


STARFLEET Command

ISSUE #198

JANUARY - MARCH 2019



***Mother Nature at her schizophrenic best.
Hope you all are safe and on your way to recovery from whatever
she has thrown at you these last few months***

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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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FRONT COVER

Tribute to Mother Nature's awesome power she
has been showing us all Winter along with her
promise of better things to come.

Star Trek.

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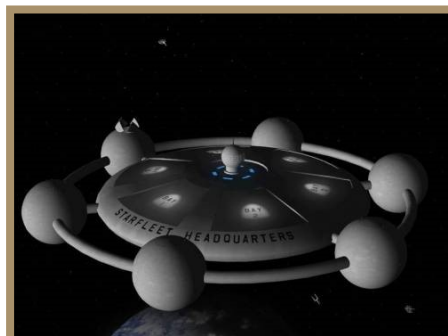
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Welcome to the Fleet

Commissioned: 02 FEBRUARY 2019

USS LONEWOLF ▲ NX 94799

ChristChurch, New Zealand ▲ Region 11

CO: SMAJ Marie Smith

XO: SMAJ Geoff Upton

Commissioned: 23 FEBRUARY 2019

USS VERSAILLES ▲ NCC 75022

Saint Caprais, France ▲ Region 09

CO: CMDR Bruno Martin Matjasec

XO: LCDR Jean-Marie David

Commissioned: 16 MARCH 2019

USS FUTURE IMPERFECT ▲ NX 1763

Flushing, Michigan ▲ Region 13

CO: CMDR Steven Craig Phillips

XO: LCDR Mike John Dodd

Launched: 01 MARCH 2019

USS SUN-TZU ▲ NCC 1745

West Fork, Arkansas ▲ Region 12

CO: CMDR Robert Ian Frizzell

XO: LCDR Kevin Neff

Launched: 10 MARCH 2019

USS Solstice ▲ NCC 1221

Jeanette, Pennsylvania ▲ Region 07

CO: CMDR Glenn Smith

XO: LCDR Stephen J Rocco



Happy Anniversary Ships of the Line

Celebrating Our Chapters' Years In Service

<i>USS Thunderbird</i>	R12	01/01/1987	32	<i>USS Antares</i>	R05	02/15/2008	11
<i>USS Umiak</i>	R12	01/04/1992	27	<i>USS Odin</i>	R01	01/12/2009	10
<i>USS Marko Ramius</i>	R12	02/08/1992	27	<i>USS Victorious</i>	R02	01/31/2010	09
<i>USS Onizuka</i>	R04	02/21/1993	26	<i>USS Susquehannock</i>	R07	03/04/2010	09
<i>USS Joan of Arc</i>	R03	01/06/1994	25	<i>USS Constellation</i>	R01	03/12/2010	09
<i>USS Sunflower</i>	R12	01/28/1995	24	<i>USS Premonition</i>	R02	01/24/2012	07
<i>Dark Silence Station</i>	R02	03/10/1995	24	<i>USS Crockett</i>	R03	02/17/2012	07
<i>USS Tycho</i>	R01	02/11/1996	23	<i>USS Riviera</i>	R05	03/03/2012	07
<i>USS Helen Pawlowski</i>	R15	02/16/1996	23	<i>USS Gygax</i>	R04	03/14/2012	07
<i>USS Lone Star</i>	R03	03/02/1996	23	<i>USS Potomac</i>	R01	03/28/2012	07
<i>USS DaVinci</i>	R02	03/16/1996	23	<i>USS Charon</i>	R01	02/09/2013	06
<i>USS Black Hawk</i>	R12	03/23/1996	23	<i>USS Alaster</i>	R07	01/24/2015	04
<i>Ark Angel Station</i>	R03	01/01/2001	18	<i>USS Apollo</i>	R03	01/01/2017	02
<i>USS Ares</i>	R15	01/01/2001	18	<i>USS Arrowhead</i>	R04	01/08/2018	01
<i>USS Darwin</i>	R15	02/12/2001	18	<i>USS Parallax</i>	R11	02/12/2018	01
<i>USS Pioneer</i>	R17	02/19/2001	18	<i>USS Yorktown</i>	R01	02/21/2018	01
<i>USS Niagara</i>	R07	02/07/2003	16				
<i>USS Liberator</i>	R01	03/03/2003	16				
<i>USS Inferno</i>	R07	02/02/2004	15				
<i>USS Dauntless</i>	R08	02/10/2005	14				
<i>USS Sinclair</i>	R13	03/16/2005	14				
<i>USS Thermopylae</i>	R05	01/27/2007	12				
<i>USS Wildhorse</i>	R05	02/12/2007	12				
<i>USS Britannic</i>	R07	02/12/2007	12				





STARFLEET SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

WE WANT YOU!

Scholarship Information

ADM Tammy Willcox, scholarships@sfi.org

I am accepting scholarship applications for the 2019 Scholarship award season. To be eligible, the member must have joined STARFLEET prior to June 15, 2018 and maintained the membership throughout the entire year. The scholarship awards will be presented at the International Conference in St. Louis, MO August 2-4, 2019.

Scholarship Donations

If you would like to make a donation to the STARFLEET Scholarship Program, you can make it during your renewal process, or you can send a

PayPal payment to epayments@sfi.org and make sure to notate that the funds are to be utilized for the Scholarship Program.

Check payments may be made payable to "STARFLEET Scholarship Fund" and sent to this STARFLEET mailing address:

STARFLEET Scholarship
PO Box 1701
Valdosta, GA 31603

If you would like to request an application or have any questions about the STARFLEET Scholarship Program, please contact me at scholarships@sfi.org, and I would be happy to assist you

For the upcoming school year, we have five (5) distinct scholarship categories: Four (4) denoting specific areas of study and one (1) general scholarship for those members who have a major that does not necessarily fit into one of the other categories). Each category may award a scholarship of up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000 USD). The scholarship categories are as follows:

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

James Doohan/Montgomery Scott Engineering & Technology Scholarship

This very popular scholarship covers any field related to engineering and other fields of study involving technology, computer science, etc.

MEDICINE & VETERINARIAN

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

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

ARTISTIC

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

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

BUSINESS/MANAGEMENT/EDUCATION

Armin Shimerman/George Takei/LeVar Burton Scholarship for Business, Language Studies & Education

This scholarship is for business and management studies, the study of foreign languages or studies abroad, and for teaching, and any related field in these areas.

MISCELLANEOUS

Space Explorers' Memorial Scholarship

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



STARFLEET SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



WE WANT YOU!

Who? For what? All STARFLEET members who have been in STARFLEET for at least one calendar year prior to the Application Deadline (June 15th) are eligible to apply for one of five (5) scholarships to help you continue or begin your studies at community colleges, four-year colleges, most technical schools, junior colleges, universities, graduate schools, or any other accredited institution/organization that offers a certificate/ diploma or degree program. The scholarships may be split each year, half going for the fall semester and the remaining half for the spring. (If your school does not run on a traditional calendar, note that on the application.)

When? The application periods runs from January 1 until June 15 of each year. All scholarships will be announced at STARFLEET's International Conference ("IC"). In 2019, IC is August 2-4, in St. Louis, MO. After the announcement has been made, the scholarship award winners will be notified and checks will be mailed directly to the schools to be used toward tuition, books, fees, loans, and/or other school necessities. All applications must be received by June 15-the "Application Deadline." Don't be late!

How? Easy! Simply submit your completed application packet (application form, your essay, references, transcripts and employment history) to the Scholarship Director, Tammy Wilcox, in by sending the application in one of the following ways:

For an application, visit:

http://sfi.org/Backup/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SFI_Scholarship_Application_2018.pdf

Electronic Mail: Scan and send your completed application packet to scholarships@sfi.org

Postal Mail: Mail your completed application packet to:

Tammy Wilcox
STARFLEET Scholarship Program
316 Dublin Rd
Asheboro, NC 27203

The contents of your COMPLETED application packet should include:

The STARFLEET Scholarship Application Form filled out in its entirety.

1. A two-page personal essay addressing the following items in detail:
 - A. Why are you applying for this scholarship?
 - B. What STARFLEET activities are you involved in? and
 - C. Other activities you participate in such as academic, athletic, interscholastic, non STARFLEET interests, career- related, volunteer opportunities, etc.
2. A brief employment history, if any. If you have not worked, please include a resume of any volunteer activities you have performed.
3. Two (2) letters of recommendation with signatures from the persons making the recommendation. These recommendations can be made by teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, academic advisors, professors, employers, and other community or volunteer leaders.
4. One (1) letter of recommendation from a member of STARFLEET in good standing that has achieved the rank of Captain or above.
5. An official copy of your latest transcript. If your school needs a written request from the scholarship office, contact the director ASAP.
6. If you are currently in high school going into college, you need to include a copy of your acceptance letter.



Region 12 Gathers for Annual "Family Reunion"

RADM "Khane" Williams
USS Horizon, NCC-1000-B, Region 12



Greetings to Region 12 from the *USS Horizon* and mid-Missouri. I want to thank all who braved and thumbed their noses at Mother Nature to attend the Region 12 Family Reunion. We were few but mighty, and we had a wonderful time!

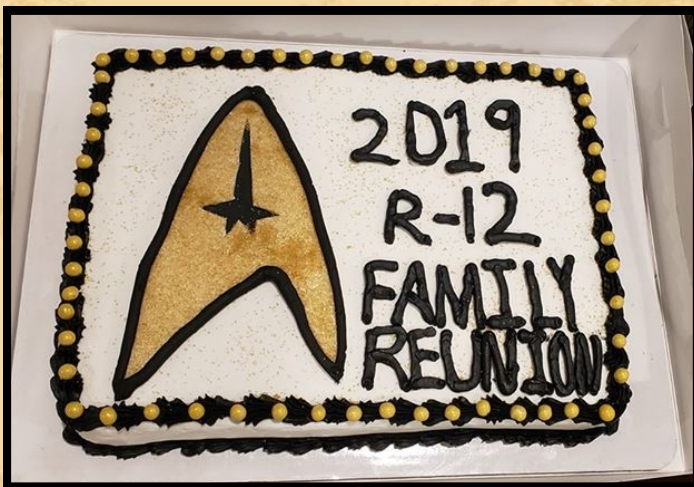
Friday night, members of the *USS Phoenix*, *USS Dark Phoenix*, *USS Blackstone*, *USS Discovery*, and the *USS Horizon* attended. During the social, we played a rousing game of Cards Against Humanity, and everyone agreed that it would never be discussed after the game. The *USS Horizon*, hosting the social, served snacks.

