



STARFLEET

COMMUNIQUE

2023
Signing Off

2024
Beaming In

ISSUE 217

Q4 2023

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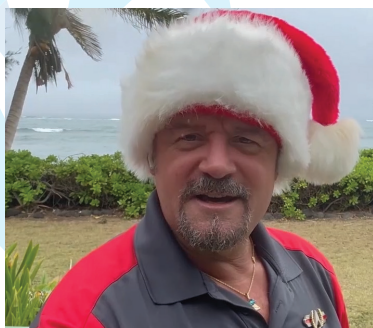
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REPORT: COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Fleet Admiral David Nottage, SCC 28197



Greetings and I hope this finds you well!! It is my wish that your Holiday Season is safe and meaningful for you all and your families.

In this time, we prepare all the accoutrements for the Holidays, and all that differs depending on if you observe Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or Festivus! It is the time to look back and reflect on what has been achieved in your part of the world. As the VCS and I complete our first year, we with the collaboration of the AB and EC, have completed 90 percent of the goals that we set forth during the election. And, yes, we are still having fun doing it.

Having now completed our first year, we are working to continue the progress, moving to strengthen STARFLEET for the future. As we work hard going forward, here is an update on where we are:

As of today, The Administration has completed or is still working on:

- 2022 Taxes Filed in August 2023
- Legal authority collaboration regarding Data breach continues at the pace and discretion of the Law.
- Implementation of the new 23-24 SFDPP certification is prepared and ready to go live on January 1st. All members with enhanced access need to be prepared to recertify in the first quarter of the new year. This includes all of the ECAB and their staff, Regional Coordinators, Vice Coordinators and Staff, Commanding Officers, Executive Officers and selected staff, leaders and members of the Auxiliaries and/or any other member that has special access. This recertification is for all, regardless of when you were last certified to retain access.
- The Admiralty Board has

completed its analysis of the membership costs and has voted to increase dues by \$5. This will take us to break even and in this next year to work aggressively on new programs to benefit not only the existing membership, but enticements for new members Global and Domestic.

More Work Ongoing:

- The administration continues to seek bids for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 International Conferences in a VIC or Hybrid model. This is the 50th year of STARFLEET and is a special event. It is time to get together safely, see our friends, and make new ones. If you wish to bid on this honor in whatever form, I encourage you to do it soon. Deadline for 2024 submissions has been extended to January 15th. The 2025 deadline is March 1, 2024. The 2026 deadline is March 1, 2025. Be advised that any bid must take into account every member of Fleet. IC is meant for everyone not just for your local area.
- Ongoing creation of the new database platform estimated now for second quarter of 2024.
- 50th anniversary coins are for sale now at the Quartermaster. We have restocked and are ready to take your orders. New and updated SFI flags are also available from the QM. They have the updated logo and a new look. Soon the QM will have the new SFI combadges ready to ship, in the meantime there is a presale on the QM site.
- Creation of SFDPP Audit plan for all enhanced access to begin in Feb of 2024 in conjunction with the update and cleaning up of the current database information for transition to the new platform.
- Directorships: Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) is still open. We will be posting soon for the Heraldry Compliance Officer (HCO) and Chief Cadet Officer (CCO). These posts will be on the VR site and we are compiling the information and updating the descriptions now.
- Currently, the VCS and I are finalizing the style guide for Organization, Region and Chapter use of the SFI Branding. We hope you have liked seeing some of the new elements we have been showing over the last few months.

As a reminder if you are creating new materials or updating/reprinting ones, please use the new branding. You will be able to use the old logos on items you have already created. Just start creating with the new heraldry.

- Ongoing addition of Perks. We have started with FANSETS.com and hope you use this one of many in the works.
- Charity - Planetary Society: Planning and organizing how to collaborate with our charitable partners.
- Planning for a new Fleet Cadet Corps.
- Further updates and clarifications within the Membership Handbook to enhance the experience and protect our membership.

Commander Starfleet Travels

If you have an event that you wish me to attend in your area, do let me know and I will work it into my schedule. I am currently wrapping up in Hawaii and look forward to meeting with those that come my way. In February, I will be on the Trek Cruise with many SFI members. I have an overnight in Port Canaveral on 2/29 if anyone wants to meet up at my hotel in the early evening. In March I will be at the Bay Area Creation Convention and I look forward to the events coming in March thru August of 2024 hosted by the Chapters and the Regions of Fleet. Look out R10, 13, and 17, I have my eyes on you. See you soon!

Final thoughts: It has been a great first year for the administration and so much has been accomplished. Our 2nd year goal is to strengthen our membership and bring on new members globally, so that we have new collaborations within fleet.

The following are reports from your Executive Committee and Staff Members giving you the State of the Fleet.

