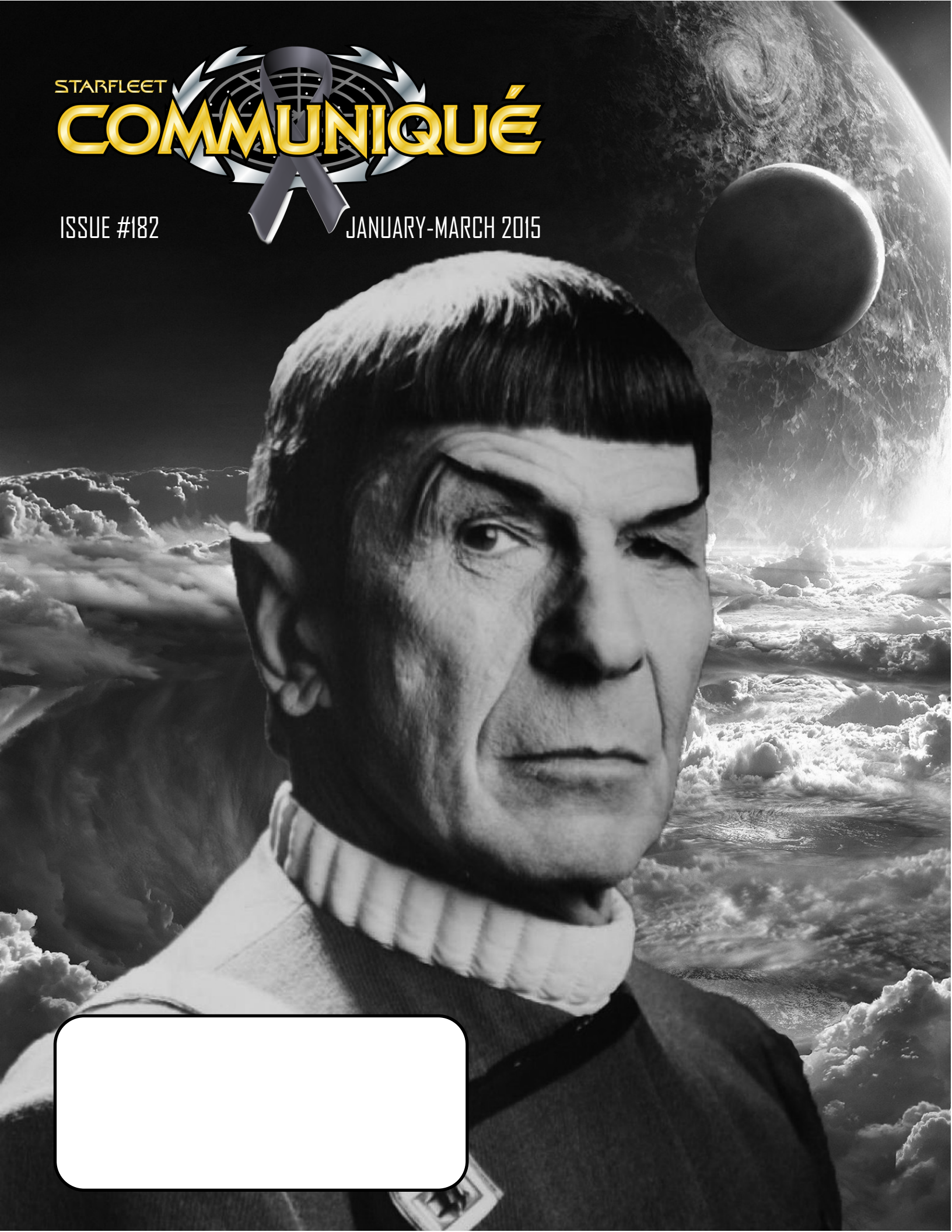


STARFLEET
COMMUNIQUE

ISSUE #182

JANUARY-MARCH 2015



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January - March 2015

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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

by **CDRE Matthew Miller,**
Communiqué Editor-in-Chief,

Hello STARFLEET and welcome to CQ 182. I regret to inform you that Commodore Michael Garcia has decided to resign as Chief of Communications. We regret his loss but the show must go on.

Luckily I've managed to put this one together in the last few weeks of December. As I am writing to all of you today I'm really proud of my first issue. I've changed a few things that have bothered me about previous editions.

Hopefully you will enjoy the complete page index at the beginning. It should be much easier to find exactly what you're looking for now. Also I've added a section for our cadets.

The Communiqué is something that should be enjoyable for all ages. We will always cover mature topics like the loss of Leonard Nimoy. That doesn't mean kids can't do science experiments with Mr. Spock.

Times change and Editors will come and go. That being said, I really hope you will enjoy my first CQ. We have some really great articles covering a wide variety of interests.

I can't say what the future of the Communiqué will be with absolute certainty. What I can say is that with members like ours we will never fail. Sometimes we have our arguments and it causes division. We should never let politics and disagreements take over and spoil our fun.

Look at the CQ for a reminder that not everything in this organization is about the individual.

The Communiqué is built by members for members and it's your best reflection. We feature stories about our chapters and regions because that's what the CQ represents.

I know many of you skim through this STARFLEET newsletter because it can be at times dry. Remembering that, I would also remind you of the outcry from our members when it's late or on the verge of becoming completely digital.

The importance of the CQ isn't in the articles and it isn't physically holding it as a recruiting tool. The Communiqué represents our common bond. This newsletter is the embodiment of the fleet mentality. Remember that when we need articles and ask for your participation.



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STARFLEET Q1 2015 Promotions & Awards

ADM Linda Kloempken, Member Recognition Administrator, USS *Czar'ak*, Region 6

From the period of January to March 2015, the following officers were promoted on the order of the Regional Coordinator or the Executive Committee, submitted for consideration by their peers using the online form at <http://www.sfi.org/promotions/>. If you know of a crewmember who is eligible and deserving of a promotion, use that form. Promotion criteria are located at <http://www.sfi.org/docs/flag-promotion-criteria.pdf>.

In STARFLEET, promotions up through the rank of Commander or Lt. Colonel, SFMC, are typically granted by the chapter Commanding Officer. Promotions to Captain or Colonel, SFMC are typically the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator. Those promotions are usually announced at the chapter and regional level. Flag Officer ranks are those of Fleet Captain (Brigadier) and above, and those promotions are voted on by the seven-member Executive Committee after reviewing nominations submitted by members. If you have any questions or concerns, you may reach me at promotions@sfi.org.

To the rank of FLEET CAPTAIN:

To the rank of BRIGADIER:

To the rank of REAR ADMIRAL:

To the rank of COMMODORE:

Michael Garcia, USS *Gygax*, R4

To the rank of BRIGADIER GENERAL:

To the rank of ADMIRAL:

STARFLEET Orders of Merit

Each Order of Merit is named based on a cultural aspect that reflects the qualities recognized in the award. Cultures used include Terran, Vulcan and other species.

Each Order has three classes — First, Second and Third. Generally, an Order of Merit, Third Class will recognize significant achievement at the chapter level, Second Class will recognize significant achievement at

the regional level, and First Class will recognize the highest level of achievement to STARFLEET. An Order of Merit, First Class, must have its nomination endorsed by a Regional Coordinator and may only be awarded by majority vote of the STARFLEET Executive Committee.

Members wishing to submit another member for recognition for any class of Order may do so at the STARFLEET Website, using the

online form at <http://www.sfi.org/merit/> or by emailing me directly at recognition@sfi.org. The webpage has a complete description of each Order for your reference, just above the form.

On the opposite page, the following STARFLEET members were submitted to Member Recognition on behalf of their Chapter, Region, or STARFLEET for acting in the best traditions representing the service-

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Orders of Merit (January to March 2015)

ORDER OF AXANAR (MEDIATION)

Third Class

Jeffrey Redmond, USS *Valkyrie*, R13

ORDER OF BABEL (RECRUITING)

Second Class

Paul C. Dyl, USS *Helen Pawlowski*, R1

Third Class

Janidean Bruner, USS *Drakonia*, R1

Stuart Griggs, USS *Lafite*, R3

Garret Manuel, USS *Lafite*, R3

Lisa Nybaek, USS *Valkyrie*, R13

ORDER OF COCHRANE (TECHNOLOGY)

First Class

Dave Blaser, USS *Hadfield*, R13

Justin Donovan, Retribution Station, R3

Michael Garcia, USS *Gygax*, R4

Laura Victor, USS *Challenger*, R7

Third Class

Anni Potts, USS *Stargazer*, R20

Jeanne Renew, USS *Star League*, R1

ORDER OF DARMOK & JALAD (OUTREACH)

Second Class

Bryan Jones, USS *Tiberius*, R2

Daniel Toole, USS *Sinclair*, R13

Third Class

Stephen Halkovic, USS *Valkyrie*, R13

Jeffrey Redmond, USS *Valkyrie*, R13

Samuel Scott Osborne, USS *Drakonia*, R1

ORDER OF DIONYSUS (ACTIVITY PLANNING)

Third Class

Lorna Bergin, USS *Iceni*, R20

GRANKITE ORDER OF TACTICS (EVENT PLANNING)

First Class

Eddie Allen III, USS *Horizon*, R12

Steven Gorner, USS *Black Hawk*, R12

Second Class

Amanda Barrow, USS *York*, R20

Lorna Bergin, USS *Iceni*, R20

Wade Larkin, USS *Revelation*, R1

Third Class

Laura Perkins, USS *Iceni*, R20

ORDER OF HAWKING (ACCESSIBILITY)

Third Class

Samuel Scott Osborne, USS *Drakonia*, R1

ORDER OF HERODOTUS (HISTORY/RECORDKEEPING)

Second Class

Justin Donovan, Retribution Station, R3

Third Class

Paul C. Dyl, USS *Helen Pawlowski*, R1

ORDER OF RODDENBERRY (STAR TREK)

Third Class

Adam Dolphin, USS *Iceni*, R20

ORDER OF S'HARIEN (INVENTIVENESS)

Third Class

Alex Everett, USS *Star League*, R1

James Carnell Eubanks, USS *Star League*, R1

Laura Perkins, USS *Iceni*, R20

Anni Potts, USS *Stargazer*, R20

Jeffrey Redmond, USS *Valkyrie*, R13

Lawrence Reeves, USS *Iceni*, R20

ORDER OF SAMARITAN (VOLUNTEERISM)

Second Class

Victoria McBride, USS *Venus*, R2

Jana Sandarg, USS *Star League*, R1

Anne Zecca, USS *Tiberius*, R2

Third Class

John Hardy, USS *Iceni*, R20

Katie Lowe-Guest, USS *Iceni*, R20

Scott A. J. Peter, USS *Alba*, R20

Lawrence Reeves, USS *Iceni*, R20

Leah Michelle Reeves, USS *Iceni*, R20

ORDER OF SURAK (SCHOLARSHIP)

Third Class

Paul C. Dyl, USS *Helen Pawlowski*, R1

Jeffrey Redmond, USS *Valkyrie*, R13

ORDER OF TARBOLDE OF CANOPIUS (WRITING)

Third Class

Laura Perkins, USS *Iceni*, R20

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Report from the Commander, STARFLEET

FADM Wayne Lee Killough, Jr., Retribution Station, Region 3

Welcome to 2015 and another fun-filled issue of the *Communiqué*! I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season back in December and a joyous (and safe) New Year's Eve. You know the old saying about starting the year off with a bang...well that is what I did. I started the year off with a bang...then a jab...then a crash...then another big bang! The week of New Year's, I was visiting my best friend back in Springfield, Missouri (which is sort of a New Year's tradition for me since moving to Texas). While I was there, I was involved in an automobile accident, was physically assaulted, and then ended the week by falling down a long flight of stairs! Apparently my brain remembered the "off with a bang" part and took it to extremes!

