

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2018



[HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM RURA PENTHE]

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Kirk's sweater was crocheted by Denine Sanders'
Aunt Bunnie Plott for the *USS Discovery*..... FRONT COVER

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Planning ahead to 3rd Quarter 2019—Submission Deadline 15 September 2019

Communiqué 200th Issue

STARFLEET LOVE STORIES

Did you and your mate meet because of the wild, wacky world we call fandom? We want to know. For the 200th issue of the Communiqué, we want to tell your story. Was it at a convention? A chapter meeting? Did STARFLEET help bring love into your life? Let us know. A couple of sentences or the entire story, send it in. Pictures of then and/or now are welcome as well.

THE HISTORY OF THE STARFLEET INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

For the 200th issue, we want to recount the history of our International Conferences. We want to know where they have been, who helped run them, and stories from those who attended. Send us whatever you have to help us all remember the good times we've had at our annual conference. Pictures! Pictures would be great! Dig out those blackmail photos. We want to see how we've all changed over the years.

ARTICLE REPRINTS

Is there an article from a previous CQ that changed your life? Tell us how, and if you can, give us the article. We'll reprint it and see if it changes someone else's life.

Send your submissions to cq@sfi.org and please include in subject line "CQ 200"

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The wild, wacky, and wonderful members of
STARFLEET around the globe!

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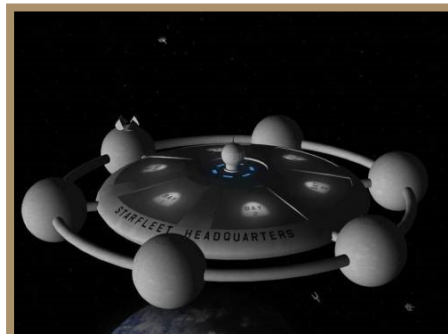
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Welcome to the Fleet

Commissioned: 31 OCTOBER 2018
USS ROGER WILLIAMS ▲ NCC 74685

Providence, Rhode Island ▲ Region 15
CO: CAPT Franklin Gonzalez
XO: CMDR Meredith Skelly

Commissioned: 01 DECEMBER 2018
USS PANDA ▲ NCC 74686

Beijing, China ▲ Region 19
CO: CAPT Harry Zhou
XO: CMDR Daniel Duns

Commissioned: 04 DECEMBER 2018
USS VENTURE ▲ NX 1655

Johnstown, Pennsylvania ▲ Region 07
CO: CAPT Nelson Edward Lowes, Jr.
XO: CMDR Mark Allen Adams, Jr.

Launched: 17 OCTOBER 2018
USS CURTANA ▲ NCC 63555
Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada ▲ Region 10
CO: CMDR David Gordon Campbell
XO: Starla Marie Bailey

Launched: 27 NOVEMBER 2018
USS SERENITY ▲ NCC 97009
Greensboro, North Carolina ▲ Region 01
CO: CMDR Jonathan Darnell
XO: CMDR Janine Darnell

Launched: 27 NOVEMBER 2018
USS DRAGON FLY ▲ NCC 42110
Monroe, Washington ▲ Region 05
CO: CAPT Gene Armstong
XO: CMDR James Stringer

Launched: 28 NOVEMBER 2018
USS GODDARD ▲ NCC 75023
Washington, District of Columbia ▲ Region 07
CO: CAPT Eugene Edward Sanford
XO: CAPT Geraldine Sylvester Parsons

Launched: 04 DECEMBER 2018
USS OLYMPUS ▲ NCC 36010
Great Mills, Maryland ▲ Region 07
CO: FADM (Retired) Edwin Leslie "Les" Richard, Jr.
XO: FADM (Retired) Michael W. Malotte



Happy Anniversary Ships of the Line

Celebrating Our Chapters' Years In Service

<i>USS Alaric</i>	R01	10/01/1982	36	<i>USS Abraham Lincoln</i>	R07	11/14/2009	09
<i>USS Lagrange</i>	R01	10/23/1982	36	<i>USS Wolf 359</i>	R05	12/23/2009	09
<i>USS Maat</i>	R01	10/31/1987	31	<i>USS Wessex</i>	R04	12/29/2009	09
<i>USS Challenger</i>	R07	11/01/1987	31	<i>USS Columbia</i>	R01	10/23/2010	08
<i>USS Hephaestus</i>	R02	10/24/1989	29	<i>USS Storm</i>	R07	10/30/2010	08
<i>USS Renegade</i>	R01	12/25/1989	29	<i>USS Diamondback</i>	R03	10/22/2011	07
<i>USS Kitty Hawk</i>	R01	10/07/1990	28	<i>USS Haven</i>	R02	10/29/2011	07
<i>USS Ascension</i>	R07	11/11/1990	28	<i>USS Wisconsin</i>	R06	11/15/2011	07
<i>ISS Katana</i>	R12	12/07/1991	27	<i>USS Crockett</i>	R03	12/17/2011	07
<i>USS Northern Lights</i>	R04	12/01/1993	25	<i>USS Tydirium</i>	R11	12/18/2011	07
<i>USS Continuum</i>	R02	12/04/1993	25	<i>USS Valhalla</i>	R06	11/05/2012	06
<i>USS Ronald E McNair</i>	R01	11/05/1994	24	<i>USS Cuchulain</i>	R20	11/05/2013	05
<i>USS Matrix</i>	R07	11/18/1994	24	<i>USS Panther</i>	R15	12/31/2015	03
<i>USS Justice</i>	R07	12/23/1994	24	<i>USS Caroline</i>	R20	10/01/2016	02
<i>USS Providence</i>	R01	11/07/1996	22	<i>USS Loki</i>	R07	10/21/2016	02
<i>USS Stormbringer</i>	R04	10/31/1998	20	<i>USS Merlin</i>	R20	10/28/2016	02
<i>USS SpiritWolf</i>	R03	11/06/1998	20	<i>USS Andromeda</i>	R02	10/01/2017	01
<i>USS Relentless</i>	R02	12/01/1998	20	<i>USS White Eagle</i>	R01	10/29/2017	01
<i>USS Aries</i>	R01	12/22/1999	19	<i>USS Marie Curie</i>	R05	11/30/2017	01
<i>USS Niagara</i>	R07	10/10/2002	16				
<i>USS William Wallace</i>	R12	12/22/2002	16				
<i>USS Vanguard</i>	R09	11/05/2003	15				
<i>USS Genesis</i>	R11	12/31/2017	11				
<i>USS Virginia</i>	R01	11/28/200	09				
<i>USS Excelsior</i>	R09	12/22/2008	10				
<i>USS Lexington</i>	R15	10/01/2009	09				



The Institute of Military Assault Command

MACO CPT Chris Lovejoy
Chief, MACO Personnel Operations
USS Corsair, Region 3

STARFLEET Academy has worked with the MACOs to establish our own Institute of MACO (IMACO). The IMACO is made up of four colleges: Special Operations Resources, Special Operations Specialties, Special Operations Training, and Special Operations Units. The Dean of IMACO is MGN TJ Allen, supported by CAPT Kelli Caplette as his Assistant Dean.

The College of Special Operations Resources covers topics such as communications, equipment, flight school (helicopter), and weapon identification. The Director is MGN TJ Allen, with Assistant Director CSM Marie Smith. MACO operators learn about the 20th and 21st century equipment used by special operations forces.

The College of Special Operations Specialties covers Counter Insurgency, Psychological Operations, Urban Combat, and so much more. MGN TJ Allen is the Director, and COMM De Rush is his Assistant Director. The students learn about the variety of missions that MACO operators can be called upon to conduct.

Special Operations Training focuses on camouflage, defensive tactics, deployment methods, rappelling, snipers, survival, evasion and resistance, and terrain analysis. CAPT Kelli Caplette is the Director, with COL Wallace Cady as her Assistant. Timeless individual skills are taught that can be used from the 20th century to the 24th century and beyond.



Finally, Special Operations Units concern worldwide special operations units. CPT Franklin Gonzalez is the Director, with MGN TJ Allen as his Assistant. MACO heritage stems from the special operations community of the 20th and 21st centuries. The college teaches about these units to help MACOs better appreciate the giants upon whose shoulders they stand.

We at MACO invite you to attend the Institute of MACO. It is open to all members of SFI. The Institute of MACO is changing and growing, so come see the fun for yourselves!



USS Challenger **Celebrates** **Three Decades** **of Fandom Fun**



By ADM Bob Vosseller
Commanding Officer, *USS Challenger*, Region 7

How do I even begin to write an article about the history of a chapter that I have led since 1988? I could go through the long history and try and provide an overview or how we all formed. I could touch on the countless conventions we've attended or special events we've been part of or humorous and dramatic moments we've experienced.

That would take up a lot of CQ space that even in its current online format, would be too much and probably not all that interesting by those beyond my chapter and outside the 7th Fleet.

Instead, I can focus a bit on what we did this past year and how we all came to observe our special birthday night in October.

The *Challenger* for those who aren't familiar with it, is based in the Jersey Shore...check out our website we even describe ourselves as "The Jersey Shore Chapter" of STARFLEET. No Snookie jokes aside and we try to distance ourselves from that bad reality TV show that had been shot just blocks away from our meeting place of the last 27 years or so.

The Jersey Shore however is part of our identity. We've had numerous experiences along the Seaside Heights NJ boardwalk and boulevard ranging from parades to simple get togethers.

We've run into ice cold water for the annual Polar Bear Plunge as a fundraiser for the Special Olympics and we once held a 1950s dinner dance as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society back in the late 80s at the Seaside Heights American Legion Post. We've marched down the boulevard of the borough for many Columbus Day and St. Patrick's Day Parades. We also held summer car washes when our club meetings were based at the Ortley Beach First Aid Squad and we managed to pose with Barney the Dinosaur who was the featured costumed attraction (I pity the guy in the hot costume) who was down the street at the Sunny Hunny Diner.

Over the years we've done some remarkable stuff like bringing the rest of the region together for many a summer BBQ, holiday cookie exchange and when we helped christen the restored Galileo 7 from an Atlantic Highlands boat yard before it moved on to Region 3 in the Houston Space Center. That happened just a few years ago.

Where does the time go? It seems we were looking at the planning of our 30th anniversary party held at the community center in Seaside Heights (our meeting place for more than two decades) more than two years ago and yet that event came and went just a few months ago.

Our theme was simple, being the Jersey Shore chapter, we went tropical and I discovered much to my horror the day of the event that my Hawaiian shirts had vanished. So, I donned a *USS Challenger* polo shirt.

Our Ops Chief Todd Brugmans found some great Tikki cups and decorations and our XO Jeff Victor who I watched grow up from a young medical officer coordinated the catering. We had sound equipment and lighting loaned to us by a rather new member, Krystle Raspa and everyone present from my crew pitched in to make it a special event complete with some old photos and past banners and logos and vintage T-shirts.

