li'l ol' me), the Coordinator

of Academic Services, and the Coordinator of Support Services, log in to the CQ online at <http://cq.sfi.org>. From now on within the regular CQ's, you'll be seeing featured colleges with a write-up about the director of said college. Boothbys

and Annual awards will also be featured in the regular CQ's. Read and enjoy!

A Tour of the Starfleet Officers' Radio School Campus

Hello, everyone. I am Admiral Carolyn Donner, the director of the STARFLEET Officers Radio School here at STARFLEET Academy. I'll be conducting the virtual tour today. If anyone has any questions, feel free to ask them at any time during the tour.

STARFLEET Officers Radio School, also known as SORS, has been part of the STARFLEET Academy for over 10 years now. We've had numerous graduates from all over the world. We're pleased with the education we can offer here at the SORS College.

At this time the buildings here at SORS are used only for research. No actual classes are taught on campus anymore.

A few years ago, we reworked all the courses, making them Fully Automated Courses (also known as FAC courses), which are taken online at <http://www.sfaqquiz.com>. This was done to allow students serving full time on a starship in any part of the galaxies, or on any planet in any galaxy, to be able to take the courses in their spare time.

If you will follow me into this first building on your left, this is the Administration Building. It is where our staff handles the book work needed to keep track of the students and what courses they are currently taking. The staff here maintains a record of every student who takes a course, what their grades are, and when they finished the course. In other words, the record keepers work here.

Now in the next building on the left, you'll notice all the rooms are set up for viewing video recordings. This is known as the Star Trek Building, because you can view all the Star Trek episodes needed to find the answers to the Series

100 courses. There are six rooms here, each corresponding to one of the Series 100 courses which deal with radio as used in each of the Star Trek series: The Original Series room, the Animated Series room, the Next Generation room, the Deep Space Nine room, the Voyager room, and the Enterprise room. Since these are available only for local students, students at other locations can also view these series by either purchasing, borrowing or renting them. Also, many of the answers to the questions on these tests can be found on the internet.

The next building, which is right across the driveway from the Star Trek Building, is known as the Radio History Building. Here, local students can do research in our vast library, also known as the internet, for the Series 200 courses. There are also six rooms in this building corresponding to the courses in the 200 series. These courses take the student from the beginnings and through the history of radio with such courses as SORS201: Beginnings of Radio, SORS202: Broadcast Radio, SORS203: From Radio to Television, SORS204: Shortwave Radio, SORS205: CB, FRS, and GMRS, and SORS206: Other uses for Radio.

And the last building is known as the Amateur Radio Building. It is a little like the Radio History Building, in that it has vast resources for studying for the courses which concentrate on amateur radio. Again there are six rooms, each corresponding to a Level 300 course. The 300 level courses will take the student through the history and modes of amateur radio, encouraging him or her to continue to take the test to get an ama-

teur radio license. (Amateur radio license tests are not actually given at the school itself.)

The SORS301 course looks at amateur radio and its history. The SORS302 course looks at the different modes of amateur radio. Courses SORS303 through SORS305 are awarded when a student reports passing the license test and received the amateur radio license or upgrade in the United States. Course SORS306 is called DX License, and is awarded when students in countries outside the USA have passed their countries' tests and received amateur radio licenses. We recognize that different countries (or planets) have their own qualifications for awarding a license to their members.

That concludes our tour of the STARFLEET Officers Radio School campus and courses. Are there any questions?

Oh, thank you for asking that. I meant to touch on this as well. For those of you who couldn't hear, this gentleman asked if you have to take the courses in any particular order. No, you do not have to take the courses in any particular order. However, there are prerequisites for some of the courses, particularly the SORS300 courses, so please check on the STARFLEET Academy website (<http://academy.sfi.org/>) before you apply for those courses.

What was that? You in the back, there? Yes, you. Oh, you want to know, why I joined STARFLEET Academy and do I enjoy my job here? Well, yes, I enjoy it very much. The whole staff at STARFLEET Academy is great to work with.

