



STARFLEET
THE INTERNATIONAL STAR TREK FAN ASSOCIATION INC.

COMMUNIQUE



CQ#175 • APRIL - JUNE 2013

Below Deck Notables

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



Edmond Dougherty • USS Storm

Private Ed Dougherty is a member of the USS Storm and the 726th Marine Strike Group. Being first laid off, then losing the contents of his apartment to Superstorm Sandy, has not slowed down his work for charity. He regularly volunteers his time at the Shore Memorial Hospital, donates blood for the Red Cross, and has helped in many disaster relief projects at the Jersey Shore.



Jerry Holden • USS Star League

Jerry is our resident Klingon and our Chief of Security. He has been a member of our chapter from the beginning, over twenty years ago. He has a true Klingon heart, both honorable and tough as nails. While in his Klingon persona, he fully embraces the notion that, if it's comfortable, it's not Klingon. The best example I can give of his endurance and love of the Star Trek universe is that at our last public event, he came in full Klingon regalia and remained in full costume for the duration of the event, well over ten hours! This does not count the efforts he put forth the previous day. He was a delight to both children and other Star Trek fans and helped bring attention to the charity and recruitment table. Jerry truly has the heart of a Klingon warrior.



Mark Nichols • USS Haise

Captain Mark Nichols of the USS Haise is an engineer extraordinaire and priceless member of the crew. Mark drives from Greenville, MS, to Jackson, MS, each month for meetings and special events, approximately 2 ½ hours each way. He has been a member of STARFLEET since 1991. His metal-working skills, honed in his family's towboat-building business, have benefited not only his chapter but Region Summits and IC. Mark crafted a 6-foot tall Delta Shield that earned high praise from the likes of astronaut and engineer Fred Haise. The Delta Shield has been displayed at a number of Haise public appearances, including the most recent movie opening, at last year's IC in Memphis, TN, and it will be on display again this year at IC 2013 in Dallas, TX. He has also made aluminum logo and name pendants for every member of the Haise crew. His newly designed STARFLEET departmental key chains are available through the STARFLEET Quartermaster, at the request of Fleet Admiral Blaser. Mark is also rebuilding the chapter's Captain's Chair. Besides his engineering feats, Mark's dedication to the Haise and his marvelous wit and sense of fun and adventure, have endeared him to every member. He does "Scotty" proud!

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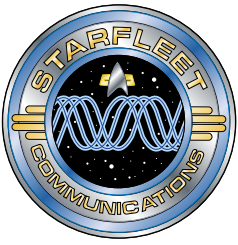
Communique

A Month of Trek! _____ 44

The USS Golden Gate parties with the stars at the opening of Star Trek Into Darkness.

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The CQ and You – Perfect Together!

As we work on the evolution of the Communiqué, one of the things we're always weighing is how to use the space we have. Do people want to see more information from STARFLEET's departments? Hear about the business side of 'Fleet, and what the Executive Committee and Admiralty Board are debating? Read about fun chapter events and interesting projects? Hear other members' opinions about the latest in Star Trek and science fiction fandom?

We all have our own opinions on the answers to these questions, but at the end of the day, what really drives our decisions are two things: 1) What we receive to publish; and 2) What we've heard from all of you as to what YOU want to see.

So tell us. It's way easier for us to provide what we think you want to see if you actually tell us what you want to see! Drop a note to cq@sfi.org or comms@sfi.org, and tell me what you think of this issue. Did we spend too much time talking about Star Trek Into Darkness? Is there something we left out that you desperately want to see included? Do you wonder why we spent so many pages talking about [insert thing you found really boring here]? Of course, we hope you'll also tell us what you did like, and that you want to see more articles of that type.

And, of course, if there is content you desperately think belongs in the CQ, the best way to give it a chance of appearing is by writing it up and sending it in! We can't print what we don't have.

Submissions should be mailed to cq@sfi.org or submitted online at <http://cq.sfi.org>. The submission deadline for CQ 176 is August 15, 2013, and the submission deadline for CQ 177 is November 1, 2013.

Please send all written articles in Microsoft Word .doc or .docx format. Make sure the document contains only text, preferably unformatted. Do NOT embed photos or other images inside of Word documents. Send all images separately.

Images should be sent as jpeg files with no compression (or the highest quality jpeg setting). Photos and artwork should also be saved at the highest possible resolution. Photos that are less than 800 pixels wide or tall will usually look pretty bad when printed. All photos that you submit should include a separate text file containing captions. Do NOT rely on file names for your captions

Please proof-read your written submissions carefully before sending them. Use a spell-checker, and if possible, read the submission out loud to make certain all of your sentences are clear and make sense. Submissions do not have to be completely free of typos, but we shouldn't have to rewrite the article for it to make sense. Be aware that we reserve the right to make editorial changes.

Please submit ONLY YOUR OWN WORK. Or if you are submitting on behalf of another person, be certain he or she is credited as the author and has given permission for the submission and publication of his or her work. Do not violate another's copyright or plagiarize another's work.

We look forward to seeing your submissions and hearing your opinions! Thank you for helping us keep the CQ interesting, informative, and fun.

Letter From The Editor

I'm happy that another issue of the CQ is in your hands (or on your screens, depending on how you're reading this). I'm happy that we're inching ever closer to actually getting that CQ to you on time. I'm not happy that we're not quite there yet, but I've got two issues left before we turn the shop over to the new guys, and I am determined that CQ 176 and 177 will arrive in your mailboxes in a timely fashion, chock-full of interesting content.

To that end, we're continuing to add new staff to the Communications team, including a new Vice Chief, who will probably have been announced by the time this is in your mailboxes. I received a lot of great applications, and am hoping to wrangle most of the people who submitted onto the team in one capacity or another.

Of course, this issue never would have happened without our core team of stars, most especially our Senior Copy Editor Mary Kane, and our Layout Editor Christina Sievers. Thank you also to Fleet Admiral Dave Blaser, our copy editing team, and all of you who send in articles.

See you next issue, when we'll tell you all about what happened at IC!

- Liz

COMM Liz Woolf
USS Angeles
Region 4

Chief of
Communications,
STARFLEET

Subspace Communications

A sampling of tidbits from around the fleet.

Alberni Deep Space Port Forms

LT Gillian Shearwater
USS Atlantis

Assisted by a superb team of fellow Trek enthusiasts, Gillian Shearwater began building Alberni Deep Space Port (ADSP) in September, 2012, convinced that STARFLEET offered the best resources to create a chapter that would truly live long and prosper. Crew and civilians are boldly going into 2013 with Away Missions and Shore Leaves planned. An avid ZOONIVERSE participant and member of the now-completed IceHunters project, Shearwater is also the accredited discoverer of an asteroid in the Kuiper Belt.

On December 1, 2012, members boldly went to crew a Salvation Army Christmas Kettle for a day. Our small but enthusiastic crew contributed enough hours to attend our assigned Kettle for the entire day, from 10:00 am - 8:00 pm. Participating were recruits Vicky Bellas (with Ally of the Federation, Kevin), Jenny Sankey and Gillian Shearwater. The Salvation Army provided cards identifying STARFLEET as the group hosting this kettle, and we added a delta shield with our chapter's working name. At the end of the day, many festively coloured banknotes had been gathered to be used for local community support. Almost as good as latinum, it gladdened the Ferengi heart of LT Shearwater. Thanks to our members who made this fun Away Mission possible. It was our final mission as STARFLEET Alberni Away Team.

Stardate 2013 January 20: A new year, a new name, and our first opportunity to gather in a social setting -- our very own "First Contact"! Alberni Deep Space Port became our official name in December, so a celebration was in order. Hosted by CRR Vicky Bellas, seven members produced a pot-luck feast to challenge Quark's own catering skills. A First Contact movie poster dominated the dining table, and space-related music (much of it humorous) added atmosphere. Plates

were in command red, engineering gold, and medical blue (for dessert!)

The beverage menu (mostly the work of REC Kevin Bakken) included Klingon Blood wine, Romulan ale, Terran root beer, and raktajino. Foodstuffs included a Vulcan vegetable platter, salad, saucy slugs, minced tube grub salad with sliced snails, piquant puree of snail, hasperat, Leonard McCoy' special baked beans, stew, lobster mac, and yagh (noodles), with raktajino cake, sweet stuffed tube grubs, and gagh for dessert.

Each member created a toast for the evening, based on their personal place in the Trek Universe. Toasts were offered to Gene Roddenberry and his legacy; Leonard McCoy, quoted on cherishing uniqueness; the Bajorans, Borg, Ferengi, and to the Vulcans who inspired a certain teenage boy to navigate his youth with logic, arriving safely in adulthood.

Alas, we were so busy, communicating, and dining that we neglected to take photos. Next time we do this, we shall provide tricorder verification.



Our STARFLEET Christmas Kettle outside Canada Safeway, mid-day.
Photo by CRRV Bellas



Mayfest Report

David Sladky
USS Storm

We were approved, at almost the last moment, for a free table at the Mayfest celebration in Historic Smithville. We were attending to recruit and raise money for the Elephants for Autism charity. This being the weekend that Star Trek Into Darkness opened, I was hoping to get a good crowd of interested people. My Chief Engineer, Bill Shoemaker, loaned me his truck, and after leaving work at 7 AM, I set out for the festival. I checked the weather report before going out. It said there was no rain in the area, but the dark skies above worried me. I was able to set up the table by 9 AM and hoped for the best. There was brisk traffic, but not the crowd a sunny day would have brought. By noon it started to rain. I enjoyed the experience and hope to do it again in the future.

Trivia Treats

FCAPT Jana Sandarg
USS Star League

What is the name of the first warp ship? Who is the helmsman for the Enterprise who later gets assimilated? Where is the first warp ship being built? These were the Star Trek trivia questions that the crew pondered, in teams of three. The winners walked off with free movie tickets.

April wasn't a trivial month, but it was full of trivia for the crew of the USS Star League. On two occasions, we held Star Trek trivia contests for the public. One recognized the 50th pre-anniversary of First Contact on April 5, 2063, and one was at the movie theater showing of the re-mastered episodes, "The Best of Both Worlds."

The First Contact party drew interested Terrans who all became crew members. We know we recruited the best because their team won the trivia contest. At our second event at Regal Cinemas in full uniform, with live communicator pins chirping, we handed out brochures that contained the trivia questions and STARFLEET information. Those who answered correctly all of the trivia questions would be entered in a drawing for a pair of free movie tickets. Our ship is the real winner, since we have added four members so far!

On April 27th, we celebrated our 22nd year as a STARFLEET vessel. In honor of this momentous occasion, and in preparation of an upcoming away mission, the XO ordered Security to conduct weapons training and physical fitness tests for the crew. We completed target practice at a simulated Romulan base (laser tag) and then honed our eye-hand coordination by coaxing tiny balls into wee crevices with deft strikes of a Bat'leth amid hostile terrain (mini golf). Ummmmm, followed by linguistic outbursts of unpronounceable Klingon phrases. We also have to be culturally and linguistically competent!

Follow the adventures of the USS Star League at www.usstarleague.com.



Grins abound after seeing "Best of Both Worlds"

L-R front: Peggy Eubanks, Rowan DeLoach, James DeLoach, Michelle DeLoach, Jana Sandarg, Jamie Knowles; L-R back: Carnell Eubanks, Jerry Holden, Mary Holden, Tammy Smith, William Knowles, Aaron Knowles



This is a photo of the putt putt group - USS Star League.



The celebration of the 50th pre-anniversary of First Contact. We did Trek Trivia at the Captain's Table.

L-R: Carnell Eubanks, Peggy Eubanks, Tammy Smith, Aaron Knowles, Jerry Holden, Michelle DeLoach. Kneeling is James DeLoach.



"Weapons Training" (laser tag)



USS Heimdal Celebrates 29th Anniversary as a STARFLEET Chapter

ADM Linda Smith
USS Heimdal

On April 13, 2013, the USS Heimdal NCC-1793, based in Madison Heights, VA, celebrated her 29th anniversary as a STARFLEET chapter. Thirty-seven people, including three original members, attended the celebration held at a local restaurant.

A Star Trek blessing was offered by Heimdal Chief Chaplain, Tim Hazlett. Following a wonderful family-style dinner, party guests were entertained with a video presentation by Heimdal members Karen Delano and Willy Smith. The videos chronicled twenty-nine years of Heimdal activities and included a very funny new eight-minute-long video, "Heimdal Style," that brought the house down. The video and accompanying blooper reel went on to win the Video Contest at Region One Summit in Pigeon Forge, TN (May 2-5).

The video presentation was followed

with live entertainment by The RainStealers band. The six-member band was wonderful. They played a variety of music and party guests actually got up and danced. What a magical evening! At the end of the evening drawings were held for door prizes and a free STARFLEET membership. Former Heimdal member Cathy Touna won the membership.

The Heimdal began as the shuttle ASGARD off the USS Jamestown in April 1984 and went to starship status on April 15, 1985. She has been a successful chapter, maintaining an average membership of forty, currently at forty-six members.

As a charity-oriented chapter, the Heimdal sponsors 11 charities on an ongoing basis and sends a local student to Space Camp annually. Funds are raised through an open-to-the-public annual charity auction.

The Heimdal was recently chosen Re-

gion One Chapter of the Year for 2012. Her CO, Linda Smith, was chosen Commanding Officer of the Year, her Security Department was chosen Regional Department of the Year, and member RADM Glenda Blanks was chosen Regional Flag Officer of the Year. These distinctions, plus many others, were presented to the chapter at the Region One Summit.

The Heimdal has had a rich history including launching many shuttles, producing Regional Coordinators, RDC Directors, and ShOC personnel. Her very positive history is due primarily to the "family feeling" among her members, many of whom have been with the chapter for 20 or more years.

Next year the USS Heimdal will celebrate her 30th anniversary as a STARFLEET chapter. Plans are already being made for the celebration and for a new anniversary video. To see this year's video, go to: <http://youtube/82unvKX5IVE>



CO Linda Smith presenting trophies to members who participated in "Heimdal Style" video. Left to right: Linda Smith, Willy Smith, Robin Hudson, Tammy White, Karen Delano, Peter Hopkins, and Dan Blanks. - photo by Beth Hopkins

USS Appomattox Takes Great Strides

Meg Roach
USS Appomattox

The crew of the USS Appomattox participated in our third Great Strides Walk for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Lynchburg Virginia. Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the United States (70,000 worldwide). A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections. It also obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

In the 1950s, few children with cystic fibrosis lived to attend elementary school. Today, advances in research and medical treatments have further enhanced and extended life for children and adults with CF. Many people with the disease can now expect to live into their 30s, 40s, and beyond. Recent discoveries may mean a real cure for some in the very near future.

The USS Appomattox was the only team participating in the Lynchburg walk that wasn't there to support a blood relative with this disease. We chose this as a charity in honor of a fellow member of STARFLEET who died from CF in 1996. Sarah Sprinkle was engaged to former CO John Sprouse and was a dear friend to some of our founding members.

This charity means a lot to our ship and our team (CO Melissa Lillie, XO Margaret Grunwell, Michael Edelson, and Meg Roach), who put a lot of effort into fundraising for it this year. Aside from the usual canvassing for donations, CO Melissa Lillie made over a hundred crocheted roses into pins and hair clips, and the whole team spent a couple of chilly Saturday mornings handing the roses out in exchange for donations.

All of our team arrived early on a nice sunny Saturday in Riverside Park. There were plenty of participants and lots of enthusiasm. The day started out with a reading of a story called "65 Roses." It's about a little boy with CF, Richard Weiss, who thought his mother Mary was actually say-

ing "65 roses" when talking about his disease. That is why roses have become the symbol of the cause.