Our guests included the CO and XO of our mothership the *USS Avenger*, Sarah and Alex Rosensweig, our daughter ship COs of Wayne Augustson of the *USS Britannic*, David Sladky of the *USS Storm* and several members of the *USS Abraham Lincoln* our grand-daughter ship headed by Keith Shikowitz. We had nearly 30 people come out to help us blow out the candles and listen to our toasts and tall tales. It was an incredible night.

(Continued from previous page...USS Challenger Celebrates 30 Years)

Hard to believe we unofficially launched in January 1988 had as part of our membership package a T-shirt, manual, character bio sheet, bi-monthly newsletter and whatever free convention swag I could collect and stick into a bag.

I've seen and done a lot as captain and there were some times that were less than stellar. We had some problem members but by and large our chapter is one big family. Dysfunctional at times but we stick together and our prime directive is fun and frolics and plenty of food.

Our meetings end with a decision of where do we go for dinner each first Sunday of the month. We are a team and a great ensemble one at that allowing for everyone to get their time in the spotlight and to explore their personal passions be it writing, artwork, organizing, finance, event planning, fundraising etc.

We've had members come and go and some have returned. Fandom is a place to play and kick back and sometimes real life overwhelms us but it always has to come first.

My chapter tries to be the place to get away and have fun and put all those real-life pressures aside. We've grown up together in many respects. We've also watched some our members tie the knot of matrimony and sadly, we've also been there at viewings and funerals.

A few years back we had the honor of winning Region 7 chapter of the year, it was our second time for that but we also won STARFLEET Chapter of the year as well. We had a table full of awards but while winning them is nice, doing what earned us those awards is what was most enjoyable.



Over the years the USS Challenger has had several logos that were emblazoned on T shirts and other items. During the 30th Anniversary party the USS Challenger showcased some of that memorabilia and swag at one of our tables along with a table that featured our awards both regional and on the STARFLEET International level. Several years ago the USS Challenger won Region 7 and STARFLEET Chapter of the Year.

Picture Below

While not our original logo, it was our first banner used during our first five years of service as a STARFLEET chapter until we voted to upgrade to a Galaxy Class ship at the end of our 5th year. it was among the chapters we brought out for display at our 30th



CO ADM Bob Vosseller joins his wife, ship's Counselor Emily Vosseller as the party concludes and the cleanup procedures begin following an event three decades in the making, the 30th Anniversary.

The red glow to some of these photos is due to the cool lighting provided by member Krystle Raspa who offered up the DJ equipment and special lights.

All Photos by ADM Bob Vosseller
Commanding Officer, USS Challenger

What is next in store for us? Well each year we hold a reorganization meeting where we map out any administrative issues, promotions, command staff assignments and our calendar for the first six months. That is being held later this month (of January) but I am confident that we will have another wonderful year that will involve a wide variety of activities and joining in with our fellow Fleet members.

For us, like all of STARFLEET, the adventure continues!

CUCHULAIN CHRISTMAS

COMM Alan O'Shea
Commanding Officer, *USS Cuchulain*, Region 20

HAILING FREQUENCIES OPEN . . .

Greetings from all of us on the *Cuchulain* during this festive season to all across the Fleet!

Dear Elaine,

On behalf of Peter McVerry Trust, I would like to thank you and all at *USS Cuchulain* for your generous donation of toys, which we received on 19/12/18. Sincere apologies for the delay in sending this acknowledgement.

Currently, Peter McVerry Trust provides over 1,400 beds, each night, to individuals, couples and families, who have no home of their own. Your kindness ensures that we can continue to provide crucial accommodation and support services when they are needed most.

Your generosity will ensure that people can begin to leave homelessness behind for good.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Amber Brown

Fundraising Administrator

Peter McVerry Trust "Thank You" Letter

The *USS Cuchulain* NCC-61922 is a *Nova*-class ship with a big heart and an even bigger crew! On December 1st, 2018, we held our annual Christmas party to support charitable causes. Our charity team, led by our Chief of Staff CMDR Elaine Whelan, coordinated our efforts, calling all crew to action. This year we supported the Father Peter McVerry Trust, an organization based in Dublin that provides shelter and emergency housing for homeless families, and also provides direct-care needs to those who find themselves homeless on the street. We also supported the Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin by raising much-needed funds for specialist sensory equipment. When the call for action went out, the crew answered in great generosity, as you can see below. This year, the Peter McVerry Trust asked for a Toy Drive to help children in homeless accommodations; and we donated a large amount of new toys again this year. The mulled wine and mince pies went down as a treat, too.

This year, to support our fundraising efforts, the *Cuchulain* held its very first charity auction, which was great fun. While at *Destination Star Trek* in Birmingham, UK, in October 2018, I had the opportunity to pick up a number of prizes for our raffle, and while picking up a purchase for myself at the Avonos stall, the lovely lady from Avonos very kindly donated five *DS9* Niners baseballs and baseball caps, which were a huge hit. (Thank you, Avonos!) Along with the generosity of the other crew donations of auction items, the final figure for the Temple Street Children's Hospital was...drum roll, please...1,635 Euro! Below, you will see Chief of Staff CMDR Elaine Whelan and

Chief Engineer Alan Whelan, along with the fantastic Cadet Annellie Whelan, presenting a cheque for the amount. Well done all! Your Captain is very proud of you.

These are the activities that STARFLEET is all about: getting out there and recruiting for chapters and the fleet, helping charitable causes where we can, and having fun in the process. This February, the *USS Cuchulain* will be 6 years old; and what a ride it's been so far. In 2017, we grew in numbers to achieve 100 members, which is totally amazing. In 2018, we smashed this and at the time of writing, we are 203 members strong onboard the *Cuchulain*, with our Marine unit, the very proud 391st Marine Strike Group, the Banshees, achieving more than 100 Marines and growing all the time. But we are not resting on our laurels. No, there is more to be done! While the chapter and unit benefit



Niner's Baseballs

(Continued from previous page...Cuchulain Christmas)

from all of this hard work in recruiting, so does STARFLEET International as a whole; and this is something amazing.

So how does this little ship from Dublin, the first chapter of STARFLEET International to beam down and launch in Ireland almost 6 years ago, do it? Well, simply by staying positive, nurturing your crew with a real sense of family, stepping up and recruiting at events where one can, and following through on the contacts made at these events by inviting new people to join. It's that simple.

I am so proud to be the captain of one of the most vibrant, active, and diverse chapters in the fleet. Apart from our recruiting activities, we hold three parties a year during spring, summer, and Christmas, along with our Banshee maneuvers with airsofting, and social outings such as our crew culture day outings, movie nights, and bowling. The key is to have a fantastic and dedicated command team and, where possible, to keep the crew active and have good, positive communication. I would like to thank my XO, FCAPT Frank Kiernan, for all his hard work and dedication to the chapter and for being my right-hand man in helping to organize our parties and other activities. And thank you to all of my Command Team for making it possible to be the best that we can be.

Why am I telling you about all this? Well, to put it simply, this is a recipe that can be replicated by any and all chapters and Marine Units across the fleet to help grow in numbers. So, if you want to achieve the amazing accolade of currently being the largest chapter in the Fleet, then there is nothing stopping you. Let's go do this! Happy Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us on the *USS Cuchulain* in Dublin.



Temple Street Donation

Chief Engineer Alan Whelan, Cadet Annelie Whelan,
Chief of Staff Commander Elaine Whelan



Halloween in Heimdal Style

ADM Linda Smith
Commanding Officer, USS Heimdal, Region 1

Sticking to the "third Saturday in the month" meeting schedule, the USS Heimdal, based in Madison Heights, VA, held her annual Halloween Costume Party on October 20. Almost everyone arrived in costume.

The party began with the Costume Contest. There were prizes in four categories, and everyone received a ballot and acted as judges.

All entrants had an opportunity to tell everyone what his or her costume was and to do a brief presentation associated with the costume. And there were some wonderful costumes this year.

Jeanne Wilson won the **Most Original** prize for her alien costume that came with lights and winkie-blinkies. Linda and Willy Smith won the **Most Humorous** prize dressed as Jenny and Forrest Gump (the running Gump...complete with shorts, Forrest socks, Bubba Gump Shrimp hat, and a long, long beard and hair). Linda introduced herself as Jenny and Willy said he was Forrest, and that one day, he started running and he ran and ran and ran across the country and then he stopped. Robin Hudson won the **Best Sci-Fi** prize as a dead *Star Trek* "red shirt"-turned-zombie. She also won the **Best in Show** prize.

Refreshments consisted of Halloween-themed cookies, cupcakes, and a black cat cake, plus other finger foods.

Following refreshments, the department chiefs entertained by presenting "Activity Stations" where everyone could visit and play some really cool games. Sciences had a "Black Hole" corn hole game and a robot. Command offered an opportunity to put on a mask, be turned around several times, and pin the horn on a hornless Mugato and pin a brain on a picture of Spock from the "Spock's Brain" episode. Security had everyone put a piece of alien matter (a cracker) on their forehead and attempt to work that alien matter into their mouths. Communications had a trivia game, and Medical offered everyone an opportunity to scream while being videoed. There were prizes, and the evening ended all too soon. There was a poster of Dr. McCoy that said, "I'm a doctor, not a ____." Everyone got a dialogue bubble to fill out what was missing and paste it on the poster. At the end of the evening, our Chief Engineer read them all. Surprisingly, there were three "I'm a doctor, not a plumber" responses and one "I'm a doctor, not a proctologist." Almost everyone enjoys the Heimdal's Halloween parties. It's special to be able to be anyone or anyTHING you want to be for one night every year. And most of the fun of doing that is doing it with a bunch of friends who don't think you're weird for doing it...because they're doing it, too.

Looking forward to next year's party already.



Heimdal members in costume at Annual Halloween Party.

Photo by Tammy White



Robin Hudson as a *Star Trek* "red shirt" zombie.
Winner of Best Sci-Fi Costume
and Best All Around Costume
Photo by Willy Smith



Linda and Willy Smith as
Forest Gump & Jenny.
Winners of Most
Humorous prize
Photo by Tammy White



Angie and Richard Arnold as
the King and Queen of
Hearts.

Photo by Willy Smith



USS HEIMDAL CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

ADM Linda Smith

Commanding Officer, *USS Heimdal*, Region 1

The *USS Heimdal*, based in Madison Heights, VA, celebrated Christmas with a huge party. 27 people attended, including two visitors.

The evening began with a covered-dish dinner consisting of a meat platter provided by the *Heimdal* and side dishes and desserts (including a Snowman Cake) provided by those in attendance. It was a wonderful meal enjoyed with friends.

Following dinner, CO Linda Smith presented end-of-the-year awards. All *Heimdal* members received an award because Linda feels that each and every member brings value to the chapter. RADM Carl Davis and ADM Willy Smith tied for the position of Co-Crewmembers of the Year and the *Heimdal* Security Department was chosen as Department of the Year.

After the awards there followed an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest. All those present voted and the winner was Joe Arnold who was wearing a REALLY UGLY sweater. Linda presented him with a prize for his efforts.