As to why I joined STARFLEET Academy, well, that could be a rather long story. I'll try to keep



ADM Peg Pellerin
USS Constitution
Region 15

Commandant,
STARFLEET
Academy

it short so not to bore you. You see, I've been associated with STARFLEET Academy in one capacity or other for nearly 25 years. I started out taking classes when SFA had only a few schools and I took nearly all of them. I enjoyed the courses so much that I applied for a Director position a few years later and became the Director of one of the busiest schools in the Academy: Officer's Command College.

After several years, I moved to the Assistant Commandant job, and then to Acting Commandant for a short time when the Academy was between Commandants. Then

I left the Academy for a couple of years to take a different job in STARFLEET, putting me on the Admiralty Board. That proved to be a very challenging position but my real love was the Academy, so I developed The Gorn Academy (TGA) and got back into working with that school, within STARFLEET Academy.

Soon after I started TGA, a friend who had been running the SORS College decided to resign and, knowing I was an Amateur radio operator, he asked me to take over the SORS College. I did, and the rest is history, as they say. It's great meeting all the new students,

answering questions, and helping them learn. Now the SORS College is pretty much automated, but there is still a lot of student and other SFA personnel interaction. You'll find the best group of school directors in STARFLEET Academy, no matter which college course you decide to take. I can recommend all of them. Just start taking courses and you'll be hooked, too.

If there are no more questions, I'll just say 'thank you' for taking our virtual tour, and I hope to see some of your names on the student list for next semester.

Featured College: College of Stargate: Atlantis

Colonel Bobbie Baxter, Director
bobbkat@starbase2.com

Introduction

After the exciting discovery of an Antarctic outpost created by the alien race known as the Ancients, Stargate Command sends a team of scientists to investigate the outpost, where Dr. Daniel Jackson discovers the location of Atlantis, the legendary city created by the Ancients. Using the Zero Point Module (ZPM) to power the Stargate, an alien device built millions of years ago by the Ancients, an international team of scientists and military personnel sets off on a possibly one-way mission to explore the Pegasus Galaxy and the home of the Ancients.

Stargate: Atlantis follows the adventures of Lt. Colonel John Sheppard and his military team, along with some of the world's brightest scientists, led by Dr. Elizabeth Weir. Their purpose is to explore the lost city of Atlantis and the planets in the Pegasus Galaxy. The expedition is based in the Lost City of Atlantis on the planet Lantea, which had been abandoned by the Ancients 10,000 years ago. The exploration team will make friends on many worlds, but will also awaken a powerful alien enemy known as the Wraith – the very enemy the Ancients fought for a hundred years, before submerging the city of Atlantis and fleeing to the Milky Way Galaxy and Earth.



A Few Words From The Director:

I grew up watching Star Trek and have been a huge fan since the first day. I really resonate with Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future and long for that future to be our reality right now. Actually, I'm pretty passionate about any good, or interesting, science fiction show or movie from Forbidden Planet to Robinson Crusoe on Mars to Final Countdown and Beyond.

The reasons I like a show, movie or series can be all over the map. (Heck, I'm one of the few people who thinks Earth 2 is interesting.) But there does seem to be a common thread running through the ones I really like, which is people working together for the common good. That is only one reason I enjoy Stargate Atlantis so much.

I had to work at liking Stargate SG1, but Stargate Atlantis was different. It got my attention right away because the characters were compelling and complex. The team from Earth had to forge alliances quickly because their very survival was at stake, and the bad guys were truly bad and extremely

powerful. The odds were against the little expedition team and the people of the Pegasus Galaxy, but through brains and science they managed to hold their own – but not without great loss.