After that, the team captains got a rose to carry with them during the walk. Teams then dispersed to complete the walk. During the whole event, a DJ was playing great music and there was lunch and cake waiting afterward. Thankfully it did not rain this year, so the teams were able to complete the walk, enjoy the meal, and have team pictures taken while dry. (We got stormed on near the end of last year's event and got drenched running to our cars!)

This is a nice, well-run event, and we enjoy participating in it every year. Our team even passed our projected goal for the cause. All in all it was a good day for a great cause.

Historical and statistical references were obtained from CF.org. For further information about Cystic Fibrosis, please visit this website.



CMO Meg Roach and Ladonna Austin, CF Development manager.

Crew of the USS Appomattox:
CMO Meg Roach, CO Mellisa Lillie,
XO Margaret Grunwell, crewman
Michael Eddelson.





Region 4 Conference

The space shuttle Endeavour is among the highlights as the USS Angeles hosts the 2013 Region 4 Conference on October 4, 5 and 6.

In addition to the space shuttle mission, the conference will feature an awards banquet, a trip to the Japanese Garden, and various panels.

The region's STARFLEET International chapters will gather at the Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406. You can contact the hotel at (818) 997-7676 or www.airtelplaza.com. The hotel has a block of 15 rooms available at discounted rates, varying from \$109 to \$169 a night on October 4 and 5. Please make your reservation and payment directly with the hotel. Go to www.reservations-page.com/C00577/H09928/be.ashx?pc=STARFL. Mention "STARFLEET" to get your discounts. Discounted rates expire September 13.

Here are the payment packages for conference participants. The prices listed are early-bird rates, which are in effect through June

30. Rates will increase by \$10 on July 1 and again on August 18.

Lieutenant's Ticket: \$25:

- October 4: Ten Forward Happy Hour. (Drinks and food not included.)
- October 5: Daytime programming/general sessions. (Lunch cost not included.)
- October 6: Tour of the Japanese Garden in Van Nuys, featured as Starfleet Academy and Headquarters in various "Star Trek" TV series. Transportation and \$3 admission are not included.

Commander's Ticket: \$45:

- All items listed in the Lieutenant's package, plus:
- October 5: Awards/speakers banquet.

Captain's Ticket: \$55:

- All items listed in the Lieutenant's and Commander's packages, plus:
- October 5: Space shuttle Endeavour away mission. Cost includes transportation and

admission to the California Science Center in Los Angeles, where the Endeavour is in a hangar. (Lunch cost not included.)

Please visit www.ussangeles.org or www.region4.org to take advantage of the early-bird rates. Remember that rates increase on July 1 and August 18. A letter of welcome to conference participants and a complete schedule of events can also be found on these web sites.

CAPT Dave Mason
Chapter
Region 4



Interview with Gates McFadden



BURBANK — “The Next Generation” took “Star Trek” where it hadn’t gone before.

Just ask Dr. Crusher.

“They had a wonderful campiness in that first group, the original ‘Star Trek’,” Gates McFadden told four other reporters and me. “It really was fabulous. But what I liked in ours is they also gave role models people could go toward. ‘If we support the space program, maybe I can be in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, or I could be a doctor working on developing a new spine.’ Those are things that are actually happening.”

I interviewed McFadden on February 17, 2013, in a Burbank Airport Marriott conference room. She was among the celebs appearing on stage at Creation Entertainment’s “Star Trek” convention. Actors ranged from Ben Browder of “Farscape,” “Stargate SG-1” and “Doctor Who” fame to a comedy duo — “Next Generation” stars Jonathan Frakes (Will Riker) and Brent Spiner (Data).

The convention drew what looked like a few hundred people, including some USS Angeles members such as Jackie Freeman, Renee Wike, Luis Valentine and Nathan Gastineau. Former member Anna Yeutter came all the way from San Luis Obispo and was dressed as the Intendant from the Mirror, Mirror Universe on “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.”

While Anna and other fans checked out the dealer’s room and talks by celebs, McFadden sat at a table in a quiet room. She talked to Angels Flight about what made “The Next Generation” special. The 64-year-old Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, native said she loved that the series explored shades of gray and featured a large community

in space. The Enterprise-D had a crew of about 1,000 people.

“It was a genius thing to decide to put families on the ship,” McFadden said. “I wish we had had more older people on it. I think that would have been very cool to have a way to deal with people as they age. But you really had the microcosm of a small city in there.”

She said she liked how episodes such as “Ethics” explored difficult questions. In that episode, Klingon security chief Worf would rather kill himself than bear the dishonor of limited mobility after a spinal injury. Finally, Picard convinces Dr. Crusher to perform a risky, experimental procedure to create a new spine, and Worf survives, his honor and new spine intact.

McFadden said she signed an autograph for a doctor that day. “Sometimes the Hippocratic Oath needs to go before the Prime Directive, and sometimes the Prime Directive has to be very much on the front. I think ethics and looking at the whole picture is really important.”

She added she wishes she had Dr. Crusher’s medical expertise. “I could have done surgery on myself several times,” she joked.

Just as “Star Trek” tackled big issues, McFadden said she’s trying to examine racism, war and other hot topics through Ensemble Studio Theatre in Los Angeles and its original plays. She’s the artistic director of the company’s L.A. Wing.

McFadden still appears occasionally on TV. She has a recurring role as a judge on “Franklin & Bash,” the TNT series about

maverick lawyers. Originally a choreographer and stage actress, McFadden started her screen roles with parts such as Mr. Price’s secretary in “The Muppets Take Manhattan” in 1984.

When she joined “The Next Generation” in 1987, she was already a sci-fi fan and loved “The Twilight Zone.” “I love things that shift the way you look at reality,” she said. “And I think ‘Star Trek: The Next Generation’ really did that.”

McFadden recently became involved with social media. This winter, for the first time, she got on Twitter and Facebook. She’s having fun posting photos of her Dr. Crusher action figure. “Is that a funny idea?” she asked, with a smile.

She recalled fans sending her and Patrick Stewart (Capt. Picard) portraits they had drawn of them. “They were so iconic, but they had nothing to do with me,” she said. (Stewart was also at the convention.)

“They had to do it with my head shot, which is already airbrushed, already three times removed from me. They’re giving me a portrait, and it’s really freaky. Then I look at Patrick, and it’s the same artist. It’s like seeing the Virgin Mary icon,” she grinned.

CAPT Dave Mason
USS Angeles
Region 4



USS New Orleans After-Action Report: CoastCon 36

CoastCon is a long established convention on the Mississippi Gulf Coast founded by fen from as far west as Louisiana and as far east as Alabama. Not only has it been around for a number of years, but in many cases it is considered to be an institution in the local science fiction community.



Lucky for the Skipper the Gorn didn't see the eyepoke coming!

Hosted annually at the Gulf Coast Coliseum, CoastCon has rarely failed to live up to expectations for fen, fans, gamers and staff.

This year the guest was Adrian Paul, famous for Highlander: The Series. Mr. Paul is one of those media guests who seems to be in touch with his fan base, as he recognizes that more than anything, that has helped. When the series ended, Mr. Paul never stopped working and can be found on a variety of projects. MCAPT Renee Suttles got her dream of having both her katana (both with Duncan's Dragons) signed.

The convention marked a celebration of sorts for the USS Nep-

tune which, just two weeks ago, was commissioned as Sovereign-class cruiser in Region Two. It was a distinct honor for the USS New Orleans to join them in their festivities. In fact, during the convention there were three active STARFLEET chapters. The USS New Orleans, USS Neptune and then the USS Lafitte from Lake Charles, who also represented CyPhaCon.

It all started on Friday evening when the chapters assembled for well attended award ceremonies. For the first time, CoastCon fen were treated to the pageantry of STARFLEET. This proved to somewhat difficult as officers that were being honored were also helping run this very convention. Yet by the

end of the weekend everyone had been so honored.

STARFLEET 101 was poorly attended but this was due to some bad planning. However, despite being small, those who came and participated were educated in the ways of STARFLEET.

Saturday was a busy day as the convention was now being flooded with cosplayers from all over region. The next panel was Star Trek Costuming, and this time Seamstresses in Chief mustered for the call. Both chapters came and explained the costuming techniques, and the pluses and minuses of working with costuming companies that sometimes got orders wrong versus making your own

CAPT Randolph Allen
USS New Orleans
Region 3

costumes. At the end of the panel, there was a better understanding and some participants were interested in joining STARFLEET.

The Skipper decided to once again try his luck and met the Commander of KAG on the field of honor to teach citizens Klingon defense techniques. XO CAPT Robert "Scybe" Suttles entered the chamber to witness the Captain once again being beaten in single combat. Where he succeeded with the Gorns, he had failed with the Klingons. It was something that he vowed to fix for the next encounter.

Saturday night was the Costume Contest, which ENS Heather Freeman entered, showing off her latest costume, while MCAPT Renee Suttles donned her green skin to become part of the convention's Slave Auction. Part of her resumé listed her as both the unofficial interior decorator and fashionista of the USS New Orleans. Also, she was mentioned as a recent graduate of James T. Kirk School of Tactile Diplomacy (with honors). For her efforts, MCAPT Suttles raised \$40 for the Mississippi Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the charity of the event.

Because the hotel does not al-

low room parties, the convention hosted a large party called the Iron Table where local clubs show off their culinary skill. All the dishes have to be made with a secret ingredient. This was the USS Neptune's home sector and they came up with some unique creations using marshmallows. Braised Tribbles, Gagh, and Andorian Tuber Roots were all served with special ingredients.

Sunday became a day of recovery as the USS New Orleans began the process of leaving the convention. There was one more panel to do - Star Trek: Are we there yet? Captains from all three chapters were there at the round table discussion, about the possibility for us to follow the dream of the Great Bird of the Galaxy. It was well-attended and many of those who came felt that the panel had more depth as the philosophy of Trek was shared.

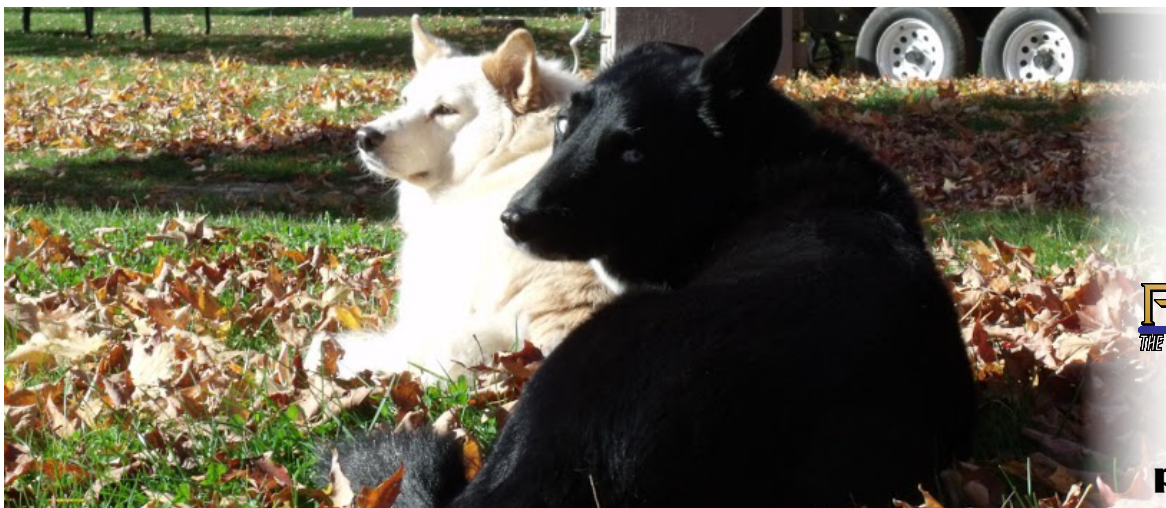
Next year at CoastCon 37: Revenge of the Red Shirts! The convention promises to bring in a Star Trek guest for the next event.




Manning the tables: LT Jeremy Lapoma and CAPT Robert Suttles



Two Captains: CAPT Randolph Allen and Neptune CO Mike Brown





PETFLEET
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petfleet.sfi.org



STARFLEET Ball

Fond memories appear when I think of the SF Ball. I haven't been for several years and wanted to go back for some time, but money just wouldn't allow. The SF Ball isn't the cheapest convention around but it is by far, in my opinion, the best convention and one run by fans for fans. My last Ball was back in 2009, so some four years ago, but it felt like I'd never been away. In fact, I was more worried that rather than not meeting my expectations, that the Ball wouldn't meet the expectations I had built up for both Captains Angie Smith and Dan Adams.

We arrived just before lunch on Friday and the hotel was already teeming with convention attendees. It brought a smile to my face to see that Melissa was still attending. The SF Ball just wouldn't be the same without her. As always, Melissa wore a starship around her neck, small in size on the Friday, but I'm sure we would see that change over the weekend. Klingon George also arrived Friday and it really isn't every day you seem a steam-punked Klingon having his hair styled by Captain Angie in your own hotel room. Captain Dan also tipped up late afternoon and it was great to be reacquainted with Lorna and Matthew Bergin, who are now fellow SFI members.

The opening ceremony always leaves me with a tingle of excitement and this was no exception. As usual the guests came on stage one by one, and it is always interesting to see what the actors are like without make-up and as themselves. Armin still is very much Quark and you could see Robert Rankin was going to be eccentrically fun. Following the opening ceremony and, I'm sure, many beverages, Klingon George became a Ferengi drafted into Klingon service, and Captain Dan took part in the unusual game of 'double or drop'. Three contestants

answered questions. If they got the question right, they were given a parcel to hold, a wrong question and they got a vegetable. The winner was the last one still holding all the parcels/veg. Unfortunately Captain Dan didn't win but came a respectable second. The rest of the night was spent dancing and there were all the usual favourites, Star-Trekking, Prince Charming, Joe 90. We eventually succumbed to bed at 2 AM.

Saturday was the main event, and the day we spent 12 hours dressed as books, including while undertaking our stewarding duties which was quite a giggle. I did enjoy the writers' talk, especially Robert Rankin, which prompted me to then purchase one of his books on the Sunday. The evening is also something special, but dressed as Borg and walking down the stairs to the meal itself was no mean feat. We then got stopped by B and interviewed (must purchase the DVD for that embarrassing moment). I do now know why the Borg don't sit, or eat, it's just not possible. However they can come second in a fancy-dress contest. I must say though, one of the highlights of the evening was watching Armin and Max (Quark and Rom) perform on stage as Orange Brothers. Absolutely out-standing.

Then comes Sunday and how

can you top the two days prior? The SF Ball does. Thoroughly enjoyed Miltos Yerolemu's talk. Miltos played the dance-master in Game of Thrones. As foreign as his name sounds, you can't get a more British actor. Although there wasn't much said about the series, his talk was entertaining and enjoyable, and I could have spent all day listening to him. We also got to shake his hand later that day, while performing our second stewarding shift. The second talk we went to that day was DS9, with Armin Shimmerman, Max Grodénchik and Chase Masterson. Equally entertaining. The highlights were Melissa crawling across the front of the stage and Max bringing the talk to a stop to ask her what she was doing, and the quick-fire questions which Armin summed up beautifully: "Not going to work with this group."

All in all the SF Ball was just as fantastic as ever and I am pleased that both Captains Angie and Dan enjoyed themselves as much as I did. As I've mentioned before, it is expensive but worth every penny and more. The memories you will take away with you are priceless and will last a lifetime.

SGM Marie Smith
USS Isaac
Region 20



Orange Brothers Armin Shimerman (Quark) Max Grodēnchik (Rom)



Captain Angie Smith - CO - USS Isaac
Klingon George - Associate member - USS Isaac

STARFLEET's merry members:
Sue from the USS Essex (Not an SFI Chapter) SGM
Marie 'M' Smith - OIC - 399th MSG, USS Isaac,
Capt Angie Smith (1 of 26) - CO - USS Isaac,
LT Cmdr Lorna Bergin - XO - USS Icení,
Capt Dan Adams - CO - USS Ark Royal,
Cmdr Matt Bergin - CO - USS Icení



Capt Angie Smith (1 of 26) - CO - USS Isaac
A fellow member of the collective SGM Marie 'M' Smith (13 of 26) - OIC - 399th MSG, USS Isaac

Executive Committee Reports

News and updates from the head honchos.