Dirty Santa was the highlight of the evening, with everyone bringing a gift of equal value ...and NO gag gifts. Presentation is key and the gifts that were wrapped the most uniquely were the ones taken and stolen the most often, even with a 3-steal limit on all gifts. At the end of the evening, everybody got a small gift that they were pleased with.

The best part of the evening was simply sharing a meal and having fun with friends who also happen to be *Heimdal* crewmembers. We also celebrated the fact that this year we were able to donate double the amount of funds to our ten Christmas charities. We donated to the Free Clinic of Central Virginia, Friends of the Madison Heights Library, Gleaning for the World, two Humane Society shelters, and one no-kill cat shelter. Instead of buying gifts for two Angel Tree children and two senior citizens, we were able to provide gifts for three children, three seniors, and gifts for a Social Services foster child. Throughout the year, each member brings one canned good to each meeting, which takes the place of chapter dues. The 400 pounds of collected food was donated to the Salvation Army Food Pantry along with a substantial monetary donation.

While none of us could support several charities on our own, as a club and with the success of our Annual Charity Auction, we are able to work small Christmas miracles.

It was a wonderful party as well as a celebration of all that we were able to do to help those less fortunate in our community.



USS HEIMDAL CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IN PICTURES



Heimdal crew at the Christmas Party

Photo by Beth Hopkins



And the Winner Is....

CO Linda Smith presenting prize to Joe Arnold for winning the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Photo by Wily Smith



Really Enjoying the Party

Sarah & Weston Webb

Photo by Linda Smith



Lining up for Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

(L to R) Carl Davis, Brett Witcher, Julie Witcher, Wily Smith, Linda Smith, Robin Hudson, Jeanne Wilson & Joe Arnold

Photo by Beth Hopkins

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM AND OBSERVATORY

50 YEARS OF SCIENCE AND SCI-FI WEEKEND

28TH AND 29TH JULY 2018

LCDR Tracy "T'Nell" McConnell
Chief Science Officer – *USS Cuchulain*



It was with cautious optimism that our Captain accepted an invitation to send a delegation to accompany our new allies, the "Emerald Garrison," on their mission to the Armagh Planetarium and Observatory this month. The team chosen to represent our ship and STARFLEET at this grand celebration of "50 Years of Science and Sci-Fi" was selected carefully. Our Captain and XO led the troop and put forward a steady hand of friendship to all those we met.

Several members of our dedicated Marine Strike Group, the Banshees, traveled ahead to ensure the safety of our team in this new area. They were diligent in their duties throughout the entire weekend and still managed to engage our allies in stories of their adventures.

We were very lucky to have members of our Engineering team set up a virtual bridge environment, so that the locals and our allies could briefly experience the honour and responsibility of being a Starfleet officer serving on a starship. This particular aspect of our mission was a huge success with a truly great number of attendees at the event. We may even get some new recruits, thanks to the team's efforts.

The Captain met some lovely folks from Scotland, who were very interested in STARFLEET. After a good chat, it was suggested that upon returning home they contact the *USS Alba*, which serves in their local region.

Our alliance with the Emerald Garrison has progressed to a point of true friendship. They come from a turbulent region of space and yet still reflect a certain joy in their work. Many were engaging with the locals at the event in numerous ways. Some were keen to exchange ideas with our team regarding future away missions and projects. This was a wonderful sign of hope for our continued peace.

All members of the away team acquitted themselves beautifully and were, as always, a true credit to STARFLEET. I had the chance to renew old friendships and spark new ones, as I had taken part in an education programme at the Armagh Planetarium many years ago. It was interesting to be back.

Special thanks to our visiting crew member, PO1 Barry Shroud, who joined us from the *USS Caroline* on the second day of our trip. He is a fine officer who represented his ship with honour and dignity and was a wonderful addition to our team for the day.



ARMAGH OBSERVATORY & PLANETARIUM

What Does Armagh Planetarium Do?

The Planetarium is a multifaceted organisation dedicated to astronomy education for all levels, from nursery through to retirement age. It is the Planetarium's unique ability to adapt to changing audience needs that have enabled it to stay at the forefront of science education since its formation.

Armagh Planetarium offers a curriculum-broadening experience for school visitors, and our educational programme has been redesigned to dovetail with the new curriculum, while retaining characteristics which are central to an understanding of basic

astronomy.

Our aim is to demonstrate to our visitors the amazing objects that exist in the cosmos, but to do it in such a way that they do not see our efforts as formal teaching. We call this "Learning by Stealth". When they are prompted to ask questions, they are engaging in the learning process. Information provided from:

http://www.armaghplanet.com/html/what_do_we_do.html

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.armaghplanet.com/index.html>

When Doves Cry

Commodore Donna Stewart

Former Commanding Officer – *USS Marko Ramius*
12 June 1952 – 3 October 2018



Captain James Kent

Former Executive Officer – *USS Zavala*
24 January 1971 – 9 October 2018



Vice Admiral Patrick McAndrew

Former STARFLEET Region 5 Coordinator
Former Commanding Officer – *USS Antares*
29 March 1973 – 15 October 2018

Celeste Yarnall

Actress: Yeoman Martha Landon *TOS: The Apple*
26 July 1944 – 7 October 2018

James Greene

Actor: Dr. Barron *TNG - Who Watches the Watchers*
Koral DS9 - The Reckoning
Passerby Voyager - 11:59
1 December 1929 – 9 November 2018

Stan “The Man” Lee

The All Father
28 December 1922 – 12 November 2018

Mike Noble

British Comic Artist UK *Star Trek* Comic Strip
17 September 1930 – 15 November 2018

John D. F. Black

Writer: *TOS - The Naked Time*
Associate Producer: *TOS Season 1*
Writer: *TNG - Justice and The Naked Now*
30 December 1932 – 29 November 2018



In Memoriam

Glen was many things to many people: a husband, father, grandfather, Marine, POW, Corrections officer, STARFLEET officer, Academy Director, ghostwriter, Dean, Vice Commandant, and Commandant. And he was my friend.

Besides service to our country, and STARFLEET, he was involved in church and charity in his community, most recently with Meals on Wheels.

He joined STARFLEET in 2001; and soon after, he contacted me for a position in the Academy. He was especially interested in my own College of Survival Studies, but it wasn't until a year or two later that I was ready to pass on my first College to him. He tested out, took it over in 2003, and ran with it. He expanded the 4-course College into one of 95 courses that covers survival in many situations.

We worked together to support the needs of other STARFLEET departments, such as the Chaplains and SpecOps (now MACO) by helping to develop an SO training manual and courses to support their activities.

Over the 15 years he was with us, he created 3,157 Courses, directed 100 Colleges, and created 4 Institutes. He had active projects on the table at the time he was called to his Next Mission, and was actively working on those until he became ill and was hospitalized on September 2.

I had the privilege of working with him on most of his projects over the years, and we discovered that we shared the same ideas, often joking about being "joined at the hip" or "in each other's minds."

Glen was an inspiration to many members, as evidenced from the many emails of condolences coming in from the Fleet. His real-life Military and First Responder Colleges consistently had the most graduates across the Academy. I teased him about having his own "fan club," seeing that many of the same members were taking all his courses. :-)

Glen left his legacy in the Academy. He will be missed, but not soon forgotten. Academy has renamed the 4400 Boothby to the Glen Diebold Boothby, in his honor.

Semper Fi, My Friend!

Admiral Carol Thompson
Vice Commandant, SFA





Renee Wike
1961 - 2018

A True Friend

Angeles Member Inspired Us with her Spirit and Kindness

Remembrance and Photos by: FCAPT Dave Mason

USS Angeles, NCC-71840

Region 4

Renee Wike left us our memories of her joyous spirit, her enthusiastic laughter, and her remarkable kindness.

We will miss her.

The *USS Angeles* member passed away November 12 from kidney failure in Rocky Mount, VA, where she moved in September to be near her sisters. She was 56.

She served our club well as a Command Staff member, the associate community service director, and a contributor of stories and photos to *Angels Flight*, our newsletter. She co-hosted parties with Karen Hoagland and Chris Mulrooney at

their West Hills home, nicknamed "Starbase Karen."

Most of all, Renee was the very definition of a friend.

She was always there for others, always there to encourage people. She cared about the world and current events, and she expressed her opinions with thoughtfulness and precision. And she was a fun person who made us smile, made us laugh, made us think.

Remembering Renee

In 2010 she jumped in with both feet, donning loaned tunics while getting her own rush-made," Gloria Rodriguez wrote on the *Angeles* Facebook page. "She made our club so much better, actually wore herself ragged (and spent too much \$) on us, bless her. I wish I'd gotten around to binge-watching *Due South* with her, or sent her some anti-Trump political cartoons I've saved — stuff she loved. God bless her."

Jennifer Cole described what Renee meant to her.

"To say I'm terribly sad would be an understatement," she told *Angels Flight*. "I'm just heartbroken; and every time I see a post or an email, I break down in fresh tears."

"Renee was a terrific friend. Could make you laugh when you needed it. Or lend a shoulder to lean on, too," Jennifer said. "I will miss my friend very much."

Jon Lane echoed those sentiments in an *Angeles*-chat list post.

"Renee was a truly good person," Jon wrote. "She deserved more time on this planet than she was given."

Renee, a native of Virginia, was born November 28, 1961.

She was a Panorama City, CA, resident when she met *USS Angeles* members in 2010 at a talk given by Robert Picardo (the Doctor on *Star Trek: Voyager*) at an Encino, CA, church. It was clear from the start that she loved *Star Trek*. Renee, who joined the *Angeles* soon after that, had a lot to say about the subject.

"I talked your ear off that night, Dave," she told me years later. But I smiled, recalling how much I loved her passion for journeys of the imagination.

As I came to know her, I discovered her relentless curiosity. She loved to ask questions, especially about news and politics. I know she would have made a great reporter, but she did well in her career as a security guard and later a supervisor of security guards. Renee was a natural leader.

She made many friends in the *Angeles* and moved in the early 2010s to Starbase Karen in nearby West Hills, where she wore uniforms and costumes to show her love for *Star Trek*.

She also enjoyed going to *Star Trek* conventions, including Creation Entertainment's annual event in Las Vegas.

And Renee liked to be creative. A STARFLEET member, she made special decorative centerpieces for the tables at the Region 4 Conference, which the *USS Angeles* hosted in 2013 at the Van Nuys Airtel Plaza Hotel.

(Continued from previous page...A True Friend)

After her stroke in 2017, Renee moved into an assisted-living facility in nearby Oxnard, where Chris Mulrooney, Lisa Sobien, and I visited her regularly. The food wasn't great there, but Lisa brought Renee cheeseburgers from an In-N-Out Burger in Ventura. We had many fun chats with her, and she and Lisa played board games.

Lisa, Chris, and I sometimes took her to movie theaters in Oxnard, near Camarillo and West Hills.

A large group of *Angeles* members joined Renee to see one film at The Collection, an Oxnard mall.

The *USS Angeles* officially honored Renee with a framed Great Bird of the Galaxy award during our Winter Holiday Party in December 2017 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Woodland Hills. We gave her birthday presents, and a Ferengi visitor led us in singing "Happy Birthday" to her.