Saturday saw the addition of one more chapter represented, the *USS Missouri*. We gave awards to deserving chapters and individuals. We were privileged to have Justin Donovan there to give us an update on the upcoming 2019 International Conference in St. Louis. It was a great presentation, and it sounds like a wonderful event not to be missed. Danielle McLeod provided Saturday's lunch, ordering pizza for everyone from Dominos. Thank you, Danielle. All of us much appreciated it!

The auction, once again run by our dynamic auction duo of Justin Donovan and David Williams, brought in several hundred dollars for the Region. As I said before, we were few but mighty. Thank you to all who bid and donated. Some of the items were truly unique and well worth the money spent.

Saturday night's dinner was at the Central Missouri Meat and Sausage Barnyard Smokehouse. The fare varied from hot dogs to steak and everything in between. All of us had a good meal and left satisfied. Many adjourned to the lounge at the Baymont Inn for a dessert of cake made by the Sweet Temptations company of Fulton. No one felt like swimming this year, probably due to the cold outside; but we all had a good visit with the RC, Chris Boggs.

Again, my thanks to all the brave souls who came to the Region 12 Family Reunion. It was great to see all of you. If you would like a T-shirt, even if you did not attend the event, contact Chris. He has plenty of shirts. They are of a very cool and interesting design, with each chapter and state spelled out on the front in a word cloud in the shape of a phaser.





Upper Picture

Executive Officer Chris Davidson accepts the On Time Reporting Award for the *USS Phoenix*

Lower Picture

David Williams (201st MSG) receives the Brigade Achievement Award

Sunni Planthold (269th MSG), with Region 12 Coordinator Chris Boggs, receives the Brigade Achievement Award

Upper Picture

Tracy Mengel, with Region 12 Chief of Staff Jim Herring, receives Officer of the Year

Bottom Picture

VADM Ralph Planthold is awarded the On Time Reporting Award for the *USS Dark Phoenix*

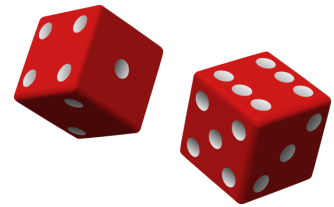


Region 12 Gathers for Annual
"Family Reunion"



USS Heimdal Holds Quarterly 'GAME NIGHTS'

ADM Linda Smith
USS Heimdal, NCC-1793, Region 1



In September 2017, at the suggestion of Chief Engineer Brett Witcher, the *USS Heimdal*, based in Madison Heights VA, Region 1, began having quarterly Game Nights. Not the usual kind of game nights where everyone gets together and plays the same game, Brett envisioned a night of fun and fellowship where everyone brought their favorite board and card games, got in groups of interested people, and played fun games. Following the card and board games, all groups got together, at the suggestion of Security Chief Carl Davis, and played charades. Everyone brought an item for refreshments, and that very first Game Night was a huge success that none of us could have imagined.

The Engineering Department has continued to sponsor *Heimdal* Game Nights since that first Game Night in September 2017. Averaging no fewer than 16 people at each Game Night, there have been *many* favorite games: UNO, *Star Trek* Monopoly, Alien Friendly, an assortment of other games, and even chess. At the most recent Game Night on March 2, the most popular games seem to have been Mexican Dominoes, *Firefly* Monopoly, and Exploding Kittens (a card game). But even with a huge variety of diverse board and card games, we *always* end the evening with charades, which is the one game that is consistent and that *everyone* looks forward to playing. It's just so much fun...and nostalgic.

The fact that we only have one quarterly Game Night keeps everyone's interest high. The variety of games also makes the evening exciting. Everyone can participate in whichever games they're the most interested. Playing charades at the end of the evening is something to which everyone has started looking forward.

When asked their favorite part of the *Heimdal's* Game Nights, someone said, "The fellowship, spending an evening doing something fun with friends, the variety of games, especially charades, *and* specifically...there's no meeting."



Upper Picture: Sarah & Weston Webb with Willy Smith playing *Firefly* Monopoly.
Photo by Linda Smith

Upper Right
Playing Exploding Kittens - Linda Smith, Noah, Richard Arnold, Carl Davis.
Photo by Willy Smith

Lower Right
Brett Witcher acting out a Charade.
Photo by Linda Smith

Lower Left:
Angie Arnold, Bonnie Davis, Tammy White & Glenda Blanks playing Mexican Dominoes.
Photo by Linda Smith





OUR ONGOING MISSION, TO SEEK OUT OTHER SCIENCE FICTION FANS, TO HAVE FUN! TO VOLUNTEER WITH CHARITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE LIVE! TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO OTHER FAN CLUB HAS GONE BEFORE!

Please join us on our great adventure. Since our last subspace transmission, we have had several new log entries:

- ◆ a book reading for children at our local Barnes & Noble, where we read the books *I am Captain Kirk* and *I am Mr. Spock*
- ◆ a primitive weapons training exercise, where we threw rocks at stationary targets
- ◆ bowling at "Stars and Strikes"
- ◆ filming a new introduction for our website
- ◆ manning a recruiting table at a local convention, Agama on, and much more.

We have no plans of slowing down, and I look forward to sharing our continuing journey of fandom and friendship with you.

Second star to the right and straight on till morning!

Upper Left: *Recruiting at Agama on*

Tammy Smith, Jana Sandarg, Jennifer Yourchak, Carnell & Peggy Eubanks, Jamie, Aaron & William Knowles

Photographer: Carnell Eubanks (tripod) and Location: Aiken, SC, AgamaCon Convention

Upper Right: *Reading to the "Next Generation"*

Jana Sandarg, Jennifer Yourchak, Joe Jackson, Carnell Eubanks

Photographer: Carnell Eubanks (tripod) and Location: Augusta, GA, Barnes & Noble

Bottom Right: *Dinosaur Attack*

Jamie Knowles Vincent Baker, Carnell Eubanks, "Dakota Dinosaur" Ed Bounds

Photographer: Aaron Knowles and Location: Aiken, SC, Agamacon Convention: (Dinosaur: Attraction Dakota and Friends)

When Doves Cry



W. Morgan Sheppard

Actor: Minister of Vulcan Science Council – *2009 Star Trek*

Qatai – *VOY: Bliss*

Klingon Commandant – *ST VI: The Undiscovered Country*

Ira Graves – *TNG: The Schizoid Man*

August 24, 1932 – January 6, 2019

Dick Miller

Actor: Holographic New Vendor – *TNG: The Big Goodbye*

Vin – *DS9: Past Tense, Part I and II*

December 25, 1928 – January 30, 2019

Thomas Morgan Woodward

Actor: Simon Van Gelder – *TOS: Dagger of the Mind*

Ronald Tracey – *TOS: The Omega Glory*

September 16, 1925 – February 22, 2019

Beverly Swanson

Actress: Human Prisoner – *VOY: Faces*

December 4, 1952 – February 22, 2019

Joe Knowland

Actor: Antique Store Owner – *ST IV: The Voyage Home*

July 26, 1930 – March 14, 2019

MY TALKING PADD

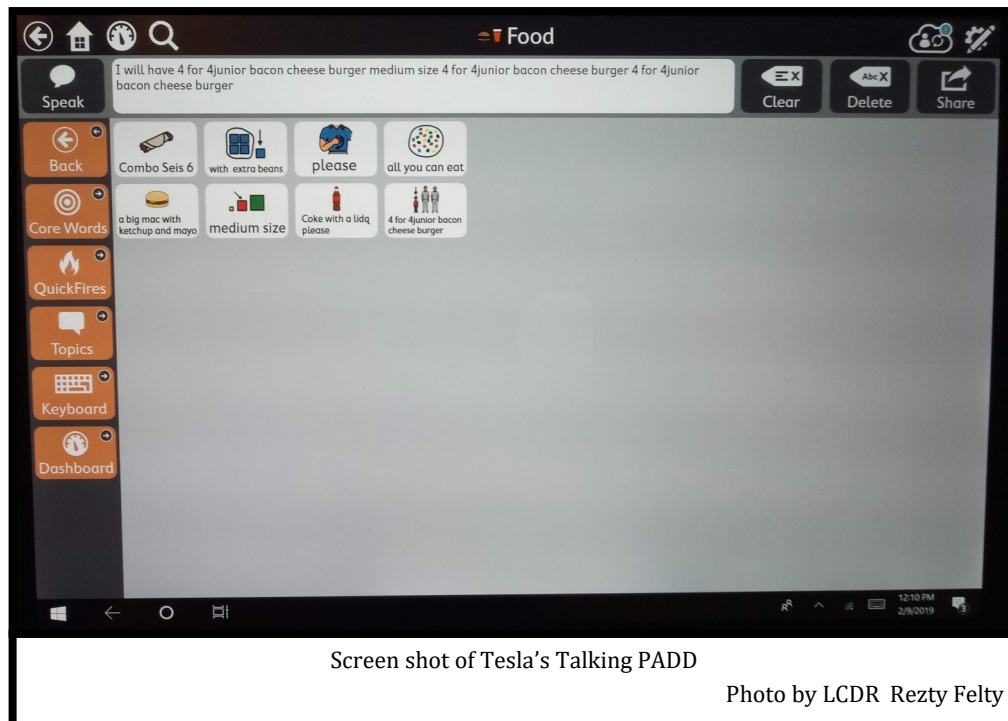
ENS Tesla Felty
USS Dark Phoenix, NCC-74920, Region 12



I am writing about my talking device. It is designed to help me communicate. It is called a Tobii Dynavox. I can program it with new custom phrases, like what I am going to order and eat at a restaurant. People who aren't familiar with me have trouble understanding me because of my speech impediments, but this device makes it possible for *me* to communicate with *them* and helps *them* understand *me*.