Report From The Commander, STARFLEET

Hello again from the office of the Commander, STARFLEET. It's been a busy couple of months for me between travelling to the Region 1 and 2 Summits, the USS Corsair's 5th Anniversary Dress Mess and preparing for the upcoming Region 13 Summit. Unfortunately, I couldn't make it to the Region 5 or Region 15 summits, but I do very much hope that everyone had a great time!

I've also been working very closely with the Communications department to help get the Communiqué back on-track and published. As many of you already know, Liz Woolf has stepped up into the role of Chief of Communications, so Liz and I have been working together on making sure that the CQ is more fully staffed, and that we're working closely with our print and mailing vendors to get the CQ out in a more timely manner.

With all this being said, here's what else is going on in the office of the CS:

Member Recognition – With the start of Summit season, Linda received the regular flurry of last-minute promotion and award nominations. As a reminder for everyone, STARFLEET's promotion guidelines state that the Promotions Board has 30 days to review, discuss, and vote on promotion requests. Ideally, requests should be submitted at least five weeks before the event at which you would like to have someone promoted. That allows time to get the RC's endorsement and get the request out to the Board, and then get a certificate mailed out in time for the event.

Orders of Merit are a bit trickier. If they are going to be Third Class and you've got a bunch of them for an event, you need to give Linda at least two weeks' notice. That way she has time to cre-

ate and get them mailed out. For First and Second Class, it's best to use the promotion guidelines and give us five weeks. Second Class Orders of Merit get reviewed by the Board, and First Class Orders of Merit get voted on. The nominators need to allow enough time for that review period and still give Linda time to create and mail out the certificates.

It's very common for us to get promotion and award nominations very late in relation to when some of your events are going to be taking place. We really need more time than some are giving us, so please follow the guidelines as stated above. Thanks!

Inspector General – Jeff Victor has continued holding Regional Coordinator elections for Regions 3, 12 and has finished the election for Region 20. Congratulations to Reed Bates, Jeff Higdon and Richard Sams on being the respective winners of their respective elections. At the time of this writing, the Region 11 RC election is on-going.

Jeff continues to be a participant in the AB conference calls, tallying votes for AB resolutions AB13-01 through AB13-06, from January through April. The STARFLEET website has the results for all resolutions.

As part of his duties for the triennial Commander, STARFLEET, election, Jeff has also started researching election companies and CPAs to conduct the election. Jeff is getting a number of quotes and is working with our new Chief of Communications to get prepared for the election.

Judge Advocate General – Larry French continues to have one of the quietest jobs in STARFLEET as our JAG. There hasn't been any call for use of the JAG Office in 6 months' time.

Public Relations – Brandt

Heatherington has continued to work with chapters around STARFLEET on membership drive opportunities, with the release of "Star Trek: The Next Generation – Best of Both Worlds" and "Star Trek Into Darkness." Many of our chapters were able to get into movie theaters and promote both themselves and STARFLEET at these two events.

Unfortunately, we did still have theaters who were not quite as supportive as others, and some who wanted to charge chapters for space to promote themselves and STARFLEET. There's not much that we can do in regards to situations like those. Individual theaters can choose who they want to do business with, and if they wish to charge a fee for space.

Scholarships – Reed Bates continues to work with one of our chapters who is holding a fundraiser for the Scholarships, and she is looking at what options and opportunities might be available for getting donations from outside sources like companies and other private donors.

As always, we continue to need the support of our members for these 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 to the scholarship program when you renew. If you'd like to hold a fund raiser for the STARFLEET scholarship program, send Reed an e-mail at scholarships@sfi.org and ask her how you or your chapter can help support our scholarships!



FADM Dave Blaser
USS Hadfield
Region 13

Commander,
STARFLEET

The Second Fiddle

As we warp toward summertime, I hope that plans are starting to form for where you all will be spending time with your families, friends and, of course, your chapters. Don't forget that IC2013 in Dallas, TX, takes place in early August, so don't miss out on the fun!

The VCS office is as busy as ever! Between working with the various departments within the office to working with the EC and AB on many things, we have been working hard for the members. The biggest thing that we are gearing up for is the Annual Report from the EC to the AB. In the past, this has needed to be ready for IC. However, with changes in the way the AB must conduct business, the report this year and in the future will need to be ready sooner. I am sure that the EC will step up, as they have been asked to, and have all the information submitted to meet this goal.

Here is a quick overview of things that are happening within the departments in the Office of the Vice-Commander.

PetFleet

We are working with the PetFleet director, Bobbie Baxter, on preparing the annual PetFleet animal charity donation. Due to some issues, this has been delayed somewhat, but we are working

on getting this corrected quickly. PetFleet is growing by leaps and bounds, so if you would like to get involved, head on over to petfleet.sfi.org and check out the program today. Also, PetFleet has a Yahoo Group for all its members, so don't forget to sign up for that as well.

Annual Campaign

The short story contest has been in full swing, and by the time you read this article, it will have ended. The judges will be reviewing submissions, and the winners will be announced at IC 2013, in Dallas, TX, in August.

STARFLEET Marine Corps

In April John "Kiwi" Kane stepped down COFORCECOM. Kiwi felt that his personal life was not allowing him the time needed to dedicate to the Corps. I wish to thank Kiwi for his many years of service to the SFMC, and hope to see him at ICs and events in the future. At present, DCOFORECOM Jari James is taking the reins while applicants for the position are considered.

STARFLEET Holodeck

Work continues on expanding the presence of the Holodeck within STARFLEET. Through email announcements and the use of the CQ online, the various areas with-

in the Holodeck will get their information out to the membership. If you are interested in any of the areas within the Holodeck, please contact them today. They will be more than happy to talk with you!

Membership Processing

With the new Star Trek Into Darkness movie now in theaters, Membership Processing is preparing to gear up for an increase in memberships.

Member Services Helpdesk

The Helpdesk is busy answering tickets as they come in. Thank you all for your patience, as sometimes it does take a couple of days to get issues resolved. Many of the recent tickets have focused on password resets, and not getting a response from the system. This is a continuing issue that is caused by a limited number of emails being released by our server. If you attempt to reset your password, and do not receive an email from the database, please contact the helpdesk for assistance.

Well, that covers it, really; all the fun stuff going on within the office of the Vice-Commander. I hope that everyone has a great spring and summer, and we hope to see you at IC this August.

EC



MGN Bran Stimpson
USS Tiburon
Region I7

Vice Commander,
STARFLEET



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



Operations Report

BGEN Joe Sare

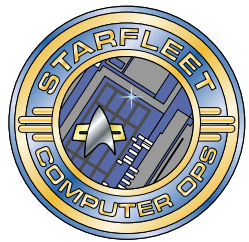
Chief of Operations,
STARFLEET

Region	Fleet Strength	
	Members	Chapters
1	964	49
2	637	34
3	667	28
4	486	24
5	222	11
6	98	8
7	562	29
8	16	1
9	36	2
10	31	1
11	110	5
12	393	24
13	163	7
15	185	10
17	188	9
20	138	7
TOTAL	4897	249

I wanted to take a moment to thank both Alex Rosenzweig and Rich Smith for helping me out while I had to take an unexpected leave from Ops. Everything is back to normal, though.

I wanted to take a moment to clarify some confusion surrounding the new VRR process, which can now be done via the database. The process should be done in the same order as it has been in the past. The database VRR is just that, a VRR. It is only used by Operations. RCs and DTS don't have the ability to see what's in there. Part of the process for starting a new Shakedown Chapter is to obtain the approval from your support chapter CO, your RC, and

DTS. If you fill out a VRR in the database, please make sure you already have the authorization from DTS. Once you have DTS authorization, then you can contact your support chapter CO and your RC, asking for their approval to launch. The approval for launch needs to be in writing (to be sent to ShOC). An email is sufficient. When you write your email, let them know that the request is in the database, and send them a list of your crew members (names and SCC numbers are all that is needed), which they will forward on to Rich Smith in ShOC. Also, please make a notation in your email as to whom the CO and XO are, so that your RC is aware.



Computer Operations Report

This has been a very busy month for Computer Operations as we have finally begun finishing up a few major projects! The biggest project that has taken up a lot of time for us has obviously been the implementation of a new database for STARFLEET. By now I am sure everyone has noticed the new look for the database. I have received emails about the new look. I am happy to say the majority of those emails have been very favorable. I must give big kudos to webmaster, VADM Laura Victor, for her hard work on the new look! It looks great!

In that same project, we still have a few bugs that are in there. As of the writing of this article, the biggest issue dealt with the Affiliation option. A few members have let us know that, when

they attempted to change their Affiliations in the database, their affiliation was actually changing to SFMC even if that isn't what the member wanted. I am pleased to say that the cause of that issue has been found and has been forwarded to our contractor so it can be fixed. By the time this article is published, I am hoping that it will be fixed.

Another thing our department has done deals with our STARFLEET website. As many of you know, our website was using the Joomla content management system (CMS). Sadly, the Joomla CMS is also buggy and has some vulnerabilities that caused quite a few issues, especially in the last year or so. The website is being ported over from Joomla to WordPress which is a lot more stable.

This should take care of the page redirect problems we have been experiencing. If you discover any other problems with the website, please be sure to email our webmaster so it can be addressed.

Outside of these projects, CompOps continues to address trouble tickets and issues for emails, the database, etc. If you have any problems concerning anything related to Computer Operations, please do not hesitate to email me at compops@sfi.org. My door is always open and I try to address issues as quickly as possible!



COMM Chris Carothers
USS Richthopen
Region 7

Chief of Computer
Operations,
STARFLEET

Featured Colleges: College of Law Enforcement on Television



Commodore George Ann Wheeler,
Director
badwolf827@gmail.com
114 Weber Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

There is a new college in the Institute of Performing Art and Entertainment. It's the College of Law Enforcement on Television.

Police shows have changed a lot through the decades since television came to be. As real-life law enforcement changed, so also did television's portrayal of it. It's still mostly the "good guys" vs. the "bad guys." However, now the line between good and bad in some of the series is blurred, as it has always been in the real world. And in some series, the good guys aren't all that good.

Some series we have exams for are "Castle", "TJ Hooker", "Walker, Texas Ranger", and "Barney Miller". We should have exams for "Columbo" soon. We are also working on exams for all four times there was a "Dragnet" series on the air. We also hope to have exams for "Midsommer Murders" and "Inspector Lewis" over the next few months.

The exams are divided on the website by the decade in which they debuted. The vast majority

of the exams can be taken online from sources listed on the exam.

A Few Words From The Director

Oh, where to start. I joined STARFLEET in 2004. The first course that I took was Egyptian Mythology, as I remember. Then it was mostly Sci Fi Studies with a little bit of this and that tossed in, but mostly Sci Fi Studies.

In 2007, the Director of the College of Science stepped down. Carol Thompson approached me to take on the College. Then, in 2009, after the passing of Truman Temple, the Dean of the Institute of Science Fiction Studies, Carol approached me to take the Institute. At the time, there were five colleges, two of which were closed for revision, and one was Truman's college. I was a little apprehensive about taking on an Institute, especially one that needed three directors. Had I known what was to come, I probably would have taken another thought about telling Carol "yes". That's the great thing about the future... you don't know what is going to happen. I said yes, and we were off to the races.

In of March of 2010, we split the Institute into three separate Institutes, and at various stages,

we have added on new colleges within these Institutes. There are more colleges in the developmental states as well.

I must mention Cher Schleigh, who was first a director in the Institute and eventually became my Assistant Dean. She keeps me focused because I always have too many pots on the fire, but that is who I am and the Academy lets me be who I am. You won't find too many organizations or parts of an organization that lets you be who you are... usually you have to "fit in."

The reason I mentioned all that has happened since I became Dean is not really to talk about me, but about the great people whom I have had the chance to work with over the last few years. I came to the Academy to take some courses, maybe meet some people, and have some fun. I have had all of that and more. I have made some great friends all over the world. I have met really nice people, both as a dean and a director. I love writing exams, and still take exams when I can find the time. But it is the people who make the Academy, whether coming as a student or a member of staff, such a great place.

I would not be where I am in the Academy, or would all the directors within the three Institutes have been able to accomplish all that we have, without the fantastic people that I work with in the Academy. This includes Carol, Wayne and Peg, and all the other directors and deans with whom I work all the time



ADM Peg Pellerin
USS Constitution
Region I5

Commandant,
STARFLEET
Academy

STARFLEET Academy News

Featured Colleges: College of Zoms and Mums

Commodore Cher Schleigh,
Director
cherschleigh@gmail.com
c/o Home Networks Plus
PO Box 55304
Trenton, NJ 08638

I am honored to present to STARFLEET an expanded College which is named ZOMS and MUMS.

These courses will let the student delve into the horror side of Zombies and Mummies. Most of the exams are rated GV = Graphic Violence, AC = Adult Content, AL = Adult Language, and BN = Brief Nudity. Courses are for MATURE audiences only. Sources used will be a mix of internet, television show or movie.

This college is still being expanded and almost all of the ZOM exams can be taken using

the internet. Some of the courses include the first two seasons of "The Walking Dead," which can be taken using the internet as your source.

If any STARFLEET members are interested in this subject and would like to write exams, please feel free to submit your exam (questions) and key (answers) to my attention, and when approved, the exam(s) will be available for all STARFLEET Academy students to take.

A Few Words From The Director

The reason I volunteer with STARFLEET Academy is to foster learning in students. I write exams for students to have fun taking them, and to also hope that they can learn different subjects, which they may not have experienced or encountered before. I would like

to leave my "mark" or "legacy" in STARFLEET Academy and do it my way.



Featured Colleges: College of Intelligence in Television

Commodore George Ann Wheeler,
Director
badwolf827@gmail.com
114 Weber Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

In the Institute of Intelligence and Espionage, there has been a major expansion of the College of Intelligence on Television. Most of

the courses can be taken from the Internet sources listed, opening them up to students who might not have the time or access to watch all the episodes needed to take the exams.

We have exams on some of the really old shows like "A Man Called X" and fan favorites like "The Avengers," "I SPY," "The

Wild, Wild West," and "Mission: Impossible." We didn't forget "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." or the spin-off series "The Girl from U.N.C.L.E." either. And there are a lot more series represented in the college. By the time you read this we will have over 50 exams open for you to take.

Riddle Me This

**Holes at the top.
Holes at the bottom.
Holes in the middle.
But still it holds water.**

Look for the answer in the next issue!