As an SFI member who enjoys taking courses, I waited for the Stargate Atlantis College to open and asked about it every so often. But it is a major undertaking to open a new College and write a large number of exams, so after a year or so of waiting and asking, I offered to write the exams so this College could get started. I was offered the position of Director, which I was excited to accept, and began writing the initial 24 exams under the outstanding guidance of Fleet Captain Wayne Smith and Commodore George Ann (Annie) Wheeler. So the Stargate Atlantis lecture hall is open and waiting for students and, as I learned from Vice Admiral Glen Diebold, learning can be very fun and rewarding.

From the desk of the SFA Awards Director: FCAPT Scott Schaller

NOVEMBER BOOTHBY AWARDS

50 *Bronze*
 11/24/12 Steven Rice
 100 *Silver*
 11/1/12 Melissa Toole
 11/19/12 Frances Brock
 11/23/12 Tina Davis
 150 *Gold*
 11/21/12 David Hines
 11/29/12 Pamela Nery
 500 *Trilithium*
 11/27/12 Leo Rogers
 950 *Emerald*
 11/14/12 Cher Schleigh
 11/19/12 Barbara Paul
 1400 *Zirconium Star*
 11/24/12 Richard Hewitt
 1650 *Topaz Star*
 11/2/12 Glendon Diebold
 1700 *Amethyst Star*
 11/29/12 Glendon Diebold
 1950 *Emerald Star*
 11/23/12 George Ann Wheeler
 2000 *Omega Star*
 11/15/12 Larry French
 2050 *Acamar Star*
 11/16/12 Franklin Newman III
 2150 *Alpha Centauri Star*
 11/1/12 Josephine Fisher
 2200 *Altair Star*
 11/22/12 Josephine Fisher
 2250 *Benzite Star*
 11/25/12 Carol Thompson
 2800 *Canopus Star*
 11/12/12 Wayne Killough, Jr.
 2850 *Capella Star*
 11/21/12 Wayne Killough, Jr.

DECEMBER BOOTHBY AWARDS

Bronze 50
 12/06/2012 Jonathan Madon
 12/03/2012 Christina Kovar
 Silver 100
 12/01/2012 Philip Muller
 12/01/2012 David Phillips
 12/01/2012 Zachary McCauley
 12/01/2012 Darrell Thomas
 12/01/2012 Robin Woodell Vitasek
 Gold 150
 12/21/2012 Frances Brock
 12/11/2012 Cathey Osborne
 12/04/2012 David Phillips
 12/01/2012 Jason Garrett
 12/01/2012 Max Poston
 Latinum 200
 12/24/2012 Steve Tweed
 12/21/2012 David Hines
 12/13/2012 Lee Vitasek
 12/01/2012 Darlene Harper
 12/01/2012 Jim Hutley
 Diamond 250
 12/01/2012 John Chiaromonte
 Dilithium 300
 12/30/2012 John Radle
 12/11/2012 Michael McGowan
 Zirconium 400
 12/30/2012 Mykah Byers
 Amber 500
 12/08/2012 James Herring
 Sapphire 850
 12/03/2012 Russell Ruhland
 Omega 1000
 12/14/2012 Cher Schleigh
 12/12/2012 Barbara Paul

Bronze Star 1050
 12/22/2012 Donald Dobrin
 12/06/2012 Eric Schulman
 Diamond Star 1250
 12/13/2012 Thomas Pawelczak
 Zirconium Star 1400
 12/12/2012 Erik Stubblefield
 Platinum Star 1450
 12/30/2012 Richard Hewitt
 12/23/2012 Gary "Tiny" Hollifield
 Topaz Star 1650
 12/14/2012 Eric Johansson
 Omega Star 2000
 12/27/2012 George Ann Wheeler
 Acamar Star 2050
 12/23/2012 Larry French
 Aldebaran Star 2100
 12/05/2012 Franklin Newman
 Alpha Centauri Star 2150
 12/22/2012 Franklin Newman
 Cardassia Star 2900
 12/11/2012 Wayne Killough, Jr.
 Cestus Star 2950
 12/26/2012 Wayne Killough, Jr.