The device is a portable Windows tablet computer. It is important for it to be portable so I can take it everywhere, and everyone will understand me. To use it, I press buttons on it which I have customized with phrases I use commonly, like:

- "My name is"
- "Tesla Felty"
- "I like cheeseburgers"
- "I have Cerebral Palsy"



Screen shot of Tesla's Talking PADD

Photo by LCDR Rezty Felty

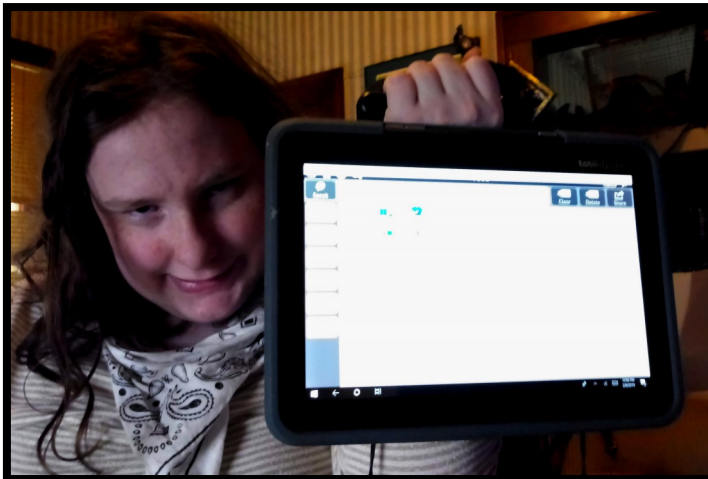
If I need to say something that *isn't* already programmed into the tablet, I have learned to program new phrases and words into it very quickly. For example, yesterday we went to Wendy's; the meal I wanted, 4 for \$4, wasn't already programmed into my tablet. While we were waiting for our turn to order, I was able to program the phrase "4 for \$4" into it, along with the type of 4 for \$4 meal I wanted, Junior Bacon Cheeseburger, so that by the time we got to the register, I was able to give my order myself.

Before I got my talking device, life was very frustrating. People didn't understand me, and I usually had to repeat myself over and over. Even after telling them things many

(Continued from previous page . . . My Talking PADD)

times, some people just couldn't understand me.

You can program the device with many different voices, including your own. You can program it with other people you live with, their voices, or their names. If I drop my tablet and break it, all my programming is stored in the cloud; so, if I get a new one, it gets restored to my custom settings.



ENS Tesla Felty with her talking PADD

Photo by Rezty Felty

I love my dad because he wrote the original software* for disabled kids to communicate, and that is what my talking device is using. He is very smart.

—Tesla Felty

Dad's note: I wrote software for augmentative communication back in 2000, when we found that all the devices and programs out there cost thousands of dollars. It seemed a cruel joke on new parents who were already struggling with the unexpected news that they had a disabled child to saddle them with crippling financial burdens as well, so I worked with a programmer in France to create **free open-source software that would run on any computer to do the same. Since it was open-source, the ACD companies took my code and now use it in devices they still sell for **thousands of dollars**.*

There. Ain't. No. Justice.

— LCDR Rezty Felty

WHAT IS CEREBRAL PALSY?

Cerebral palsy is a developmental disorder and leading cause of disability in young children. It affects approximately 500,000 children and adults, with around 8,000 babies and between 1,200 and 1,500 preschool-age children diagnosed each year.

Cerebral palsy occurs as a result of a brain injury sustained during fetal development or birth. However, because the symptoms of CP affect a child's coordination and independent movement, the injury is not always diagnosed right away, especially when the symptoms are mild.

Parents usually notice that something is wrong when a child fails to reach developmental milestones such as rolling over, crawling, and walking.

This may lead to a diagnosis later in life, accounting for the children who are diagnosed as toddlers.

Cerebral palsy is caused by damage to the motor cortex of the brain. This is the part of the brain that affects muscle control and coordination.

For this reason, children with cerebral palsy frequently struggle with walking and fine motor skills. The type and severity of symptoms can vary significantly from one patient to the next, and an individual's case may be made more complex by the presence of coexisting conditions such as cognitive disability, epilepsy, vision problems, and more.

CP treatments are always highly individualized to suit the needs of the patient. There is no cure for cerebral palsy, but many treatments and therapies exist that can provide relief from symptoms.

Information provided by:

<https://cerebralpalsygroup.com/cerebral-palsy/>



Dublin Comic-Con

There are no borders!

CAPT Jessica Odell

USS Caroline, NCC-63544, Region 20



For the second year running, the crew of the *USS Caroline* in Belfast teamed up with the crew of the *USS Liberty Belle* in Dublin to table at the new spring edition of Dublin Comic-Con. Once again, these two crews proved that there is nothing but friendship across the border between the UK and Ireland in STARFLEET!

The adventure began with the CO of the *Caroline* heading off to quarter with the Emergency Drinking Buddy Hologram, while the *Caroline's* XO went to the home of the *Liberty Belle* for final pre-con preparations. Armed with flyers, banners, props, chocolates, stickers, and cupcakes, the Command Teams of both crews set up for a busy weekend.

With a table right on the trade hall floor, there was a non-stop flow of people the entire weekend. People stopped by to chat, play with the props, and raise some money for the charity of choice, Dublin's Canal Way Educate Together National School, by playing "Pin the Ears on Spock."

After a full day of talking *Trek*, playing with phasers, and swinging the bat'leth, both crews retired to Kenny's Pub for a celebration, pub quiz, and raffle! Young and old, new members



Customized chocolates to give away.

Photo by Jessica Odell

and SFI veterans gathered together for a grand old session. The quiz tested the memories of many Science officers; but in the end, the Command Crew of the *Caroline* came through victorious. The prize, of course, went to Cadet Alice of the *Liberty Belle*. In all, we raised over €135 in one short weekend!

Sunday was another brilliant day, as the *Belle* welcomed back several former SFI members. *Star Trek* fans were surprised to learn of SFI, and we were all happy to welcome them to



Picture Left: Recruitment table in action. (L to R) Lt. Gordon Brown, Cadet Summer (*USS Caroline*), Captain Phyllis Seale Foynes (CO *USS Liberty Belle*).

Photo by Jessica Odell

(Continued from previous page . . . Dublin Comic-Con)

Region 20. The regional combadges were a hit with fans and presented the perfect opportunity to showcase the great relationships we have with the clubs in Scotland and England. By the end of the weekend, the cupcakes and chocolates were all eaten, our feet were tired, and our voices were rough from two days of talking about *Star Trek*. We can't wait for the next one!

Special thanks to the COs of the *Belle* and the *Caroline*, CAPT Phyllis Seale Foynes and CAPT Ian Lawther, for all their hard work. And thank you to all the crew who stepped up to man the table. In the light of Brexit, and the issues it can bring to this wee island, we prove that in Region 20, there are no borders. We are friends. We are STARFLEET.



You may have heard a lot about Brexit lately, which has not been great for intergovernmental relations. However, the *USS Liberty Belle* from Dublin, Ireland, and the *USS Caroline* from across the border in Belfast, Northern Ireland, have proven that politics has no place in STARFLEET and joined forces to represent Region 20 together at Dublin Comic-Con on March 9th and 10th at the Dublin Convention Centre.

To say we had fun would be a serious understatement!

We had a fantastic time recruiting new members, and we also raised funds for Canal Way Educate Together National School in Dublin.

On Saturday night, the *Liberty Belle* hosted a post-Comic-Con party, which was attended by members of three different ships!

Can't wait to continue to strengthen the friendships we have all made and to give back to our communities, too.



Left Photo: Crewman Conn McAlevey (*Liberty Belle*) and Captain Ian Lawther (*Caroline*) discuss the finer points of quantum mechanics.

Right Photo: The *USS Liberty Belle* and *USS Caroline* table at Dublin Comic-Con.

Photos by Phyllis Seale Foynes



LOSCON

More Than a Con: A Reunion for *Angeles* Members

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

LOS ANGELES — Dennis Cherry had a big grin as he created one fish after another, floating in the heavens.

Or at least as high as the ceiling.

The man behind the flying fish operated a helium tank as he created the balloon marvels, full of personality with big eyes and a mouth that puckered up.

Dennis creates his special balloons every year at the LOSCON blood drive, which he and his wife, Kris Cherry, have overseen for a long time. Dennis gives the balloons to blood donors.

Dennis and Kris, former *USS Angeles* members, get help from nurses, including current member Kathy Carder, at the convention at the Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel.

Kathy, a retired nurse who has helped the blood drive for a long time, dropped off cookies for blood donors at this year's LOSCON 45 drive.

I ran into Kathy, Kris, Dennis, and longtime *Angeles* member Susan Fox, who was there with her husband and fellow member Gene Turnbow, on November 23-25 during a LOSCON that turned out to be a *USS Angeles* and STARFLEET reunion. Dennis and Kris were all smiles as they caught up with friends and praised the great turnout for this year's blood drive. Others in the *Angeles* and I have known Kris and Dennis for a long time, and I was happy I got to see them.

LOSCON, a longtime convention run by the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, is a convergence of sci-fi (and science fact) groups located throughout California and beyond. Members of the *USS Angeles* and other STARFLEET chapters have long attended it.

I ran into Michael Garcia, Vice Commander of STARFLEET, and Ron and Jennifer Coleman of the Oceanside-based *USS Wessex*. Ron is the San Diego-area chapter's Commanding Officer. We had a great chat, and I introduced them to Kathy Carder. In addition to the reunion-like atmosphere, LOSCON is a much more relaxed convention than San Diego Comic-Con International. It's fandom without the stress.