*Last Issue's riddle: Has feathers but can't fly. Rests on legs but can't walk.
ANSWER: Mattress*

JANUARY BOOTHBY AWARDS

Boothby 0050 - Bronze (50)

01/23/2013 - Foster, Kate
01/23/2013 - Rødner, Aleksander
01/04/2013 - Beaulieu, Robert
01/23/2013 - Foster, Kate
01/23/2013 - Rødner, Aleksander
01/04/2013 - Beaulieu, Robert

Boothby 0200 - Latinum (200)

01/06/2013 - Worth, Elizabeth
01/01/2013 - Brock, Frances

Boothby 0250 - Diamond (250)

01/21/2013 - Wilson, John
01/16/2013 - Brock, Frances
01/05/2013 - Hines, David

Boothby 0350 - Titanium (350)

01/21/2013 - Baxter, Bobbie
01/16/2013 - Satonick, Stephen

Boothby 0800 - Opal (800)

01/30/2013 - Schaller, Scott
01/27/2013 - Savander, Oliver
01/21/2013 - Wenclewicz, Adam

Boothby 1050 - Bronze Star (1050)

01/16/2013 - Paul, Barbara

Boothby 1500 - Trilithium Star (1500)

01/21/2013 - Hollifield, Gary Tiny

Boothby 1750 - Pearl Star (1750)

01/02/2013 - Diebold, Glendon

Boothby 1800 - Opal Star (1800)

01/19/2013 - Diebold, Glendon

Boothby 2050 - Acamar Star (2050)

01/19/2013 - Wheeler, George
Ann

Boothby 2100 - Aldebaran Star (2100)

01/26/2013 - French, Larry

Boothby 2200 - Altair Star (2200)

01/11/2013 - Newman, Franklin

Boothby 2250 - Amargosa Star (2250)

01/29/2013 - Newman, Franklin

Boothby 2300 - Antares Star (2300)

01/08/2013 - Fisher, Josephine

Boothby 2600 - Betelgeuse Star (2600)

01/17/2013 - Thompson, Carol

Boothby 2650 - Bolarus Star (2650)

01/26/2013 - Thompson, Carol

Boothby 3000 - Ceti Alpha Star (3000)

01/17/2013 - Killough, Wayne

Boothby 3050 - Chin'toka Star (3050)

01/25/2013 - Killough, Wayne

FEBRUARY BOOTHBY AWARDS

*Presented by LCDR Fran Brock
Chief of Recognition Services*

Region	Recipient
Completions	Date of Award
1	LCDR Frances B. Brock
350	2/28/13
1	VADM Darlene Harper
250	2/12/13
1	LTJG George C. Hildebidle
50	2/12/13
2	ADM Barbara M. Paul
1100	2/20/13
3	ADM Wayne Lee Killough, Jr.
3100	2/15/13
7	MGEN Larry Dale French Sr.
2150	2/17/13
7	VADM Glendon Diebold
1850	2/14/13
7	LCOL Jordan Reinleib
550	2/20/13
7	FCAPT Kyle J. Wolf Sr.
150	2/10/13
11	CAPT Josephine Fisher
2400	2/07/13
11	LT David Hines
300	2/27/13
13	CAPT Franklin M. Newman, III
2300	2/20/13
20	CAPT Angie Smith
150	2/27/13

MARCH BOOTHBY AWARDS

*Presented by LCDR Fran Brock
Chief of Recognition Services*

Region	Recipient
Completions	Date of Award
1	VADM Patricia Lewis
650	3/27/13
1	VADM Patricia Lewis
600	3/24/13
1	LCDR Frances B. Brock
400	3/15/13
1	LTJG George C. Hildebidle
100	3/17/13
1	LTC Steven Rowley
50	3/12/13
2	BGN Oliver Savander
850	3/24/13
7	CDR Becky Thane
50	3/24/13
9	LTJG Aleksander Rodner
150	3/07/13
9	LTJG Aleksander Rodner
200	3/19/13
11	COL Liam Smith
50	3/27/13
12	ENS Michael McGowan
350	3/17/13
15	ENS Mike Racicot
50	3/13/13
20	COMM Gary Amor
300	3/10/13
20	SMAJ Marie Smith
300	3/20/13



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

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

February 2013 Finances

STARFLEET Main Checking Account	
Opening	\$37,326.70
Credits	\$7,659.78
Debits	\$3,388.20
Closing	\$41,598.28
Breakdown of Expenses:	
Stamps.com \$31.98	
Postage quartermaster \$13.08	
Onebox Call Science \$ 30.93	
Shawnee News Star \$1,287.57	
International Mail Service \$402.34	
County wide News \$234.00	
Bacon Printing \$614.06	
USPS Postage Stamps.com \$480.00	
USPS Postage \$2.97	
Paypal - \$90.00	
Dreamhost.com \$48.18	
Fedex \$71.60	
Walmart \$16.02	
Office Max \$60.44	
Check #2426 Joshua Andrews (refund prorated membership) \$4.03	

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

IC Odd Account	
Opening	\$1,504.10
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$1,504.10
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.	

SFMC Checking Account	
Opening	\$5,308.48
Credits	\$127.44
Debits	\$16.98
Closing	\$5,418.94

STARFLEET Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$3,873.36
Credits	\$0.12 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$3,873.48
Scholarship CD opened with \$21,985.21 9-month risk free CD earning .30% - matures 3/2/13	

SFMC Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$2,727.67
Credits	\$0.09 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$2,727.75

March 2013 Finances

STARFLEET Main Checking Account	
Opening	\$41,598.28
Credits	\$4,533.86
Debits	\$6,489.33
Closing	\$39,642.81
Breakdown of Expenses:	
Check #2423 Postmaster Tecumseh OK. (CQ 169 postage) \$1000.00	
Check #2429 St. Jude's Hospital (Charity donation IC 2012) \$2000.00	
Stamps.com \$31.98	
Postage quartermaster \$16.94	
Onebox Call Science \$ 30.93	
USPS Postage Stamps.com \$480.00	
USPS Postage Recognitions \$14.66	
Lamination Station \$94.80	
Allegra Print & Imaging \$1477.03	
American Diabetes Association \$2000	
Intuit Quickbooks Online \$269.46	
Florida Dept Revenue \$9.53	

IC Even Account	
Opening	\$4,016.93
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$4,016.93
Closing	\$0.00 - Account Closed
Balance transferred to main account to cover the donations to American Diabetes Association and St. Jude's.	

IC Odd Account	
Opening	\$1,504.10
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$1,504.10
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.	

SFMC Checking Account	
Opening	\$5,418.94
Credits	\$356.39
Debits	\$448.79
Closing	\$5,326.54
Breakdown of Expenses:	
Pinpros - SO device \$364.00	
USPS postage quartermaster \$75.52	
Walmart - envelopes - \$9.27	

STARFLEET Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$3,873.48
Credits	\$0.14 (Interest)
Transferred	\$2,029.52
From renewing CD to cover scholarships for 2013	
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$5,903.14

STARFLEET Scholarship CD	
Opening	\$21,985.21
Transferred	\$2,029.52
From renewing CD to cover scholarships for 2013	
Closing	\$20,005.07
9 month risk free CD earning .12% - matures 12/28/2013	

SFMC Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$2,727.75
Credits	\$0.09 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$2,727.84

April 2013 Finances

STARFLEET Main Checking Account	
Opening	\$39,642.81
Credits	\$3,442.56
Debits	\$487.62
Closing	\$42,597.75
Breakdown of Expenses:	
Onebox \$30.93	
Stamps.com \$31.98	
Postage quartermaster \$113.01	
USPS Postage Stamps.com \$480.00	
USPS Postage Recognition \$20.23	
Dreamhost.com \$119.40	
Walmart \$32.07 (quartermaster)	
Office Max \$60.90	
Target (Recognitions) \$70.00	
NC Dept of Revenue \$9.10v	

IC Odd Account	
Opening	\$1,504.10
Credits	\$0.00
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$1,504.10
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.	

SFMC Checking Account	
Opening	\$5,326.54
Credits	\$351.78
Debits	\$1,692.20
Closing	\$3,986.12
Pinpros - belt buckles - \$1,200.00	
Pinpros - SO device - \$377.00	
USPS Postage - \$106.70 (Summits - R5 \$50.95, R15 \$27.41, reg. quartermaster postage \$28.34)	
Walmart - \$8.50 envelopes for shipping	

STARFLEET Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$5,903.14
Credits	\$0.19 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$5,903.33
Scholarship CD opened with \$20,005.07 9 month risk free CD earning 0.12% - matures 12/28/2013	

SFMC Scholarship Savings Account	
Opening	\$2,727.84
Credits	\$0.09 (Interest)
Debits	\$0.00
Closing	\$2,727.93

STARFLEET CD	
Balance	\$1,111.86
STARFLEET has a CD that is up for renewal on 8/15/2013 the current interest rate is a mere 0.35%.	

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An open letter to J.J. Abrams (And My Fellow Geeks)

Like so many of my fellows, I, too, exchanged cash for ticket, found a seat, and gave two and a half hours of my life over to your vision of Star Trek. And like many of my fellow Trekkers, though I did enjoy it, in the end I felt it was... lacking, missing some vital piece. Not all that it could have been.

It took me some time to really figure it out, but I think I have. In the end, it lacks the soul of so many other Treks because it lacks the one piece that has made Star Trek rise above so much other sci-fi: poetry. It fails to reach back to great the literary pieces, as did the better of its predecessors. It lacks the bright flare of Shakespeare, DH Lawrence, Dickens, and Tennyson. There is none of this which has so enriched the canvas of our stories. And it leaves 'Into Darkness' as nothing more than an action flick which takes from all that has gone before, but gives back very little.

Watch the TOS episode, "The Conscience of the King," whose very title comes from Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Without the bard, this is merely a whodunit, a mystery to be solved. But the verse of Shakespeare springboards it to something greater, makes it more emotional, more epic, more memorable. It gives the characters life and adds a depth to the story that wouldn't otherwise be there.

Similarly, the use of Melville's "Moby Dick" in 'First Contact' serves to illustrate and give near elegance to Captain Picard's destructive obsession with his nemesis, the Borg. Even better, when Picard finally realizes what he has let himself become, how he has let his obsession for revenge rule him, he exorcises Ahab, paraphrasing: "And he piled upon the whale's white hump the sum of all the rage and hate felt by his whole race. If his chest had been a cannon, he

would have shot his heart upon it." It becomes a moment of reflection, contemplation, more than just another action scene.

Even more so, in Wrath of Khan, it is Khan's reciting Ahab's final words, as the Enterprise tries to escape his single-minded vengeance, that brings a depth to his character, illustrates his blind obsession and makes him a truly epic and memorable villain. As he slowly and painfully dies: "To the last, I grapple with thee; from hell's heart, I stab at thee; for hate's sake, I spit my last breath at thee." This and the final literary reference I will cite make this the finest of Star Trek cinema.

Finally, again in Wrath of Khan, it is the use of Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" that not only provides beauty and image, but actually offers the theme that will run through this, as well as the next two movies: "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one." It makes Spock's sacrifice more noble, and when bastardized in "The Search for Spock" as "The needs of the one outweigh the needs of the many," it expresses the feelings of his crewmates and validates their sacrifices very simply and gracefully.

And this grace, this beauty, this reflection through the great words of authors and poets and playwrights is what "Into Darkness" lacks. With none of these grand words and moments, it becomes nothing more than an action movie, alongside "Die Hard"

and "GI Joe". While Pine, Quinto and Pegg rise to meet the bar of their predecessors, and Cumberbatch's performance is quite impressive, the material that they have been given fails them. This latest incarnation of Khan, while menacing and malicious, lacks the depth and breadth that Melville's work gave Montalban. Without it, he becomes just one more bad guy, less than he should have been.

Christian Anderson,
USS Zebulon Pike
Region 17

Star Trek Into Darkness -

Another review by an old fan and a STARFLEET dinosaur.



While “Star Trek Into Darkness” was a thoroughly entertaining film that brought out many fans and casual followers of Star Trek to movie theaters across the country, on closer examination it certainly had its share of plot flaws.

That said, I enjoyed the film for what it was – entertainment filled with action and a fresh look at the core values of Star Trek: acceptance, friendship, and preserving the safety of the Federation. Its slick redo of some Trek historical elements was well done.

What did I like? I thought it was shot beautifully, I loved the sophistication of the artistry associated with presenting Earth in the 23rd century, such as London and San Francisco, the mixing of old architecture with new. The CGI was great. In the original movies, the most we ever saw of Earth in the 23rd century was a matte painting of San Francisco superimposed behind a few actors.

The storyline generally kept my interest and had a tone of excitement, but there was a bit of a disregard for science, as if that was disregarded entirely for the storyline. We don’t mind that in Star Wars, but this is Star Trek.

Tell me again why the USS Enterprise, which is capable of sub-orbital flight, was fully submerged in water on the primitive planet (other than as a plot device)? A landing party could have shuttled down in an aquatic shuttle (something I could buy into) to monitor the volcanic problem. Now the Enterprise is both a starship and a submarine? I did love the cool aquatic gear worn by Kirk, McCoy, and Uhura, but I’m a scuba diver, after all.

As a coworker of mine pointed out, “If there exists a suitcase-sized mobile transporter device that can beam people across deep space from one planet to another, who needs starships?”

What bothered me the most? Now that the main engineering section aboard the Enterprise looks like the inside of 20th century brewery (because I believe it is, or at least some kind of factory), why does Scotty have no staff in such a sophisticated facility? Even if his little alien sidekick was the assistant chief (and I’m not sure about that), why would he not have a more experienced person in his own section next in line? These are his engines, after all. Why did Chekov (even with his new prodigy backstory) have to switch shirts to assume command of the engine room?

If Khan’s blood is a panacea for mortality because he’s been genetically engineered to be a superhuman, doesn’t it stand to reason that all of his people in stasis in sickbay also have the same element in their blood? If that is the case, why is it necessary to keep Khan alive (other than to have action-packed fight scene between him, Spock, and Uhura, of course) once he escapes?

We are also supposed to believe that Admiral Marcus, the head of Starfleet, not only answers to no one but is amoral to the extent he has no ethical dilemma about murdering his own officers aboard the Enterprise? This, after he gives a heartfelt speech to Kirk about how Khan was his responsibility because so many people have died as a result of his decision to wake him in the first place? Gosh, Peter Weller was warmer when he was a RoboCop.

Those are a few of my nit-picks... I can only imagine what my friend Alex Rosenzweig has put forward in his review of the film. *Editor’s note: Turn to page 33 for the answer!*

That said, I did find myself enjoying the movie, but found points of it flawed. Almost every film has had points where you question, “What was that and why did they do it?” This one strained it a bit.

As a coworker friend remarked, “The special effects are grander than anything one could have imagined when they were making the movies in the 1980s and 90s, but the storytelling is so juvenile and comic book-like.”

In the long run, this film was a success, entertaining, exciting, sexy and it will, I expect spawn a third installment, keeping the franchise viable and alive. That is good for STARFLEET, our respective chapters, and fandom in general.

Was the film a satisfying meal of entertainment or just a really sweet dessert? Well, that is something we’ll be pondering and debating for awhile.

ADM Bob Vosseller,
USS Challenger
Region 7



Alberni Deep Space Port: Trekkin' to the Paramount

Paramount theatre manager Charles Martinez generously invited ADSP members to attend the sneak preview of *Star Trek Into Darkness*, shown in Port Alberni on May 16! We had already planned a shore leave trek to the cinema for May 22, but eager personnel happily accepted the opportunity to attend this advance screening. Charles also included ADSP in his weekly movie review, stating, "Special guests from the local STARFLEET Alberni Deep Space Port club (in Starfleet uniform) will be assisting in our inaugural voyage."

ADSP personnel attending on May 16 were CRA Vicky Bellas (Bajoran) and her Andorian Ally of the Federation; EPT Kevin Bakken (with his local, custom-made bat'leth); EPT Cindy Greve (in TOS command mode); RES Garry Cameron (our STARFLEET logo bearer); and CO Gillian Shearwater (TOS Sciences, exozoology, with pet Slinky the giant dry worm, from Antos IV). All wore our full-sized ADSP ID cards. Many happy photos were taken. Manager Martinez also snapped one to send to Landmark Cinemas HQ.

All were agreed that *Into Darkness* was a rollercoaster ride, with superb acting and a storyline that ultimately honored the Roddenberry ethic. Our roster would have been larger, but Away Team member Chris Lowther (Tofino)

and a special UFP Diplomatic Envoy (of municipal government rank!) got caught in a transporter loop, with only echoes of sub-space messages reaching us.

Away member Brett Davies (lately on loan to Planet Alberta), EPT Bakken and CO Shearwater returned for the planned May 22 Shore Leave, again dressed in Trek costume. ADSP info handouts were prepared for both evenings, and First Contacts were made.