So after finally making it back home to East Texas, I started a very long list of doctor's visits. From medication to monitoring to therapy, I have been poked and prodded and jabbed like a voodoo doll! (Note: I made mention of someone having a voodoo doll of me in a previous issue...that was not meant to have me be turned into one personally!)

While recuperating from my accidents, I suffered two losses in my family. First, my Granny (my Dad's mother) passed away at the age of 100. Not a day goes by that I don't think about the times we had when I was growing up. Before I could even come to terms with her loss, I was notified that my Aunt Virginia (on my Mom's side) had passed away suddenly. Both services were held in South Texas (LaPorte and Baytown, respectively), so luckily no long-distance travel was necessary (as I am not sure if I could have done that during that timeframe).



I want to personally thank my Vice-Commander, Rear Admiral Hayden Segel, my Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Denine Sanders, and the VCS' Chief of Staff, Fleet Captain Robin Woodell-Vitasek, for all of their hard work while I was down. Contrary to what some thought, I was still around and still making the big decisions...I just needed hands and voices to follow through with those decisions. These three members were an asset during this time and I greatly appreciate all that they did to assist me in my time of need.

I would like to welcome Commodore Michael Garcia as our new Chief of Communications. Michael has brought a team with him to the Communications Department, including Fleet Admiral Dave Blaser as his Vice Chief and Vice Admiral Tammy Willcox as third in command of the department. They jumped in at warp speed, and got out Issues #177 - #180 in record time. We greatly appreciate all of their hard work, determination and dedication to our members, and I am glad they are onboard!

Vice Admiral Jeff Victor, as Inspector General, has been hopping the last few months with RC elections.

He has completed four since my last article. I would like to welcome back to the Admiralty Board Admiral David Kloempken representing Region 6 and Fleet Captain Daniel Adams representing Region 20. I would also like to welcome to the Admiralty Board Fleet Captain Ryan Case representing Region 2 and Admiral Richard Smith representing Region 13.

Vice Admiral Marian Murphy, our IC Liaison, and Admiral Linda Kloempken, our Director of Member Recognition, both have been going through their own medical issues. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they go through the long process of healing.

General Linda Olson and I have been working with the various states on Sales Tax compliance (ensuring taxes are paid, forms are filed on-time, etc.). I am happy to report that all filings have been made on-time as of this writing (including our annual 990, which was "OH SO MUCH FUN" filling out!!). I enjoy paperwork. I enjoy ensuring things are in order. That being said I would rather have another root canal than go through that again (as I cringe knowing I have to do it two more times... GOODY!) LOL!

My first official outing this year will be the Region 12 Summit being held in Kansas City in April. I really wanted to attend the Region 2 Summit down in Florida back in February, but physically travelling that far was sadly not an option. So Hayden once again stepped in and finally got to have some fun out of filling in for me!

Well, it's time for me to get back to paperwork...YAY! See everyone next issue!

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Report from the Vice Commander, STARFLEET

RADM Hayden Segel, USS *Potomac*, Region I

Greetings, STARFLEET!

As we welcome in the New Year and bring this first quarter of 2015 to a close, I would like to thank everyone for making 2014, our Fortieth Anniversary, a fantastic year for STARFLEET.

In early January, I received word that our Commander, STARFLEET had been injured in a car accident. Wayne's injuries, though not life threatening, were severe enough to require extended medical treatment and physical rehabilitation.

I, along with our respective Chiefs of Staff, stepped to the plate and took on many tasks normally handled by the CS. It is important to note that during this ordeal, Wayne not only made himself available to provide guidance and oversight, but was very much involved in a number of decision making processes. As of this writing, Wayne is not yet 100% recovered, but has made significant, better than expected progress.

On the 27th of February, we learned of Mr. Leonard Nimoy's passing. On two separate occa-



sions that day, I was given the opportunity to represent STARFLEET and express our deepest sympathies for the loss of Star Trek's most iconic actor.

First, I participated in a live interview with KNX 1070 News Radio, a CBS station in Los Angeles, California. Later that day, I was contacted by the Sydney Morning Herald. A telephone interview was conducted which later became a print article. Both the newspaper article and the radio interview are available online.

March drew to a close with an opportunity for me to attend the Region Two Summit in Daytona Beach, Florida and to represent the Commander, STARFLEET. I truly enjoyed this awesome, highly successful event

and I want to thank Ryan Case and Jack Eaton for their generous hospitality.

I am pleased to report a written record of every AB and ECAB meeting from 2014 has been completed and is available to the membership at large. Additionally, efforts to produce meeting minutes from calendar year 2013 are well underway. We will continue to produce these minutes along with 2015's as they happen.

A big thank you my Chief of Staff for making this happen while also keeping the ball rolling in the VCS office. And again, a big thank you as well to all of STARFLEET for everything you've accomplished in 2014 and this first quarter of 2015. I wish you all nothing but the best and look forward to months ahead!

Very Respectfully,

Hayden S. Segel
Rear Admiral
Vice Commander, STARFLEET

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The Gaming Frontier #2

**By MAJ Jeffrey Webb,
USS *Texas*, Region 3**

In our last GF column, we discussed why tabletop gaming is an excellent participatory activity for any STARFLEET chapter. Surely not every STARFLEET member is a budding role-player waiting to slay their next dragon; it is true that when it comes to games one size does not fit all. This installment of The Gaming Frontier will look at the different types of tabletop game available with an eye toward Star Trek-themed games.

Assuming everyone is familiar with traditional board and card games like blackjack and Monopoly, we'll go with the more geek-centric kinds of games that would probably appeal to the person in a Star Trek fan organization. We're going to break the games down into the categories of card games, board games, war games and roleplaying games. These categories should cover pretty much everything we're going to look at over the next few columns.

Card games are games that make exclusive or heavy use of cards as opposed to boards, dice or other components. That does not mean that they cannot use other components, but that their central component is one or more decks of cards. Card games can be quite casual and fast-playing, like *Car Wars: The Card Game* from Steve Jackson Games. They can be casual but a bit longer-playing like *Munchkin*, also from SJG, or they can be something that could take quite a few hours to complete, like *Hacker* or *Illuminati*. Within the card game classification are several genres of card game that could entertain the members of your chapter.

Arguably, the most popular kind of non-traditional card game is the collectible card game, or CCG. It is hard to

find a town of any size that does not have a comic shop holding a regular Magic: The Gathering or Pokémon night. CCGs are games where the cards are sold in blind packages, the player never knows what is in the package until

they buy and open it. Cards are released with some cards being very common and some being quite difficult to find. Players construct their card deck from the cards they own, and then play the game competitively against other players. A Star Trek CCG was published by Decipher in the 2000s, while this kind of game is very popular playing can be an expensive proposition and the games tend to favor those with more money to spend on their hobby. Still, the hobby is popular for a reason.

A spinoff of the CCG is the Deck Building game. In this type of game, all the cards needed are sold in complete sets; all the cards you need are guaranteed to be in the starter boxes and expansions, and most starter boxes support two-player play with a single purchase. A subset of those cards is used in the game. The Half Price Books chain currently has copies of *Star Trek: The Deck Building Game* in fairly common availability. To get an idea of how one would "build" a deck, imagine you could only use 20 cards out of 40 to play against your opponent.

If you have cards for Captain Kirk and Captain Pike, you might include both of those cards, or just choose the one that fits your play style better, or leave them both out and take extra ship cards because you like what the ship cards do better.

Boxed card games, like *Ninja Burger* and *Boss Monster* are games in which the deck or decks that two or

more people need to play are included in the box. These games are often for four or more players and sometimes include the use of dice and other counters. *Munchkin Deluxe* even includes a board like a board game with miniature figurines for the players, but the board is really just a place to record your score by moving the figurine to a numbered room.

So... how do I choose a game to try with my chapter? CCGs are good for one-on-one games, and it is possible to structure your games in a league-like system for in-chapter play, or encourage your members to put on their chapter t-shirt and go play at the local comic shop league night. Deck Building games are usually good for one-on-one play as well; however, boxed card games tend to be more able to handle larger groups if you're concerned about entertaining more than two players at once. Try to choose games that appeal to the interests of your crew- when in doubt, go with Star Trek, as there are Star Trek games available in the Card Game genre.

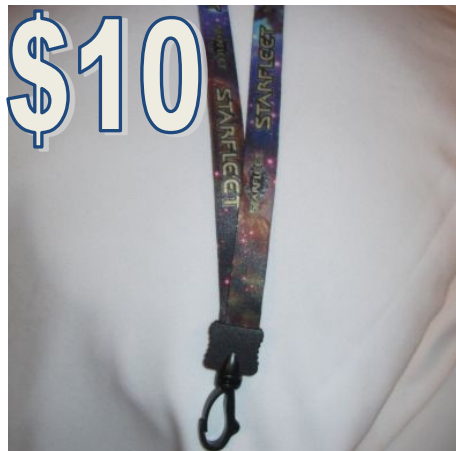
Suggestions for a fun first-time card game for Star Trek fan organization include *Star Munchkin* from Steve Jackson Games, a game of space travelers battling monsters (and each other) for fun and profit and levels, and from Weasel Pants Productions, *Red-shirts!*

The latter game sees players taking the role of starship captains attempting to have their ship's complement of red-shirts killed off in creative ways. Also of interest are the Star Trek deck building games from Bandai. All these games can be found at your Friendly Local Game Store or on Amazon.