Later, we raised glasses of sparkling cider during a toast to her.

"So say we all!" *Angeles* members said together, citing a line from *Battlestar Galactica*.

Karen and Chris worked hard to organize the party, and Karen spent countless hours and a lot of money to produce several albums of photos of *Angeles* activities. She presented them all to Renee.

Recently, Renee was remembered with the inclusion of her name in the memorial section of STARFLEET's website, www.sfi.org.

Before Renee moved in September to Virginia, Lisa drove Renee to Starbase Karen for her last visit with Chris, Karen, and two canine wonders, Miss Snickersdoodle and Magpie.

The four of them had dinner and watched the Seth McFarlane movies *Ted* and *Ted 2*.

The next night, Lisa and I visited Renee at her Oxnard facility, and we found her to be in her usual good spirits.

She passed away shortly after Stan Lee, the co-creator of the superheroes she loved, died.

Chris told Lisa and me that he thought she caught the same bus to heaven as Lee.

In addition to Lee, I'd like to think that Thor sat between her and Lee and guided them to the afterlife. Renee would have liked that.

Renee was preceded in death by her parents, Johna and Betty Wike.

She is survived by her sisters and brothers-in-law: Gina Wike, Kimberly Merriman and her husband, Mike Merriman, and Betsy Mason and her husband, Darrell Mason.

Survivors also include nieces and nephews, Michael, Maria, Ethan, and Marybeth, and a great-nephew, Rafael.

Our hearts go out to Renee's family and friends, including Karen, Chris, and Miss Snickersdoodle and Magpie at Starbase Karen.

We are all better for having known Renee.

"Farewell, my friend," Jennifer said. "Please say hello to Gene (Roddenberry) for us all, and thank him for giving us *Star Trek*. Thank you, Renee, for your years of friendship and being willing to work hard and pitch in when help was needed."

"We may no longer have you on this planet, but Heaven has gained a new angel," she said. "Heathen or not!

"Godspeed, and we will always miss you."



And on that note...

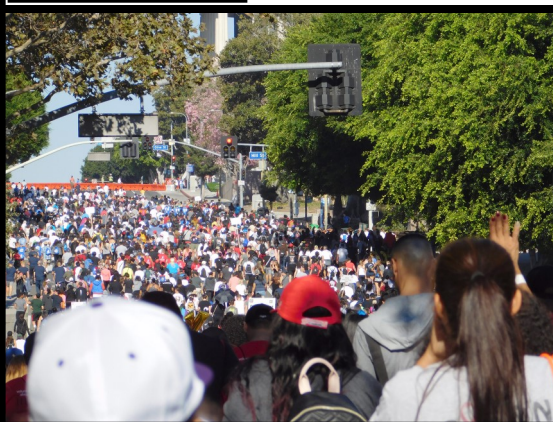
Singers Set Tone as *USS Angeles* Raises \$500⁺ at AIDS Walk

FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*, NCC-71840
Region 4



Actor and singer Arturo Del Puerto inspires the crowd before the walk with his rendition of "The Quest," the main theme of "The Impossible Dream."

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*



Thousands of people participate in AIDS Walk Los Angeles. The Oct. 21 event raised \$1.3 million for APLA Health's efforts for AIDS and HIV-positive patients.

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*

LOS ANGELES — A singer's rendition of "The Impossible Dream" inspired Kathy Carder and me as we joined about 10,000 enthusiastic people at AIDS Walk Los Angeles.

The *USS Angeles* team raised more than \$500 at the October 21 benefit for APLA Health's efforts for AIDS and HIV-positive patients.

The thousands of participants of the 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) walk collected a total exceeding \$1.3 million, which helps with everything from medical and dental care to counseling, food, and housing.

Since the first walk in 1985 at Paramount Pictures in Hollywood, AIDS Walk Los Angeles has raised more than \$83 million. The *USS Angeles* has participated since Founder Janice Willcocks, the ship's original commanding officer and now its second officer, led our first teams in the 1990s.

This year, the feeling of success was in the air as the crowd cheered for singer and actor Arturo Del Puerto (from the 2016 film *Independence Day: Resurgence*). He inspired the audience with his rendition of "The Quest," the main theme of the musical *The Impossible Dream*, during the opening ceremony in Grand Park.

"A lot of people think this is a song about trying to do something impossible. It is not

about that," Del Puerto said as he stood on the stage in front of the towering Los Angeles City Hall. "What this song is really about is trying, period; and that's what we are doing: trying. Period. You can't succeed at anything without trying first."

"Are you ready to try?" he asked the audience about making a difference.

The crowd cheered.

And fans applauded after Frenchie Davis, a contestant on NBC's *The Voice*, sang Katy Perry's "Firework," a song about overcoming adversity. The theme resonated on this day of optimism.

Kathy, a retired nurse, told me she's optimistic researchers will develop a vaccine against AIDS.

Optimism was also voiced by the always-enthusiastic Carson Kressley of Bravo's original *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* series.

We also heard from Los Angeles local TV news anchor, Ellen Levya, a city



"Every single one of you today is here because you're supporting APLA Health and the great work they do," actress Jean Smart ("Designing Woman," "Frasier") told the crowd at AIDS Walk Los Angeles.

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*

(Continued from previous page...USS Angeles AIDS Walk)

of Los Angeles controller, a Congressman, and AIDS Walk Los Angeles founder Craig Miller.

Longtime TV and movie star, Jean Smart (*Designing Woman*, *Frasier*) praised the walkers.

"Every single one of you today is here because you're supporting APLA Health and the great work they do," Smart said. "They (APLA Health and supporters) were at the forefront of the AIDS battle from the very beginning."

But the actress noted society must remain vigilant in fighting AIDS. "We don't want people to be complacent and think, 'Haven't they found a cure already? Don't they have drugs? They don't need a lot more help, do they?'"

"We all know that is wrong, so we keep waving the banner and keep it in the news," Smart said.

After a singer performed the longtime AIDS Walk theme song, "You'll

Never Walk Alone," Kathy and I walked with the large crowd

between the downtown skyscrapers, which gave us much-appreciated shade on this comfortably warm day.

As we walked, we were entertained by cheerleader groups creating human pyramids and a *cappella* choirs.

Kathy and I had a great time with our walk and conversation.



Skyscrapers provided shade during AIDS Walk.
Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, USS Angeles



USS Angeles members, Kathy Carder and Dave Mason, join the thousands walking at AIDS Walk Los Angeles.

Photo Courtesy of USS Angeles

On December 15, 2018 the crew of the *USS Crockett* gave out gifts to needy neighborhood kids for the Elf Louise Project. We went through the Westside of San Antonio, TX.

In the picture are:

John Hetzel (Santa), Louise (Elf Louise) Locker, Bill Reed, Edward Hemeyer, Mariann Hemeyer, Edward G. Thomas Jr, Alvina Bryant, Steve Graf, and Andy Bartosch

Submission by:

LTCOL Alvina Bryant, SFMC

USS Crockett, Region 3



Paramount Ranch

FCAPT Dave Mason
USS Angeles, NCC-71840
Region 4

AGOURA HILLS, CA — The town wasn't big enough for the eight of us.

But the sheriff warned us not to start any trouble. So we behaved, although some of us got thrown into jail anyway. Don't jaywalk in the Old West!

Still, we enjoyed our moment behind bars at Paramount Ranch.

USS Angeles members and a guest were glad we got to see the ranch's Western Town on November 3. Less than a week later, the mammoth Woolsey Fire destroyed most of the historic filming site in Agoura Hills, just north of Los Angeles.

The only structures that survived are a church from HBO's *Westworld*, the train station from the 1990s CBS series *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*, the National Park Service mill, and the site's Ranger Station.

"My heart was broken when I saw the live news about it," USS Angeles member Kat Campbell wrote on the Angeles-chat list on November 9, the day of the fire. "You guys were lucky to have gotten there before this devastation. I have lots of great memories from there and can't believe it is gone."

Elizabeth Critch posted on the chat list that the destruction was an additional emotional blow for an area hit hard by the fire. "Kelly and I regret that we never got the chance to go there. Glad the club made some great memories before it was too late."

For the November 3 mission, Pat and David Westbay, Carl and Sue-Ellen Fox, Ryan Bondy and his friend Kelly Kwon, Lisa Sobien, and I visited the U.S. National Park site. We walked by buildings that were used in shows such as *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. We also peeked inside a church, which HBO built for its current *Westworld* series about theme-park robots becoming self-aware and dangerous.

Our November 3 mission started with a quick photo op at an *Orville* filming site in nearby Westlake Village. Then it was off to the ranch.

I talked with our members and guest about Hallmark Channel movies that I watched being filmed in the Western Town. I saw *Six Million Dollar Man* star Lee Majors ride a horse in *The Trail to Hope Rose* (a 2004 Hallmark Channel western), and I chatted with co-stars Lou Diamond Phillips and, sitting in the saloon, the legendary Ernest Borgnine.

On another day, I interviewed the always-gracious Armin Shimerman (Quark on *Deep Space Nine*) near the General Store. Fake snow was everywhere that morning as the Western Town became the North Pole for Hallmark Channel's *Meet the Santas* (2005), starring Steve Guttenberg and Crystal Bernard as Santa and Mrs. Claus. Shimerman played the Chief Elf.

After my brief talk, Lisa pointed out specific locations she had seen in *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* episodes.

"It's very interesting to see the sights and see where they were filming, and actually touch and feel the buildings and see the barroom in the saloon," Lisa told me. "They actually have the full set inside (the saloon). They're not just filming the outside and



TWO WOMEN IN WESTERN TOWN

Lisa Sobien, left, and Sue-Ellen Fox stand in the Western Town, a historic Paramount Ranch site that was used in countless movies and TV shows. USS Angeles members and a guest visited the Agoura Hills, Calif., site less than a week before the Woolsey Fire destroyed most of the town.

Photo by Dave Mason, USS Angeles



The Saloon at Paramount Ranch

Both the exterior and interior of the saloon were used for filming at Paramount Ranch.

Photo by Dave Mason, USS Angeles

(Continued from previous page...Paramount Ranch)

going to a sound stage."

We learned more about *Dr. Quinn* from docent Don Bitz, whom Carl found and introduced to the group.

"I was around on the (*Dr. Quinn*) set all the time they were here," he told us during a detailed talk.

Bitz noted that TV star John Schneider, who was a regular on *Dr. Quinn*, liked to drive the "General Lee" from his Agoura Hills home to the Western Town each day for filming. The car was from another of his shows, *The Dukes of Hazzard* (1979-1985 on CBS), and the later *Dukes* TV films.

And Bitz took us where we hadn't gone before. He opened up the barbershop. Lisa recognized the interior as the clinic from *Dr. Quinn*.

Bitz also led us into the Sheriff's Office, where Ryan, Lisa, David, and I were thrown into jail. Fortunately, Lisa had bail money with her.

Visitors don't usually get to go inside the Western buildings, which are locked; so this was a real treat.