From left, *USS Angeles* member Kathy Carder and former members Dennis and Kris Cherry gather at the LOSCON blood drive. Dennis and Kris are the organizers of the annual event, and Kathy has helped them throughout the years.

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*



From left, Jennifer and Ron Coleman of the *USS Wessex* meet *USS Angeles* member Kathy Carder at LOSCON.

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*

(Continued from previous page . . . L O S C O N)

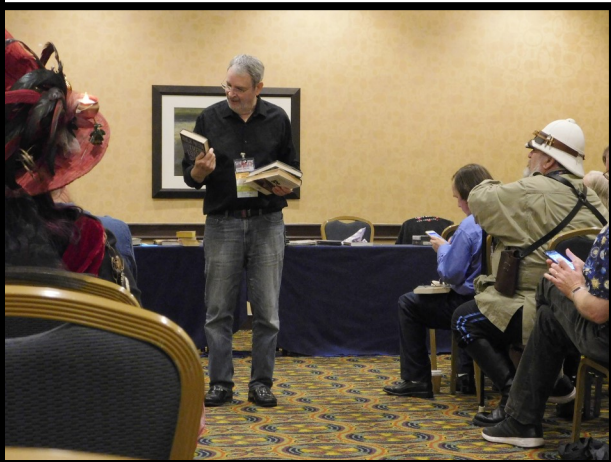
In fact, lines are rare at this convention, which this year featured panels on outer space exploration, themes in science fiction, the evolution of superhero movies, and countless other topics.

Our own Susan Fox sat on a panel discussing television.

And I ran into composer David Raiklen after he gave a talk about music in *Star Trek* and other sci-fi shows. David, who has addressed the *USS Angeles* before, told me afterward that he would like to give another talk to the *Angeles*.

The Command Staff and I would love for him to do so. David has accepted our invitation to address the *USS Angeles' Star Trek* Anniversary Party on September 14 at Janice Willcocks' house.

David's previous two talks for the *Angeles* focused strictly on *Star Trek*; but like his LOSCON talk, this would be a discussion of various sci-fi shows.



David Gerrold, writer of the "Star Trek" episode "The Trouble with Tribbles," oversees his annual auction of things in his garage.

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*

At LOSCON, author Larry Niven and David Gerrold, writer of *The Original Series* episode, "The Trouble with Tribbles" and a sci-fi novelist, mingled with the crowd.

Gerrold oversaw his annual auction of what's in his garage, including books, computer tablets, and Android phones.

R2-D2 roamed the halls, and a variety show featured costumed sci-fi and fantasy characters in skits. That followed the ice cream social, where fans rubbed elbows with authors and other speakers.

I met Valerie Estelle Frankel, a prolific author who discussed her books from recent years, including *The Avengers Face Their Dark Sides: Mastering the Myth-Making Behind the Marvel Superheroes* and *Superheroes: The Epic Journey*. Frankel looks at the deep themes in characters and their stories. The author, who sat on several panels, was kind enough to give me a copy of *The Avengers* book, and she signed it.

The convention is a fun exploration of sci-fi concepts with writers, experts, and fans. We share thoughts and laughs in a universe of great people and stellar—even interstellar—ideas.

No wonder LOSCON has lasted nearly half a century.

LOSCON 46

November 29th - December 1st 2019 • Marriott Los Angeles Airport Hotel

Crewmembers of the *USS Wernher von Braun*, NCC 72069, had an information table at the 2019 Huntsville Comic and Pop Culture Expo held at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama, on Saturday and Sunday, March 9th-10th. Pictured from left to right: PO3 Angela Mitchell, CMDR Laura Peterson, MCPO Sandy Kritner, VADM Richard Trulson (Commanding Officer), ENS 3C Ryan Peck, and ENS 3C Kathy Peck. Crewmember LTJG Nick Esslinger was also at the Expo the following day providing volunteer manpower, as did MCPO Kritner.

This photo was taken by an unknown Expo attendee with VADM Trulson's camera. More photos from the Expo may be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/USSWvB/>



A Day to Remember: Discovering Tim Peake's Soyuz Capsule

ENS Pippa Slack

USS Merlin, NCC-26513, Region 20

Saturday the 11th January was a rather special day for four of the *USS Merlin's* intrepid crew as we met to go on a trip of a lifetime into (virtual) space. Sean Williams, Mark Wheeler, Mark's granddaughter, Nikkita, and I visited the National Museum Cardiff to experience a tiny fraction what it must have been like for astronaut Tim Peake to descend back down from the ISS to Earth.

To give an idea of the Soyuz's size, Perspex panels had to be removed from the entrance to the museum before they could get the capsule inside the building (shown below), and whilst the parachutes were by comparison easily brought in, their size was just as astounding.

We learned a lot about the spacecraft: It had been in space attached to the ISS for six months and in that time travelled about 400,000 miles a day, which equates to roughly 74 million miles in total! Upon its descent back to Earth – something that we virtually experienced that day – it had to decelerate from 17,200 mph. How's that for fast?!



"The Soyuz Capsule with its parachutes."
Photo by Pippa Slack.

The heat shield had to be able to withstand temperatures of up to 1,500 degrees Celsius upon its return to Earth through the atmosphere – not bad engineering for something designed in the 1960s! The Soyuz (meaning "union" in Russian) is capable of subtle manoeuvring, rendezvousing, and docking with another spacecraft.

This particular Soyuz capsule came back down to Earth on the 18th June 2016, landing on the Kazakhstan steppe. Its travels were far from over, however, as it was to undertake a tour of the UK, which we were extremely privileged to see.



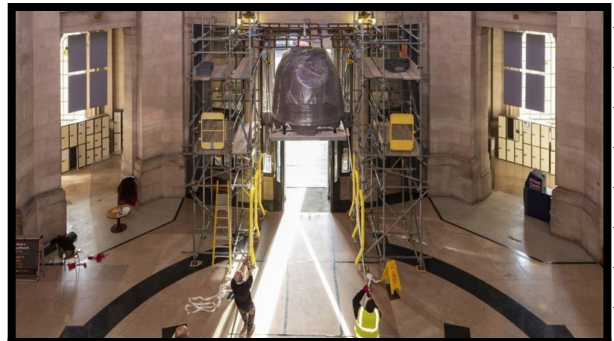
"Wearing the space suit."
Photo by LCDR Sean Williams,
USS Merlin

In this picture (**Picture Right**) you can see a tiny portion of the inside of the capsule. There wasn't much room left for the astronauts with all the equipment inside.

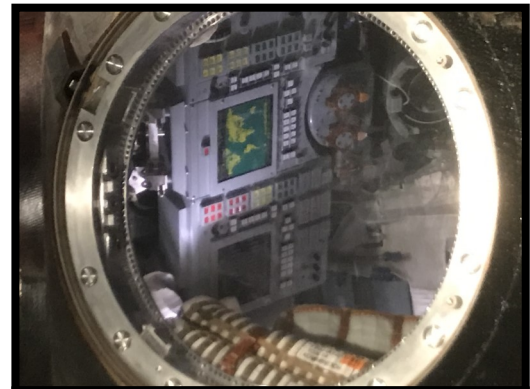
A camera had been set up so that people could take a better look around inside to get a fuller appreciation for the inner workings of the capsule, and we had a good exploration of it ourselves.

Another fun experience was seeing the space suits: Tim Peake's personal space suit was kept protected within a glass display case, and a second one was there for you to climb into to have photos taken of yourself inside it. We did try to make the LLAP hand gesture; but alas, the fingers of the suit were far too rigid to accommodate this favourite greeting of ours.

Another surprise came when we later looked at the pictures, for it seems that the capsule was of interest not only to those of us living on Earth! Whilst we did not notice anything at the time, it seems that the Andorians have also taken an interest in the capsule... as we seem to have captured several pictures with just a passing glimpse of the Andorian following. These pictures have been passed on to our Chief of Security, who has cleared them for being published in this update.



"Getting the Soyuz Capsule into the National Museum Cardiff."
Photo Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46210634>



"A glimpse inside the Soyuz Capsule."
Photo by Pippa Slack.

(Continued from previous page . . . Soyuz Capsule)

Everyone is urged to remain vigilant in case more sightings are spotted; further intelligence is needed for us to ascertain their intentions!



Left Photo: "Stealthy Andorian checks out the Soyuz Capsule!"
Right Photo: "Andorian inspects Tim Peake's actual spacesuit!"

Photos by LCDR Sean Williams, *USS Merlin*

In the above pictures, we can see evidence of the unidentified Andorian looking at the capsule and Tim Peake's space suit – the one he wore when he became the first British astronaut to undertake a spacewalk outside of the ISS.

The final part of our journey was almost without doubt the most thrilling! Donning a headset and earphones, we ventured into a world that we could otherwise only imagine. We began standing outside of the ISS itself, able to look around independently and see both the station and the Earth below – to say it was breath-taking is a huge understatement! From the thinnest of blue layers of the atmosphere to the dark hues of space broken only by the twinkling of distant stars, the ISS has perhaps the best view in the entire universe, and it was amazing to experience it for ourselves.

The 250-mile-long descent was not disappointing either, for, with the aid of Tim Peake's dulcet tones, we got a real sense of what it was like to go from the black of space back into Earth's atmosphere and then through the extraordinary orange hues as the heat built up outside the craft during re-entry. We may not have literally felt the jolts of the parachute opening, but we could get a feel for what the jolt must have been like from the virtual reality experience. Probably because my only experience of flight was in planes where you fly facing forwards, I had always envisaged that you would be facing into the Earth's atmosphere as well upon descent, but this experience led me to realise that astronauts sit with their backs towards the Earth. The whole experience was so realistic that it was extremely easy to suspend disbelief and imagine that we were there, experiencing the real deal. It was just stunning. If there is ever a chance for any of you to experience this yourself, I entirely recommend it!

There is still one location left on the tour (at the time of writing this article): You can still see the Soyuz capsule yourself at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum in Belfast up until the 12th May; so if you have an opportunity to go, don't miss out!