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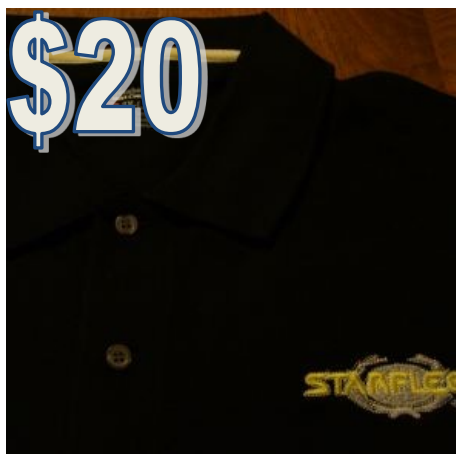
\$10

The return of the highly sought after blue Starfleet hats! These hats have arrived, and as you can see, they are really sharp. Please note that these hats have a velcro fastener in the back, so they are extremely adjustable.



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STARFLEET Messenger Bags 16" X 13" X 4" Red with White Imprint for Operations/ Engineering. Great for carrying all your "stuff" to IC, Summit or recruiting tables or just around town to make a STARFLEET Statement.



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Black 100% polyester moisture wicking material with an anti-bacterial finish to avoid any perspiration order. The inner layer of the fabric draws moisture away from the body and transfers it to the materials outer layer keeping you comfortable and dry. Material is very soft and comfortable. STARFLEET logo embroidered on left upper front.



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\$18

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

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Remembering Leonard Nimoy

Leonard Nimoy, the actor who played the character Spock, in STAR TREK – The Original Series and several subsequent STAR TREK movies died at the age of 83 on February 27, 2015 from complications of COPD. Leonard's extensive filmography was far more extensive than just being Spock, however, this is the role that defined him to generations of audiences. In addition to acting, Mr. Nimoy was an accomplished film director, directing two of the STAR TREK movies, photographer, author, singer and song writer. Leonard was born on March 26, 1931, and he began acting at the age of 8 in children's and neighborhood theaters. His grandfather encouraged his acting career, though Nimoy's parents wanted him to attend college and have a stable career. He took drama classes at Boston College and he became a fan of Konstantin Stanislavsky's method acting concepts. Nimoy enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1953, and he served for eighteen months until 1955, leaving the service with the rank of Sergeant. During part of Nimoy's military service he was with the Army Special Services division where he wrote, narrated and hosted various shows.

In 1977, Nimoy earned a Masters of Arts in Education from Antioch College. He later was awarded an honorary doctorate from Antioch University for activism in Holocaust remembrance, the arts, and the environment. He also was awarded a second honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Boston University. Nimoy acted in small parts for over a decade, prior to the



Dan Holm© (For editorial use only)

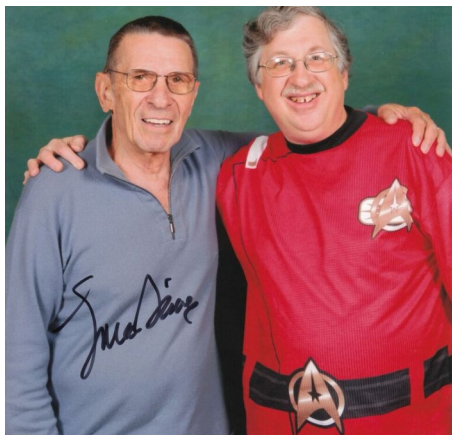
STAR TREK series playing in more than 50 small parts in television series and B movies. Some of the series he played in were Bonanza, The Rebel, Two Faces West, Rawhide, The Untouchables, The Eleventh Hour, Perry Mason, Combat, Daniel Boone, Get Smart and The Outer Limits. Nimoy first worked with his future STAR TREK co-star DeForest Kelley, in The Virginian in 1963. He first worked with William Shatner in 1964 in an episode of The Man from U.N.C.L.E. Nimoy first played the character Spock in the STAR TREK pilot episode The Cage in late 1964. The pilot was rejected and a new pilot episode was ordered, which became Where No Man Has Gone Before. Footage from The Cage was later used in the two part episodes for The Menagerie. Nimoy appeared in 80 episodes of STAR TREK, which ran from 1966 to 1969. He was nominated for three Emmy awards for Outstanding Performance by and Actor in a Supporting role from 1967 to 1969. He also lent his voice to the Spock character for 22 episodes of STAR TREK: The Animated Series. He starred in the six original

series based STAR TREK movies and directed two of these movies: The Search for Spock and the Voyage Home. He also had large roles in both of the JJ Abrams directed films: STAR TREK and STAR TREK Into Darkness. In addition to his iconic portrayal of Spock in the STAR TREK franchise, Leonard was also very well known for his work on other series, most notably, Mission Impossible in which he starred as Paris in 49 episodes during three seasons and Fringe in which he appeared in 11 episodes as Dr. William Bell. He also narrated 144 episodes of In Search of a television series devoted to mysterious phenomena, which was broadcast weekly from 1977 to 1982. Nimoy also portrayed the character Spock in a number of other series over the years, which included: Family Guy, Big Bang Theory, Futurama, and The Simpsons. He also did voice work for numerous movies and games.

In addition to his acting career, Nimoy, was a well known director, not only directing two of the STAR TREK movies, but also the well-known movie Three Men and a Baby, and a number of other movies and TV episodes. He wrote two autobiographies, I am not Spock and I am Spock. He also composed multiple volumes of poetry, some of which were published with his photographs. His photography has been exhibited in many galleries and museums in the Massachusetts area. Nimoy also released five albums, some of which he sang as the character of Spock. Nimoy was Jewish and was very active in the Jewish

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community. He spoke both Hebrew and Yiddish fluently. The infamous Vulcan salute was based on the way that Jewish priests held their hand when giving blessings and also part of the blessing was the words, "Live long and prosper". Nimoy married twice, the first time to actress Sandra Zober whom he divorced in 1987 and then to Susan Bay whom he married on New Year's Day in 1989. He had two children, Adam and Julie and stepson, Aaron and five grandchildren. He became an alcoholic while working on STAR TREK and ended up in drug rehabilitation. Nimoy's best friend was William Shatner, who played Captain James T. Kirk in the STAR TREK series and movies.



Photograph by Michael Stein

MEMBERS OF STARFLEET REFLECT ON MR. NIMOY'S LIFE AND CAREER

I've written and rewritten this log several times, never quite feeling like I'd found the right words. Here goes attempt number twelve.

"Are you okay?" seems to be the question of the day. It's the first thing people ask me in person, and the first thing people ask me via text. And the answer is no. I'm not at all okay. I'm pretty far from okay. It's been 7 days since Leonard Nimoy passed away, and I am still not okay.

And I don't know when I will be.

That, I think, is the measure of his greatness. I never met him. I've sat in on two Skype calls, but I've never seen him in person. I'm a nameless fan in the galaxy of Star Trek. But he is dead, this man I never even met, and I am not okay. I can only hope to inspire that kind of love before I leave this world.

As children watching our idols on television and in film, it never occurs to us that they're aging before our eyes. It never occurs to us that, when we are entering our thirties and forties, they might be entering their seventies and eighties. We never conceive of a day when they will no longer be alive. We become especially spoiled by shows like Star Trek, where the hero rarely ever dies, and even when he does, sometimes he doesn't stay dead. Likewise, we often don't understand their importance to us until we're grown.

I could talk about Leonard Nimoy's impact on my childhood. About how, living through the darkness of emotional and physical, abuse at the hands of my parents, "Star Trek" was one of the few cherished bright things I had.

I could talk about how, later in my life, as a bisexual teenager in a Southern Baptist family, I identified with Spock more than anyone in my "real life." I could talk about his devotion to Judaism, and how I always felt like a bad Jew who could never live up to his example. Seriously I have a plastic, light up menorah and I eat bacon shamelessly. I'm the definition of a bad Jew. I could talk about his Full Body Project, where he photographed

overweight women as if they were the societal "normal" beauties, because to him, they were. He didn't see size when he looked at them, he saw their hearts and souls and he thought they were beautiful. And he was right.

I could talk about all those things and so many more. Instead, I want to share something a little more current.

I've always had a fear of driving by myself. It's a long story, stemming from my childhood, and not something I'll go into here, but suffice it to say, it's a fear that has impacted my life. Last year, I stumbled across an advertisement for the Ottawa Comicon, where Leonard Nimoy would be doing a Skype. I knew immediately that this was something I had to do. He had retired from the convention circuit several years ago the dream of meeting him was a long gone one. This would be the next best thing. Unfortunately, I'd already spent my travel budget on plane tickets to Chicago to meet William Shatner. If I was going to go to Ottawa, I'd have to go by car, and my husband can't travel that distance. Which meant I'd have to drive myself. Alone. So I did.

Four panic attacks, three rest stop sugar binges, a check engine light, one ridiculously large bridge no one warned me about (did I mention I'm scared to death of bridges?), and a 45 minute holdover at Customs later (apparently I look like an international terrorist who just might steal Canada), I was in my room at the hotel which had lost half of my reservation. By the next

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Remembering Leonard Nimoy

day, I had figured out the check engine situation (stupid gas cap!), checked out of one hotel, into another, and was braving my first ever large convention. Did I say large? I meant LARGE. Many people. Much noise. Too crowded. Too loud. Eventually, I sat down in my seat for the Skype.

The beep-boop music of a Skype call rang over the speakers. The next second, Leonard Nimoy's face filled the screen. At that moment, everything was worth it. I sat there in awe, watching him talk and laugh with the audience. I felt like a little kid on Christmas morning, who'd just been given the best gift ever. I was able to sit in on another Skype with him at Shore Leave, later in the year. I was just as amazed, just as giddy. During that one, he sang to us. He sang. And I have the illegally-recorded video to prove it.

Since then, I've kept that momentum in July 2014 I drove to Ticonderoga, NY to become a member of the Grip and Electric team on Star Trek: New Voyages / Phase 2. I would never have achieved that, had I not been given that push by Leonard Nimoy. I think, above everything else, that is his true legacy his far-reaching impact on everyday people. We are Leonard Nimoy's legacy. Rest in peace, Leonard. You have been, and always shall be, my unicorn.

-CMDR. Marci Nichelle Jansen

USS Sirius NX- 1744

Region 07

It is still very hard to believe that Leonard Nimoy is gone. He was a very significant part of our childhood and had a tremendous influence on me. I was so fortunate to see him three times and actually meet him two of those times. To me, he was larger than life.

The first time I saw him I had taken my mom with me to Washington, DC to see him give a presentation at a theater there. She had lived with my "Spock crush" for so many years. When he was introduced and about to step out on the stage, my mom grabbed my arm and said in a very loud voice, "I feel like I'm about to see God ...". Of course, everyone sitting close to us heard her and got quite a laugh. I can still see him standing on that stage waiting for the crowd to quiet down so he could speak. The first thing he did was give the Vulcan salute and say, "Live long & prosper." It took another five minutes for order to come back to the theater! I feel so blessed to have met him.