Bitz told us about other shows that filmed in the Western Town, such as HBO's Depression-era series *Carnivale*. The building exteriors were changed for the series.

He also mentioned that another program with Lee Majors, *The Fall Guy* (ABC in the 1980s), shot there.

And Bitz told us about a movie that you might not associate with Paramount Ranch: Disney's *The Love Bug* (1968). Herbie, the self-aware VW bug, drove on a paved road on the ranch, which has a lot of history.

Paramount Pictures purchased the ranch, which consisted of 2,700 acres from the old Rancho Las Virgenes, in 1927. The studio operated the movie ranch until the 1950s. The ownership changed several times, but filmmaking continued.

In 1980, the U.S. National Park Service bought part of the ranch and revitalized the site.

Today, the ranch is about 400 acres.

Since 1927, countless westerns and non-westerns were filmed at the ranch, everything from *Gunfight at the OK Corral* (1957) to *Reds* (1981).



SHERIFF'S OFFICE
The Sheriff's Office included a jail.
Photo by Dave Mason, USS Angeles



MAN IN JAIL

USS Angeles member Ryan Bondy is desperate to get out of jail in the Old West at Paramount Ranch.

Photo by Dave Mason, USS Angeles



Photo by Dave Mason, USS Angeles

ROBOT POSITION

From left: Ryan Bondy, Kelly Kwon, Carl and Sue-Ellen Fox, David and Pat Westbay, and Lisa Sobien stand in the same spot where a robot stood in an episode of HBO's "Westworld." All of them are USS Angeles members except Kelly, who's a friend of Ryan.

Stars who acted there varied from Gary Cooper to Cary Grant, James Garner, Bob Hope, and Bing Crosby.

After we thanked Bitz and walked around a bit more, we left the ranch. Pat and David needed to go home, but Ryan and Kelly recommended a Chinese restaurant in nearby Oak Park.

Sue-Ellen, Carl, Lisa, and I joined them there for dinner.

Little did we know we had seen the Western Town for the last time. But Bitz, the docent, remains optimistic the town will be rebuilt.

"When the day comes that the town is back, I will happily give you guys a grand tour!" Bitz emailed Sue-Ellen, who contacted him after the fire.

The Old West will rise again.

USS Angeles member Sue-Ellen Fox contributed to the reporting for this story.



The Night Before Shore Leave

LCDR Rezty Felty

(with gracious acknowledgment to Clement Clarke Moore)

Chief Engineer, USS Dark Phoenix, Region 12

*'Twas the night before Shore Leave; throughout Engineering
The warp core was throbbing, just barely in hearing.
The crew were all resting, leave dreams in their head,
Save for the third watch, who had duty 'fore bed.
The bridge gently hummed, not a klaxon had blared;
The crew made brief reports of how the ship fared;
The Captain laid easy, no noise did he make,
When foreboding unusual jerked him awake,
He rolled from his bunk, what appeared in his view,
That omniscient trickster known only as Q!
He slapped his comm badge, from his lips words did slip,
"Intruder Alert! Q has entered the ship!"
Q gazing bemusedly, said with a sneer,
"Mais non, Capitaine! Do I smell sudden fear?"
The Captain was steadfast and asked with aplomb,
"Why do you disturb us? All's quiet and calm."
Q said he had come to make their dreams true,
and that there was nothing the Captain could do.
"You speak all in riddles; now why are you here?
For once, can you just say your purpose out clear?
To 'make our dreams true?' We've oft told you, 'No!'
Their dreams must humans work for, if they are to grow!"
"This comes from your culture," Q said with a smile.
"Something humans have done, I believe, quite a while!
Some traditions of yours fascinate me, they do,
So much that I'm going to make one come true!"
The Captain's face somber, he asked once again,
"When will you reveal why you're here, oh say, when?"
Q then said, "Ah, no lover of mystery you,*

*Ah, mon Capitaine, must I now tell you true.
Christmas, Hanukkah, Festivus, each coexists,
having dinner with family, making of lists,
Saturnalia, Kwanzaa, and then the New Year,
How I long just this once to partake of that cheer!"*
*With a snap of his fingers, the crew all appeared
On the planet for shore leave, and wasn't that weird?
They found themselves seats at a long banquet table,
Q arrived in a flash, looking just like the fable.
His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
The crew was uneasy, the way that he leered,
In that red fur-lined suit, with a cap and his beard!
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He now was the owner of a big round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf;
Captain laughed when he saw him, in spite of himself;
"Oh, Q, what have you done? Where's the catch in this fest?"
Q just winked and said, "Eat! Each dish is the best!"
And after that word, he tucked into his plate,
The crew started eating, and found it all great.
With plates now all cleaned, and bellies all full,
Then Q rose once again, gave his beard a slight pull;
"Look beneath all your chairs, and you'll each find a token,
Small things that you want, of which you have spoken."
Each one found a gift, and each gift warmed a heart.
They looked up and noticed Q gone, with a start.
But they heard him exclaim, ere he winked out of sight—
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good flight!"
The crew had to admit, just this once it was true:
A selfless and kind deed, done by...Santa Q!*

USS ANGELES VISITS FILMING SITE OF THE ORVILLE

FCAPT Dave Mason
USS *Angeles*, NCC-71840
Region 4

WESTLAKE VILLAGE — The *USS Angeles* has traveled to a distant planet featured on *The Orville*.

We beamed down November 3 to Baxter Healthcare Corp., the futuristic office building that served as the Epsilon Science Station on *The Orville*. The site is in Westlake Village, just north of Los Angeles.

Carl and Sue-Ellen Fox, David and Pat Westbay, Lisa Sobien, and I gathered for photos in front of the structure, where Pat used to work for GTE.

Apparently Pat is in good company, at least, according to the Captain of the starship *Orville*.

"Researchers from all over the galaxy petition to work there," CAPT Ed Mercer said in the pilot episode, "Old Wounds."

He's played by Seth McFarlane, the star, creator, and executive producer of *The Orville*.

The series mixes humor with morality plays in a way similar to the original *Star Trek* series.

The second season will feature an episode directed by Jonathan Frakes, a.k.a. CMDR Will Riker, and guest-starring Marina Sirtis, a.k.a. Counselor Deanna Troi.

When the *Angeles* visited the *Orville* site, we stood in the area seen in the episode.

A shuttle from the ship landed on what would be the handicapped parking spaces.

In addition to *The Orville*, the site is also where a car crashed into a pool in *Demolition Man*, starring Sylvester Stallone and Wesley Snipes.

The pool is one of two pools in front of the building.

Carl showed me a video of the scene on his smartphone.

After our photo op, we headed to nearby Agoura Hills to join Ryan Bondy and his friend, Kelly Kwon, at Paramount Ranch.



Photo by Lisa Sobien/USS Angeles
From left, USS Angeles members David and Pat Westbay, Carl and Sue-Ellen Fox, and Dave Mason look at Baxter Healthcare Corp., a filming site on "The Orville."



Photo by Dave Mason/USS Angeles
From left, David and Pat Westbay, Carl and Sue-Ellen Fox, and Lisa Sobien gather outside Baxter Healthcare Corp., which appeared as the Epsilon Science Station on "The Orville"

AUCKGEDDON

SGM M Smith

Commanding Officer, *ISS Lonewolf*, Region 11

With the *USS Southern Cross* changing commanding officers, this means that the chapter now resides in Australia and thus there is no established STARFLEET presence in New Zealand. So when the *ISS Lonewolf* launched, their New Zealand-based members decided that they needed to make their presence known across the country on both islands. Unfortunately, there are not very many actual sci-fi-based events held in New Zealand, making it even more important that the *ISS Lonewolf* make a showing at every one.

With Auckland Armageddon the next event on the horizon, three of the crew began to prepare to attend. When you live in Christchurch, the logistics of attending "Auckgeddon" are not all that simple, as you must factor in plane flights or a very long car journey followed by a boat crossing and another long car journey. We opted to fly. There were still cars and buses involved, but not to such an extent.

The event itself started on the evening of Friday, 19th October and continued throughout the weekend. Therefore, we intended to catch our flight mid-morning on Friday. However, because some of our outfits had both rifles and pistols with them, we left for the airport early to make sure transporting these would not only be okay, but also to get them cleared and deal with any issues in plenty of time before our flight. This was going to be even more interesting, given we were flying in Starfleet uniforms.

So, once at the airport, we tracked down some assistance regarding our rifles. They were in an approved rifle case, which was slightly oversized, and were made of resin and had no working parts; but nevertheless, they were rifles. Of course, COL Angie Smith explained all this to the Air New Zealand staff; but of course, they needed to see them for themselves, so she opened the case. Well, that drew a crowd, as opening a rifle case in the middle of the airport would. But these were sci-fi props, so comments such as, "What are those?" were soon heard; She quickly shut the case after telling us that they'd best go through the oversized/fragile section. Therefore, while Angie did this, SGM M Smith and our new Chief Engineer, CRM Sandra Smith, went to check in the other luggage. When asked what was in one of the cases, M just innocently answered, "Uniforms, a couple of pistols...." You can imagine the reaction we got before we were politely told to take them to the same place Angie had gone with the rifles.

Eventually, we were seated on the plane and the journey went very smoothly, even with the passenger in front of us finding our *Trek* uniforms quite amusing as they kept turning back to stare at us. Once we arrived in Auckland, we then had to take the bus to the CBD before walking up some great hills to our hotel. It's not something we are used to as Christchurch is quite flat. But once we arrived, we unpacked and freshened up before heading out to meet with MGSgt John "Kiwi" Kane. Kiwi was over from the US, visiting family, and it was a real pleasure to finally meet another STARFLEET member, one with whom M had been speaking for quite some time. This was Kiwi's final day in New Zealand, as he was flying to Australia and, from there, back home. So, we shared a drink and great conversation before we headed to get something to eat; and Kiwi got the bus back to where he was staying.

Some dinner eaten, we took an Über to the ASB showgrounds, where there was a special opening from 6pm to 9pm. We decided to go in mufti and do our shopping, as this would then make it easier to cosplay the next day, and it seemed that everybody else had the same idea. I must say, the event was huge; but there didn't appear to be any more sellers than there were in Christchurch. They just seemed to have larger stalls. There was also a very large gaming area, in case this was something you were into. M purchased some books by a local author. It's one of the things she likes to do at these events, as

ARMAGEDDON

EXPERIENCE THE INCREDIBLE

(Continued from previous page...AUCKGEDDON)

often the authors that do come are self-published and self-promoting. Sandra was getting Christmas presents and Angie found some new *Doctor Who* Pop! Vinyls that had recently come out. We left quite happy and with the intention of making it an early night, since we were going to be getting up early to get costumed up and across.