CO Shearwater salutes ADSP personnel, who created uniforms and accessories especially for *Trekkin' to the Paramount*. All of us were surprised and honoured to be invited to the sneak preview. Thanks to Charles Martinez at the Paramount Theatre for thinking of us!

NOTE: You may have noticed "ranks" that recognize advancement in ADSP's Civilian culture. We've developed grades and criteria for those who haven't (yet) joined STARFLEET, ranging from Resident (RES) to Contractor to ADSP (CADS). More info on request -- happy to share!

LT Gillian
Shearwater
USS Atlantis
Region IO



Left to right: RES Cameron, our Andorian Ally of the Federation, EPT Bakken (with bat'leth), CO Shearwater (with Slinky), EPT Greve, CRA Bellas. Photo courtesy of V. Bellas & C. Martinez.

Recruiting During The Star Trek Movie Premiere



The crew of the USS Appomattox (based in Forest but also covering the Lynchburg and Appomattox, VA area) participated in a recruiting/informational event on Saturday at the River Ridge Mall, during the premiere weekend of Star Trek Into Darkness. Our CO Melissa Lillie, XO Margaret Grunwell, CMO (yours truly) as well as Michael Eddelson, Alan Provo and Zach DeBois comprised the working crew that day. We were joined by the crew of the USS Heimdal, who came out in force.

Though outnumbered and not as flashy, since we were not wearing uniforms and our display was toned down, our crew remained spunky and passed out informational brochures throughout the day. It got crowded at times and sometimes difficult trying to catch people's eyes. This is a nice problem to have though, when attending recruiting events.

Our table display consisted of a tri-fold display, which included pictures taken during field trips and meetings, as well as at community service and charity events. Margaret had also included her album of autographed pictures from a variety of Star Trek and other related sci-fi actors. People enjoyed looking at them, as well as playing with a model of the Enterprise (which lit up and made noise). Our resident Klingon, Alan Provo, dressed in his newest homemade outfit, certainly attracted attention while walking around the mall or standing by our table. We were glad he was able to make an appearance before he had to leave for another function in Richmond.

Management at the theater had requested that we arrive and set up at 10:30 AM and both crews remained on premises until 7 PM.

It made for a long but hopefully worthwhile day. Most people we spoke with were excited about the movie. Some of them were interested in finding out more about STARFLEET in general. Only time will tell if either crew will see any new members as a result of this event, but it was definitely worthwhile being able to be out in the public eye.



Alan Provo, our resident Klingon.



Melissa Lillie at the recruiting table.

Meg Roach
USS Appomattox
Region I



Into Darkness Review

Star Trek, on the big screen! With lots of special effects and fighting and uhm, guys weeping, and ships blowing the crap out of each other and it is awesome!

I will start with a few things that bugged me about the movie, then move to the good stuff.

First is that this movie is almost entirely about Kirk, with Spock being his sidekick. All of the other characters barely get any screen time and their characters are not developed much at all. Their only purpose is comedic relief.

Then you have the Federation landing on the Klingon home world in disguise to avoid starting a war. But then they blew that cover by having the Enterprise broadcast an announcement to the Klingon world saying that the fugitive must surrender to the landing party now arriving. Undercover much?

Then there is the whole repeating scenes almost exactly from other Star Trek movies (and one scene I can swear was from Star Wars). While the acting was good, the scenes came out rather corny instead of paying homage to Star Trek of the past.

A few plot points like this bugged me, but I can overlook those. What really gets me is the lack of focus on being scientifically accurate. Being scientifically based is one thing that set Star Trek apart from other sci-fi franchises, but this movie just doesn't seem to care at all.

First of all, how in the world did the Enterprise get from Kronos to Earth in barely the amount of time it takes someone to run from medical to the bridge? At warp 4.5, this is a four-day journey in the previous movies.

The next thing that bugged me about the science of Into Darkness is the gravitational pull of the

Earth. Apparently, if a ship loses power when it is sitting next to the freaking moon, then planet Earth grabs the ship and instantly pulls it into its atmosphere seconds later. Really? Not into the moon, which the ship was sitting next to, but right into Earth, 234,600 miles away.

And then, during this fall, the artificial gravity gives out on the ship. Under normal conditions, this would provide a weightless, mostly gravitation-free experience. Not so in this movie, you get the full earth-gravity experience while still in space.

Maybe I am being too hard on the movie. I mean, it is not like this is the first Star Trek movie to ever let something scientific slip, is it? No Star Trek of the past would have done something like have a missile that could be fired from a planet, destroy a sun, and have the shock wave of the sun destroy the planet just a handful of seconds after launch...

Despite the fact that this movie was not perfect, it was a lot of fun.

I loved how the warp core does not just look like a big tube of blue stuff, but it actually looks like a reactor. The action is almost nonstop, with a story that has a mix of making you wonder what is going to happen next and wondering how much déjà vu you are experiencing.

You also get to see Kirk grow as a character. In the beginning he is completely arrogant and full of himself, but then realizes that he may not be the best choice for captain of the Enterprise. It is this

process, and actually having to face losing people he cares about, that helps make him to grow to become the captain we all have come to know and love.

The special effects are amazing in this movie, and the amount of lens flare, while still present, is reined in a lot and is pretty much kept to the Enterprise.

There is a lot more that is good about this movie, but I will let you experience that for yourself. It is an awesome movie, the best I have seen this year.

While it is not perfect, and it is not the same Star Trek we are used to, it is time to accept change, because it is the only thing we can do. Enjoy the ride or get off the ship, and the Trekkie ship is not one I will easily get off of.

CMDR Jon Zenor
USS Zebulon Pike
Region 17

Star Trek Into Darkness Movie Review



Space-faring adventures like Star Trek are to take you to far-off places and vast starscapes of viewing pleasure. This film starts in a place where all the vegetation seems to be crimson in hue. Our heroes have taken an object of great cultural value to the indigenous people and are high-tailing it away toward a great cliff in an effort to draw them away from certain death by an erupting volcano. Before the high dive though, the item of interest is left behind and distracts the inhabitants just long enough for Kirk and McCoy to make their getaway.

And so starts a roller coaster of events that get the young Kirk busted down in rank because of his inexperience, and made First Officer of the Enterprise, with Mr. Spock to be reassigned to another vessel as well. But then the first disaster strikes in London.

Most of the story takes place on planets or the interior of the starships. There are very few space scenes alone. Yet when there is a reason for us to be in outer space, it is usually a good reason. One of those reasons comes up when we are told that we are after the fugitive Richard Harris. There are many references to other TV episodes in the TOS era. One of these shout-outs comes when it is determined that going into Klingon space with Federation markings could ignite an interstellar war. So Kirk suggests they use the small freighter from the "Mudd Incident" a few months back.

Questions are posed, and answers are given. People we are introduced to are then revealed to be people we are surprised to

I assume that, by this time, most of you have seen the film, but just in case there are a few of you still waiting for the DVD release to see it, be warned that the next section will include some things you may not want to know yet. But come on, how could you not have seen it by the time this is published?

meet. Carol Wallace is discovered to be, in reality, the daughter of Admiral Marcus. And after a brutal firefight with a couple dozen Klingon warriors on their own planet, it is discovered that Richard Harris is in fact the infamous Khan Noonien Singh.

But after all the kicks and giggles, the best parts come after the cameo of Leonard Nimoy and juxtaposition of the famous line "Kkkkhhaannn" uttered by Spock instead of Kirk. There are other things you may see coming, and other things that are truly unexpected. One of my favorite parts of the film explores the relationship between Uhura and Spock. We see that the love between the two characters is not only deepening, but we can see how hard it would be to have a loved one working with you in a dangerous job—one where your lover may feel helpless or overwhelmed from the danger you may be placed in everyday.

Yet it is also obvious that Lt. Uhura is a brave Starfleet officer. For example when she gets ready to stand face to face alone with the Klingons. "Do you speak Klingonese?" "Well, that is why you brought me along. Let me do my job."

At the end of the movie, we are led to believe that this will now be the start of the Enterprise's five year mission, to which Dr. McCoy is heard to say something like, "A whole five years out there? Oh joy," or something to that effect. Carol Marcus has joined the crew,

and is welcomed aboard. Hopefully she can help Kirk with his reputation around Starfleet.

My 3D glasses did not help to shield my eyes from all the lens flare that J.J. Abrams seems to need for these films. So we know that the title was not about the amount of lighting the crew of the Enterprise had to deal with. There was plenty of light flare to use to illuminate the darkness!

Kered Nella,
USS Golden Gate
Region 4

Attention On Deck

News and updates from the STARFLEET Marine Corps



The Acronyms and Military Terms That Are the SFMC

An interesting comment was made to me recently about how "hard it is to work out the acronyms used by the SFMC."

True! We do use a LOT of abbreviated words and military terms and to the uninitiated, this can be confusing and perhaps even a little off-putting.

But we need to remember that even as a Star Trek fan club, we are basing our role play and the structure of the SFMC on what a future world component of Starfleet would/could actually be. And therefore as a militarily-based organization, acronyms and military terminology will always rule the day. Otherwise it wouldn't seem or sound quite real. Life in any military, real or fictional, would not be the same without the abbreviated terms being thrown about here and there – trust me.

For those of who have served in real-world military – whether we are Marines or not – such terminology is quite common and

simply taken for granted. But we need to be reminded that there are many of our members who for example, simply do not quite get that the acronym ADC stands for the role of Aide de Camp, which is in reality a position of solid and serious responsibility given to someone who generally is 'employed' to be the chief cook and bottle washer to a more senior officer, and helping to keep that person and office on track. Or that when we refer to such common terms as BDE OIC we are referring to the Brigade Officer in Charge – those senior Marines charged with the responsibility of looking after an entire region's marines.

Most of us in the SFMC take all that simple and common stuff for granted without a thought that some may not have a clue as to what we are referring to, or don't quite see the sense in it. But imagine the verbiage without it! We would probably end up boring everyone to death with great pas-

sages of full name descriptions of everything that we do and have around us. That would bury any publication in extra word counts for a start!

The Corps (and 'Fleet, too, actually) would not be the same without these abbreviations and the many references to terminology used. Love them or hate them, they do indeed serve good purpose. And to find out more of what they mean, we even help you quite a bit. Grab a copy of the SFMC Marine Force Manual from the SFMC website and read through the last appendix. There you will find pretty much most of the common terms and abbreviations we use and you may even surprise yourself with how much you actually already know now, as many are also commonly used throughout the rest of STARFLEET as well.

BGN Bruce O'Brien
USS Southern Cross
Region II

Commandant SFMC

FINCOM April Report



Bank of America SFMC Checking Account

Opening Balance 04/01/2013	\$5,326.54
04/29/13 - Transfer from PayPal	\$351.78
Debits 04/04/13 - USPS	\$6.21
Debits 04/08/13 - PinPros	\$1,200.00
Debits 04/16/13 - USPS	\$6.00
Debits 04/18/13 - Walmart	\$8.50
Debits 04/19/13 - USPS	\$56.19
Debits 04/22/13 - USPS	\$0.66
Debits 04/26/13 - PinPros	\$377.00
Net Change in Checking Account	-\$1,302.78
Ending Balance 04/29/2013	\$4,023.76

Bank of America SFMC Scholarship Account

Opening Balance 04/01/2013	\$2,727.84
Credits - None	\$0.00
Debits - None	\$0.00
Net Change in Scholarship Account	\$0.00
Ending Balance 04/29/2013	\$2,727.84

Writing Award Nominations for the SFMC

The secret to making certain that those deserving of recognition actually receive it is the proper writing of award nominations. No matter which award or means that you are using to call attention to a need for an award, the purpose of the nomination is many-layered.

You must convey the significant information identifying the nominee. In our organization, this means:

- The nominee's full name as it is shown in the STARFLEET Database
- The nominee's SCC number

You would be amazed how often the SCC number isn't included in less formal nominations. It can not be stressed highly enough that no one in reading your award nomination is adept enough at mind-reading to divine details you forgot to include.

You must fully identify yourself, i.e.:

- Your full name as shown in the STARFLEET Database
 - Your SCC number
- You must clearly identify the

award you are requesting for the nominee.

You must clearly and completely describe what the nominee did deserving of the requested award. Be as specific as possible. "Joe is a great guy who helps little old ladies across the street" won't get very far. Joe would be better served if you wrote, "Joe spent the afternoons of eight consecutive weekends at busy pedestrian intersections, assisting the aged and heavily burdened across the streets as their need arose."

You must tell us where this action took place, again being specific.

You must tell us when this action took place, remembering to include not just dates, but times as well.

You must tell us who was benefited by the action, again being specific to class/type of person but not necessarily names.

You must tell us if there were any particular techniques that were developed by the participants to better allow the action to

be taken.

Finally, and this is as important as anything else in the nomination, you must show us how the details you have provided are applied to the requirements of the specific award, showing that the action actually meets the award criteria.

While nothing will ever guarantee that a nominee will receive the accolade you are requesting, following these few instructions will significantly increase your chances of success.

AoD!



GEN Michael McGowan

Deputy
Commandant, SFMC

State of FORCECOM

Greetings, Marines.

This is just a brief touch base in regards to Forces Command.

With the stepping down of MSGT John 'Kiwi' Kane as CO-FORCECOM, I have been asked to 'hold down the Fort' here at FORCECOM in an acting capacity until such time as a new Commanding Officer has been chosen.

I want to thank Gunny Kiwi for his years of hard work for the Marines and the Corps, both in various SFMC command positions and as my boss. He has chosen, and rightly so, to concentrate on his Real World activities of school and family for a while because, at the end of the day, this is a hobby and doesn't help put food on the table or a roof over one's head. I wish him all the best of luck in

these endeavors and want to publicly thank him for taking the risk of bring on an unknown as his DCO two plus years ago. I've learned a lot and know I will continue to learn as the years go by.

The application process is open for anyone who wishes to apply for the position of CO-FORCECOM. The requirements were posted to the SFMC-L list on 19 April 2013. Applications are to be sent to the Commandant/SFMC BGN Bruce O'Brien (e-mail: dant@sfi-sfmc.org) and need to be to him No Later Than midnight, 19 May, 2013.

I am honored and proud to be the SFMC Deputy Commanding Officer for Forces Command. I will continue to support the Marines under my command to the utmost

of my abilities. If you ever have any questions or have a need, please know that my door is always open.

Stand easy, Marines.



BGR Jari 'Gato' James

CO FORCECOM
SFMC (Acting)



State of the NCO Corps

Greetings Marines!

Please join me in the booth in the back in the corner in the dark of my local NCO club, where April showers sometimes means that some fool on the mortar range scored a direct hit on the water reservoir AGAIN, and May flowers aren't an approved uniform item, but nobody much cares.

As I write this, I've been Sergeant Major of the STARFLEET Marines for over five years, and I recently answered two questions that I thought I'd share with you. The first was personal: What did I think was my greatest achievement after all those years as top soldier of the Corps?

In those five years, I've received a fair number of awards relating to my service, and helped many Marines either directly through sorting through questions or problems with them, or indirectly by working with the SFMC General Staff on various issues and programs. But, the thing that has meant the most to me is the large number of simply incredible people I have come into contact with while performing the duties of my office. I likely would never have grown as close to some of

them as I have if we hadn't been thrown together by my duties as SGM/SFMC, and that's a side benefit of the job that nobody ever mentioned to me going into it. My thanks to all of you.

The second question was more general: If I could offer only ONE piece of advice to someone embarking on the path of an SFMC NCO, what would it be? After some thought, I decided my answer would be: Have fun.

That doesn't mean be some sort of irresponsible jerk. It means approaching the SFMC with an attitude that every award you get, every act of community service, every minute you spend socializing with friends in STARFLEET, every class you take at SFA or the SFMCA, is just part of the fun you're having. It's supposed to be fun, otherwise, why are we doing it? I checked - SFMC has never stood for STARFLEET Martyr Collective.