-Adm. Linda Smith

USS Heimdal NCC-1793

Region 01

My son has strongly identified with Spock for years. He says that Vulcans are Autistic, like him, because they're logical. They don't quite understand human emotional responses. Sadly, we never got the opportunity for the two of them to meet, I eventually had a meeting with a Spock impersonator, I told him the story and he said, "Tell your son he's absolutely right. I'm a Vulcan and I have Asperger Syndrome." Made me cry. Though I never met Leonard Nimoy, I think he would have got a kick out of the story.

-LCDR. Erica Smith

USS Hyperion NX-74917

Region 20

The character of Spock had a profound impact on my life. I would be at fault not to credit Mr. Nimoy for my continued interest in space exploration and searching for the 'big picture'. Thank you, Sir, for the joy and inspiration you provided me.

-BDR Douglas Sanyo Reagan

USS Tiberius NCC-50210

Region 02

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I HAVE BEEN AND ALWAYS SHALL BE...



PUBLIC DOMAIN (NO COPYRIGHT 22 AUGUST 1967)

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YOUR FRIEND

Honor and Dishonor Among Klingons, Part Two

By LCDR Michael Caruso,
USS *Sinclair*, Region 13

Special to the Communiqué, we have a multi-part feature regarding Klingon culture from Region 13's Michael Caruso. Part Three will be featured in the next issue of the CQ.

A fine example of an honorable House, contrasted with a dishonorable house, is the House of Mogh compared to the House of Duras. The only thing that could be said to be greater than the House of Mogh's sense of honor was its loyalty to the Klingon Empire, and his to friends. When honor called, and Mogh came to the aid of the House of Huraga during their blood feud with the House of Duras, he unknowingly set into motion a chain of events that would end in the House of Mogh becoming falsely accused of dishonor through the guile and deceit of the House of Duras.

Many years after being defeated by the combined strength of those two Houses, Ja'rod, the leader of the House of Duras, orchestrated his revenge against the House of Mogh through his betrayal of the Klingon Empire to the Romulan Star Empire. Ja'rod supplied

the Romulans with the information needed for a successful surprise attack on Khitomer in 2346. Mogh and his wife were both killed in the raid. Worf, son of Mogh, and Kahlest, Worf's ghobjok (nurse) were the only known survivors of the attack. Kurn, who was an infant at the time, was under the care of friends in the House of Noggra, and also survived in secrecy for many years. Ja'rod sought to escape the massacre by cowardly fleeing shortly before the attack began, but he was unsuccessful. Whether his death was accidental, or if it was a betrayal by the Romulans, is unknown.

The dishonor of the House of Duras did not stop with Ja'rod. Duras, the son of Ja'rod, compounded the transgressions of his family, about twenty years later, by falsely accusing the House of Mogh for his own House's traitorous actions. When the Sons of Mogh were reunited aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise, Kurn informed Worf of the Duras' plot to dishonor their House. With the aid of Captain Picard, Worf was able to untangle the web of deceit, and discover that the truth was already known to key persons in the Klingon High Council.

Realizing that making this deception known to the entirety of the Empire would have dire consequences throughout all Klingon worlds, perhaps the end result being civil war, Worf opted for Discommendation. This meant that Worf, alone, since none of the High Council knew Kurn's true identity, would take the brunt of this false dishonor. Stripped of his honor, labeled a coward, and essentially a pariah and non-entity in the Klingon Empire, Worf bided his time looking forward to the day that he would be able to right the wrongs perpetrated by the House of Duras, show its dishonor to the Empire, and rein-

state the House of Mogh to its rightful place in the Empire.

That sacrifice, more than all the other acts attributed to Worf, is evidence of the depths to which the roots of Worf's honor reach. Being willing to bear that shame and ouster from Klingon society, while all the time knowing that those who orchestrated the entire situation were those who were truly at fault, demanded a great deal of character.

In the year 2367, Duras, son of Ja'rod, sunk even deeper into the mire of dishonor by slowly poisoning K'mpec, Chancellor of the Klingon High Council, in attempt to set himself at the reins of the Empire. With all the players on board the U.S.S. Enterprise it seems that it was inevitable that the truth would come out. As it was, K'Ehleyr and Alexander, Worf's mate and their young son, were part of the scenario. K'Ehleyr discovered the facts behind Worf's Discommendation and was slain by Duras in a feeble and ill-advised attempt to maintain the cover-up. Worf claimed the Klingon "Right of Vengeance" and easily dispatched the traitorous Duras. This eased the way for Gowron, the only other challenger for the position of Chancellor, to rise to the office.

The Houses of Mogh and Duras exemplify the polar extremes of the dichotomy of honor and dishonor that exists within the Klingon culture.

Gowron became the Chancellor of the Klingon High Council in the year 2367. Much intrigue surrounded the passing of the Chancellor's mantle. Duras had poisoned K'mpec, and nearly succeeded in implicating Gowron as the architect of the cowardly deed. Before his duel with Worf, Duras sought to kill Gowron, in a bombing, but failed in the attempt.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



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H.A.D.A.K., PT II.

Further controversy over the installation of Gowron brought the Klingon Empire into a civil war, the opposition being lead by Lursa and B'Etor, the sisters of Duras. With the help of Worf, his brother, Kurn, and the United Federation of Planets' unveiling a Romulan connection to the House of Duras, Gowron finally sat in the Great Hall as the uncontested leader of the Empire.

Worf's years of waiting had finally come to an end. The House of Mogh had its honor returned, and its place in the Empire was reinstated. The House of Duras was, at long last, known to the entire Empire for being the traitors that they had been for so many years, and still were to that dFor the next few years it was business as usual for the Klingon Empire. Gowron ran the Empire well. But we soon saw the first inkling of his lack of honor when he re-wrote parts of the history of the Klingon Civil War, lessening the contributions of the Sons of Mogh and Captain Picard, and bolstering his own. In other words, Gowron was a typical politician.

When the Dominion of the Gamma Quadrant began spoiling for a fight, Gowron looked to Martok, son of Urthog, to be his military advisor. But, unknown to anyone, Martok was a Dominion prisoner, and Gowron's advisor was a Dominion spy, a Changeling, bent upon leading the Empire into ruin. Once the ruse had been uncovered, and Martok escaped from the internment camp, along with Worf, the Cardassian, Garak, and Dr. Julian Bashir, he was put in command of a warship, the I.K.S. Rotarran. He was initially a bit timid as the captain of this vessel, which may be attributed to his time as a Dominion prisoner. But, with the help of Worf, he soon took control of himself, and the situation. Martok thrived in this environment and, to most of the Klingon

Empire, soon became the consummate hero of the Dominion War.

Being the paranoid politician that he was, Gowron perceived General Martok as a threat to his power, and a competitor for his position as Chancellor. Gowron, who had shown another facet of his lack of true honor when he cowardly killed a challenger, virtually using Worf as a shield while Worf was trying to halt the fight, rather than step back until Worf had gotten out of the way, furthered his dishonor by taking over the position as leader of the fleet from Martok, and purposely sending Martok on missions that might cost him his life, along with the lives of many other members and ships of the Klingon Defense Force.

This not only gives evidence of Gowron's lack of honor, it shows him to be a terrible judge of character. Where others saw a Klingon whose most intimate desires were to protect and serve the Empire, Gowron only saw someone who was admired by the majority of the Klingon people, someone who was a better soldier, and a better Klingon than he could ever be, and therefore a threat.

Gowron's greatest nightmare came to life when Worf could no longer stomach the dishonorable actions of the Chancellor. Worf challenged Gowron, and handily defeated him, earning the right to the title of Chancellor. But Worf had no desire to be the leader of the Klingon Empire, and he put forth the argument that Martok (perhaps the only one who coveted the office less than Worf) was the only and correct choice to be Gowron's successor. One would think that this would all bode well for the Klingon Empire, but there was another Klingon, one without the slightest shred of honor, who was soon to make an indelible impression upon Martok's life... his illegitimate son, Morjod...(Continued in 183)

Welcome to PETFLEET!

**By Commodore Lee Vitasek,
Director, PETFLEET**

STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association is proud to bring its members PETFLEET! STARFLEET has members worldwide that have united in the appreciation of the human adventure that is Star Trek. However, STARFLEET believes that adventure should not only be limited to humans. That is why STARFLEET created PETFLEET, to share that adventure with our pet and mascot friends.

It's time for you and your best friend to serve side by side, explore the unknown, face perilous dangers and experience the thrills of a mission's success. You can set out on a voyage of exploration where you and your best friend can explore strange new worlds, seek out new life and new civilizations, and to boldly go where no other pet has gone before.

PETFLEET members include living animals, stuffed mascots, and other so loved companions. It is a free membership that comes with a certificate, PCC number, welcome letter, quarterly newsletters, as well as the opportunity to interact with other pet parents via both Facebook and Yahoo Group pages.

Join us on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/1Kx768c> or join us on Yahoo Groups: <http://yhoo.it/1CfQiA9>. You will find applications to join in both locations, or you can email direct at petfleet@sfi.org.

PETFLEET members will not have voting rights, count for chapter manning levels, or receive the Communiqué.

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USS WERNHER VON BRAUN: REPORTING FROM NERDCON

**By PO2 Jenni Moody &
CRMN David Newsome,
USS *Wernher Von Braun*, Region 2**

Members of the STARFLEET Wernher von Braun chapter in Huntsville, Alabama recently participated in NerdCon, a local fandom and fantasy convention held at the Huntsville Madison County Public Library in October 2014. David Newsome and Jenni Moody participated in seminars to support NerdCon and represent Star Trek.

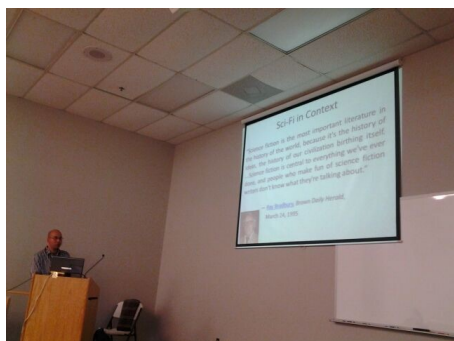
David gave a presentation, Doc Brown, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Hoverboard, where he gave a brief history of futurism found in science-fiction literature and cinema, citing many of the original authors that founded science-fiction, then including many examples from the favorites of fandom. Discussion was made of tech-

nological and cultural predictions found in *Back to the Future*, 1984, *Brave New World*, *Minority Report*, and *Blade Runner*.

A number of examples also used *Star Trek* to describe how science-fiction has predicted technological achievements that later came true. Many of the technological achievements made in recent decades were demonstrated to be featured in *Star Trek* episodes, such as communicators predicting mobile phones and tablets, visors worn by Geordi LaForge and Benjamin Sisko predating Google glasses, replicators utilized daily by crew members resembling 3-D printing technology currently funded by NASA, and even how tractor beams on star ships inspire current state of the art physics research. Footage and images of *Star Trek* were presented to clearly illustrate the ex-

amples. Judging by audience reaction, many of the viewers left with a better appreciation of how science-fiction has been, by design, a harbinger of things to come.