Until then, LLAP.



"The USS Merlin Away Team."
From Left to Right: ENS Pippa Slack,
LCDR Sean Williams, LTC Mark Wheeler,
Cadet 2nd Class Nikkita Matthews.

Photo by Pippa Slack

HELPING THE WORLD

Direct Relief sends aid to 100 countries, 50 states

FCAPT Dave Mason, Commanding Officer

USS Angeles, NCC-71840, Region 4

GOLETA, CA – When mudslides flooded Montecito in the Santa Barbara area last year, Direct Relief raised more than \$1 million to help victims.

The nonprofit regularly assists neighborhood clinics throughout Los Angeles and provides aid during disasters such as the mammoth Camp Fire in Northern California.

Direct Relief was there to help during Hurricanes Katrina and Maria, an earthquake in Nepal, and the Ebola epidemic in Africa.

It's the nonprofit supported by Spock and the *USS Angeles*.

Zachary Quinto, who portrayed the Vulcan first officer in the J.J. Abrams-produced *Star Trek* movies, has endorsed the nonprofit. And our Los Angeles-based ship has promoted Direct Relief for several years at www.ussanages.org.

Our Command Staff learned more about Direct Relief when we met January 26 at the nonprofit's international headquarters in Goleta, just north of Santa Barbara.

"We position medicines at clinics and hospitals," Communications Director Tony Morain told First Officer Jennifer Cole, Second Officer Janice Willcocks, Command Staff member Gloria Rodriguez, Assistant Chief of Communications Lisa Sobien, and me.



From left, Jennifer Cole, Gloria Rodriguez, Janice Willcocks, Lisa Sobien and Tony Morain, Direct Relief communications director, gather on the observation deck of the nonprofit's international headquarters in Goleta.

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*

Tony met with us in a large conference room, which he enhanced by projecting a Starfleet delta shield on flat screens and the rear wall.

Like Gene Roddenberry's Starfleet, Direct Relief has a distinguished history.

William Zimdin, an immigrant from Estonia, established the organization in Santa Barbara after World War II to send food, clothing, and medicine to his friends, relatives, and former employees. He expanded his efforts,

and the nonprofit's work grew to help the entire world.

Direct Relief is well-known for its quick response to earthquakes, floods, fires, hurricanes, and other disasters in 100 countries and all 50 states. Direct Relief sends a variety of medical aid, including vaccines, cancer drugs, and other medicines.

Tony noted *Star Trek* and Direct Relief share ideals such as the Prime Directive. Like Starfleet, Direct Relief doesn't meddle in nations' internal affairs. The nonprofit steers clear of politics and maintains its independence as a private nonprofit.

"We take no government money," Tony noted before he gave Command Staff members a tour of the 155,000-square-foot warehouse and headquarters.

The state-of-the-art facility opened in June 2018 and is much bigger than its old facility in Goleta.

Tony led us to the second-floor observation deck, where we looked at aisles and aisles of medicines and other medical supplies. In the distance was a 2,800-square-foot cold-storage room for antibiotics, insulin, and other temperature-sensitive medicines.

The building has its own battery, generator, and solar panels for up to six months of off-the-grid power. So when there's an outage in Goleta, the power stays on.

"Just come here," Tony told Lisa and me, who live in an apartment a short distance from Direct Relief. "It's the first self-contained power island on the mainland United States."

Attached to the warehouse is a room where volunteers pack kits with first-aid and personal hygiene items.

Tony led us through the offices for the 80-member staff. He also showed us a large room that he said was available for *Angeles* parties if our club wanted to make the trek to Goleta.

Tony took us into the foyer and past a bulletin board showing Direct Relief's licenses for all 50 states. Direct Relief was formerly known as Direct Relief International but dropped the "International" from its title several years ago because of its extensive domestic efforts.

In the conference room, Tony explained that Direct Relief assists neighborhood clinics for low-income patients and their families throughout the U.S.

"Los Angeles has the highest concentration of neighborhood clinics that we support," Tony said.

To learn more about Direct Relief, go to www.directrelief.org.



Tony Morain, Direct Relief communications director, looks at the many aisles of medicines. The nonprofit provides aid around the world and across the U.S.

Photo by FCAPT Dave Mason, *USS Angeles*

USS Caroline visits HMS Caroline

CAPT Jessica Odell
USS Caroline, NCC-63544, Region 20

On a windy February day, the XO of the *USS Caroline*, CAPT Odell, led a group of crew members to their namesake ship. *HMS Caroline* is docked in Belfast and is now a floating museum. The tour starts with an exhibit on dry land dedicated to the original history of *Caroline* throughout the years. She was commissioned in 1914 and saw combat the same year. In World War II, *Caroline* had the distinction of being the Royal Navy Headquarters in Belfast Harbour. She then joined the Reserves and underwent a refit at Harland and Wolff in 1951. After a period as a "stone ship," *Caroline* was decommissioned in 2011. After her restoration in 2014, she remains an important ship in the history of Belfast.



Photo by Jessica Odell



Some crew members in the on-shore Museum.
(L to R), Lt Matthew Moyne, Lt Ben McDonald, LCDR Carol Hamill.

Once onboard, the crew did a self-guided tour of the ship, which has been restored to much of her original fittings. Of course, there was a bit of fun along the way! The refit of the ship is quite stunning, with various areas dedicated to education. She is certainly a must-see for all ship and history aficionados, and a member of the *USS Caroline* would be happy to show you around!



Jessica Odell
USS Caroline

Name:	HMS Caroline
Builder:	Cammell Laird
Laid down:	28 January 1914
Launched:	29 September 1914
Completed:	December 1914
Commissioned:	4 December 1914
Decommissioned:	February 1922
Recommissioned:	February 1924
Decommissioned:	31 March 2011
Motto:	<i>Tenax Propositi</i> ("Tenacious of Purpose")
Honours and awards:	Battle honour for Jutland 1916
Status:	"Museum Ship" in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Ship information provided by Wikipedia. For more information on the *HMS Caroline*, please visit

<https://www.nmrn.org.uk/exhibitions-projects/hms-caroline>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Caroline_\(1914\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Caroline_(1914))



Crewmembers and friends of the *USS Wernher von Braun*, NCC-72069, had lunch at Supper Heroes restaurant on Saturday, January 19th. This superhero-themed restaurant is located at 1812 Winchester Road in northeast Huntsville, Alabama. Despite torrential rains throughout the day, we had a fantastic turnout. Several attended a local comic-con afterwards.



Pictured seated in front from left to right: VADM Richard L. Trulson (Commanding Officer), CAPT Michael Sylvester (Executive Officer), ENS 3C Ryan Peck, and LTJG Nick Esslinger. Pictured standing in back: Ashley Williams, MCPO Sandy Kritner, Grace Gifford, CMDR Laura Peterson, MCPO Russell Peterson, ENS 3C Kathy Peck, Amanda McAvoy, Jeremy Kiefer, Connor Patterson, and PO3 Angela Mitchell.

Those without a rank are not STARFLEET members, but graced us with their friendship by joining us for some good food. Picture taken by an unknown waitress with CMDR Peterson's camera. More pictures from our other activities may be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/USSWvB/>



STAR TREK or B5?

ANGELES EXAMINES WHERE *DISCOVERY* FITS IN THE UNIVERSE

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

Spoiler alert: This story contains plot points for the first two episodes of the second season of *Star Trek: Discovery*.

FULLERTON, CA – USS Angeles members watched *Star Trek: Discovery* on the big screen and found they enjoyed the ride.

But we had questions.

We asked them and expressed our opinions about the CBS All Access show's finer points during a robust debate on February 9 at Carl and Sue-Ellen Fox's home. We discussed topics such as whether the show fits the spirit of *Star Trek* or maybe another franchise such as *Babylon 5*.

Seven members and two guests watched "Brothers" and "New Eden," the first and second episodes, respectively, of the new season, on a giant screen from comfy, reclining seats with cup holders. Carl and Sue-Ellen truly have earned the nickname "Fox Theater" for their Fullerton home. Thank you for hosting!

We began the party with a delicious potluck, coordinated by Lisa Sobien. Thank you, Lisa, and thank you, everyone, for the great food and beverages. (We also got to see Carl's impressive LEGO model of a Saturn V rocket!)

After we ate and settled into our comfy chairs, I explained the premise of *Discovery*, which is set in an era just before CAPT Kirk and company.

The series is the first *Star Trek* show in which the commanding officer isn't the top character. The focus instead is on the science officer, LCDR Michael Burnham (Sonequa Martin-Green), Spock's adoptive sister.

During the first season, the Federation fights a war that it almost loses to the Klingons. In the end, Michael finds a way to end the war in a manner that satisfies everyone.

Executive Producer Alex Kurtzman, who co-wrote the J.J. Abrams-produced *Star Trek* movies, promised reporters in summer 2018 that *Discovery* would lighten up in its second season. Fans had complained the show was too dark for *Star Trek*.

But this season carries an arc about Spock being concerned about something that could wipe out all life everywhere.

"This is lighter?" Lisa Sobien asked after we saw "Brothers." "There's something that's going to cause destruction of the whole universe!"



Crew of USS Angeles enjoying *Star Trek: Discovery*

(Continued from previous page . . . *Star Trek Discovery*)

While we saw scenes that made us laugh, the overriding tone seemed darker than previous *Star Trek* shows.

In addition to Spock (Ethan Peck), the producers are trying to make the series more attractive for fans by bringing back CAPT Pike (Anson Mount) and Number One (Rebecca Romijn).

In "Brothers," we see the *Enterprise*, the one that CAPT Kirk will someday command, stranded in space. CAPT Pike needs a new ship to investigate strange red signals across the galaxy and, under Starfleet's orders, takes command of the captain-less *Discovery*. During the investigations, Michael sees a mysterious "red angel."

The episode felt to me like a second pilot for *Discovery*. At one point, CAPT Pike takes a roll call on the bridge, which I think is the first time we hear all the bridge officers' names.