Riddle Me This

**Has feathers but can't fly.
Rests on legs but can't walk**

Look for the answer in the next issue!

Last Issue's riddle: He gets short when he gets old. He goes out, then it gets cold.
ANSWER: Candle

Are you ready for IC 2013?

Dallas is ready for you!



The Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area is known for a lot of things: the Rangers, the Cowboys, the Mavericks, the Stars, Southfork Ranch (from the TV show “Dallas”), Six Flags Over Texas, the Fort Worth Zoo, and many other attractions. However, to STARFLEET personnel, the event that should be at the top of your mind is the 2013 STARFLEET International Conference! It will be held August 1-4, 2013, at the MCM Eleganté Hotel and Suites in Dallas.

Since before the bid was even submitted, the IC 2013 committee has been hard at work to make sure that this IC is a memorable experience for everyone in attendance. Chosen for its central location to both DFW Airport, Dallas/Love Field, and the Greyhound Bus Terminal, the MCM Eleganté offers great rooms, plentiful dining (both on-site and in the surrounding area), nice meeting space, and strong Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. Their experienced staff has been more than willing to work with us to make sure the conference goes smoothly.

As with most ICs, we have some of the staples that members have come to expect. This includes Opening Ceremony, General Sessions, panels throughout the afternoon, and an evening auction and dance. Marines will hold their annual International Muster on Saturday afternoon, during the panels, where the General Staff will brief the troops on everything going on in the Corps and present many of their annual awards.

In addition to those activities, we will have a few things that are new or different from what we're used to seeing. As many of you know, 2013 is an election year for STARFLEET. As we've seen at other ICs, we will be presenting a Meet the Candidates forum where you'll get to know and ask questions of our next potential Commander, STARFLEET. Also, for those not interested in the formality and politics of the organization, we will be hosting a gaming room with role playing games, board games,

and strategy games. There will be Nerf Tactical Missions hosted in a controlled environment, if you just want to go out and shoot someone. Finally, for those of you who

Band CDs, and assisting with our charity auction. As a treat, we will have a raffle for two seats at his dinner table, as well as many other opportunities to meet Vaughn.

For more information on the event and to register, go to <http://www.ic2013.com/>. If you have any questions, you can e-mail info@ic2013.com or contact any of the IC Committee from the website.

are so inclined, there will be a model-building competition.

No IC is complete without plenty of food. With your hotel reservation, you will receive two free breakfast vouchers for the hotel restaurant. On Friday night, in a slight departure from the normal Dress Mess, the 3rd Brigade will be hosting a Texas BBQ. This will be held as more of a Field Mess, so wear your Class C Utilities and come ready to eat. On Saturday night, the fleet dresses in its finest for the Fleet Admiral's Banquet. After the banquet, we will be having a charity auction. Proceeds from the auction will go to benefit Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry® Campaign. No Kid Hungry is a national campaign to end childhood hunger in America by 2015.

As a special treat, the IC 2013 Committee is pleased to announce that Vaughn Armstrong, most notably Admiral Forest of “Enterprise,” will be joining us Saturday. Mr. Armstrong previously attended IC 2005 in San Antonio, TX. This year, he will be hosting a Q&A panel Saturday afternoon, signing autographs, selling Enterprise Blues

We truly hope that everyone considers coming to Dallas this August. It looks to be a great event and we would love to have you. For more information on the event and to register, go to <http://www.ic2013.com/>. If you have any questions, you can e-mail info@ic2013.com or contact any of the IC Committee from the website.



Operations Report

Hello, STARFLEET!

As some of you know, during the time this Communiqué article was being prepared, Joe Sare was temporarily sidelined, so I was asked to step in for a few days. So for this issue, you get to read a column for me instead of Joe. We're all hoping he's back in the saddle soon, and I'm sure he will be by the time the next issue's column is due.