Jenni participated in a public reading with the Science Fiction Writers and Cake Appreciation Society, reading her flash fiction story *How to Break Up With Your Zombie Boyfriend*. She also gave a presentation entitled *Residential Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing Workshops*, based on her experiences at Clarion West and Kij Johnson's *Beginning Novel Workshop*. Residential workshops of two to six weeks were recommended to writers as a way to quickly develop their writing abilities, make valuable friendships, and meet new writing mentors. Attendees were entered in a free drawing to win a short story critique and copies of books.



David Newsome of USS Wernher von Braun giving a talk linking science-fiction and futurism to technological achievements at NerdCon.

(Photograph by Jenni Moody)



Jenni Moody of USS Wernher von Braun presenting a sample of her science fiction writing efforts at NerdCon.

(Photograph by Sandy Kritner)



Jenni Moody (far right) of USS Wernher von Braun and other science fiction writers convene at their NerdCon writer's panel.

(Photograph by Sandy Kritner)

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STARFLEET MEDICAL

Colonel Gregory Fant, STARFLEET Surgeon General, USS Tiberius, R02

STARFLEET Medical (and the STARFLEET Medical Corps) is community health and home safety group that is oriented toward volunteer service. STARFLEET Medical is not a policy-making body.

On the following pages that comprise this website, you will find information, primarily, designed for members of the Medical Corps and like-minded individuals in the STARFLEET International fan club.

We share club information along with community health education and home safety information. The community health and home safety are not intended for medical diagnosis and treatment.

The Activity Areas of the STARFLEET Medical Corps pertain to being a resource to the various SFI Regions (especially those without a regional leader for medical/health sciences) on topics related to community-level health promotion, home safety, and related community service. In collaboration with SFI Regions, we are able and willing to assist with the following:

1. Promote community health, home safety, and related community service activities in keeping with the vision of the late-Gene Roddenberry by being dedicated to helping humankind attain noble goals and ideals and operationalize the "let me help" principle set forth in the TV series.
2. Provide each chapter and by extension, each member, support to further



PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGE

public health and medical knowledge along with fire prevention, rescue, and home safety and/or programs for the chapter/individual.

3. Encourage and support chapters/ members to seek and obtain CPR/First-Aid training and to promote these and related training in their communities.
4. Assist IC and/or local Regional Summit planning activities and efforts by offering to support brief "Medical Panel" presentations and provide public health/medical and fire prevention/ rescue/home safety information at IC and/or local Regional Summits.

Annual Description

For 2015, the 120+ members of the STARFLEET Medical Corps endeavor to help like-minded STARFLEET Members in the SFI Region to realize the following:

1. To collaboratively host at least two medical panels on an agreed-upon topic at venues throughout the Fleet in 2015.

2. To offer and host a modest health promotion activities which like-minded individuals in the SFI Regions can develop and participate in for their mutual benefit.

3. To encourage all members of the STARFLEET Medical Corps to share at least two, information pieces with SFI Regional leaders in the health sciences for the benefit of the SFI Region.

Collectively, these are just examples of the types of collaborative activities of the STARFLEET Medical Corps. The specifics depend upon the needs of the various SFI Regions.

Check out the new website for details:
<http://starfleetmedical.org/>

Please contact if interested in sharing part of your time and talent with us. Here's our email address:
medical@sfi.org

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STARFLEET Operations Report

ADM Robert Westfall, Chief of STARFLEET Operations, ISS *Katana*, Region 6



REPORTING STATS FOR JANUARY 2015

MSRS RECEIVED: 206

MSRS MISSING: 36

TOTAL CHAPTERS: 242

REPORTING %: 85.12% of all chapters

CHAPTERS LAUNCHED

USS Gallifrey(R01) - 19 January 2015

USS Pharoah(R20) - 19 January 2015

CHAPTERS COMMISSIONED

USS Alaster(R07) - 24 January 2015

CHAPTERS DECOMMISSIONED

USS Asteria(R04) - 01 January 2015

REGION	MEMBERS (CHANGE)	CHAPTERS (CHANGE)
01	973 (+13)	50(+1)
02	583 (-9)	33(0)
03	521 (-2)	27(0)
04	432 (-1)	19 (-1)
05	164 (+3)	9 (0)
06	125 (+3)	9 (0)
07	588 (+28)	27 (-1)
08	8 (0)	1 (0)
09	33 (-2)	3 (0)
10	54 (+11)	2 (0)
11	131 (-11)	5 (0)
12	376 (-13)	25 (0)
13	117 (-3)	7 (0)
14	0 (0)	0 (0)
15	172 (-5)	10 (0)
16	0 (0)	0 (0)
17	164 (-5)	8 (0)
18	4 (-1)	0 (0)
19	0 (0)	0(0)
20	214 (+16)	7 (+1)
00 & 99	4 (+3)	0 (0)
TOTAL	4,663 (+26)	242(0)

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STARFLEET Communications Report

CDRE Matthew Miller, Chief of STARFLEET Communications, USS *Alaric*, Region I



Admiral Mary Kane our Senior Copy Editor. She is the one that will be correcting that STARFLEET grammar.



The retired guy that never quite retired. FADM Dave Blaser our Facebook Admin.



This is Commodore Matthew Miller in the burger king crown and expressions of vader t-shirt. He's your new Chief of Communications.



Commander Kevin Plummer our Layout Editor. Kevin has been in charge of the Region 1 newsletter and will make a great addition.



Professional time traveler and Director of Public Relations, Admiral Brandt Heatherington.



This is my Vice Chief Brigadier Duncan Cameron. He will be keeping us on schedule with STARFLEET Marine Corps precision. Behind every great leader is a Marine with a phaser rifle.



The lovely Liz Woolf is our business list moderator. Don't let that smile fool you she will shut your thread down.

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STARFLEET Academy Report

ADM Peg Pellerin, Commandant of Starfleet Academy USS *Constitution*, Region 15

Wow, another year has gone by. I now start my 8th year as your Commandant to STARFLEET Academy. Do I tire of being in this position? I'd be fibbing if I said no. We all get those days where we'd just like to walk away, but then I look at how much work everyone at the Academy has put through for the membership and there you have it, the membership. That's why I'm still here. I enjoy being a big part of what I feel is a major place for the membership to have fun.

The Academy has grown quite a bit since I took on as 'Dant back in 2008. It hasn't happened because I'm in charge of this fabulous part of STARFLEET, it has happened because of all the individuals who enjoy adding on more enjoyment for the membership. I just sit here looking good because of all the hard work by the team of SFA.

I look forward to another year and all the surprises that will come along because there is no end to the imagination and what folks enjoy creating.

CADET STAR AWARD

Paul Dyl received the Cadet Star Award for completing OCC with distinction. OCC is an adult based Academy college. Congratulations, Paul.

FEATURED COLLEGES:

STARFLEET ACADEMY ORIENTATION COLLEGE

The STARFLEET Academy Orientation College (SAOC) presents all of the instructions and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) developed over time for students wishing to take courses at STARFLEET Academy and for Directors and Deans to administer their Colleges and Institutes. Each level will be sent out as a unit, when the application is received.



Prerequisites:

Successful completion of the entire 100-level curriculum is the prerequisite for taking courses in the 200-level curriculum and successful completion of the entire 200-level curriculum is the prerequisite for taking courses in the 300-level curriculum. The prerequisite procedure will inform every participant in the Academy experience of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and rules at each level.

-Admiral Peg Pellerin, Director
admiralpeg@gmail.com

Andorian Orientation College

Hello and welcome to the Andorian Orientation College at STARFLEET Academy. Here at the AOC, we have a small but very informative curriculum about our system and culture, rituals and government, among other subjects, open to all pink skins and other aliens throughout the Known Universe. So, come one, come all to the Institute of Alien Studies and learn all about the Andorians.

Fleet Captain Lee Vitasek, Director
theandorians@gmail.com

Ferengi Orientation College

Remember Ferengi Rules of Acquisition number 284? You don't!? It states: "Deep down everyone's a Ferengi." All the more reason why you need to come and attend the Ferengi Orientation College at the Academy.

Quark and I would really like hearing from you. And remember Acquisition number 58: "There is no substitute for success."

-Fleet Captain Lee Vitasek, Director

College of Food Knowledge

Greetings from the College of Food Knowledge. Here at the CFK, the student will be tested on various foods from around the world, from general facts to almost unknown trivia.

This is a fun yet informative college where you could possibly learn something on a variety of foods from nuts to herbs and spices to vegetables to cheese.

-Fleet Captain Lee Vitasek, Director

Riddle me this!

Last Issue's riddle:

It can move over water,
But cannot fly.
It can move under water,
But stay quite dry

ANSWER: SHADOW

NEW Riddle:

It can pierce the best armor,
And make swords crumble with a rub.
Yet for all its power,
It can't harm a club.

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Boothby Awards:

January - March 2015

4600 - USS Calisto

FCPT Franklin Newman III

4150 - USS Ambassador

ADM Carol Thompson

3500 - Narendra Star

FCPT Josephine Fisher

3000 - Ceti Alpha Star

VADM Glendon Diebold

2950 - Cestus Star

LGEN Larry Dale French, Sr.

2500 - Bellatrix Star

RADM George Ann Wheeler

2050 - Acamar Star

COMM Eric Johannson

2000 - Omega Star

COMM Eric Johannson

1900 - Ruby Star

COL Adam Walter Wenclewicz

1850 - Sapphire Star

COL Adam Walter Wenclewicz

1650 - Topaz Star

VADM Richard W. Hewitt

1550 - Amber Star

ADM Patricia Lewis

1300 - Dilithium Star

CAPT Donald Dobrin

1200 - Latinum Star

FCPT Jill Michelle Tipton

750 - Pearl

COL Leo A. Rogers

700 - Amethyst

COL Stephen Satonick

600 - Garnet

CMDR David Paul Goldsberry

550 - Amber

CAPT David Hines

CMDR Elizabeth Worth

500 - Trilithium

BDR Betty Ann Leverage

COMM Bryan R. Jones

450 - Platinum

LCDR Michael J. Caruso

MGEN Michael John Timko III

ENS James William Ferguson

VADM Debbie French

400 - Zirconium

ENS James William Ferguson

RADM Paul C. Dyl

ADM Carolyn Donner

CMDR Pamela Marie Nery

350 - Titanium

ENS James William Ferguson

VADM Darlene Harper

LTC David W. Anderson, Jr.