Part of having fun, and helping others have fun is keeping a positive attitude, and refusing to take the low road when confronted with negativity or adversity. If you simply make being in the Corps fun for you and others, then things like recruiting and retention

become easy, and community service becomes just another part of the game.

Just remember - the game does have some rules. As STARFLEET members, we have certain responsibilities that go along with our membership rights. One of those is to play by the rules laid out in various handbooks, etc. As STARFLEET Marines, we find our specific rules in places like the MFM, Policy Manual, etc., and we all have to do our best to follow them if we're going to play the game. Where the rules aren't clear, they point out where to go ask for clarification - such as asking the current Deputy Commandant about uniform items or awards.

If you'd like to learn more about the game we're playing together, I invite you to look over the SFMC website, Corps-I mailing list, or even the SFMC Facebook group where you can find reports, information, and comments from the SFMC General Staff and the Corps in general.

Semper Fi!

**MGSgt Jerome A.
"Hawk" Stoddard**
USS Thermopylae
Region 5

Sergeant Major
SFMC



State of INFOCOM

As this is my first report, and I was just appointed as COINFOCOM, I will keep this short and sweet. I want to thank BGEN Joe Brouhard for all his work, including getting the new SFMC and SFMCA websites deployed. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

I have been part of INFOCOM for some time now. I was made part of the Web team starting back in October 2011. Although I'm a network engineer by profession, I have designed several websites over the years, learning on the job, so to speak.

I will be sorting out the current status of INFOCOM over the

next few days and assessing the status of INFOCOM. More to follow on that in future reports.

In closing, I look forward to working with the General Staff and addressing the needs of the Corps.

Thank you.

BGEN Mark 'Slayer'
Anderson
USS Victorious
Region 2

CO INFOCOM
SFMC

“Star Trek Into Darkness” – A Review



Overall: Better than ST 2009 (which might be damning with faint praise, but I did have more fun this time out).

First half: Cruising on the way to awesome.

Second half: “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.”

I have to be up-front about a couple of things at the outset. First, as a fan, I hate reboots. I find them to be unfortunate on every level. Second, I really wasn’t that fond of the first J.J. Abrams Trek film. I thought that the casting was awesome, but the storytelling was, at best, slipshod.

As a result, I approached “Star Trek Into Darkness” cautiously. I knew the same creative team was involved, but I also knew that they’ve done smart stuff both prior to and after the 2009 “Star Trek,” so I was willing to cut them some slack. As I learned more about the new film, I allowed myself to be more optimistic. There was the potential for something good here. But as the spoilers began to leak, I started reading accounts that made me worried.

So, into the theater I went, on opening weekend, and for a while, I thought my optimism might be richly rewarded. The first half of “Into Darkness” is taut, fun storytelling that allows itself to start weighing real ideas. The Nibiru mission, and the consequences of both Kirk’s and Spock’s choices, are some really good Trek. It’s good to see that there are ramifications. Bit by bit, the movie builds its situation and its intensity.

And then... it went off the rails, through the guard barrier, and out into the ravine. I can tell you the moment it happened for me: when Admiral Marcus (who starts out as an interesting character with some good depth, and ends up being two different kinds of cliché) learns that Kirk has talked to Khan.

From that moment, Marcus almost visibly changes into a two-dimensional villain who does everything short of twirling his mustachio. At the same time, the movie devolves into a “Temple of Doom”-style string of action shots and chases and other derring-do with only the barest connectivity to the overall plot and only the barest amount of logical sense.

Even worse, as things start ramping up, the movie starts copying “The Wrath of Khan” (TWOK). I don’t mean just copying the idea; I mean copying the dialogue! It probably reaches the height of inanity when, after Kirk dies in the engine room (in a scene like TWOK, but in reverse, and a lot more improbable, considering that Kirk has to realign a piece of heavy machinery as large as he is, all while being flooded with fatal levels of radiation), an emotionally distraught Spock lifts his face to the ceiling and screams, “Khaaaaaaaan!” The problem is, when Kirk does it in TWOK, he’s still actually talking to Khan. In this film, Spock seems to do it just so someone can. (Of course, the new, younger audience that Abrams is going for has likely never seen TWOK and might not recognize the dialogue and plotting as a thinly-veiled copy, but that’s no excuse for such lazy writing.)

Of course, just as no one expects Superman to die and stay dead in a Superman film, this is Star Trek, so no one really expects Kirk to stay dead, either, and in a classic gun-on-the-mantelpiece setup telegraphed earlier in the film, we learn that Khan’s blood somehow has magical life-resurrecting properties. (Clearly the writers know absolutely nothing

about how genetic engineering works, but then, Trek has

a long history of being really slipshod with biology.) This leads to an elaborate chase through San Francisco, with Spock pursuing Khan, while completely ignoring the fact that there are 72 other Augments right at hand. Khan is captured, Kirk is revived, and we jump a year ahead to when the ship has been repaired. Kirk gives a legitimately uplifting speech, and the Enterprise’s five-year mission—which, in this universe, is apparently a whole new idea—at long last begins.

As with the last one, the big positive standouts are the performances. The people casting this Star Trek are excellent at what they do, and the performers really bring the roles to life. But also as with the last one, the story logic falls apart when it needs to bring threads cohesively together, and there’s lots of frenetic action that seems designed to distract from the idea that one’s not supposed to think too much about the film (presumably because if one does, the huge plot holes and general silliness start getting really distracting).

All told, though, “Into Darkness” is more fun, and less goofy, than the 2009 entry. There’s more meat here, and some good allegory to real-world events. In some ways, that makes it even more heartbreaking when the film starts to fall apart, because—for me, anyway—the first half was so good, and was overcoming my natural antipathy toward this whole alternate universe thing. But as I walked out of the theater, my mind was already ready to again leave the Abramsverse behind, and get back to some serious (and seriously more fun!) prime universe Star Trek.

ADM Alex Rosenzweig
USS Avenger
Region 7



SFMC Reimagined, Part I

Change - The act or instance of making or becoming different.

This is an unwelcome word for many. People become comfortable, complacent in the familiar. They resist change as something that introduces difficulty and uncertainty into their lives.

However, there is also a saying... "The only constant is change." To those who believe this saying, they feel that if you are not changing, you are stagnating, dying. The urge to improve one's station in life often relies on the ability to change and evolve with the ever-changing world around us.

I have never been a fan of change for the sake of change alone. I do believe there is merit in maintaining as many constants in life as possible while still being able to react to those curves which might be thrown my way. This flexibility has served me well in my life, whether personal, professional, or fandom-related. With the proper balance, you can alter just one or two variables and, with some degree of certainty, control the events with might otherwise derail your life.

So, a while back, I was approached about helping to start a Corps within another fan organization. Out of respect to everyone involved, I won't go into detail about the opportunity. I do view it as an opportunity, a chance to start something from the ground up, utilizing my knowledge and experience to create something similar, but different. While I think the SFMC is a great group, having been a member for many years, a large number of those in a command position of some sort, I will be the first to admit that it is far from perfect. Some of the decisions made I did not necessar-

ily agree with completely, while others I had a hand in setting the policies (some good, other, in hindsight, not so good).

This offer, one which I eventually respectfully declined, did start me thinking about what I would do the same and what I would do differently. It was actually quite an enjoyable intellectual exercise. The concept of what I would put into the next generation of Starfleet Marines encouraged me to mentally dismantle the Corps, deciding what aspects were useful or fit within the mission statement and which ones were redundant and should be trimmed to streamline the Corps. I actually thought about everything from the organizational structure to the fictional role of the Corps.

Mission

For this part of the exercise, I am going to stick to what I know... historical use of marines and the United States Marine Corps. In the case of the USMC, they are a component of the U.S. Navy, while having the distinction of being their own branch. Note the symbiotic relationship between the two services, one which has caused more than its fair share of inter-service rivalry, but also a strong working relationship and reliance on one another. This will actually come into play later in this essay.

Marines have, historically, served as naval infantry, serving aboard ships for protection and for amphibious warfare missions. In modern times, they primarily deploy via naval ships and air force planes into war zones. Due to the amphibious, quick response nature of their missions, Marines typically travel light, leaving heavy equipment to the U.S. Army, which they do coordinate with. They are responsible for protecting Navy bases and other naval land

campaigns. Due to the coordination with those three branches, they have the training and ability to forcibly enter a combat zone by land, sea, or air.

A saying within the Corps is "Every Marine is a rifleman." This emphasis on combat arms in the Corps is one of the cornerstones of this branch of the service. It is this focus that will drive part of my streamlining of the Corps in this briefing.

Fictional Focus

In the future, I have theorized that the need for the seven branches of uniformed service has remained relatively constant, while some of the components might have shifted around a bit. The Naval component has evolved into the space-faring navy that we see in Star Trek, as well as other science fiction series, such as Star Wars, Starship Troopers, and Space: Above and Beyond. The Air Force would be responsible for atmospheric control, as well as the satellite networks. The wet navy would transition to the Army, which is responsible for permanent ground-based security and operations. In these few statements, some of my reorganization should start becoming obvious.

In the SFMC, we currently have nine branches of service: Support, Medical, Infantry, Armor, Mecha, Aerospace, Combat Engineering, Special Operations, and Maritime Operations. However, within the streamlined focus of the Corps, based on modern day mission statement, as well as hypothesis of how the Corps would evolve, some of these roles would actually fall under other branches.

As I stated earlier, all marines are riflemen first. So, the cornerstone branch of the Corps would obviously be infantry. Due to its rapid reaction mission statement,

as well as the limited space availability on starships, the majority of the armor branch would transition to the Army, which is better suited for prolonged, heavy asset operations.

A limited amount of light, fast armor would be absorbed into the Infantry Branch as Mechanized Infantry. Also, with the absence of Mecha in Trek canon, the Mecha branch would disappear or, if its existence were actually introduced into canon, it would also transition into the Army. Powered armor suits would continue to exist and remain in the Infantry. With the Army's responsibility for long-term, permanent planetary operations and the Navy's shift in focus from water to space-borne operations, the wet navy would transition to the Army's area of responsibility.

Traditionally, and in the future of the Corps, "MARINE" has been jokingly defined as an acronym for "My Ass Rides In Naval Equipment." The inter-service rivalry between the Navy and the Marine Corps can be highlighted by Lt. Kendrick in "A Few Good Men"... Chaffee: Have I done something to offend you? Lt. Kendrick: No, I like all you Navy boys. Every time we've got to go someplace to fight, you fellas always give us a ride. However, there is interdependence between the Navy (Starfleet) and the Marine Corps (SFMC). The Marines rely on the Navy for transportation, ship's services, and medical care. It has been common practice to embed Naval personnel, most notably Corpsmen (medics), into Marine units. The Marines, beyond their basic first aid training, rely on the Navy for medics, doctors, nurses, dentists, and other medical professionals, rather than having their own Medical branch.

Combat Engineering remains somewhat unchanged. In short, the CE branch would have responsibility for building things, maintaining things, and blowing things up. Construction, electrical/electronics, utilities, EOD, and Chemical, Biological, Radiologi-

cal, and Nuclear (CBRN) Defense all fall under the CE Corps. You need a bridge built, paved, wired for lights, and later demolished, they're your Marines.

Likewise, the Aerospace branch remains largely unchanged. All aspects of aerospace operations, from repair, fueling, arming, piloting, air traffic control, and air combat operations reside in the aerospace branch. This includes space flight, fleet defense,

with a Signal Corps... Communications, Ground Electronic Warfare, Linguistics, and Data/Comm maintenance. Knowledge is power and that's where the Intel branch comes in.

Finally, I come to Special Operations. While this is currently a branch and arguably one of the most popular, it shouldn't be. SpecOps is not a branch that just anyone can sign up for directly. You have to apply and be chosen from



atmospheric operations, and close-air support. About the only thing they don't do is build their own airstrips (CE does that).

Also largely unchanged is the Support Branch. Viewed by much of the Corps as a jack of all trades, it is true that most of the jobs which don't seem to belong anywhere else end up in the Support Branch. If you need logistical services to get your ammo and parts to a Forward Operating Base (FOB), they're your Marines. If you're hungry or need a good lawyer, Support has you covered. If the pilots want to know if the skies are going to be clear or pouring rain, they go to Support.

One additional branch that deserves, in my opinion, its own place in the Corps is the Intelligence branch. While it does cover most of the traditional Intel roles, it's not strictly an Intel branch in the strictest sense of the word. Also included in Intel are components most commonly associated

an existing MOS. Once chosen and you pass the training, you are an Operator. While units in the Corps can be considered Special Operations Capable (SOC), there are no true SpecOps units. Based on this concept, SOC will be a designation for a Marine Detachment (MarDet) rather than a Branch of Service choice.

So, to wrap this section up, the following Branches of Service would be retired from the Corps, having been absorbed into other Services or into the Infantry... Medical, Armor, and Mecha. The following branches remain... Support, Infantry, Aerospace, and Combat Engineering, joined by Intelligence. And finally, Special Operations ceases to be its own Branch and instead becomes a capabilities designation.

[Editor's note: Part 2 of this article, outlining the organizational structure in Aaron's reimagined SFMC, will appear in CQ 176.]



USS Angeles Members React to Into Darkness



CAPT Dave Mason
USS Angeles
Region 4

J.J. Abrams got it right.

That's the consensus expressed by many USS Angeles members, who like the director's "Star Trek Into Darkness" better than his "Star Trek" (2009). Others thought it's time for another director to take the conn.

The new movie and its plot twists have stirred up a lot of debate among Angeles members. The conversation continued when 10 of our members met with members of the USS Velocity and some Klingon ships on May 18 at the Regency Cinemas in Azusa. There, in costume, we greeted theatergoers and photographed people in a captain's chair. We also entertained theatergoers in the auditoriums before each "Star Trek" screening with trivia questions and improvised comedy. (The Klingons were a big hit with the crowds!)

First Officer Gloria Rodriguez led the Angeles portion of the mis-

sion, which involved Second Officer Jennifer Cole, Kat Campbell, Maria "Kestra" Castaneda, Jackie Freeman, Cliff Gardner, Jon Lane, Chris Mulrooney, Luis Valentine as Vulcan Ambassador Sova, I and me. And Nathan Gastineau came by briefly, but long enough to pay his dues and become a USS Angeles member! The event included a drawing for "Star Trek" prizes, which raised more than \$500 for the American Cancer Society.

And, of course, we watched "Into Darkness," which topped the U.S. box office with \$70.1 million in its opening weekend, according to The Associated Press. It fell short of the \$75.2 million that "Star Trek" earned in 2009, but is doing well enough to ensure a likely sequel.

The chatter about the movie started on the Angeles chat list as soon as members saw the film on its May 16 release date.

"I'm just glad someone else will probably direct the next movie," Gloria Rodriguez said. "J.J.

did his job, reviving this franchise. Now it needs less style, more substance."

But Gloria and others saw some plot retreads.

"J.J. went beyond an homage or two," Gloria noted. "Not only did Scotty sabotage the other ship as in 'ST III', but a traitor tried to sabotage peace with Klingons as in 'ST VI'. And of course, Spock's death from 'ST II' and the inexcusable re-use of Khan." (In this version, Kirk dies instead of Spock, but like Spock, he's brought back to life, just much more quickly.)

Jennifer Pesqueira, who liked the 2009 "Star Trek", didn't care for the use of "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" elements. She said she was disappointed. "Couldn't the writers come up with an original movie?" she said. "They seemed to have copied a lot from 'Star Trek II'. The 2009 movie gave them a new timeline, which to me meant new ideas and new stories."