First off, some numbers. Here's the current report on STARFLEET strength, courtesy of the STARFLEET Database and the Operations Statistics Officer:

Region	Members	Chapters
Region 1	935	49
Region 2	641	34
Region 3	670	29
Region 4	458	23
Region 5	207	11
Region 6	92	8
Region 7	548	29
Region 8	14	1
Region 9	32	2
Region 10	33	1
Region 11	115	5
Region 12	397	25
Region 13	165	6
Region 14	2	-
Region 15	193	10
Region 17	183	9
Region 18	1	-
Region 20	130	7
STARFLEET Total:	4,816	249

Now, I'm usually fairly quiet in Ops, often playing behind the scenes and cooking up ideas, some of which eventually become new parts of the organization. So, often, I'm not chattering. However, that doesn't mean I'm not reading what's out there, whether on the lists or in various MSRs, and that's something I'd like to comment on for a bit, if you don't mind.

A lot of MSRs come in each month, and one thing I've noticed is that some of them include no information, either in the Activities or Comments sections. Now, there isn't any sort of requirement that anyone chatter in MSRs. Just letting the database auto-fill the usual fields and hitting send is okay; it

meets the requirement. But I'm going to suggest that the MSRs fulfill another important function. They let you talk to us. If there's something happening that you want to share, an MSR is a great place to let us know. If you are looking for help for your chapter, especially the sort of thing that might not be answerable with a quick note to the Helpdesk, but instead might involve ideas for making your chapter work better, an MSR can be a place to let us know that you're looking to have that discussion. What I do ask is that if you have something on your mind, don't hide it deep in a paragraph. Set it out so we can see it. The reason for that is that we're reading over 240 MSRs a month (assuming that everyone files a report), and it's easy to fall into a mode in which we're skimming and looking for important issues that might need more than just a general awareness of what's happening in a chapter. But 240 reports are a lot to read, so any help you can give us by making comments or questions easy to see will always be appreciated.

Remember, too, that Operations exists to help. We want very much for the chapters to succeed, because the chapters are the central building blocks of the organization. We also have to look at the big picture, though, which is why not everything we're asked to endorse gets approved. (I remember, during my time in ShOC, working with RCs and chapters all over the organization to make sure that new groups would be positive growth, and not points of disruption. 99% of the time they're the former, but that last 1% made us work hard!) There's always a balance between the needs of individual chapters, which can be very diverse entities, and the needs of the entire organization, which has to work as a single large group composed of all those smaller entities, and getting that balance right isn't always easy. But we keep trying, and I'd like to think that, most of the time, we do pretty well.

I'd like to also take a moment to mention, for those who haven't

seen it in other places, that the street mail address for Operations has changed. For those who need to send material to Joe Sare via US Post or other ground carrier, the new address is:

STARFLEET Operations
c/o Joe Sare
2885 Sanford Ave. #24896
Grandville, MI 49418-1342

Finally, switching chapeaus for just one moment, but staying within the Operations structure, DTS reports that there continues to be a need for members interested in, and able to create, vessel schematic drawings (i.e., engineering blueprint-style art). If anyone out there would be interested in this sort of drafting role, or knows someone who might be, feel free to contact me at shoc-dts@sfi.org

And that's all for this issue! Best wishes go out to Joe for a quick resolution to his personal matters, and with luck, you'll see him back in these pages next issue. Enjoy the rest of the CQ, and we'll see you 'round the 'FLEET.

ADM Alex Rosenzweig

Vice Chief of
Operations,
STARFLEET

December 2012 Finances

STARFLEET Main Checking Account	
Opening	\$28,862.46
Credits	\$13,521.01
Debits	\$3,206.97
Closing	\$39,176.50

SFMC Checking Account	
Opening	\$4,989.67
Credits	\$152.44
Debits	\$15.90
Closing	\$5,126.21

IC Even Account	
Opening	\$4,016.93
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$4,016.93

STARFLEET Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$3,873.10
Credits	\$0.13 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$3,873.23
<small>Scholarship CD opened with \$21985.21 (9 month risk free CD earning .30%, matures 3/2013)</small>	