6am on Saturday soon rocked 'round, and we were up and getting dressed. Sandra put on her *Trek* uniform, and Angie and M chose to dress as V Shock Troopers – the *Lonewolf* is a chapter that supports all different forms of sci-fi, after all. We then called another Uber and when we told the driver where we wanted to go, he asked if that's where the spaceship was. Sandra was quick to reply, "I hope so, as that's where we left it." En route, a car pulled up alongside us, driven by a pilot with the rank of Captain; so Sandra, in her Captain Janeway costume, commented that she had some competition. Angie responded, "No competition at all – you have a starship; he has an Audi."

So, having bought all the bits and pieces we wanted the day before, we now wandered around the show, chatting to people, having photographs taken, and telling those who were interested about the *Lonewolf* and STARFLEET. To be honest, compared to Christchurch Armageddon, there were very few people in cosplay, although it was interesting seeing a Roman Contubernium (think, "squad"), all in full armour with weapons and shields included. There was one cute young man who was fascinated with weapons. He did think we were from *Star Wars*; but he still had fun playing with our pistol, wearing our helmet, and even having a mouse snack. Unfortunately, there were very few people in *Trek*, but we did have the pleasure of chatting with a "CMDR Riker." Sandra was quite excited to have her photograph taken with him and his fellow *Trek* friends, along with a younger girl and her family. The girl was asking if we had members in her area. We don't, but she might be the first. We also got to speak with the NZ organising committee for World Con, which is happening here in Wellington in 2020. They are still just getting off the starting block and asking for lots of help to make this event, normally held in the US, a success. It may even be the case that Wellington Armageddon and World Con will be on consecutive weekends, to give attendees from other countries more to do while here in New Zealand.

On Sunday, we had to fly back home and repeat the process of having to get the rifles and pistols cleared to fly; but all in all, we had a good time and got both the *Lonewolf* and STARFLEET out there. The next 'Geddon on the list is Wellington Armageddon in April 2019, so look out for us there. We are already working on our outfits.



Upper: USS *Lonewolf* crew
SGM M Smith, Col Angie Smith, and
CMN Sandra Smith



Above Center: *Trek* Fans Unite!
CMN Sandra Smith with some fellow fans we met.



The Grinch with SGM M Smith
and CMN Sandra Smith



Above: Spyro with the *Lonewolf* Crew



Left: Meeting with Kiwi
MSGT John 'Kiwi' Kane, CMN Sandra Smith, SGM
M Smith, Col Angie Smith enjoy some refreshment.



SGM M Smith sits *The Iron Throne*

SPCA Moonwalk

SGM M Smith—Author and Photographer
CO, *ISS Lonewolf*, Region 11

Every person and their four-legged friends were encouraged to walk the distance from the Earth to the moon in November 2018 to raise money for animal welfare. The newly-created SPCA nationwide event here in New Zealand saw owners and their dogs walking the distance of 385,500 km to help raise these much-needed funds for animals in need.

As soon as the crew of the *ISS Lonewolf* heard about this event, both they and their furry friends were keen to pick up the challenge. In fact, they were already making steps towards the moon as part of the 11th Brigade's Tilly's Challenge, so now they were able to combine this with raising money for a worthwhile cause.



Sandra Isaacs with Charlie & Angie Smith with Spartacus



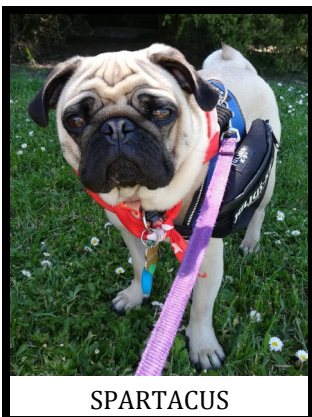
Liam Wilson with Dyson & Angie Smith with Spartacus

The official launch

was on the 4th November at Bottle Lake Forest in Christchurch, New Zealand, attended by about 150 people, including three from the *Lonewolf*: Commanding Officer SGM M Smith, Challenge Coordinator COL Angie Smith, and Chief Engineer Sandra Isaacs, along with their beloved dogs and Liam Wilson (SGM M Smith's son).

The walkers were set off to music and the course saw them heading into the forest and over the sand dunes to walk about 5k. It was a warm day; so frequent stops along the way for refreshments were needed, especially for the small furry ones in the group. But we took our time, going to the pace of the slowest, as, after all, it wasn't a race.

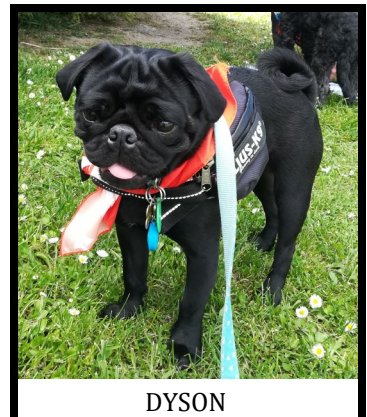
When we did make it back to the event village there was a free vegan BBQ and drinks to be had, along with continued music to relax the afternoon away. It was an enjoyable day but with a very sombre message about the plight of many sick, injured, and abused animals. It was very reassuring to know that the money we raised through our efforts will be used directly to help rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome animals.



SPARTACUS



CHARLIE



DYSON

USS DARK PHOENIX AT TOPCON EXPO 2018

VADM Ralph F Planthold, *USS Dark Phoenix*, R12

It had been two years since the *USS Dark Phoenix* last volunteered to work security at the annual TopCon Expo at the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka, KS, so, we felt it was high time to do so once again this year on the weekend of September 15-16. We were pleasantly surprised at the enthusiastic reaction we received from the event's organizer, James A. "Gypsy" George.

Initially we'd been told that there would be no fan table available for our chapter this year, but that didn't dissuade us from volunteering to help again. As convention weekend approached, however, we were grateful to learn that we would again have such a free fan table after all, right between the Topeka Cosplay Society and the 501st Legion!

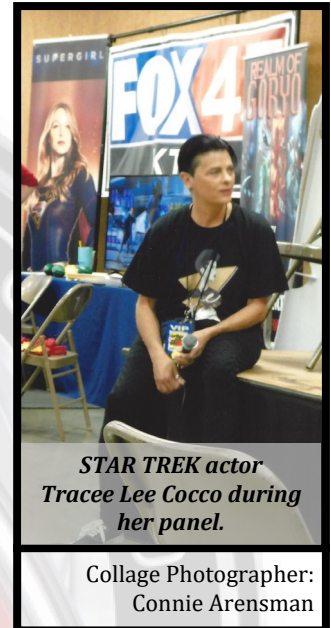
On Saturday, actor Tracee Lee Cocco, veteran of over 100 roles within the *Star Trek* franchise, made it a point to stop at our fan table and pose for photos when she recognized our banner and polo shirts.

On Sunday, *Star Trek* author Susanne Lambdin stopped by our table to encourage some of us to sit on the front row of a joint panel she and Tracee Lee Cocco would be conducting.

CMO Laura Felty apologized that she herself was not a particular fan of *STAR TREK*, and would not make a good addition to the panel, nor would she leave her autistic daughter unattended. She did, however, send her son Dyson and his buddy Dylan to attend the panel, where they were joined by Connie Arensman with her camera.

During the weekend, we collected information from 24 prospects and invited them to attend our October chapter meeting three weeks later in Topeka.

Despite none of them attending that meeting, we now know there is a sizable fan base there in Topeka, and we look forward to next year's TopCon Expo!



**STAR TREK actor
Tracee Lee Cocco during
her panel.**

Collage Photographer:
Connie Arensman



XO Sunnie Planthold, cosplay fan, and CEO Rezty Felty.



**IRON BROTHERS OF TOPEKA (IBOTs), "Stan Lee"
lookalike, and XO Sunnie Planthold.**
Upper Row Photos By: Ralph Planthold



**"Wonder Woman"
Hannah Trevethan from the
Sternberg Museum of Natural
History at Fort Hays State
University and
XO Sunnie Planthold.**



L-R: Steve Atwell of the *Star Trek* Clubs of Kansas City:
The Neutral Zone; SO Tracy Mengel;
and CO Ralph Planthold.
Photo Credit: Sunnie Planthold



L-R: Dylan Kroll; Dyson, CMO Laura Felty and
Tesla; Laynee & Kyrstin Talley.
Photo Credit: Connie Arensman



DragonCon 2018: A Tale of Star Trek

By RADM Jana Sandarg
Executive Officer, *USS Star League*
Region 1



All *Star Trek* folks in costume gather on the steps of the Hilton Hotel for a photo shoot.
Photo by Robert Sandarg

The old and the new featured prominently in the lineup of *Star Trek* guest stars and the fans' emulation of them through their costuming. The annual parade brought us the usual array of Terrans, Klingons, Romulans, and other *Trek* creatures, ranging from the original series to the latest cast of *Discovery*. The annual *Star Trek* photo opportunity on the steps of the Hilton garnered this same variety, but the fans dressed in the uniforms of the new *Discovery* crew drew everyone's attention and created excitement about the new series and the continuing success of *Star Trek*. The uniforms were sleek, sharp, and form-fitting.

Trekkers familiar with *Discovery* described the characters and told their stories, which in turn spurred the fans to pack the halls for the *Star Trek* panels.

One such panel, on a Sunday morning, was jammed. *Voyager* cast members Garrett Wang, Robert Duncan McNeill, and Ethan Phillips flanked the left. In the center were newcomers Mary Chieffo and Kenneth Mitchell, both of *Discovery*. At far right sat Walter Koenig, the only member of the original cast. Walter was the last to enter the stage, amid thunderous applause not only from the audience but also from the other *Star Trek* stars. During the panel, the *Voyager* and *Discovery* casts recounted hilarious stories about Walter and his mischievous pranks on other *Star Trek* stars attending cons. Their admiration and affection for Walter were genuine and compelling.



(L-R) Walter Koenig and Jana Sandarg

Photo Provided by Jana Sandarg



Members of the *USS Star League* in the Walk of Fame room at DragonCon
(L-R) Aaron and Jamie Knowles,
Robert and Jana Sandarg
Photo Provided by Jana Sandarg

Even as each answered questions about their personae on their series, it always came back to Walter. As the session concluded, the stars gathered in front of the tables to link arms and pose for the fans – the old and the new in solidarity – proof that *Star Trek* continues to reinvent itself and boldly go...somewhere new.

PICARD'S BACK!!!!

Stewart announces new *Star Trek* series before fans in Las Vegas

FCAPT Dave Mason
USS Angeles, NCC-71840
Region 4

LAS VEGAS — Thousands of fans cheered as Sir Patrick Stewart unexpectedly walked onto the stage.

Then suddenly, the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino ballroom became quiet as Stewart explained the pros and cons of playing the Captain of the *Enterprise-D*. After *The Next Generation* movies ended, Stewart, who felt typecast because of his role, decided he was done playing Jean-Luc Picard.

"It would be a voyage that I would never undertake again," Stewart said.

But he had heard over the years from fans, who told him about what *Star Trek* and its promise of a better future meant to them.

Their words led the knight from the stars to change his mind.

"Picard is back," Stewart said.

Those three words sounded like, "I love you," to fans, who cheered, applauded, and whistled on August 4 at Creation Entertainment's Official *Star Trek* Convention in Las Vegas. Those attending included members of the *USS Angeles*, the Region 4 STARFLEET chapter based in Los Angeles.