SMAJ John David Radle

CAPT Aleksander Rodner

LCDR David Phillips

300 - Dilithium

COL Jared K. Fielder

CAPT Aleksander Rodner

250 - Diamond

Brian L. Gilbert

CMDR Luis Rodriguez Pinto

LT Jude Peace

LCDR Allen Arthur Anderson

CMDR Steve Hamilton

MAJ Gary D. Christeson

ADM David Almon Miller

200 - Latinum

ADM David Almon Miller

ENS3C Donald Ray Arnold

COMM Janice R. Graham

150 - Gold

ADM David Almon Miller

CAPT Edward McQueen II

LT Angela C. Spugnardi

2LT Rayne Vitasek

CAPT Ralph Alden Brigham

CAPT Christopher Johnson

100 - Silver

ENS Warren John Thompson

LTJG Angela C. Spugnardi

Howard Lyle Helmer, Jr.

2LT Michael McCarthy

ENS John Bevan

RADM Karen Mitchell Carothers

CAPT Ralph Alden Brigham

50 - Bronze

CPO Beverly Anne Lighthouse

LTC T'anna Jami Harrington

CRMN Chad Griffiths

LCDR Brian Andrew Crist

LCDR Maryse Quinn

CAPT David Sladky

2LT Charles Phillips, Sr

ENS John Bevan

LT Kevin Murray McNeillie-Welsh

CAPT Ralph Alden Brigham

LT Jonathan Darnell

MCPT Craig T. Kamikawa

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STARFLEET Computer Operations Report

ADM Laura Victor, Chief of STARFLEET Computer Operations, USS *Challenger*, Region 7

Happy 2015! I hope you've all enjoyed the holidays, we at CompOps are very excited about the coming year.

For 2015, our main priority is going to be the migration of our SFI sites to a new Web host. As you may know, we have been in the process of selecting a new Web hosting service for sfi.org's Web sites, email and discussion lists, and the list of requirements has been daunting to say the least. Here's what we were looking for:

Hosting for unlimited sites and email addresses Unlimited bandwidth Provide multiple FTP and database users to accommodate a large team of SFI web administrators Excellent security and anti-spam tools No blocking from popular email services (AOL, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) Excellent customer service (including chat and phone, not just email) All this at a reasonable price



Needless to say it was a tall order, and a long search, and after trimming the candidates down to a short list and opening trial accounts to get a feel for their services, I chose a recommended host from a fellow SFI Webmaster, Site5. After approval by the Admiralty Board, we got started on moving over our Web sites, starting with our smaller sites like Region 6, 13 and 15, the Helpdesk, and the Quartermaster.

Next we'll be migrating over our email addresses and lists, a long manual process of migrating archived messages going as far back as 2005, and getting our main web sites migrated – www.sfi.org, STARFLEET Academy, the Marines

sites and the Member Database. Once those are completed, we can cancel Dreamhost and be rid of it for good.

In addition to the migration, we have also made security a priority for our Web sites; even on a new Web host with a much better reputation for security, there's more to keeping your site safe than that. With the hiring of James Ortega in the fall as our new security specialist, CompOps has enjoyed a much safer, smoother operation of SFI.org.

Speaking of hiring: we are still looking for new talent in CompOps. We're hiring for a broad range of skill sets – if you're a talented coder, graphic designer, or just great with Facebook, there's a place for you to shine in our department. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please contact me at compops@sfi.org and show me what you can do!

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STARFLEET Financial Report

GEN Linda Olson, Chief Financial Officer



I have mailed the checks to the charities for the IC 2014 and the checks have been cashed. I have received a receipt from both the Museum and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

I still have several (the number is now around 12) members listed in PENDING that the CFO's Office cannot process. Laura Victor sent me word that she was working on these

I've received a notice from Stamps.com that the postage rates are going up again as of June 1st, 2015. This change will affect Membership Processing more than the CFO Office.

I will be getting the remaining items entered into QuickBooks in the next week or so. Most all accounts are up to date as of March 1st; however the main account is not and I will need to spend considerable time entering those figures, as they require a breakdown of the PayPal transfers according to MP, QM, donations, taxes, postage, and fees.

	January	February and March
STARFLEET Main Checking Account		
Opening	\$50,775.57	\$47,557.29
Credits	\$3,592.28	\$4,672.50
Debits	\$227.02	\$13,171.02
Closing	\$54,120.83	\$39,058.82
IC Even Account		
Opening	\$907.56	\$907.56
Credits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Debits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Closing	\$907.56	\$907.56
IC Odd Account		
Opening	\$2,127.04	\$2,568.30
Credits	\$500.00	\$500.00
Debits	\$29.95	\$29.95
Closing	\$2,627.04	\$3,038.35
SFMC Checking Account		
Opening	\$6,209.99	\$5,8669.67
Credits	\$242.50	\$519.04
Debits	\$194.29	\$87.59
Closing	\$6,015.70	\$6301.12
STARFLEET Scholarships Savings Account		
Opening	\$1,211.06	\$1,211.12
Credits/Interest	\$0.03	\$1,013.05
Debits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Closing	\$1,211.09	\$2224.17
SFMC Scholarship Savings Account		
Opening	\$2,729.30	\$2,729.39
Credits/Interest	\$0.05	\$0.04
Debits	\$0.00	\$0.00
Closing	\$2,729.35	\$2,729.43
STARFLEET Scholarship CD		
Current Balance	\$1,117.20	\$1,117.26
Rate	0.03%	0.03%
Matures On	2015-02-15	2015-02-15
STARFLEET Savings CD		
Current Balance	\$17,036.36	\$17,037.74
Rate	0.08%	0.08%
Matures On	2015-06-30	2015-06-30

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CADET CORNER

Welcome Cadet,

I am Commander Spock of the USS Enterprise. Right now I am teaching at STARFLEET Academy and I will be your science instructor. We will be doing one experiment per visit. Does anyone know why we experiment? That's right, to find answers to the questions we have about the universe.

Our first experiment will be a primitive homemade projector. You will need the permission of your parents.

Materials

- Cardboard box
- Smartphone
- Packing tape
- Magnifying glass
- Utility knife
- Scissors
- Parents permission

Experiment

1. On one of the "short" ends of the box, trace around the magnifying glass.
2. Use the utility knife to cut the traced circle out of the box.
3. Cut off the short flap opposite of your recently cut hole.
4. Fold the flap into a small phone prop.
5. Slide the stand inside of one of the short flaps in the bottom of the box to hold it in place.
6. Tape the magnifying glass over the hole you previously cut out.
7. Set your screen to a landscape orientation.
8. Place your phone upside down with a video playing into the box. Seal the box with packing tape.

Turn off all the lights, grab a snack, and enjoy the show! (Preferably Star Trek: The Original Series).

How Does It Work?

Everything seems to be backwards while you build the Homemade Projector. You put your phone in the box upside-down. The magnifying glass is smaller than the screen. It just seems weird, right?

Let's start with your upside-down phone. Have you ever heard that we ACTUALLY see our world upside-down? Well, the Homemade Projector can help visualize this concept. The human eye has a lens much like the magnifying glass attached to your projector. The lens flips the image through refracting the light from the phone's screen just like your eye does the light from the world. While our brain knows to flip the image back to it's correct orientation, the wall doesn't. That's why you have to set your phone in the box upside-down.

But how about that screen? It's way bigger than the magnifying glass lens! This works because of the shape of the lens: convex. A convex lens has a shape where the sides bend outwards, rather than inwards like a concave lens. The shape of a convex lens allows it to catch, bend, and focus more space from inside of the box.

Once you create an atmosphere dark enough by turning off all the lights, the magnifying glass will gather and focus all the light it can from the box. The result is your Homemade Projector!

If you are interested in learning something else from STARFLEET Academy there are a number of courses you may take. Ask your parents to go to the STARFLEET Academy website and request a course.

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



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STARFLEET SCHOLARSHIP FUND

WWW.SFI.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Scholarships are awarded in amounts of up to \$1,000 based on number of applicants and availability of funds. APPLICANTS MUST BE A STARFLEET MEMBER AND MUST HAVE BEEN A STARFLEET MEMBER FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE. The application period runs from January 1 through June 15 of each year. June 15 is the Application Deadline. At our annual International Conference each summer, the scholarship winners are announced for the next academic year beginning in the fall semester.

Over the years, the number and variety of our Scholarships have changed. The following is a list of the current Scholarships that STARFLEET offers:

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY – James Doohan/Montgomery Scott Engineering & Technology Scholarship
This very popular Scholarship covers any field related to engineering and other fields of study involving technology, computer science, etc.

MEDICINE & VETERINARIAN – DeForest Kelley/Dr. Leonard McCoy Memorial Medical & Veterinarian Scholarship

This is for medical studies of both humans and animals and is awarded for programs in medical school, nursing school, physical therapy, pre-med, EMT-Paramedic, surgical technician, biomedical technician, and the study of veterinary medicine.

ARTISTIC – Gene Roddenberry Memorial/Sir Patrick Stewart Scholarship for Aspiring Writers & Artists

This is for all those studying acting, dance, music, writing, literature, or for skills and training relating to the media, graphic artists, film making, etc.

BUSINESS/MANAGEMENT/EDUCATION – Armin Shimerman/George Takei/LeVar Burton Scholarship for Business, Language Studies & Education

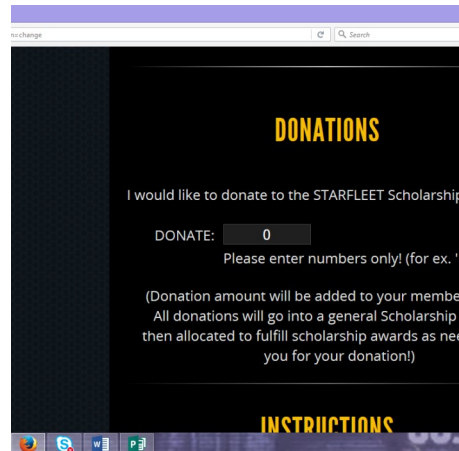
This Scholarship is for business and management studies, the study of foreign languages or studies abroad, and for teaching.

MISCELLANEOUS – Space Explorers' Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship honors the Apollo, Shuttle Challenger, and Shuttle Columbia astronauts and Russian cosmonauts that have died to further our efforts in space exploration. It is a "general duty" scholarship and applies to all courses of study not mentioned in the other 4 Scholarships. If scholarship applicant's field of study does not quite match up with one of the other scholarship types, they may be awarded this one.

**Think about it,
if every
member made
a \$1 donation
to the
scholarship
fund each
year, we could
fully fund the
program.**

When you renew, look for this box.

A screenshot of a web browser window showing a donation form. The title bar says "exchange". The page has a dark background with yellow text. At the top, it says "DONATIONS". Below that, it says "I would like to donate to the STARFLEET Scholarship". There is a "DONATE:" label followed by a text input field containing the number "0". Below the input field, it says "Please enter numbers only! (for ex. ". At the bottom, it says "INSTRUCTIONS". The browser's address bar shows "exchange" and there are search and refresh icons. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom with icons for Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and other applications.