IC Odd Account	
Opening	\$1,504.10
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$1,504.10
<small>Reminder: Only \$500 of this money actually belongs to this account. The remainder belongs to the SFI Main account but is left here to avoid the \$18 a month service charge.</small>	

SFMC Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$2,727.49
Credits	\$0.09 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$2,727.58

January 2013 Finances

STARFLEET Main Checking Account	
Opening	\$39,176.50
Credits	\$7,320.97
Debits	\$9,170.77
Closing	\$37,326.70

SFMC Checking Account	
Opening	\$5,126.21
Credits	\$209.94
Debits	\$27.67
Closing	\$5,308.48

IC Even Account	
Opening	\$4,016.93
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$2,527.93
Closing	\$1,489.00

STARFLEET Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$3,873.23
Credits	\$0.13 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$3,873.36
<small>Scholarship CD opened with \$21985.21 (9 month risk free CD earning .30%, matures 3/2013)</small>	

IC Odd Account	
Opening	\$1,504.10
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$1,504.10
<small>Reminder: Only \$500 of this money actually belongs to this account. The remainder belongs to the SFI Main account but is left here to avoid the \$18 a month service charge.</small>	

SFMC Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$2,727.58
Credits	\$0.09 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$2,727.67

STARFLEET CD	
Balance	\$1,111.86
Matures 8/15/2013	Interest Rate: .035%



Take Them With You
Join Pet Fleet Today!

petfleet.sfi.org

STARFLEET Marine Corps Reports

News and updates from the marines.



50 Shades of Grey

Well actually, there are no shades of grey with the SFMC – but I bet that caught your attention.

What I do wish to do here is to talk of the colour that actually IS the SFMC.

Throughout STARFLEET, we can all accept that the SFMC adds that touch of pomp and circumstance to IC or our regional summits. Imagine these events without our Marines doing colour guard duty or bringing the Corps camaraderie to the fore.

And what of the colour? Well, the STARFLEET Marine Corps has colour enough to bring glamour and ceremony wherever they go.

Ribbon racks; shoulder cords; gold, silver and brass devices; shoulder flashes, and unit and Brigade patches – even the shine of the shoes and boots. No grey

there. Then toss in the nine different branch colors and the grey has really disappeared into something of an off-white...

And here we have it: not fifty shades of grey, but nine distinct tones of colour – the branches of service that make up the SFMC.

Starfleet Red for Aerospace, Royal Blue for Armor, Forest Green for Combat Engineering, good old honest Black for the Infantry, Navy Blue for Maritime Operations, Silver for Mecha, Starfleet Teal for Medical, Khaki for Special Operations, and Starfleet Gold for Support – no grey there, for certain!

Imagine for a moment, a lineup of STARFLEET Marines, each dressed in their very best uniform and each representing a different Branch of Service. Nine Marines representing the nine branches

of the SFMC with enough colour and ceremony to make even the hardest-nosed squib feel pleased to be associated with “their” Marine Corps.

And yes, STARFLEET, those nine shades of color are YOUR Marines. We have been here amongst you, working beside you, working with you – even working for you in many instances. For the last thirty years, our nine shades of color have given this organization a depth and a culture that other fan clubs envy.

So next time you see a Marine in full fig, just take a moment to soak up that colour. Feel as proud of us as we do of being a part of STARFLEET International!

(By the way, your local recruiting office is just around the corner.....)

BGN Bruce O'Brien
USS Southern Cross
Region II

Commandant SFMC



State of the NCO Corps

Greetings Marines!

Once again, it's time to head for the booth in the back in the corner in the dark of my local NCO club, where I can let my hair down a little instead of tearing it out in clumps (PRIGAL!!!), and take a little time to reflect on what being a STARFLEET Marine NCO really means.