Rumors had circulated that the *Next Generation* star was interested in returning to *Star Trek*, but to hear Stewart confirm Picard's return left fans excited and happy.

And in shock.

"Oh my God! Oh my God!" fans said to each other as Stewart gave them a moment to digest the news.

The 78-year-old Mirfield, England, native will star as Picard in a new CBS All-Access series set 20 years after *Star Trek: Nemesis* (2002), the last *Next Generation* movie. Executive producers include Stewart, *Discovery* co-creator and executive producer Alex Kurtzman (who introduced Stewart at the con), "Rod" Roddenberry, and Trevor Roth.

Already, fans are speculating. Will Picard be commandant of Starfleet Academy? Or will he go on rogue spy missions for Starfleet?

Will he be an ambassador? Or will he tend his family's vineyards in France?

One fan knows what she wants and doesn't want.

"I hope it's not as dark as *Discovery* and more like *Trek*," *Angeles* member Karen Hoagland wrote on the *Angeles*-chat list after the news was announced.

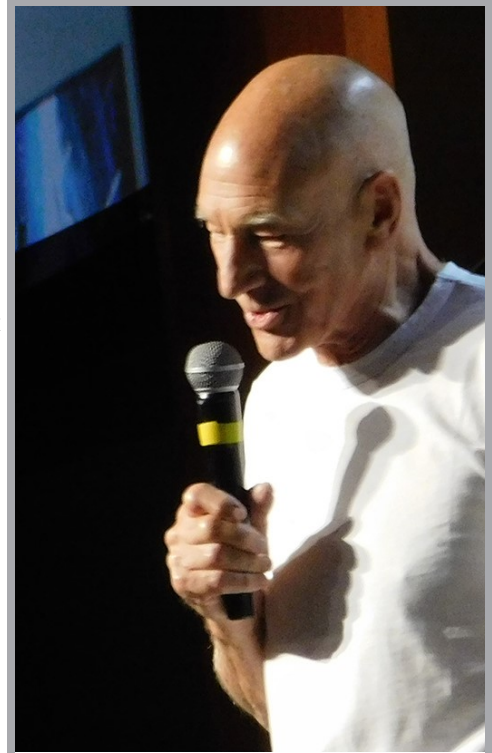


Photo by Dave Mason/USS Angeles
Patrick Stewart announces that he is returning as
Capt. Jean-Luc Picard



Photo by Dave Mason/USS Angeles

Michael Westmore watches as John Paladin turns 4

It's probably too early to say what the new Picard-led show will entail or what Picard will be like since we last saw him. Producers, writers, and Stewart are working on the details.

"We have no scripts. We are just talking storylines," Stewart said, but noted the new show will be very different from *The Next Generation*.

"I have to tell you he (Picard) may not — and I stress the word 'may' — he may not be a Captain anymore," Stewart said. "He may be a very different individual, someone who has been changed by his experience."

Stewart did stress the new series will be presented with the same passion as *The Next Generation*.

His first stint as Picard raised his status from a Shakespearean actor, whom fans may not have heard of, to a sci-fi icon. *Next Gen* went on to win Emmys and wrapped up its run in 1994 with 178 episodes.

"I was always proud of what we did," said Stewart, whose career included acting with the prestigious Royal Shakespeare Company in Britain.

His other acting projects included his one-man stage rendition of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and his portrayal of Professor Charles Xavier in the *X-Men* movies, including *Logan* (2017).

But on TV, he never matched the success of Picard.

He expressed disappointment at the 2017 Las Vegas convention that *Blunt Talk*, the 2015-2016 Starz network series in which he played an un-Picard-like Los Angeles talk show host, was canceled after 20 episodes.

At this year's convention, he explained how *The Next Generation* affected his pursuit of other parts.

"I remembered meeting with a filmmaker whose movie I very much wanted to be in, to play a supporting role," Stewart said. "He said, 'You're a good actor. I very much like your work, but why would I want Jean-Luc Picard in my movie?'"

"One has mixed feelings about anecdotes like that," Stewart said. "I was determined that was the past. It was over."

When Stewart was approached earlier this year about playing Picard again, he knew he would have to decline.

In fact, he spent 20 minutes during a meeting with four other people explaining why he wouldn't reprise the popular character for a CBS All-Access series.

Then something happened, Stewart said.

He watched *Next Generation* episodes, including some he hadn't seen. "Gradually it became clearer and clearer to me about the power of that show."



Photo by Dave Mason/USS Angeles
Jackie Freeman and Lisa Sobien gather in a
ballroom to watch Karaoke
with "Star Trek" actors and fans

In addition, "I have never grown tired of people who stopped me in the streets or a restaurant and said, 'Your show changed my life,'" Stewart recalled.

He said his favorite comments came in a letter from a Las Vegas police detective, who wrote that the cruelty of criminals left him feeling dismayed about the world.

"But when I feel like that, I go to my video shelf and take down *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and I know we are going to have a future," the detective wrote.

"That line was at the very central of what I'm going to tell you now," Stewart said. "Picard is back."

For fans at the convention, it really did sound like he said, "I love you."

Review of Ares Games' **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA** STARSHIP BATTLES

CAPT Brian A. Crist
Executive Officer, *USS Storm*, Region 7



A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away (uh, no). Space, the final frontier (still, no). Some say, life here, began out there (close). Ah, the Cylons were created by Man. They evolved. They rebelled.

I've been into sci-fi since I was a teenager, but I never really played any kind of tabletop game. My brother was a D&D guy, but I couldn't wrap my head around it. Of course, within the last few years, I've gathered various game pieces for *Star Wars: X-Wing* and *Star Trek: Attack Wing*. And now I have *Battlestar Galactica: Starship Battles*.

With the help of *USS Storm*'s resident gamesmith, Pablo Bermudez, we got together to try out my latest acquisition. We were extremely impressed with the detail of the game pieces. I couldn't help but comment that the Mk II Viper could be compared to a classic Ford Mustang, as opposed to a future Mk VII Viper.

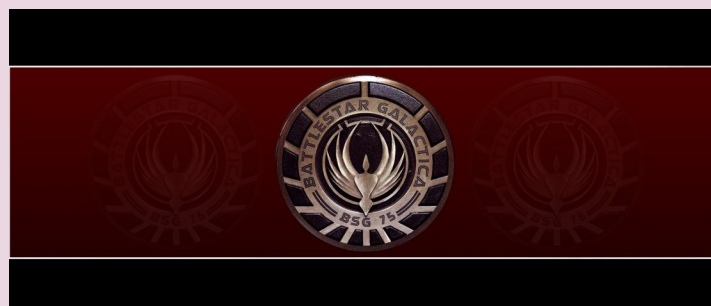
Unfortunately, that was the only thing that we liked. Now, we could be stuck in a certain frame of mind, tainted by our experiences with the previously-mentioned tabletop games. In fact, when starting off, one of the Cylon Raiders flew off the game map. It wasn't until further consideration that I realized that didn't have to happen. With the new control panel concept, there are options to not move or to go backwards.

We were very disappointed in the randomness of the cards, as well as the limited distance we were allowed to travel, again as opposed to the distance allowed by the previously-mentioned tabletop games. After a Cylon went into the "void," we started the game over. The manual makes a vague reference of choosing, rather than drawing a card. So we made our own little house rule. We combined both sets of cards from our respective sides, and then we drew and held five cards in our hands. That way, we would play what cards we held, and then we would fill our hands from our decks.

Then there is the turning-over of the control panel. It often seemed to be an afterthought, once the players made their turn. Of course, I personally had the same issue with the other tabletop games.

In the future, I'm sure we can expect expansion card packs with other pilot cards, and even an FTL card. Recently posted on the Ares Games page are some future Cylon Raider expansion packs: Cylon Raider, Starbuck's Cylon Raider, and the Scar Cylon Raider. I would expect future expansion ship packs to include: Mk I and Mk VII Vipers, Raptors, Classic Cylon Raiders, and Cylon troop carriers. If Ares Games were to consult with the Colonial Ministry of Defense, the *Battlestar Galactica* fan club, there are other Viper models that could even be offered to the public.

All I can say is, I can't wait to see what ships and cards Ares Games issues in the future. Let's hope they can come up with some interesting battle scenarios, too. So say we all!



SAFETY BRIEF



GREETINGS!, I would like to introduce the safety brief. This is a themed brief intended to communicate safety topics to the membership. My intent is to create various briefs both themed (Star Trek) and real life to have available in the communicate. I welcome all feedback enjoy.

FLEET ALERT LEVEL	GREEN	FLEET READINESS LEVEL	REDCON
SUBSPACE MESSAGE TYPE	ENCRYPTED COMMUNICATION	MESSAGE SUBJECT	SAFETY BRIEF

BRIEFING:

The following safety brief has been issued regarding musculoskeletal or (MSI) injuries. A musculoskeletal injury (MSI) is an injury of the musculoskeletal system which includes muscles, tendons, blood vessels, tissue, ligaments, nerves, spinal discs and joints. I am sure we know or have known someone or have been personally affected by this. These preventable injuries have steadily been on the rise in recent years prompting regulators to develop prevention initiatives. Susceptibility to these injuries are not isolated to a specific environment and can affect you at the workplace or at your residence. Symptoms can appear gradually or sudden and range from numbness to tingling and discomfort. Below is some common risk factors and consequences:

COMMON RISK FACTORS

- ◇ Improper Lifting
- ◇ Slip, Trip or Falls
- ◇ Improper Posture
- ◇ Lifting Heavy Loads
- ◇ Twisting While Lifting
- ◇ Repetitive Movements
- ◇ Overexertion or Straining

COMMON CONSEQUENCES

- ◇ Long Term Personal Injury: Muscle Strain/Tendinitis
- ◇ Reduced Productivity
- ◇ Change in Quality of Life
- ◇ Financial Impact: Personal/Organizational – Insurance Claims and Associated Administration Costs for Replacement Workers

ORDERS

Everyone can do their part in the prevention of these injuries by following good safety practices. The following safety control measures are recommended.

SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES

- ◇ Keep Work Area Clean and Organized with Items Needed Within Reach
- ◇ Know the Weight of the Item Your Lifting and Ask for Help If Needed
- ◇ For Repetitive Tasks Take Frequent Breaks
- ◇ Ensure the Work Area is at an Acceptable Height. You Should Not Have to Overexert, Bend, Twist or Strain

DISCLAIMER

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING CURRENT SAFETY INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AGENCY.

TO REPORT A HAZARD IN YOUR SECTOR OR FOR FEEDBACK OR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:
MATT BARRON cso, pcp ❖ REGION 13 ❖ EMAIL: starfleetsafetycenter@gmail.com

THREE CHEERS

Logical. It *was* flawlessly logical.

It was what T'Pring wanted. What Stonn wanted. Even what Spock wanted, once he saw the Captain alive again.