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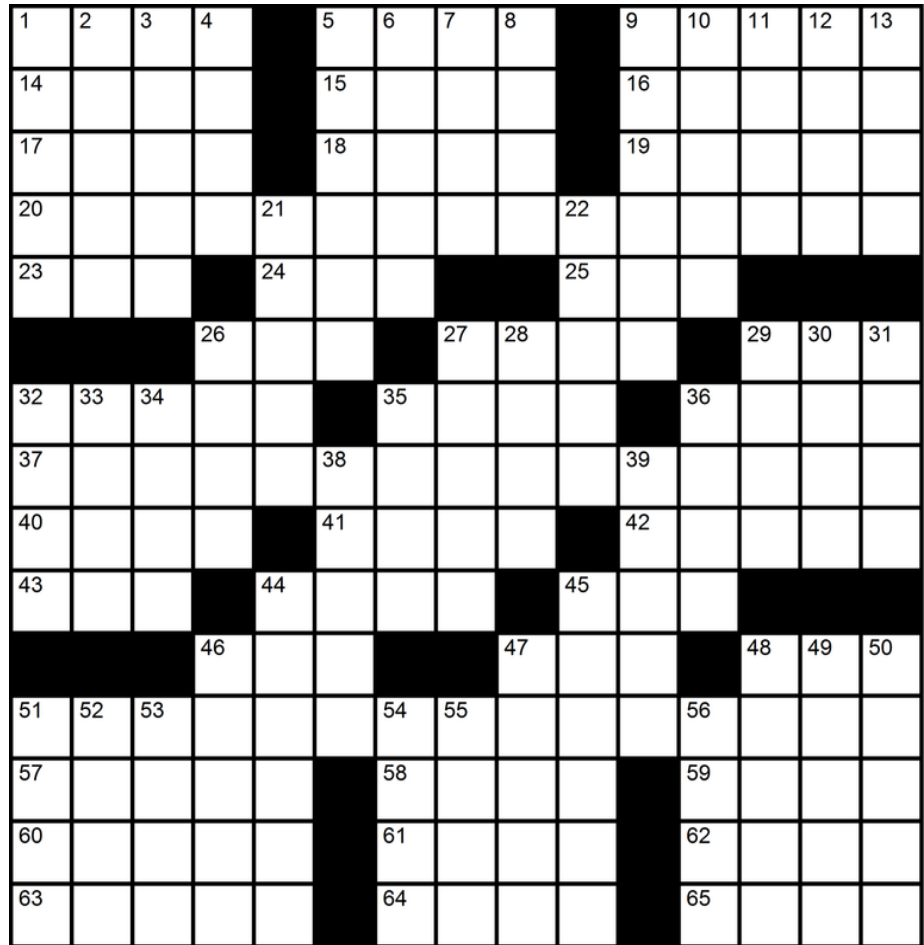
CQ Crossword #182

Across

1. "Yes, ___"
5. "Where the heart is"
9. Early time
14. ___ fruit
15. During
16. Job
17. Big laugh
18. "Peter Pan" dog
19. Sister of B'Etor and Duras
20. DS9 Actor (Quark)
23. ___-tzu
24. Assent
25. Bank offering, for short
26. Elephant's weight, maybe
27. ___ nut
29. Affranchise
32. Citadel student
35. Game name
36. Almond
37. DS9 Actor (Bashir)
40. Bombard
41. Discordia's Greek counterpart
42. Conventions
43. Athletic supporter?
44. Small songbird
45. Juliet, to Romeo
46. "Come to think of it ..."
47. Half-brother of Tom Sawyer
48. Car accessory
51. hunched forward
57. Propelled a boat
58. Eye
59. Buddhist concept of higher being
60. Brace
61. Economical
62. Adjudge
63. Cut
64. To be transmitted or conveyed
65. The "A" of ABM

Down

1. Big picture
2. Ancient assembly area
3. "Remember the ___!"
4. Female member of the Onlies; TOS episode title
5. Seven of Nine's surname



6. 1935 Triple Crown winner
7. Pee wee
8. ___ cheese
9. The white of the eye
10. TOS Communications Officer
11. "Cheers" regular
12. "Major" animal
13. French surgeon Jules-Emile ___
21. 10-Down's first name
22. ___ O'Brien
26. Sermon basis
27. Author and Journalist Joe ___
28. "One of ___" (Willa Cather novel)
29. Lieutenant commander (abbr)
30. Ashtabula's lake
31. Yanks
32. Captain (navy, abbr)
33. On the safe side, at sea
34. Drop
35. Commodore (US Navy, abbr)
36. Bajoran First Minister Shakaar

38. Major Kira ___
39. TOS episode with illogical androids
44. Walk unsteadily
45. Mum
46. Contemptuous look
47. Vidiian Chief Surgeon
48. "Never turn your back on a ___"; Both a planet and a race
49. Face with a layer of stone or concrete
50. Bajoran Kai Winn ___
51. "ER" doctor
52. "@#%\$!," e.g.
53. Fertilizer of ammonia and carbon dioxide
54. Holidays (Brit, informal)
55. Arch type
56. Icelandic epic

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ATTENTION ON DECK!

JANUARY - MARCH 2015

State of the STARFLEET Marine Corps

GENERAL Michael J McGowan, Commandant SFMC

Greetings Marines,

Its been a while since I was able to talk to you all in this form. My email problems have, thankfully, finally been resolved. I'm seriously hoping nothing like this takes place again.

First off, I want to mention that the Commandant's Campaign Awards for the 2014 calendar year have been delayed somewhat due to the email problems I was experiencing. I hope to have that list finalized and the awards issued soon.

Second, I'm creating a post in the Commandant's office to assist marines in solving problems specific to members outside of the United States. This Special Assistant post will be responsible for receiving these issues from marines, doing the research to find out what can be done to resolve them, and getting proposals ready and in the pipeline for approval and implementation. Some things we just can't do. Some things we can. Until we know the details its hard to determine which is which.

Persons interested in applying to serve in this post must meet the following standard requirements:

All members of the staff of the Office of the Commandant must be at least 18 years of age be identified in the STARFLEET database as Marines (either Reserve or Active)



You must have completed the following courses: OTS (OCC is recommended); PD-100 and PD-201 an Officer rank is not specifically required.

Specific circumstances of this post add the following requirements for successful applicants:

Email service that is checked, at a minimum, daily
be a member of a Brigade outside of the contiguous United States
be a resident outside of the contiguous United States

I will be accepting applications from those interested in this post until Midnight (Central Daylight Time) on 27 APRIL, 2015 and expect to announce an appointment to the post shortly thereafter.

Summit season is upon us again. Marines are reminded that, according to the current MFM, "although only certain persons can actually authorize each of these awards, they can be nominated by anyone in the Chain of Command". Nominations for all level of awards may come from any source. If you are, or know, a marine deserving of recognition you should nominate. There have been some issues with the online nomination forms on the SFMC site. Those issues are being investigated for repair. In the meantime, if you have difficulty using the online form, your Brigade OIC has text version of the forms that can be used and sent to the appropriate issuing authority. Be as detailed as possible when telling what action is deserving of recognition. It really helps out if all the information required is included in the first attempt at nominating.

Finally, and still on the subject of Summits. If you wish to have me or any member of the GS speak at your Brigade Muster, contact us and we'll do what we can to set it up. In many cases, we won't be able to be there in person, but we are happy to make ourselves available to speak remotely if at all possible.

That's all I have for right now. Talk to you again soon.

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Office of the Deputy Commandant

GEN Jim Monroe, DEPDANT, SFMC

It would seem that a good portion of the country is digging out of their winter covering of several inches to several feet of snow.

Figure that one out, but do keep faith. The sun shall come out again and the world will be warm once again! This is true.

With all this free time you have on your hands during your winter lingering in

can be put to good use by squaring away your SFMC uniforms.

With the Spring

comes all the Regional events that come with it, you will need to have your Uniform taken care of and looking sharp as a Marine should.

Double check your ribbons, making sure you are current and that they're in the proper order, easy to make mistakes on so check the Manual to make sure.

Sharpen those creases on your pants; clean all the lint of your covers. Look the part of a squared away Marine!

Also with the Spring comes the need for submission of the Valor and Honor Awards.

Yes, it is almost that time of year again. Rank order your Marines



and honor those who have excelled well beyond what is normally expected of a Marine and see that he or she is recognized for their actions. And DO NOT forget your Cadets while doing this!

This is one of the few times in which the Marines can call out their "A" Team for the entire Corps/Fleet to see what they have been doing during the past year in the name of their Unit and for the Corps. Do not let this change slip by to commend your Marines.

As always take pictures of your events and submit them for the SFMC Newsletter. We can always use more articles to show what the Star Fleet Marine Corps has been doing around the world.

I do look forward to seeing all of you PROUD MARINES in-

volved in promoting the merits of the SFMC in your activities. You all are Marines by choice, so be proud of it and show what it means to be a member of the finest organization in STARFLEET the Starfleet Marine Corps!

Till the next time..

Gen. Jim Monroe

Dep Dant

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State of FORCECOM

BGN Jari James, COFORCECOM, 503rd MSG, 5th Brigade

As you were, Marines

I'm coming to you from the converted closet space behind the data storage area off in one of the ground vehicle hanger bays that I'm currently using as a temporary office. Why not at my regular desk? Caldwell Station is in the process of moving. Not a big massive move like something totally out of the local star system. It's simply moving to another set of buildings across the compound from where my office usually is. But I'm thinking it would be an easier move if it were to a whole 'nother planet. At least there you call in a Transportation Company to load up and move your stuff. Here it's a pallet load of this stuff now and a flatbed load of that stuff later along with a side order of 'Did you 'really' need the power system connected by Friday?'

[What that all means in the Common Tongue is I'm in the process of moving across town from the place I'm currently renting to the place I've bought.]

With the above said, I always make a concerted effort to answer every email within 24 hours with the understanding that out of 24 time zones, this means I could be getting an email from any of 18 different time zone on any given day. [I've removed zones UTC+3 through UTC+6 from consideration because I don't think we've got anyone reporting in from those areas. But I could be wrong.] I check my inbox at least twice a day, but every so often things pear shaped. This may happen with my current move but I'm hoping not. I now have comms at both the old and new location and the move is actually going to take place over a couple of weeks so I should still be seeing any email that comes my way.

If you email me about something that's very time critical for you and I don't get back with you within 12 hours, please get in contact with BDR Duncan Cameron, my very able bodied DCO [dcoforcecom@sfi-sfmc.org] Or contact the Commandant General Mike McGowan [dant@sfi-sfmc.org]. We 'will' see you taken care of.

Please note: I consider 'time critical events'



to be things that disrupt the day to day working function of a Marine Command to the point where some form of intervention is required in a rapid and timely manner.