In the next episode, "New Eden," Pike and his crew wrestle with a Prime Directive question when they travel to a red signal in the Beta Quadrant. They find a pre-warp human colony.

Pike says that the Prime Directive applies, but Michael argues that the humans, who were somehow transported off Earth during World War III, are entitled to know what happened to their planet.

The second episode certainly felt like *Star Trek*, and it generated debate among *Angeles* members and guests.

"Didn't they violate Starfleet General Order 1 by giving that battery?" Paul asked. He was referring to Pike handing a battery to a colony resident who had determined they were space travelers. Pike tells him Earth had survived and yes, he and his officers are from a starship.

Gloria noted that Pike replaces the man's previous battery, which had stopped working. "This guy already knew" about Pike coming from outer space, she said.

The man figures that fact from the technology in the landing party, which includes Michael.

Carl and I noted that *Star Trek* never mentions the Prime Directive until it's about to be broken.

Carl added that he thought *Discovery* felt more like *Babylon 5* than *Star Trek*. "Even the captain reminds me of the guy who played the head of *Babylon 5* [Bruce Boxleitner, who portrayed CAPT John Sheridan]."

Lisa agreed that *Discovery* is a lot like *Babylon 5*. "It isn't like the original [*Star Trek*] series."

Her mother, Janice Sobien, who watched the episode with us, said she thought the *Discovery* producers clearly were trying to attract younger viewers. "You have to be competitive with what's out there."

The producers, in fact, have said they realize the show must have a high production quality to justify the subscriptions. Viewers pay \$5.99 a month with commercials or \$9.99 a month without them to watch *Discovery* on their devices.

We also debated the pros and cons of the *USS Discovery*'s mysterious spore drive that can send the ship across incredibly long distances.

"It seems like it's very unstable," Paul said.

Lisa noted the ship bends and flips each time it goes into the jumps.

Carl didn't sound worried. "Space is really, really big and really, really empty, so the odds of you ending up in the middle of something is incredibly small," he said.

But Paul noted that *Discovery* isn't that lucky. "They ended up right smack in the middle of an asteroid field [in 'Brothers']."

Overall, we enjoyed what we saw.

Carl said he likes *Discovery* better than *Star Trek: Voyager*.

Watching the *Discovery* episodes with us were Jenny Taylor and Andy Sobien, Lisa's dad.

In addition to our debate, I discussed upcoming activities and welcomed suggestions.

Sue-Ellen suggested Super Bowl and Oscar parties for next year. She also said that she and Carl could host *Star Trek: The Next Generation* movies, and I responded that *First Contact* (1996) would be the best one for us to watch. "Most fans would agree."

Paul, who loved last fall's water war, suggested another water battle and a bowling activity. I appreciated the good ideas from him and Sue-Ellen but wasn't surprised that Paul suggested bowling. He is a longtime, successful participant in a Moorpark bowling league.

We need a strike, Paul!

Make it so.



Mission: Impossible – Fallout Review

CAPT Ian Lawther, CO
USS Caroline, NCC-63544, Region 20

Cast: [Tom Cruise](#), [Alec Baldwin](#), [Angela Bassett](#), [Henry Cavill](#), [Michelle Monaghan](#), [Rebecca Ferguson](#), [Sean Harris](#), [Simon Pegg](#), [Vanessa Kirby](#), [Ving Rhames](#), [Wes Bentley](#)

Release Date: July 27, 2018

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Genre(s): Action, Adventure, Thriller

Rating: PG-13

Runtime: 147 min



After having watched *Terminator 2: Judgement Day*, which was richly imaginative and a spectacular motion picture from the redoubtable James Cameron, I really wondered if there would be any action movie that would take precedence over Cameron's incredible work; that is, until the sixth chapter in the *Mission: Impossible* series – *Fallout*, another masterpiece by Christopher McQuarrie, unfolded. Although very few movie sequels outperform their predecessors, I think *Fallout* is one that does so. It refutes the common wisdom that sequels are not any better than their original movies. Although there are always pros and cons attached to every movie, the action in this movie is coupled with such confidence and precision by McQuarrie that you can easily overlook the minor plot holes in the story. More than anything, the release of this chapter proves that this franchise keeps getting better day by day.

Though it's very rare for *Mission: Impossible*, Christopher McQuarrie, a well-praised director and writer, is the only person to become the franchise's first repeat director by writing and directing the sixth chapter, *Mission: Impossible – Fallout*, after his successful contribution directing *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation*. Although the other films of this franchise—directed by Brian De Palma, John Woo, J.J. Abrams, and Brad Bird, respectively—were highly appreciated as well, *Fallout* makes it very clear why McQuarrie is the only director to return in the franchise's two-decade history. Moreover, it does not end there. McQuarrie also wrote the scripts for *The Edge of Tomorrow* and *The Mummy*, both starring Tom Cruise, which depicts the creative work they're able to do when working together. McQuarrie has always been able to distinguish himself from his action-cinema fellows through his quality direction.

By bringing back so many familiar faces and making callbacks to earlier films, *Fallout* feels like the most self-aware of the *Mission: Impossible* movies because the previous films essentially started from scratch each time, ignoring any previous instalments. Rather than starting all over, the characters find ways to deepen their relationships. The result does not just feel like the sixth instalment in a long-running series; it feels like an authentic sequel to 2015's *Rogue Nation*, with Ilsa Faust (Rebecca Ferguson), villain Solomon Lane (Sean Harris), and Alec Baldwin's intelligence honcho Alan Hunley all back in key roles.

Tom Cruise is back, despite being 56 years old, risking his life by doing all the dangerous stunts himself, breaking all the norms, and catching the audience's eye. There is a sense of satisfaction among the audience regarding the risks that the A-list actor is willing to take to make the movie thrilling and entertaining. Cruise broke his ankle while performing what one might call one of the simpler stunts compared to some of the others he does in this movie. He is



one of the few remaining movie stars to do this, and his commitment is without question.

The title *Fallout* refers to the fact that the film is basically Tom Cruise falling out of or off of things: helicopters, planes, windows, cliffs, huge sewer gratings. There is nothing that Cruise won't fling himself into, onto, or out of in the name of a thrilling action sequence. Several unique action stunts make *Fallout* stand out from the other films of the franchise, including jumping out of a plane over Paris and some bone-breaking jumps seen in the beginning.

Fallout begins with a new IMF mission after Ethan Hunt captured Solomon Lane (Sean Harris) in *Rogue*

(Continued from previous page . . . Fallout Review)

Nation. Lane's criminal cohorts have again organized under the name "The Apostles" in an attempt to obtain some missing plutonium. After half an hour, CIA operator August Walker (Henry Cavill) arrives. The viewers do not lose interest at any point until the very end. It is the longest *Mission: Impossible* movie, having a runtime of a steep 147 minutes. A breathless, breakneck blast of pure summertime thrills, it's an action junkie's dream come true.

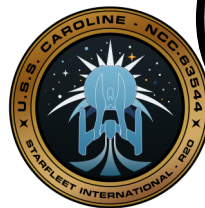
With the CIA no longer sure about Hunt's abilities, Walker collaborates with Hunt to recover the plutonium. The movie abounds with plot reversals, and new characters arrive at every turn. Solomon Lane returns as a key figure; and similarly, MI6 Agent Ilsa Faust, who infiltrated Lane's network in *Rogue Nation*, makes a comeback.

The action sequences in this film are just amazing; and the visuals, even in the slower moments, are the best the franchise has ever done. The fight choreography is equally exceptional. A bathroom brawl involving Ethan Hunt, Walker, and another man becomes a lesson in how many things can be smashed and what can be a weapon. McQuarrie's lens gives us some more intense scenes, such as the threat of nuclear Armageddon, Hunt skydiving in a lightning storm, and a high-speed motorcycle chase against traffic through the streets of Paris. Then there's the dizzying helicopter chase at the end.

Supporting players have their own particular assignments. Luther needs to defuse a bomb; however, he doesn't have enough hands. Benji needs to squander time; and Ilsa experiences some miscommunication for the majority of the film, not having any desire to hurt her partners but feeling driven to demonstrate her reliability and to secure her future.

McQuarrie and Cruise just keep tightening the vice and throwing jaw-dropping set pieces at us. In this era of Hollywood's franchise-fatigue cycle, it's rare to see a sequel like this. *Fallout* is the exception that defies our seen-it-all cynicism.

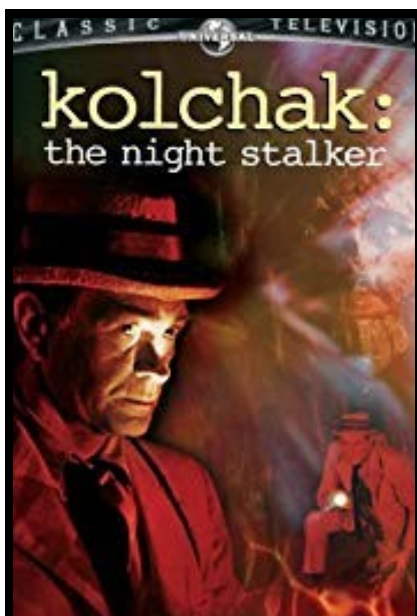
Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to watch this movie!



CAPT Ian Lawther
USS Caroline

Looking for more **Mission Impossible**? How about a *Mission Marathon* with the crew . . .





YEAR	1974—1975
GENRE	Sci-Fi, Mystery, Thriller
RATING	PG
TIME	51 minutes/episode
CAST	Darren McGavin Simon Oakland Jack Grinnage Ruth McDevitt

A Look Back at *kolchak: the night stalker* The Show That Inspired The Files

CAPT Neill Stringer
USS *Caroline*, NCC-63544, Region 20

After rediscovering my passion for *The X Files*, I eventually decided to watch one of the shows that its creator, Chris Carter, cited as his inspiration for the show: a forgotten, short-lived show from the early seventies called *Kolchak: The Night Stalker*. When I read up on the show, I knew that it was something I would love to watch.