John Koulos, who liked "Into Darkness", said he wondered whether the trend will continue to be tweaking old plots with a new cast and new twists. "I hope they stay true to the words 'to boldly go where no one has gone before' and provide us with new glimpses into the (alternate timeline) world of 'Trek'."

Other members such as Camren T. Burton gave the movie a lot of praise. "I will start off by saying that I loved it and thought it a worthy sequel to the last movie." He added he liked that the movie tackled social issues, such as terrorism and the Prime Directive.

Jennifer Cole also praised the movie. "OK, I'll just come out and say it — I LOVED the movie, flaws, lens flares and all!! I turned off my 'long-time Trekkie brain' and just went with it. I enjoyed, well,

almost everything! Sure, there were a few things that rankled my 'Trek'-nerd brain, but, again, I just told it to go back to sleep and enjoy the ride. Plot twists galore! Characters showing more emotion than I'm used to! Enterprise torn up and nearly crashing into Earth. Wow!" She added she loved that the characters all grew and had great scenes. "Capt. Hikaru Sulu! Yeah!" (That was a nod to "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country", in which Sulu was the captain of the USS Excelsior.)

"Kelly and I just saw it for the second time and I have to say we both really loved it," Elizabeth Critch said. "The second viewing is the ticket. You're able to get past the frenetic pace and really appreciate the characters and story."

Jon Lane said "Into Darkness" was an improvement over the 2009 "Star Trek" movie. One reason, he explained, is the chemistry



has improved among the cast. "In my opinion, what this film has going for it that J.J. 'Trek' 2009 lacked are more scenes with that familiar 'Star Trek' 'twinkle,' he said. "In 2009, the characters felt mostly one-note and flat to me. This time, we see a lot more rich interactions between and among the characters. Kirk and Spock have a real growing chemistry. Simon Pegg's Scotty (now with a brogue closer to Jimmy Doohan's) really comes into his own as a character. Zoe Saldana once again nails Uhura as a strong female character who never simply becomes 'Spock's girlfriend'. Bones gets some of the

best lines in the film, and while Sulu and Chekov were a little more limited than the others, they still both get a few moments (and not just comic relief like leaving on the parking brake, although Chekov is still over-caffeinated)."

Kat Campbell, who didn't like the first movie, praised this one during the Azusa mission. Renee Wike said she loved this film. Jon, and Janice Willcocks, who noted she agreed with Jon on his points, expressed concern about the movie being so fast-paced. But Jon added the pacing is helping the movie in the box office, and that's a good thing for the future of "Star Trek".

In fact, John Koulos, a Bakersfield high school history teacher, noted nearly all high school kids agreed the movie was "awesome". "A common comment was 'I didn't want to see it/didn't think I'd like it. But I did see it and loved it!' " John said.

Love the movie or not, some Angeles members remain unimpressed with Abrams' frequent use of lens flares. And there were comments on the Angeles-chat list about casting.

Gloria was disappointed in Benedict Cumberbatch as Khan, the villain who attacks London and sets the plot in motion. "I love Cumberbatch in 'Sherlock (Holmes)', but he was nothing here. This wasn't a regal, arrogant, charismatic leader. This Khan was just a super powered sociopath," she said. "Even his tears were nothing. Sociopaths feel their own pain, but no-one else's."

Janice said she also was disappointed in Cumberbatch. "They should have cast an Asian or Hispanic in the role. I'm OK with the redo (of the 'Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan') story because it was different enough for me. But Cumberbatch? The guy was too Tom Riddle for my 'Trek' taste," Janice said, referring to a "Harry Potter" character. "Peter Weller (Admiral Marcus) was good as a bad guy. Even he would have been a better Khan. Oh well. There's really no improving on (Ricardo) Mon-

talban." She was referring to the iconic actor who played Khan in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" and the original series episode, "Space Seed."

But Jennifer Cole said she enjoyed Cumberbatch's take on Khan. It made sense, she said, that this Khan, who wasn't revived by the Enterprise in this timeline, would be different.

And Camren said he liked that Cumberbatch made the character his own person. Camren also agreed Admiral Marcus was a great villain, and noted that his ship, the Vengeance, was a cool warship. And he liked the reference to the rogue Starfleet agency, Section 31. Camren also liked the "Star Trek II" elements. "The homage to 'The Wrath of Khan' brought tears to my eyes and a smile to my face," he said. "Not to mention that this time, it's Spock instead of Kirk who gets to deliver the historic "KHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAN!" Camren said. "Loved that!"

The movie also brought Carol Marcus (Alice Eve), the character first seen in "Wrath of Khan," into Kirk's life, and the good captain starts his five-year mission in deep space with her on the ship. "The biggest surprise," Camren said, "was the cameo appearance by Leonard Nimoy as Spock Prime, warning his younger self that Khan Noonien Singh was the most dangerous enemy they'd ever faced in the original reality."



Star Trek Into Darkness Provides Another Jersey Shore Reunion of Fans

It is hard to believe that Star Trek Into Darkness marks the USS Challenger's eighth film promotion. Another chance to invade a movie theater, meet movie goers and Star Trek fans and make our best attempt, while in various Trek uniforms, to entice new people to join STARFLEET and our chapter.



USS Challenger Counselor Emily Vosseller pets a purring tribble at the recruitment table of the USS Challenger during a weekend long promotion at the Marquees Cinema in Toms River NJ for Star Trek Into Darkness.



USS Challenger XO donning his dress uniform complete with Starfleet belt buckle looks over the USS Challenger's recruitment table during a promotion effort by the Challenger on the weekend of May 17 for Star Trek Into Darkness.



A bit of Star Trek trivia added to the fun at the USS Challenger's recruitment table at the Marquees Cinema in Toms River NJ during the premiere weekend of Star Trek Into Darkness.



No trivial matter here. The winner of a trivia contest got a cool looking Star Trek jersey during the USS Challenger's promotion weekend of Star Trek Into Darkness.

The USS Challenger marks 25 years this summer and that, in itself, is hard to believe. Star Trek Into Darkness allowed for new excitement, a page-one article in our local daily newspaper, The Asbury Park Press, and plenty of opportunities to have fun, meet people and enjoy some meals together.

The film itself was fantastic. It gave the franchise another shot in the arm, and even if you still long for the days of more established Star Trek canon history (and yes I do as well), this film, with its alternate timeline and different feel, was exciting, entertaining and resonated with the core values of

what Star Trek is all about. (Ignore what you hear otherwise).

We didn't hear any negative comments on it, and those who liked the last film seemed to feel this one was even better.

On the Friday night of the film's release, a young woman came up to me and asked what the background was on "Reyna," after whom she said her mother had named her. She said her mom named her after a Vulcan princess with blue eyes, but it turns out that Reyna Kapac, a character from the classic episode "Requiem of a Methuselah," was actually an artificial life-form, not a Vulcan at all.

"You mean my mother lied to me?" she said in horror.

Great, I figured here I am trying to recruit new members and I've caused family strife. So what does a commanding officer do?

"Well, Reyna is a pretty name. The character is beautiful and you are beautiful. It shouldn't matter if you are named after a Vulcan or a beautiful android," I said.

ADM Bob Vosseller
USS Challenger
Region 7
VRC

Her reply? "Awww, that is so sweet of you to say."

My reply: "Don't forget we meet the first Sunday of each month and the information is on the flyer you have."

I don't know if we will see the dark-haired woman whom I spoke to, but I wouldn't be surprised if we did. I just hope she doesn't bring along her mother to the meeting, who may be upset with me for correcting her Star Trek history. Somehow, I don't think that will be the case, but that is just one of many stories from our three-day stint at the movie theater.

On Sunday, another woman came up and told us that she, too, was named Reyna, but apparently her parents watched Star Trek a bit more closely and she knew the background of the character. What were the odds of our hearing this

story from two fans in one weekend at the same theater?

My science chief Jennifer Thompson and I came out to the theater on Thursday for a photo shoot for The Asbury Park Press. It was hard to muster an Away Team together mid-day on a Thursday, but the two of us were photographed in uniform with props of the new Enterprise and a communicator.

While I did not get to write that article (being too close to the subject), I did get to write my own column about being a fan, dispelling rumors about the stereotype of Trekkies.

The tables were turned on me, when Jen and I were included in an iPhone video for the newspaper's website, a regular part of my job. It was all part of the fun.

While our replica of the origi-

nal bridge chair was not on hand to use this time out, due to matters related to superstorm Sandy, we did have an array of promotional materials, including videos, trivia contests, banners and other materials.

The best recruitment tool was simply a smile and a greeting of hello. Most of us were in one form of uniform or another, while others wore Star Trek T-shirts.

STARFLEET Region 7 had many chapters out in force with displays and involved in recruitment operations. This was the biggest event for fandom in four years, and a great opportunity to get together, meet potential members and to see the next chapter in a whole new Star Trek saga. Not a bad way to spend a weekend.



USS Challenger Chief Medical Officer Ann Marie McGinley, left, joins First Officer Jeff Victor and his wife Communications Chief Laura Victor during the recruitment mission of Star Trek Into Darkness during the weekend of May 17 at the Marquee Cinemas Orchards IO Theater in Toms River, NJ.



Members of the USS Challenger, including XO Jeff Victor, Communications Chief Laura Victor, and Chief Medical Officer Ann Marie McGinley, meet fans who just came out from a screening of Star Trek Into Darkness during a weekend-long promotion of the film and recruitment operation for STARFLEET and the Challenger.



I Won't Be Seeing Star Trek Into Darkness

Call me a stick in the mud, but I won't be seeing Star Trek Into Darkness, no matter how good anybody says it is. I did see J. J. Abrams' 2009 Star Trek, and I found it entertaining. However, I did not embrace it as Star Trek, and frankly, it was my fervent wish no one would see fit to continue this alternate-reality reboot movie series. That it took four years gave me hope, but alas, it's here.

For the record, I am a first-generation Trekker. By that, I mean I was a fan of the original series (TOS) on NBC prime time, 1966-69. I was there at the beginning. I was initially skeptical of, but quickly embraced, The Next Generation twenty-odd years later, and by the end of its first season, I was giving it credit for being the best episodic television produced up to that time. Each subsequent series—DS9, Voyager, Enterprise—remained true to the canon, yet brought something unique and enthralling and viable to the Trek universe, building organically on what had come before.

As for the movies, I saw each (present company excepted) with anticipation. Many were top-notch additions to Trek lore—The Wrath of Khan, First Contact, probably The Undiscovered Country being obvious examples—while others richly deserve vilification, STV: The Final Frontier getting my most secure vote in that category. All that said, I've never found the films generally as richly compelling and worthy of the Trek franchise as any average or better episode of any of the series. At the risk of verbosity, I might offer exceptions, Khan being one, and honestly, another: the much denigrated ST-The Motion Picture, which at least deserves credit as the initial "reboot" ten years after TOS ended production.

Many of the movies though, especially those with the Kirk-led

cast, I found strained and contrived, unconvincing that this same group of aging officers would remain together, performing their same functions after so long. Suffice it to say, the movies don't always make the best Trek. And that's understandable. Series can take risks with daring episodes. The greater financial investment in a theatrical release demands lower-risk storytelling. Season-long and multi-season-long story arcs can weave nuanced complex tales and allow character development that a two-hour movie can't touch. Put another way, the cost of a theatrical release demands appeal to a wider audience, not just Trekkers. Fine, I get that.

But Abrams' 2009 Trek film went a step too far—off a cliff, as far as I'm concerned. (In fact—forgive me, I've not honored it with a second viewing—I vaguely recall the young Kirk going over a cliff early on in some beyond-the-pale action sequence.) Which brings me to my first point. Certainly, Trek has always embraced action, but intelligent action, action necessary to the plot, and realistically, not action for action's sake. Not just to place a lot of kinetic energy on screen. In fact, I mentioned above my admiration for STTMP, released in 1979, and I recall a negative review, in Time magazine, comparing that film unfavorably to the blockbuster Star Wars from two years earlier. The comparison boiled down to STTMP's lack of

a wiz-bang climactic laser battle à la Star Wars. I recall writing to the magazine—it didn't get published but did get me a mea culpa letter from Time's editors—that I was glad the world's governments didn't resolve all their problems with Rebel Alliance-versus-Death Star-like clashes, and instead try to think through some of them, per the Star Trek example. Recall that, from its very genesis, Trek has suffered in the eyes of a certain ilk of entertainment executive from being "too cerebral"—NBC's rationale for rejecting Roddenberry's first pilot, "The Cage" in, what, 1964?

J. J. Abrams, who ironically will direct the new Star Wars, obviously inherited that less-thinking/more-action mindset about Trek from his industry predecessors, and is trying to morph Trek into Star Wars (a notion I'm borrowing from the review of the latest film in my local newspaper, but which meshes perfectly with my thesis).

Prior to Trek, what I know of Abrams' work is from his TV series Alias. And what I concluded then was that he liked to create interesting and exciting situations for his characters to get into and out of, but with only the sketchiest details about the object of the mission. Style and action over intellectual substance. Mission: Impossible with at least half the background information and technical details edited out. Fine. I don't deny that's a legitimate storytelling approach. I liked Alias. But that isn't Trek.

Case in point (and, again, forgive my recollection from four years back): What was that Red matter, or something like that, that Spock was careening in to deliver to stop some crisis, seal some rift or other? Red matter? No expla-

James Kellett Rone
Region I

nation given as to what this stuff was, how it was supposed to help. That is not Trek. In Trek there is always some attempt to explain the science, some effort at internal plausibility. The other scene that sticks in my craw—I mean mind—Scotty's engineering section on the Enterprise. Wasn't it some ridiculous maze of pipes and conduits? Nothing looking like any warp engine we've ever seen. It looked good (to somebody) and it looked complicated—all that mattered. No matter that it made no sense, in or out of the Trek context.

That brings me to my final scathing rebuke of Abrams' vision of Trek. What set the original Trek apart, in the beginning, from all other TV and most film science fiction of its period, was continuity, and technological and scientific plausibility, at least with respect to established parameters of the fictional world. Abrams, however,

came to the Trek franchise deliberately and blatantly rejecting all of that, disrespecting it. He and/or his spokespeople said as much while promoting the 2009 movie. They said that Trek had, in effect, painted itself into a corner. Staying true to the canon, under the weight of forty years of established fictional "history" and "facts" was hobbling storytelling and they were going to do something different.

I see the point. And they machinated the whole alternate-time-line ploy to explain away whatever they decided to do. Even I gave them credit at the time for a clever idea, and certainly Trek has told a lot of good stories involving convoluted alternate timelines and universes. But as a basis for a whole ongoing series of movies involving a classic set of characters—no, it's too much, at least for me. If it is so, that a good new TV series or good new film can't be

I Won't Be Seeing...

produced within the confines of the canon, I question that, given the bazillion novels out there that haven't been filmed. There must be a gem or two amongst them. But if it is so, then perhaps Trek comes to an end. Nothing goes on forever, and milking such great franchises too far isn't usually a happy thing. Think, the last few seasons of M*A*S*H. As the title of STTNG's finale said: All Good Things...

Is that what I want? Certainly not. But neither is the solution to eschew quality and intelligence. Trek brought quality and intelligence to TV sci-fi and numerous copycats have continued the tradition. Are we to say now that Trek has come full circle and the only way to save it is to dumb it down? Under those conditions, best it not be saved, methinks.

Star Trek into Darkness Review

Let me start out by saying this is a great movie. Its fast pacing and action sets are a joy to behold, and there are quite a few innovative set pieces that will have you waiting for the next thing to happen. The CGI is seamless, and the whole movie pulls off a lot of work in the relatively short time of a little over two hours. If you are a fan of JJ Abrams, you will add this to your collection of movies. I personally can't wait to see the movie again.

Now, for the Star Trek fans.