For example: 'My Brigade OIC is trapped in an Begishevo Airport Aeroflot lounge in Nizhnekamsk without his passport. What do we do until we can raise a rescue party and get him back?' [Do we have a Starfleet Embassy in Tatarstan?] or 'My unit OIC has been abducted by aliens and can't file her report right now. Can we have an extension?' [Only if you supply photographic proof.]

The simple day to day stuff can and will get done but right now my life resembles the activity levels of a ferret sucking down on a pixie stick: a lot of running all over the place interspersed by periods of inertia trying to remember what all needs to get done. [My thanks to John Ringo for that visual] Give me a bit to deal with things and COFORCECOM should be totally back up to normal by the 1st of May at the very latest.

Okay, now on to other business:
Changes in Command:

* 2LT Jamie Spracklen has stepped down from the 20 Brigade Officer in Charge position and LTC Jason Garrett has been chosen to fill that position. 20 Brigade is comprised of the following countries: Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

* LGEN Paul Fest has stepped down from the 15 Brigade Officer in Charge position. The Brigade DOIC, BGN Tom Guertin, is currently acting Brigade OIC. The position is

open to members of the 15 Brigade and the application window will close on 7 April 2015. 15 Brigade is comprised of the following states: Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts & Vermont

In general I'd like to remind folks of two things:

* Please utilize your Chain of Command. Any individual Marine or Marine Unit who feels they are having problems with being heard [promotions, etc] by their Unit OIC needs to contact both their Brigade OIC and FORCECOM. A good portion of the time it's a communication issue and can be sorted out within a couple of emails. Don't hold off and let it stew until people are ready to explode.

* FORCECOM's Three Rules:

#1: If it's not written down, it doesn't count. This goes for nominations for awards, submissions for promotions, getting things entered on the database and so forth. I know that my 'Mighty Kreskin Mind Reader' software expired a long time ago.

#2: If you 'did' write it down and brought it to someone's attention and so far nothing has happened, double check with the first person you sent it to. Make sure they actually saw it. Sometimes emails and such goes on walk about. Change can't happen if no one knows about it. If there's still no response, bump it up the line.

#3: Please don't wait until the last moment and expect things to happen on your time frame. Trying to get someone nominated for something, the award issued and the ecert made the Thursday before a Friday Muster is not a reasonable expectation. Give us some lead time. I understand there are true emergencies, especially for special awards. But make sure it really is an emergency.

That's all for now. Keep it safe out there and be nice to each other.

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State of INFOCOM

BGEN Mark Anderson, COINFOCOM, SFMC



Greetings Marines,

As I was putting together my report this month I received the news about Leonard Nimoy passing away. The first thing that came to my mind was the scene from Star Trek II, the Wrath of Khan where he was telling Kirk goodbye. I remember the way I felt when I watch that in the theater for the first time. It was very moving. This time it was for real and the feeling was much deeper. I hadn't seen Leonard Nimoy at many conventions. The last one was in Tampa a couple of years ago and he used Skype to communicate with us. The only time I saw him in person was back in the late 1990's when he came to University of South Florida in Tampa for a book signing. Although the interaction was brief I did get to speak to him. This was the first and last time I ever got to meet Mr. Nimoy.

The SFMC website had gotten hacked twice with-in a few days of each other a couple of weeks ago. I was able to fix the issues within a few hours of the hack. The SFMC news bot that posts the news articles into the database in the admin module and displays the news articles on the main page I think is how they were able to hack the site.

Basically they inserted their messages and over wrote the news articles. I had to delete the articles that is why the last article has the date of March 2014. The password used for the Newsbot wasn't encrypted so that is why I think that is how they gained access. I will be replacing the missing articles but first I changed the password and until I can encrypt it I'm not going to activate it. I think it will just get hacked again if I don't encrypt the password. I'll keep everyone posted on this as we make progress. If you have any questions please contact me at the email address below.

In closing here's the pingdom stats for January 2015.

Uptime: 99.97%

Outages: 1

Downtime: 15 Minutes

Response time: 651 m/s.

Mark "Slayer" Anderson
Brigadier General, SFMC
COINFOCOM

Team Delta
infocom@sfi-sfmc.org

State of FINCOM

MGEN Barry Jackson, COFINCOM, SFMC

Opening balance for the month of January - \$6,209.99

Credits - \$242.05 from PayPal

Debit - \$182.50 for patches

Debit - \$5.32 to Wal-Mart for envelopes

Debit - \$38.00 USPS postage for quartermaster

Closing balance - \$6,226.22

There were nine (9) Quartermaster orders.

The current balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$2,729.35 including interest - .05.

You are all authorized and encouraged to order, at will, from the SFMC Quartermaster.

Last night's weather forecast for coastal North Carolina: Up to 1 inch of sleet and or snow changing over to freezing rain with accumulations of ¼ to ½ inch of ice.

We had about 1/2 inch of sleet/snow and about 1/4" of ice on the trees. Forecast for Thursday night is 3 degrees F. Can you say cold?!

COFINCOM
MGEN Barry Jackson

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State of the NCO Corps

MGSGT Jerome A. Stoddard, SGTMAJSFMC, 503rd MSG, 5th Brigade

Greetings Marines!

Let's take five in the booth in the back in the corner in the dark of my local NCO club, where Spring seems to have sprung (along with my bum knee), and rumors of a gatling-phaser lawnmower can likely be attributed to a particular potent batch of Tellarite Tequila the R&D boys were passing around the other night ...

I'm running VERY late publishing this report for March due to an unfortunate outbreak of Real Life over the past couple of weeks. Sierra Hotel. As I believe I've mentioned before, it's how you deal with the Sierra that counts and things are kinda-sorta settled down out in my little slice of Montana right now. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

It's sometimes hard to believe, but it's been seven years since I stepped into the post of Sergeant Major of the STARFLEET Marines, and I'd like to give a huge Tip of Top's Eight Point to all the members of the SFMC that have made those long years so rewarding. I have often said that the day this position stops being rewarding in a personal sense, the day it becomes a chore instead of a challenge, that's the day I need to step down. So far, so good.

(Although, I will admit that every April 1, I'm tempted to announce that I have accepted a commission and am now 2LT Stoddard. But, a GOOD April Fool's post should be at least somewhat probable, and I don't think anybody that's been paying the slightest attention to anything I've said or written over the years would be fooled for even a fraction of a second.)

Although the month of March will have gone by the time you read this, I'd like to remind you that the March for The Disabled has become a year-round component of the Commandant's campaign. As a reminder, the March is not tied into any specific charity or event, but rather is a very broad, loosely defined effort on the part of SFMC members to assist or raise awareness of those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities. Since many of our own members fall into that category, at the end of the day, we're also living up to something the first real world Marine I ever knew told me over half a century ago: Marines take care of their own.

At this time, local conditions have reminded me of a simple act of "community service" that we can all do. It's not something you'll be likely to track "hours" on, but ... as I write this, not all that far away from where I sit by local



standards, crews are working to contain a couple of wildfires. Having personally pitched in to help on a couple of "small" fires (20 acres or less) over the past years, I'd like to ask you to be careful with open flame, anything that makes sparks, or even gets fairly hot (like the exhaust system on a vehicle) in the coming months if you're out in dry country.

This has pretty much become "boilerplate" for this report, but it doesn't make it any less true: community service doesn't have to be any part of any organized charity effort. Just giving of your time and energy to someone who needs a hand is the spirit of community service. But also make sure that whoever is filing the report for your unit knows the details, and sends it up the Chain of Command in their official report so you can be given the recognition your efforts deserve. "If you don't report it, we can't reward it."

Speaking of "boilerplate" ... the SFMC General Staff needs your input and ideas in order to properly do our jobs. Don't hesitate to contact the appropriate GS member with your questions, comments and ideas. You can find all the email addresses at the SFMC website, and, of course, we monitor the Corps-I list, and the SFMC Facebook group.

Now it's time for Top's History Lesson. In the past, I have written here about many enlisted members of the military who were rewarded for courage in the face of the enemy, often with their country of origin's highest possible honors, and often posthumously. But, sometimes, it is not that moment of heroism that defines an enlisted soldier and causes them to be remembered in history, but rather consistent service over time. Such is the case of a German born immigrant to the United States, Fredrick William Gerber.

Little is known about Gerber's early life, other than that he was born in 1813 in Dresden, but sometime in the 1830s, he came over to the US, and in 1839, he joined the 4th US Infantry, serving for five years before mustering out. But, in 1846, when the 1st Engineer Battalion was created, Gerber reenlisted, and became the sort of quietly efficient NCO that often goes overlooked by everyone except the officers and soldiers that serve with them.

Oh, there were moments of "heroism", such as when he reportedly saved the life of a second lieutenant by the name of George B. McClellan (a name students of history probably recognize) during the Mexican-American War, but nothing that caused a major splash. But, during the American Civil War, Gerber took on one of those jobs that have fallen to NCOs throughout history: training new recruits. Because of his skill and expertise at making combat engineers out of those recruits, in 1964 he was promoted to Sergeant Major and became the senior enlisted member of the Corps of Engineers, the first person to hold that position.

Later, in 1867, he was appointed to the post of adjutant for the Corps of Engineers, but, as he had done before, and would continue to do for the rest of his service, he declined promotion to the officers' ranks, preferring to remain "just" a senior NCO. Upon his final retirement in November of 1871, Sergeant Major Fredrick W Gerber became one of only two people in history (along with General Adolphus Greely) to receive the US Medal of Honor (the first member of the Corps of Engineers to be so honored) not for a single act of heroism, but rather for a "body of work" that spanned three decades. The citation reads simply:

"Distinguished gallantry in many actions and in recognition of long, faithful, and meritorious services covering a period of 32 years."

Not all heroes are limited to one blazing moment in history. Some have earned their place in my memory by simply doing their job at a high level, and to the highest possible standards for years. Sometimes, they are even rewarded for all those years, but that's not WHY they do it.

"Service before Self" ... "Excellence in Everything We Do" ... sound familiar, Marines?

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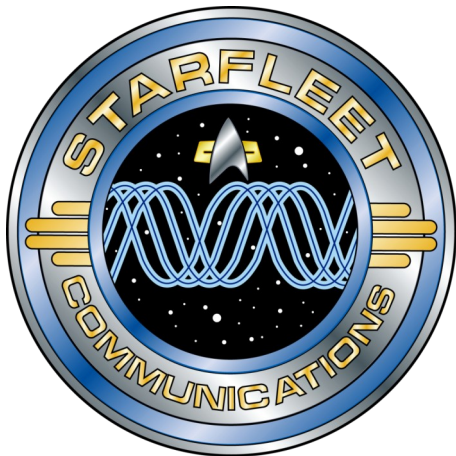
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