Though it did not start as a weekly TV series but rather as a TV movie in 1972 simply titled *The Night Stalker*, it introduced the character of Carl Kolchak, a reporter with an ability to annoy his editor and the law officials as he investigates a series of murders that are being committed by a vampire. It has a mystery, and there are moments of genuine terror mixed in with what I considered seventies' cheesiness; but within that movie, I could see how this inspired *The X Files* more so than anthology shows such as *The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits*.

The movie was such a success that a second movie called *The Night Strangler* soon followed. This story has Kolchak investigate a series of murders of young women by a killer who strikes every 21 years. That alone made me recall another early favourite *X Files* killer, Eugene Tooms, who kills five victims every thirty years for their livers. Only the killer in *The Night Strangler* kills his victims to perfect an elixir to keep him young forever.

As in the show that it inspired, Kolchak battles creatures and spectres that have a paranormal twist to them. However, as it was the seventies, it usually has Kolchak dealing with a different monster each week, and we know very little of Kolchak's background other than that he is determined to

get the facts and get the story published. His desire to publish the facts was certainly a precursor to Fox Mulder's quest on *The X Files*.

Yet in watching this show, I found it scary in some places, especially in the early episodes, when Kolchak is searching for Jack the Ripper or trying to kill a zombie in a junkyard. It left me on the edge of my seat wondering when the villain will wake up or arrive while Kolchak is stalking around looking for him.

The show focuses mainly on the monsters of the week and how Kolchak stumbles upon these cases, hoping to get a good story out of them. He usually defeats the monster in all but one of the episodes. The one episode in which he does not stop the monster is the episode that has a UFO and an invisible alien. Even that episode had government agents wanting to hush the incident up, another link that it has to the show that it inspired.

Kolchak even has an encounter with an android in the episode, "Mr. R.I.N.G.," which had an interesting design and was very much of the time.

Kolchak also takes pictures, but they never turn out well and often seem blurred. While Kolchak almost always stops the monster, he is also frustrated by the lack of evidence there is to substantiate a story or at least to have his editor believe him.

Perhaps that was a reason why the show did not last. It was essentially just a monster-of-the-week show, and we learned very little about the character. Even the show's star, Darren McGavin, got frustrated and wanted out of the show before it was due to complete its first full season.

After two successful television movies, which were written by Richard Matheson (writer of *I am Legend* and the *Star Trek* episode, "The Enemy Within"), the weekly show failed to make a dent and quickly faded away from the schedules and into obscurity. And it probably would have remained forgotten, were it not for Chris Carter's citing it as his main inspiration for *The X Files*. McGavin guest-starred on that show as FBI agent Arthur Dales, the father of the *X Files*. It was an appropriate tribute, as *Kolchak* was the father to the show.

They tried a revival of the show in the mid-noughties; but it was not successful, having had an even shorter run than the show that inspired it.

(Continued from previous page . . . Kolchak: the night stalker)

The final episode of the series was called "The Sentry," which has a lizard creature killing miners when they find deposits that turn out to be her eggs. Yes, the final episode is very much like *The Original Series* classic, "The Devil in the Dark."

The character of Kolchak does share elements with Fox Mulder, namely a quest to find the truth despite officials hindering their efforts.

If you haven't seen it and are a fan of *The X Files*, I would recommend that you check out this show.



THE ORVILLE

Season 1 Soundtrack

(Available from La La Land Records)

CAPT Neill Stringer
USS Caroline, NCC-63544, Region 20

To many, Seth MacFarlane's comedy-drama science fiction show has become the new *Star Trek*, and it is well-earned. MacFarlane is a well-known *Trek* fan and, like this reviewer, his favourite is *Star Trek: The Next Generation*; and that love shows in *The Orville*. It captures the optimism that Gene Roddenberry conveyed in his vision and yet there is enough to give the show its own identity.

Much of the talent behind *The Orville* are some of the writers behind *Trek*, namely Brannon Braga, Joe Menosky, David Goodman, and Andre Bormanis, to name a few. One of modern *Trek's* top directors of photography, Marvin Rush, lights the show.

Unlike MacFarlane's animated shows, *The Orville* has a more dramatic approach to it. The show is neither a flat-out comedy nor a parody. It has tackled issues and told interesting sci-fi stories through its characters, like all great science fiction.

The music scores were purposely designed not to evoke the comedy but to emphasize the drama, which I believe is representative of the show: the comedy is secondary to the story. This was a smart decision because we get a score that is epic and full of optimism and echoes the composers of the science fiction films that I love the most. It is a style of music that I feel is lost on some modern shows and that evokes some of the top movies and some of the early scores from Ron Jones.

Bruce Broughton composed the main theme and the music for the first episode. Other composers who worked on the first season included Joel McNeely, John Debney, and Andrew Cotte. Broughton's main theme captures the optimism of the show as well as a sense of grandeur

that gives the *Orville* grace and power, which echoes how the music on *Star Trek* made a statement whenever the *Enterprise* appeared.

The composers and MacFarlane wanted to draw on their inspirations and, in the score, there are nods to Jerry Goldsmith and James Horner. In the score for the episode, "If the Stars Should Appear," McNeely creates a lovely piece for when the crew explores the hull of the bio ship that is a direct homage to Goldsmith's track, "The Cloud" from *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. This worked beautifully as it helped showcase how expansive the ship was and instilled a sense of wonder, in much the same way as Goldsmith had done with the V'Ger cloud.

In "Command Performance," John Debney gives a little nod to James Horner's "Genesis Countdown" from *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*.

Like the show itself, the scores for *The Orville* are a love letter for the science fiction shows I loved and a nod to the era of *Star Trek* that I grew up with and, like MacFarlane, why that era resonates with me the most. The score is up there with others; and it was indeed smart that the music highlights the drama and the action, rather than the comedy. The music is indeed a statement that the show is not a comedy, but a top-class science fiction action drama with comedy moments.

The CD is available from La La Records and, like all their CDs, it is beautiful, with great images on the package and a booklet packed with liner notes and photos from the show. The notes are detailed and talk about the show and the composers, how it was created, and how the music works to add more to each scene.

La La Land Records has a great collection. This one should be a must-have for any fan of the show and for those who love orchestral film music.





A Tour of San Antonio

LTC Alvina Bryant, SFMC
USS Crockett, NCC-21040, Region 3

Greetings STARFLEET-ers! Whether or not you have ever been to San Antonio, TX, you are in for a treat. There are plenty of sites to see in our fair city, like the famous Riverwalk or the Alamo. Our city just celebrated its 300th birthday last year. It was founded in 1718, making it older than the entire United States. We have four of the oldest missions in the U.S., and they are still active churches with families going back generations. The Alamo is part of the mission complex, but it is not an active church.

We also have the oldest Catholic church in the United States, San Fernando Cathedral, founded in 1718 by the Canary Islanders. If you do visit the Alamo, please take the time to go to San Fernando. I mention this because it contains a little-known secret. Inside the foyer, you will find the remains of the defenders of the Alamo in a crypt (see photos). When the cathedral was being repaired back in 1938, human remains were found under the main altar. That discovery confirmed a story going around for almost a century that the defenders had been cremated on a funeral pyre and then buried beneath the altar.

The remains lay in state for viewing for a year, and a crypt was created to house them. So when you go into the church, go through the left-side entrance, where you will find the crypt in the foyer and there can pay your respects to the heroes of Texas independence.



Photo by Alvina Bryant



The Alamo

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 planetary safety. Various events can cause and effect drastic change on planets. Whether on an away team or relaxing on shore leave it is important to review this brief to be familiar with hazards that may be present planet side. This brief will focus on M Class planets. Below is some common environmental risk factors and consequences:

COMMON RISK FACTORS

- ◇ Unstable Atmosphere
- ◇ Pre Existing Weather Events
- ◇ Terraforming Operations
- ◇ External Manipulation
- ◇ Contamination from Non Planetary Processes
- ◇ Mining/Depletion of Natural Resources

COMMON CONSEQUENCES

- ◇ Change of Planetary Classification
- ◇ Planetary Quarantine Dependent on Nature and Severity of Contamination
- ◇ Effects of Contamination on Ecosystem
- ◇ Depending on Nature and Severity of Contamination or Damage an Extensive Remediation Process May Be Required.

ORDERS

The below mentioned safety control measures are recommended. Everyone can do their part by following good safety practices.

SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES

- ◇ Complete planetary survey assessment prior to ground operations.
- ◇ Brief crewmembers regarding safety protocols for missions and shore leave.
- ◇ Ensure crew has cleared medical testing required by Starfleet Medical prior to ground operations.
- ◇ Crewmembers must utilize required protection equipment that meets and or exceeds mission parameters.
- ◇ Ensure to have an emergency support network in place for when an incident occurs such as: internal Starfleet, joint Starfleet Octant/Regional Government or Local Planetary Government.

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, pcpc ❖ REGION 13 ❖ EMAIL: starfleetsafetycenter@gmail.com



USS Star League

&

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Present***

STAR TREK **FIRST CONTACT DAY**

SATURDAY APRIL 6TH, 2019

10 AM - 3 PM

**Augusta-Richmond County Public Library
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Come explore the *Star Trek* universe at our first annual celebration of "First Contact Day!" This event is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome.

Join us for a day of exploration of the worlds of *Star Trek* and how the "Science" in Science Fiction not only entertains but predicts the world of tomorrow.

Our guest of honor is Mr. Mark Davis, current Deputy Vice President of National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Operations and Programs at the Savannah River Site and former Commanding Officer of the *USS North Carolina* (SSN 777) and the *USS Montpelier* (SSN 765). He will speak on the similarities of life on a submarine with life on a starship.

Presentations and appearances by the actors and set builders of Dominion Media, who create *Star Trek* fan films.

Readings, displays, and presentations by the crew of the *USS Star League* and much, much more!