The story of Star Trek is told mainly from the viewpoint of officers. Until Miles O'Brien came along, most enlisted characters were bit players who died horribly before the first commercial break, or maybe advanced the plot a little. Even after that, the stories focused on the officers for the most part, and so it's not surprising that most STARFLEET members see themselves in terms of Kirk, Picard, Sisko, Janeway, Archer, Spock, Scottie, Worf, etc. and elect to be officers as well.

But you can't tell the story of ground forces in general, and marines in particular, without running

smack into NCOs like John Basilone, Dan Daly, Dakota Meyer, Matthew Croucher, Thomas Peck Hunter, John Prettyjohns, or even Bill Williams, Alvin York, Willie Apiata, or Rodger Young. And, those are just some of the real ones from history - I won't even go into all the memorable NCOs appearing on the screen or in print.

So, it's not surprising that the STARFLEET Marines has an estimated quarter of its members in the enlisted ranks right now. Being an NCO is definitely not the easy path in STARFLEET, but the SFMC embraces and encourages the decision to remain enlisted. It's a nod to traditions that stretch back a long time before the first episode of TOS even aired. As my first OIC told me when he pinned on my E-7 stripes, "We can't call ourselves Marines without Gunnies!"

So, if it seems to you that your NCOs carry themselves a little straighter, maybe even with a certain amount of swagger, and keep

asking you "OK, what do you need me to do next?", remember that we may feel ourselves under the eyes of legends a lot bigger than Jim Kirk.

If you'd like to learn more about some of those legends, I invite you to look over the SFMC website, Corps-I mailing list, or even the SFMC Facebook group, where you can find Top's History Lesson as part of my monthly reports, and also find reports, information, and comments from the rest of the SFMC General Staff.

And, if you're interested in the "road less traveled" in STARFLEET, whether as a Marine or Fleet enlisted member, or you're an officer trying to figure out how to better understand the decision to remain enlisted, feel free to get in touch with me at:

sgm_sfmc@sfi-sfmc.org.
Semper Fi!

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

Sergeant Major
SFMC



Greetings, Marines, from the hallowed halls of the STARFLEET Marine Corps Academy! The new quarterly format for the printed CQ will take some getting used to for all of us, the reader as well as the one who sends in the information. I will keep this brief, but for up-to-the-minute TRACOM news, you can always visit our website at www.sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org as well as the main SFMC Facebook page for the monthly State of TRACOM Addresses and announcements.

Now I know a lot of you in the general membership, and maybe my own staff at TRACOM, are wondering why this command needs two deputy commanding officers. This cycle, I want to introduce you to my two DCOs, MGN Travis Littou for Administration and COL Brian Pickett for Doctrine. Travis will talk about his role as Armor Director while Brian will delve into his role as DCO-Doctrine.

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Greetings STARFLEET!

I am Major General Travis Littou, and I am the director of the Armor Branch at the STARFLEET Marine Corps Academy. I am here today hopefully to give you a better understanding of what we do here in the Armor Branch, and to let you know what you can expect when you request exams from the Armor School.

The Armor Branch is tasked with the training of students and the development of materials pertaining to the field of Armor. In the SFMCA, Armor encompasses fields of service that were traditionally separate. These fields are Artillery, Cavalry, and what is traditionally thought of as Armor: Tanks and Mechanized Infantry. Because of this, the curriculum in the Armor school is somewhat varied when compared to other schools.

Currently, the curriculum of the Armor school consists of ten exams on a variety of topics. These exams include the standard basic exam, as well as exams on the history of the Armor Branch, Armor Operations, Cavalry, Tactics, Mechanized Infantry and Artillery. Other exams include a Marine

Occupational Specialty familiarity course, and an advanced course. We then round out the curriculum with the independent studies course.

Through the first six months of 2012, 36 tests were delivered and 29 tests were graded for 14 students. The average score for all of the tests graded was 95.32%. The exam that has been requested the most is AR-10 Armor Basic Course, which is always exciting, since that means that there are new students coming to the Armor School.