Yet as he sat at his desk in his quarters, a gnawing sense of shame and rejection simmered in Spock. It was a feeling he hadn't experienced since he was a child, yet perhaps it was just leftover adrenaline from his *pon farr*. Whatever it was, it was persistent enough to divert his mind from more useful endeavors.

A buzz shook him from his thoughts, and his eyes darted to the door. "Come in," he prompted.

"House call!" McCoy sang out as he and Kirk entered the room, cheerful smiles on both their faces and a covered tray in the doctor's hands.

"It's time to celebrate, Mr. Spock!" Kirk announced, clapping his hands together.

Spock simply raised a trademark eyebrow at his friends, signaling his confusion.

McCoy answered. "Well, since we were technically your best men for your...half-marriage, and we didn't do anything beforehand, I figured we should hold a *reverse* bachelor party for you!" With a flick of his wrist, he snatched the cloth covering the tray to reveal three empty glasses and a bottle of some unidentifiable purple alcohol.

Spock looked from the tray to the two beaming men above him. That they would even consider that he might agree to this perplexed him. "Really, Doctor?"

"Oh come now, Spock. It's not every day one of us almost gets married," Kirk insisted. "And even less often we can appreciate...being single."

"Gentlemen, I must insist that this is quite unnecessary."

Yet even as Spock protested, McCoy was already pouring a round. "Well then, if not for what almost was, then how about to Jim not actually being dead?" He smirked between the Captain and Science Officer. "You can't deny you felt something for *that* now, can you?"

No, he couldn't. Even though he brushed it off earlier, they'd all seen his initial reaction to Jim still being alive. A smile. Pure, utter *joy*. It would be illogical to deny it. Spock shook his head in resignation.

"Then, *here*." McCoy thrust a half-full glass into his hand, a smug grin tugging at his lips. He raised his own glass into the air with Kirk's, and Spock reluctantly stood up to join them.

"To the single life!" Kirk cheered.

"And to the Captain's!" McCoy added.

They all clinked their glasses together, but only the two humans gleefully tilted theirs back, swallowing down large gulps of the purple concoction. Spock took in a sip of his, if only out of respect to his Captain, then held the glass quietly in his hands, watching the drink swirl hypnotically.

Kirk smacked his lips together in satisfaction, then noticed Spock's demeanor. "What's the matter, Spock? Getting cold feet?" he asked, earning a chuckle from McCoy.

That gnawing feeling was back now, growing in force.

Spock should've been celebrating with his friends, even as a half-Vulcan. He had gotten what he ultimately wanted—to be spared of his *pon farr* and his marriage to T'Pring. But T'Pring's explanation kept ringing in his head.

"I did not want to be the consort of a legend."

A legend. Undoubtedly, it was his mixed blood which had earned him such a reputation among Vulcans, just as it had in his youth. Coupled with T'Pol's questioning of his heritage, he felt...less than genuine.

"Spock?" Jim's hand was on his shoulder, his face full of concern. At some point he had sat back down again.

"You both...heard what T'Pol asked me, when I was in the *plak tow* and approached her?"

The two men exchanged glances as they recalled the memory.

"Are thee Vulcan or are thee human?"

Kirk straightened his posture and cleared his throat, sensing what Spock was getting at. "We...did, Spock. But you more than proved yourself to her."

Spock trained his gaze on his drink again, unable to look up at the others. "T'Pol chose the challenge because of that same doubt."

Silence sneaked over the room. It felt heavy on Spock, his words weighing on the back of his tongue. He shouldn't have brought up the matter in the first place. Perhaps the Vulcan women's doubts were justified.

McCoy surprised him by breaking the silence first. "It doesn't matter what either of them think. You're not 'either-or,' Spock. You're both. You get to represent two worlds. You belong down on Vulcan just as much as you do on Earth or here on the *Enterprise*."

Kirk spared a knowing grin at McCoy, nodding wholeheartedly in agreement.

Spock let the doctor's words sink in like a prescribed hypo. The reassurance, which he would normally wave off, was long overdue for a soul in need of acceptance. He looked McCoy in the eye; and his voice rumbled, "Thank you, Doctor. Your perspective is refreshing...and welcome."

He half-expected a quip in response, but instead McCoy gave him a soft, grateful smile, his eyes shining with unspoken understanding.

With a raise of his glass, Kirk eased the atmosphere back into a celebratory mood. "Besides Spock, as both, you can appreciate a good toast and then watch unaffected as Bones and I make fools of ourselves!"

McCoy sent a fake scowl towards the now-laughing Kirk before playfully nudging Spock, prompting him to stand back up and raise his glass with theirs again.

"To Spock!"

As they all drank, Spock couldn't help but smile.

Author: ENS Chrissie "Astro" Miille

USS Southern Cross NCC-63550

Region 11



Scheduling a Break From New Year's Resolutions

From the Still Recovering Keyboard of:

BGEN Justin Donovan, **IC 2019** Co-Chair



Step. Kick. Step. Kick. Step. Kick....March. March. March. March.

"Knee raises! Go!"

"Really?!? Up. Down. Up. Down. Up. Down....That's it! PAUSE! Whew! You-Tube videos are great! (pant, pant, pant) You-Tube exercise videos? I'm working on it. But I'm going to be looking for a break. I know I am. Like a lot of us, I promised myself I would try and do better in 2019. But I know, eventually, guilty pleasures will creep back in. Fortunately, I live in St. Louis, so I have an abundance of choices of those guilty pleasures. Because we're a great city of great food. So, if you're looking to schedule a break from your New Year's resolutions, here are a few of your 2019 IC opportunities.



Let's start with breakfast. You know, what they say "breakfast is the most important meal of the day." And I agree. So you need a good one. And if you're looking for a really good one, we've got **GOLDEN PANCAKE** (M-Sat 6:00 am to 8:30 pm with reduced hours on Sunday) And with Golden Pancake, it doesn't matter when you want breakfast because they serve breakfast all day long. And they don't just have pancakes. They serve waffles, french toast, biscuits, breakfast skilletes, and if there are any Kosher Fleeters out there—no pork products! They're affordable. The service is warm and attentive and best of all, they're only a few blocks from the IC hotel. They're fantastic, if

you're needing a breakfast (or lunch or dinner) indulgence, they'll set you up.

IMO'S PIZZA—Here's a story for you.

Ed and Margie Imo began their journey to St. Louis pizza history as a pair of young, hardworking St. Louisians who fell in love, started a family and dreamt of owning their own home.

As devoted Catholics, they would wait until 11:30 every Friday night to order a meat-topped pizza from one of the many Italian restaurants near their home on The Hill in St. Louis. After years of picking up their pizzas safely after midnight, a simple idea launched a phenomenon...

"Wouldn't it be nice if someone would deliver the pizza to us?"

They opened their first pizza parlor in 1964 at Thurman and Shaw Avenues in St. Louis. It was open evenings only, offering pick-up and delivery. . .Today, Imo's Pizza is one of the more popular pizza places in St Louis. (story provided by <https://www.imospizza.com/history>)

So, if you're tired from a trip getting to IC, "wouldn't it be nice if someone would deliver the pizza to you?"

Pasta. Talk about a guilty pleasure, one I happen to enjoy. And where to go for pasta? Well that's hard because there's a lotsa pasta happening in St. Louis. You want great Italian? "The Hill" is the place to go. (See how I'm getting you into the local speak). The Hill is an Italian-American neighborhood with everything that is phenomenal in Italian food. The problem with The Hill is not finding a good meal, it's choosing one. So, while I could list a ton of places to go, I'll keep it simple for now—**FAVAZZA'S ON THE HILL**.

Favazza's is a family owned and operated Italian restaurant. Whether it's date night, family dinner, a wedding reception, or a milestone anniversary; the Favazza family has been serving food to generations of St. Louisans and visitors alike since 1978.

The restaurant opened at the corner of Marconi and Southwest in St. Louis' "the Hill" Neighborhood, the "Little Italy" of St. Louis. Started by Vito Favazza, his wife, Ellen, and their son, Tony, the restaurant is owned and operated by their sons, John and Tony, and has grown to the largest restaurant on "the Hill." (description provided by





For all of your IC guilty pleasures, check out the websites of these local establishments.

Golden Pancake

<http://www.goldenpancake.com/>



IMO'S
PIZZA

<https://www.imospizza.com/>



<https://favazzas.com/>



<https://crowncandykitchen.net/>



<http://teddrewes.com/>



<https://www.oberweis.com/fountain-menu>

<https://favazzas.com/>

From toasted ravioli (a St. Louis specialty), to Caesar salad, to hand tossed pizzas and of course, pasta **FAVAZZA'S ON THE HILL** has it all.

Talk about indulgence. **CROWN CANDY KITCHEN** has it all. Sweet or savory. Lunch or dessert. You cannot go wrong with **CROWN CANDY KITCHEN**. Since 1913 this all around great food spot has been serving the best. The best what, you ask? Well, pretty much everything. *Besides the soda fountain and candy, **CROWN CANDY KITCHEN** serves great food for lunch and dinner. Whether you're in the mood for a thick stacked sandwich, chili, a giant gourmet frank, a salad or a bowl of soup – **CROWN CANDY KITCHEN's** staff is ready to prepare a fresh hearty meal to satisfy your appetite.* (description provided by <https://crowncandykitchen.net/about/>)

And finally, let's talk about indulgence. Ice cream, candy, frozen custard... Oh My! They say that moderation is key. Now, I'm not sure how to be moderate with all the sweet treats that are in St. Louis, but if you've got the will power—great! Me? I want them all. (And I bet if you try them, you will too.)



"Heart Stopping BLT"
from Crown Candy Kitchen
"This ain't no health food!"



TED DREWES FROZEN CUSTARD.

A St. Louis contribution and tradition in the culinary world. Now, I know what you're thinking—"it's January and this crazy person is talking about frozen custard?". You're right.

But IC is in August and trust me

we'll have the heat and you'll want to take a chill. And **TED DREWES** is just the place for a cool, guilty pleasure. Serving malts, shakes, sundaes, and concretes (a shake so thick it's served upside down) in a variety of specialty flavors, **TED DREWES** is one of the must-stops on any St Louis visit. A great place to sit back, enjoy a treat, and catch up with friends and family. For more on hours and location, just visit: <http://teddrewes.com/>.

Ok, that's frozen custard. And if you're like me and frozen custard isn't quite the same as ice cream, don't worry, we've got ice cream too. If you're looking for the some of the best ice cream, then you have to try **OBERWEIS**. What makes them so special? Well, how about the fact that they're not only an ice cream parlor, they're a freaking dairy too. They got cows! I mean you just can't get any better than having your own cows, right? They have milk, cheese, and yogurt (I know, "Get to the ice cream part!" I'm working on it). And man, do they have ice cream. From black cherry to blueberry pie, black raspberry chocolate chunk to coconut chocolate almond (and yes, they have vanilla too!) **OBERWEIS** is out of this world amazing ice cream, and that's even before you get to the sundaes! Plan a trip! You won't be disappointed.



Peanut Butter
Sundae

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