Event hosted by the Augusta Library on Facebook as:

<https://www.facebook.com/ARCPLS/>

and the *USS Star League*, Local *Star Trek* Fan Association:

<http://www.usstarleague.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/207602195942870/>

Guess Who's Coming to the IC

From the Busy, Busy, Busy Keyboard of:

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

Well, it's official. We're into a countdown. We're less than 6 months away from the 2019 IC in St Louis. So, if you haven't registered yet, get to it! You don't have much time left. So for this issue, rather than focusing on what there is to see and do in St Louis (which is a lot), I thought I'd tell you about some of the things we're going to have at the IC itself.

Let's start with guests. We've got them. And here's a little bit about them.

Bridgett Riley (born 13 May 1973; age 45) is a stuntwoman, martial artist, and professional kickboxer and boxer who worked as stunt double for Jolene Blalock in the *Star Trek: Enterprise* second season episode "Marauders". She filmed her scenes in end-August 2002 on location in Ventura County, California. More recently, she worked for Stunt Coordinator Mike Gunther as stunt double for Sofia Boutella on the *Star Trek* film sequel *Star Trek Beyond*.

Hailing from Oakville, Missouri, Riley moved to Southern California while working as airline attendant and starting to learn martial arts. She took part in several competitions, won five kickboxing titles, and held the IFBA's world Bantamweight championship for some time. Known under her fight name "Baby Doll", she started boxing professional in the early 1990s and received the title world champion in 1998. On 4 May 2003 she won her last professional match against Nicole Gallegos. Riley has a record of 15 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw, with 7 wins by knockout and has also been inducted into the Black Belt Hall of Fame in 1998.

Riley made her way into the stunts business when she was found by a talent agent during a training session and found herself soon after as a regular stunt performer on the set of the television series *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* on which she worked between 1993 and 1995. She doubled actress Thuy Trang as the yellow ranger and was one of the regular "putty patrolers" working for stunt coordinator Jeff Pruitt and along with fellow stunt double Scott Leva. In 1995, Riley also worked on the film sequel *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie*, featuring Mark Ginther, Robert Axelrod, and Merritt Yohnka.

Beside her work on *Power Rangers*, Riley also appeared in the action film *Triple Impact* in 1992, played herself in the sports series *WMCA Masters* (1995-1996), and appeared as a boxer in the video game *HBO Boxing* (2000).

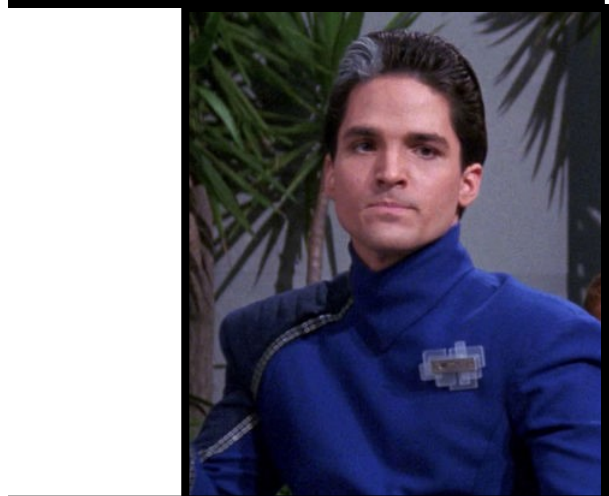
Riley doubled Halle Berry in the comic adaptation *Catwoman* (2004) and Summer Glau in the science fiction film *Serenity* (2005). In 2004 Riley had a featured stunt part as Hilary Swank's third opponent in Clint Eastwood's Academy Award winning drama *Million Dollar Baby* (with Lucia Rijker, Benito Martinez, Tom McCleister, Jamison Yang, Miguel Perez, Jude Ciccolella, Spice Williams-Crosby, Rosine "Ace" Hatem, and Boni Yanagisawa).



Bridgett Riley with her boxing belts.



Scott L. Schwartz as the stunt double for Tony Todd
Star Trek: Voyager—"Prey"



Wyatt Weed as the Rutian bodyguard from
Star Trek: Voyager—"The High Ground"

(Continued from previous page . . . Who's Coming to the IC)

She worked on the action drama *Bare Knuckles* (2009, with Spice Williams-Crosby, Alina Andrei, Erica Grace, Dana Dru Evenson, Katie Rowe, and Boni Yanagisawa), as stunt double for Malin Ackerman in Zack Snyder's comic adaptation *Watchmen* (2009, along Ed Anders), the comedy *Stay Cool* (2009, doubling Winona Ryder), the comedy *The Hangover* (2009), the science fiction thriller *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra* (2009), as stunt double for Scarlett Johansson in *Iron Man 2* (2010), and the action film *Takers* (2010, with Zoe Saldana, Troy Brenna, Tony Donno, and stunts by Craig Baxley, Jr. and Chrissy Weathersby). She also doubled Elizabeth Reaser, Mia Meastro, Ashley Greene, and Casey Labow in the fantasy sequels *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1* (2011) and *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2* (2012).

More recent projects are the television series *Grimm*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *The Saint*, and *Revenge*, the horror thriller *Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones* (2014, with Eurlyne Epper, Mark Chadwick, Brian Simpson, and Joshua Croughwell), the action comedy *Hollywood Adventures* (2015, with Sandra Lee Gimpel, Lorin McCraley, and Tara Macken, and produced by Justin Lin), the horror comedy *Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse* (2015), and the action film *Officer Downe* (2016, with Sam Witwer, Lauren Mary Kim, and Peipei Yuan).

For more information, please visit:

BabyDollRiley.org

Scott L. Schwartz (born 16 March 1959; age 60) is an actor and stunt performer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who appeared in episodes of *Star Trek: Voyager* and *Star Trek: Enterprise*. He received no credit for his *Star Trek* appearances.

Schwartz was a professional wrestler from the late '70s until the early '90s, after which he began his stunt acting career. Because of his height of 6'9½", it is easy to spot him.

Among his film and television resume are projects such as *Shock 'Em Dead* (1991, with Phil O'Dell), *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* (1996), *Martial Law* (1999, with Paul Eiding, Jeremy Roberts, and Tom Wright), *V.I.P.* (1999, with James Black and Darlene Williams), *Angel* (1999, with Maury Sterling and Spiro Razatos), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1999-2000, with Roger Morrissey, Jeff Pruitt, Paul Hayes, James Wellington, and Christopher Leps), *Ocean's Eleven* (2001, with Barry Brandt, Ransom Gates, Anita Hart, and Bob Minor), *The Scorpion King* (2002, with The Rock, Branscombe Richmond, Joseph Ruskin, Nikki Flux, Rachelle Roderick, and Lynn Salvatori), *Spider-Man* (2002, with Kirsten Dunst, Jill Sayre, Corey Mendell Parker, Mark Chadwick, Tom Morga, Oliver Keller, and Spice Williams-Crosby), *Starsky & Hutch* (2004, with Fred Williamson, David Soul, Ator Tamras, and Thom Williams), *Ocean's Twelve* (2004, with Carlo Antonazzo), and *Ocean's Thirteen* (2007, with Michael Harney, Michael Huggins, Jimmy Ortega, and Joni Avery).

He was also featured in television series such as *Charmed*, *Baywatch*, *Married with Children*, *Black Scorpion*,

Nash Bridges, and *Punk'd*.

Wyatt Weed (born 1964) is an actor, visual effects artist, and filmmaker who appeared as a Rutian police officer in the *Star Trek: Voyager* third season episode "The High Ground". He also worked as visual effects artist on the Caretaker's array miniature for the *Star Trek: Voyager* pilot episode "Caretaker" and is a fan of *Star Trek: The Original Series*.

Born in Springfield, Illinois, Weed was impressed by the 1977 science fiction film *Star Wars* and bought a Super 8 camera. He attended Webster University for film production, Meramec College for still photography, and Southern Illinois University for acting. Following moves to St. Louis, where he worked as member of the Louma Crane Crew at the FOX Theatre on Taylor Hackford's music documentary *Chuck Berry Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' Rollin* 1986, and Los Angeles he started to work in the entertainment industry as an actor on projects such as the horror film *The Laughing Dead* (1989), as a Predator in the science fiction film *Predator 2* (1990), the family movie *Kung Fu Rascals* (1992), the thriller *In the Dead of Winter* (1993), and the science fiction sequel *Guyver: Dark Hero* (1994, with Christopher Michael and Brian Simpson) on which he worked as associate producer.

Weed also worked as a visual effects artist, creating miniatures and props for productions such as the action film *Flight of the Intruder* (1991), the science fiction thriller *Fortress* (1992), the horror film *Lord of Illusions* (1995, starring Scott Bakula), the science fiction comedy *Muppets from Space* (1999, with Syd Dutton and Bill Taylor), and the action sequel *Mission: Impossible II* (2000).

Weed moved on to work as director and among his first works was an unsold television science fiction film, titled *Star Runners*, starring Patricia Tallman. On the short films *Timeline* (2006), *Bag of Tricks* (2006), and *The War of the Planets* (2009) Weed worked as editor, writer, producer, and director. Weed's project *Shadowland*, a horror thriller, was released in 2010. He worked as director, writer, editor, and visual effects artist on this film.

More recent projects include the short film *Play Dead* (2010), as editor, assistant director, and visual effects artist, the thriller *D.N.R.* (2010), as cinematographer, editor, set decorator, sound editor, and digital effects artist, and the short horror film *The Bloodfest Club* (2011), as visual effects artist.

Whew! Are you getting excited yet? I know my keyboard is hoping things will slow down, but we're so close. Just a few more months until the big event. So get your registrations in, because we're not done yet. We've got more, much more, so check out our website for all the details.

Idic Gon

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WYATT WEED
Rutian Police Officer in
TNG: *The High Ground*



BRIDGETT "Babydoll" RILEY
the stunt double for the character
"Jaylah" in *STAR TREK BEYOND!*



SCOTT L SCHWARTZ
Tarran Maurader
DS9: *Through the Looking Glass*
DS9: *Crossover*