In the future, there will be some minor changes made in the Armor School, the most notable of which is the revision of the Armor Manual. This manual has been in use since 2005, and it is time for it to be updated and refreshed. Other changes will be made to the exams themselves, since there are a few exams that do not allow for the Honors level grade to be awarded, because getting just one answer incorrect moves the score below the 96% required for the Honors grade. Questions will be added to these exams to prevent that from occurring.

I have, as do all branch directors, a SFMCA email address. Mine is ar@sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org. I currently have this email set up to forward all incoming mail to two different email addresses, as well as to my mobile phone as an SMS. This way I receive notification within minutes of a request being made. I make every attempt to respond to requests as soon as possible. What that means is that I attempt to have an 'instant' turnaround on requests. However there are times that this is not possible, such as requests that come in during the middle of the night (Central Time – GMT -6) or during the workday. I will attempt to honor the request as soon as I can.

The same standard is applied to grading exams. During the first six months of 2012, I have an average turnaround time of 2.62 hours for requested exams. Of the 36 tests that were requested, 23 of those were turned around in under

10 minutes, an additional five in under 30 minutes, and four more in under an hour; only four of 36 test requests were not fulfilled in less than 60 minutes. In the realm of grading exams, 18 of the 29 tests were graded in less than one hour, with an average time of 2.18 hours for an exam to be graded.

One way to help ensure speeding along the process of requesting exams, or returning exams for grades, is to please send any correspondence to the Armor School to the ar@sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org address. In addition to requests for exams and exams to be graded, I am always looking for ways that I can serve the you, the student, better. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think can help out the Armor School, or even if you have suggestions for the Academy in general, please by all means do not hesitate to send them along. If it is something that can be put to good use, I will see what I can do to implement it, and if it is a suggestion for the Academy as a whole, I will certainly pass it up the chain of command to see if we can improve your experience at the STARFLEET Marine Corps Academy.

Don't forget, we are here for you, and without you, we don't have a reason to be here.

Until next time,

MGEN Travis Littou - SFMCA
Armor Director

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Greetings,

Some of our Marines aren't certain just what I do, or what the differences are between Deputy Training & Doctrine Command Administrator and DCOTRACOM-DOC. Others often believe they must go through me, as part of the chain in command, to speak with Travis, our DCOTRACOM-ADMIN. And there are also those who don't care, they just want to reach a warm body to voice a complaint. While I am willing to listen to your ideas or complaints, or even those of you who wish to offer kudos to one of our staff, I think I should clarify my role a bit more, in the TRACOM Staff.



MGEN Gary Hollifield, Jr.
USS Bortas
Region I2

CO TRACOM SFMC

Simply put, as DCTRACOM-DOC, it is my task to manage, and also assist our Deans, Directors, R&D Team and Beta-Testing Administrator in ensuring existing Marine Academy materials are up to date and new materials fit within established perimeters.

This is not as easy as it sounds, however. We currently have 27 courses to choose exams from, with manuals and myriad exams included in each of those courses. I am in charge of seeing that all of the exams and materials are up to date and correlate and correspond properly to their particular branch of study. I also help with the approval or denial process for new content, determining whether or

not it fits within the perimeters of the course subject matter, and I assist with the editing, researching and writing of course material additions and exams.

Also, I keep the directors from becoming lax on refreshing their courses and exams so they stay fresh but without being too difficult for prospective students, as well as keeping the content clear and concise. There are also new courses currently in design that I am not at liberty to discuss further at this time, for which I guide and assist with editing, researching and writing the content.

If you have a desire to work for the TRACOM Team in the capacity of editing, writing, or even

creating/finding graphic elements, illustrations or blue print design, I look forward to speaking with you.

In Service,
COL Brian Pickett

In closing, I want to remind you that the General Staff is here to make your experience the most it can be with the SFMC. We are always open to new ideas, suggestions, comments, and even criticisms. All of our direct emails can be found at www.sfi-sfmc.org.

Semper Fi!



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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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