The last Star Trek movie, in 2009, had almost nothing to do with Star Trek. It was a good movie but most fans were left wondering what they had just seen. The basis of most Star Trek is a morality play set in a science fiction backdrop, so you got to think and had fun doing it. JJ's universe showed that the less you think about it the better. But Star Trek into Darkness has a lot of "Trek" in it, so much so I think the average movie goer wouldn't even know what they were looking at. I do not want to

list a string of spoilers here, but if you look at it by the numbers, you will see nods to: The Cage, Where no man has gone before, The Trouble With Tribbles, Mudd's Women, Star Trek II, Star Trek III, Star Trek VI, Enterprise, The Next Generation and Deep Space Nine. This makes for good entertainment between the action sequences.

The whole cast is used and no one is lacking for screen time, Benedict Cumberbatch almost steals the show as the villain. I know people will try to compare, but there is none. Mr. Cumberbatch, of Sherlock fame and a classically trained actor in his own right, outshines his costars even when he is not saying a word. On the other hand, Chris Pine's Kirk always makes you wonder how he got in command of a starship in the first place. William Shatner's introspection about the rigors of command is thrown out the window by Mr. Pine, as he almost screams into the camera time and again, "I don't know what I am doing!"

I think we understand Kirk takes risks and does not always follow the rules, but Mr. Pine just does not demonstrate the pressures of command as much as whining about it.

Again I really want to see the movie again as it was and is a most enjoyable movie. If you do get to see it, keep an eye out for a visual reference to Dr. Strangelove. The musical score by Michael Giacchino is so awesome that I now own the whole 43-minute score. Each musical piece can stand by itself and be enjoyed. I was always a fan of James Horner, but this score has a lot of weight to carry and it does it with class and is never jarring.

Again I will recommend to anyone to see this movie on the big screen and not wait for it to come out on disk, unless you have a 60-inch TV to watch it on as a great deal of detail will be lost on the small screen.



CAPT David Sladky
USS Storm
Region 7



USS Sovereign STID Recruiting

The USS Sovereign started her Trek week, May 13, 2013, on Monday morning at 8:00 AM by boldly going to FOX 29 television studios, accompanied by a Klingon faction, where we braved the weather report by FOX's weather person. We went on to make a lot of passers-by happy with free handouts.

They went away with mini posters, cups, and the coveted free movie passes for a special Tuesday night screening. We shared the television cameras with a school group, which was touring Philadelphia from upstate New York as well. There was lots of picture-taking of Federation officers and Klingons to show their friends at home that there are indeed aliens in Philadelphia.

After our television appearance Monday morning, we received some nice swag in the form of shirts, hats, and cups. We were also invited and given reserved seating to the premiere showing of Star Trek on Tuesday night.

We couldn't let that be our only event, and so on Friday, May 17th, we took the USS Sovereign to Richmond, Virginia, to the Regal Cinema 14 Short Pump IMAX Theater. On Saturday, we costumed and joined with NASA (including an astronaut and interactive game), USS Farragut, the IKV Dev-

astor Klingons, a research scientist, and Sally Kellerman for a very exciting day of Trek and science. We took the captain's chair from our former bridge, along with photos of all the stars that had sat in it, including the Next Generation crew. There was lots of fun, photos, and food catered by Johnny Rocket's and Chick-Fil-A. We started early and stayed late. The crowds, over 5,000 people on Saturday, were very receptive to everyone.

On Sunday, we repeated the process and found that movie-goers were excited to sit in the captain's chair, especially after seeing its history. Talking Star Trek was big on everybody's agenda. It was nice to see folks happy to see Trek on the big screen and they were not critical, just happy. A lot of people were coming for a second and third time, a viewing made more enjoyable by all the fun things that were going on at the theater, including more photos, handouts, and autographs with Sally Kellerman.

Our host, Lee Milstead, was very generous and kept us fed, and of course, movie popcorn was a must. It was truly a world of Star Trek, with a shuttlecraft in the theater built by Lee and his crew. All theater personnel wore Trek shirts. Why, even the servers at Johnny Rocket's wore Trek shirts and joined in the fun when they brought lunch to us. Lee surprised us with large movie posters, some very cool trading cards from the movie and other goodies as well.

Our Star Trek was a week-long adventure of giving and receiving, of coming and going. We celebrated Trek with many like-minded fans who were just out to have fun and enjoy the next phase of Trek. My crew was a tired bunch by Sunday evening and looking at a long ride to home port, but we had done what we set out to do: promote and enjoy Trek, costume, and take the USS Sovereign on an Away Mission that represents the world of Trek we share with others.



ADM Beryl Belcher
USS Sovereign
Region 7

Federation & Klingons (Beryl Belcher and Claire Halber with two Klingons)



"Look who's coming to dinner!" (Beryl Belcher)



"Look who we found?" (Roland and Beryl Belcher)



Jay Anksy, Roland Belcher, Beryl Belcher, Claire Halber



Tribble & Astronaut



A Month of Trek! How Did You Recruit?

The directives came down pretty quickly. Looking back, I think only the Admiral, with his keen senses and diplomatic intuition, knew what was about to happen, but he was under orders to tell no one...

Stardate 08415.00 or April 18, 2013

A few days earlier, a representative from Allied-THA, representing Paramount Pictures and Fathom media entertainment group, contacted the Admiral, looking for a Star Trek Fan club in the Bay Area. Thankfully, because of the internet, this media company stumbled upon the USS Golden Gate when they conducted a quick Google search. After some discussion, they invited us to participate in the FATHOM screening event of Star Trek:TNG's "The Best of Both Worlds". This event heralded the DVD release of the Next Generation television episode.

The event was a great success and many people came from all over the Bay Area. It was a one-night-only event on April 25th. By the time we received our invitation from the company, the event was sold out, except for a few seats. Our chapter had been given a few extra tickets for the event. Those tickets that were not accounted for were given away to people who could not get a seat to the event otherwise. I spoke to one gentleman to whom I gave a ticket. Dressed in my uniform, I must have seemed like a real Starfleet officer there to render aid. (At least that was how I felt.) We were pleased to be asked to do the next Fathom release at the end of June.

But this was just the beginning of what this strange group of media strategists had in store for the members of STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. here in San Francisco (home

to Starfleet Headquarters and the Academy of the future). Yet in hindsight, I think this was exactly the point. As is our Admiral's way, any opportunity should be used to the positive advantage of the club and Fleet. This being the case, the recruitment drives of April and May began for our diverse and spread-out club of 30 members.

Stardate 08515.19 or May 8, 2013

Finally, this was the day, this was the time. We had been told what to expect, but the surprises were still yet to come! We knew who was to be there, but we had no idea how cool they would be. The rules were laid out in advance. In order to participate, you had to be members in good standing with SFI, needed to have a uniform, and you needed to know just where to go. Members scrambled to get a uniform. Recruits gathered their latinum and clicked their way to www.sfi.org to join the USS Golden Gate, to get in on this special event.

It was billed as the "Star Trek Into Darkness Meet and Greet". We had been told, if we wanted to attend, to assemble before 5:30 PM at the Microsoft Store at San Francisco's Westfield Shopping Center on Market Street. We gathered, stood in line, and the rumors began. WHAT? A Pre-screening of the film? Suddenly, this became a full-blown movie premiere! We would be some of the first in the nation to see this film. Our first reports were that Kirk (Chris Pine), Spock (Zachary Quinto) and Uhura (Zoë Saldaña) were going to be in attendance. But within only a few

hours, the names were changed, and we would have the pleasure of meeting Alice Eve (Dr. Carol Marcus), Jon Cho (Hikaru Sulu), and Simon Pegg (Montgomery Scott).

Those of us who were invited to the event were escorted through a line of other pre-screener, to have our individual photos taken with the Talent. Once each of us greeted each of them briefly, a photo was taken, and then the next person got their chance. We were given a signed mini poster with all three of their signatures on it. At this point, Admiral Nottage gave us a new directive, or was it an opportunity? We were asked to gather as a group just outside the store. Onlookers took photos of us, and we loved every minute of the attention. After the photo shoot, Paramount representatives asked us to stick around a little longer. The Microsoft Store and Paramount photographers wanted the combined crews of the USS Golden Gate and the USS Loma Prieta in a group shot of us, all in uniform! I have to say that we looked quite impressive.

After the photos were taken, we were each given a business card which had a Facebook address where, a day or so later, we could view our images. I mention this because, after viewing all the images on the Microsoft Store's photo galleries, I could tell two things right away. First, we were not the only Californians to have such a meet and greet that day. LA was the first stop for the celebrities. And secondly, but most importantly, after seeing all the photos in that online gallery of places and people, I believe that our members were the most fans the stars had seen in uniform together in one place! The bright colors of

STARFLEET uniforms, the reds, bright blues and yellows, stand out among the images of other people who were dressed in the dark hues of everyday life. And we got the pre-screening where others didn't.

Alice Eve, who had been standing to the side watching us having our pictures taken, ran over and photo bombed one of our shots! That was, of course, when the photographers asked if the stars would like to get into a group shot with us. Cheers erupted from our group, and they gladly joined in. The next group of shots had Simon and Jon kicking back at the lower part of the image, and Ms. Eve standing on the left-hand side with her hand placed very casually upon a certain person's shoulder ... that person would be me, in case you had cause to wonder! After the images were taken and congratulations were given all around, Jon Cho was greeting his fans with a solid high five, as is his habit. Alice Eve also got into the act, and was smacking palms with as many people as she could, before we all got a chance to say thank you. Under the new directive of Admiral Nottage, we were guided to the screening room a floor above.

Many of the folks with whom we were in line were waiting to get their 3D glasses and be allowed into the theater and their seats. Most of us were about to settle toward the back of the line when those uniforms came to the rescue yet again! The event coordinators had given us each two wristbands before the event, one for the photo-op, and the other for the screening. So we were guided into the theater to reserved seating at the top of the screening room. Before we all got settled in for the film, the Paramount photographer asked us to all put on our 3D glasses. Then she took a few photos of us re-acting to the movie. She wanted to get the photos before the lights went out. We got exclusive permission to use the Paramount photos, some of them you are seeing here. This may be the only time you can see them in print or on the internet.

As we were waiting, it seems that there was a correspondent in the audience who should not have been there, so the media hosts would not get the film started until that person was identified and escorted from the theater. This took a

few months back. She told us how much she enjoyed visiting San Francisco and the Bay Area. One of the final things that Simon Pegg told us was that, if we enjoyed the show, we should find them at the

Alice Eve, who had been standing to the side watching us having our pictures taken, ran over and photo bombed one of our shots! That was, of course, when the photographers asked if the stars would like to get into a group shot with us.



little while, and in the meantime, Zach Perkins, CO of the USS Loma Prieta, found the first photo from the Microsoft shoot published online. Simon Pegg had posted one of the group shots on Twitter, and Zach, who follows him, showed us the first image. Of course, since Simon was in the photo himself, we assume that one of his assistants took the photo with a mobile.

The intruder was identified and escorted from the showing, so we were just about to begin, albeit 30 minutes late. But who cared at that point. The talent came out to greet us before the show once more and introduce the movie. Alice Eve told us that the final scenes of the film were given post-production sound in the Bay Area, so they had all been here only a

end and give them a hug if we liked the movie. Of course, they had gone by then, but some of us looked because we did indeed enjoy the movie.

Allied-THA, the media promotion company, allowed us to bring ourselves and others in Star Trek uniforms to another screening one week later on the BIG screen, just 24 hours before the movie was to open nationwide. This event was a bit different. This time there were 4 theaters, and 500 seats in each to give away. Paramount liked us so much the week before that they asked if other chapters could do the same. The call went out to the Bay Area! The USS Golden Gate asked the USS Augusta Ada to take on the Redwood City venue. That event was just as big and



was standing room only. The USS Golden Gate's charity, the Young Dreamer Network, was provided 50 seats for their kids and parents to see the movie. The other two venues sadly did not have enough Fleet membership nearby to do the same, so Fresno and Sacramento were on their own. However, due to the promotion machine of Allied-THA and our club, now at 46 members, got them filled and we have now seen the return of some longtime members of a former Fleet chapter, the decommissioned USS Defiance. It was great to be able to provide the Bay Area with almost 2000 free seats in REAL3D, all in the name of STARFLEET and the local chapters who were able to participate.

Those of us on the USS Golden Gate have been very lucky with this film, and our next event was hosting the movie at the local Historic Balboa Theater (www.balboamovies.com). This venue was 35mm 2D, all afternoon/evening event on Friday and Saturday for the second weekend of the movie, all co-branded with Fleet and the USS Loma Prieta. Thank you, Tom Hesser for attending.

We had a fantastic opportunity to recruit in our local area and get a few more interested parties into the club. The club negotiated a reduced rate for anyone coming to the event in uniform. They have allowed us to take over the inter-

mission time for recruitment with on-screen time as well as face-to-face discussion of why joining a fan club is fun. Our presentation is on YouTube (search for the USS Golden Gate). Many other chapters around the country were able to foster a relationship with local theaters. Ours isn't the biggest theater. It isn't the highest tech theater, YET. But it is a place of community and character, with a love of science fiction and a willingness to provide our group with much untold exposure. Here is a brief excerpt from their press release.

"Captain's Log, 5/4/3013 – San Francisco's Historic Balboa Theater is pleased to announce its imminent take-over by The USS Golden Gate, the San Francisco chapter of STARFLEET International, the world's largest network of Star Trek fans. The occupation begins on Friday, May 24th and continues through Saturday, May 25th for the 2nd weekend run of Star Trek Into Darkness."

The best time to get folks to join up is at events like this, at a community level, and the USS Golden Gate took full advantage of the opportunity. We had our uniforms, Gorn, Klingons, custom flags and fliers at the ready and prepared intermission lobby skits for the theater's audience. This is one of the best reasons to belong to our organization: what fun and friends we make all over the coun-

try and around the world at large, encompassing England, Germany, The Netherlands, Chicago, Florida, California and Hawaii, with our core right here in San Francisco!

Because of this new alliance the Balboa is working towards acquiring licensing for special showings from DVD (on the big screen) of the animated series for Saturday AM kids (young and old), and marathon showings of TOS, TNG, DS9, VOY, and ENT. They are preparing for a September week of raw science fiction as well. All to be hosted by, you guessed it, the USS Golden Gate.

I believe that Star Trek has gone beyond just entertainment, and is now an ideology; not a religion but the ideal to strive, as a species, embodying the concept of IDIC. We take this message to the community and grow as a chapter, and so can yours. The movies and the TV shows are just the convenient medium to spread the message around the world. This is the reason we thoroughly enjoy being Trekkers and members of the USS Golden Gate in San Francisco, CA, currently grown to 62 members, the largest chapter in Region 4... and with so much more to come.

Live long and party on, dudes!



IC 2014 "Time is Fleeting"
Rockford IL, August 8th - 10th, 2014

www.ic2014.com



PRIORITY MESSAGE: From IC2014 Central

STARFLEET International Conference 2014

It is an honor and a privilege to personally invite you to the STARFLEET International Conference 2014, to be held in the beautiful city of Rockford Illinois at the wonderful Clock Tower Resort on August 8th thru the 10th, 2014.

The Clock Tower Resort boasts more amenities than any other lodging option in the region. With comfortable, well-appointed guest rooms, on-property dining options, salon, giant indoor water park, outdoor pool, indoor tennis center, 30,000 square feet of flexible meeting and banquet space, and much more.

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 at an International Conference!

The theme for this IC is "TIME IS FLEETING" since 2014 is the 40th Anniversary Celebration of STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc.

Information will be added to the website as it becomes available, and we strongly encourage you to keep checking with us as 2014 approaches - we'll be posting some very exciting information between now and then.

In the meantime, if you are planning on attending IC2014, we suggest that you take this opportunity to find the IC 2014 website and check out the details as they are announced. Registration forms will be posted soon, so you can get your reservations in!

END OF TRANSMISSION