Getting it done, while having fun!

Fleet Admiral David Nottage
SCC#28197
Commander - STARFLEET,
International Inc.
Commanding Officer,
USS *Golden Gate* / NCC-2562
San Francisco, CA

REPORT: VICE-COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Admiral Ryan Case, SCC 71413



Greetings STARFLEET!

As we approach the close of the year, I just wanted to share my great joy and appreciation with you for allowing me to have now served you for one calendar year as your VCS. There's been some bumps, and I certainly hoped to be even further along than we are - but I've seen great care to make the headway we've made - and am heartened to know there are two more years ahead of this team. That being said, allow me to share the efforts my team has going to serve the STARFLEET community.

Completing Stellar Projects

Over the last year, we have finalized numerous projects.

The official physical design, reveal, and release of the SFI 50th Anniversary coin is now available for order on the Quartermaster Website.

Similarly, my long-awaited official SFI Commbadges are on their way to the Quartermaster store but are momentarily detained due to shipping complications. To clarify, due to a customs issue, they had to make an unexpected return to the UK - after just sitting in an office for a number of weeks. However, rest assured that our Quartermaster team is diligently resolving the matter, ensuring that these Commbadges reach our members worldwide as swiftly as possible.

Additionally, we have successfully located and are in the process of adding historical Admiralty Board minutes and resolutions to the SFI website, a significant portion of them have already been added to the Members section of the website.

Finally, the Visual Style Guide (colloquially referred to as the 'Branding Document'), if it hasn't already been released at the time of

release of the CQ, is slated for release in the coming days - my team has completed their work on the document, and it has been sent to various other teams to give their thumbs up, and the Corps of Engineers will put their visual spin on the guide - I hope you all like it and sincerely think it's likely an important document to everything we do as a team, and potentially for future administrations to use as well.

Just to add, the ongoing collaboration with Information Services on the Google Drive onboarding project continues to progress steadily, laying the groundwork for some needed operational efficiency throughout 2024.

Handling Membership Matters

As some of you might know, some dubious claims have arisen, stemming from a source of questionable legal standing, reflecting misunderstandings of STARFLEET's procedures and protocols. These contentions center around the failure to renew a membership in a timely manner, a fundamental Membership Responsibility. Consequently, Membership Rights were forfeited, allowing for the legitimate refusal of service in accordance with our organization's private entity status. As there is a pattern of public disclosure and misrepresentation, we have opted not to engage in further discussion with the individual at this time.

We wish to reiterate our commitment to upholding the highest standards of transparency and integrity. All procedures were diligently followed, and refunds were issued accordingly. Just please be reminded that safeguarding the well-being of our membership remains our top priority and we take any threat to the organization with the utmost seriousness.

Embracing the Holiday Season

That ghastly situation aside, let's not forget the joyous spirit of the holiday season. This time of the year invites us to embrace warmth, unity, and goodwill. Please take a moment to appreciate the camaraderie that binds us together, helping to transcend borders and differences, as we celebrate the festivities with loved ones and friends - many of whom I count amongst the ranks of STARFLEET.

Me and my team would like to extend

our warmest wishes to each and every one of you. This is a time of joy, reflection, and shared moments with loved ones. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, or any other holiday that brings light and happiness into your life, may this season fill your hearts with warmth and your homes with laughter and friends. Personally, I take this opportunity to celebrate the Winter Solstice, a time of introspection and the start of Yule, a festival that symbolizes renewal, hope, and the promise of brighter days ahead - a reason I like our administration's slogan of 'Onward and Upward'. However you choose to observe this time, may it be filled with peace, love, and an abundance of good cheer.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year!

ADM Ryan Case, VCS
CO, USS *Haise*
NCC-74664 – Jackson, MS

LOOKING FORWARD

Various SFI Commanding Officers



During the time leading up to this issue,

Chief of Communications, ADM Lucy Ferron Franck, of the *USS Zavala*, reached out and asked commanding officers to give us a sentence or two about what their chapters are looking forward to in 2024. These are the responses we received:

"We're looking forward to expanding our reach within West Michigan, raising money for Make-A-Wish Michigan, and encouraging/helping to launch new ships across our region!"
-LCDR Taleah Greve, Chief Communications Officer, *USS Grand Petosky*, R13

"We are looking forward to more interaction with other chapters, spending more time together, and increasing our community service."
-ADM Kimberly Donohoe, Commanding Officer, *USS Yorktown*, R1

"We look forward to having more activities with other ships not only in region one, but in other regions as well. We are a small ship with a mighty crew, so we hope to bring more to our area."
-CMDR. Stephen Richard, Exec Officer, Engineering Chief, Communications Chief, *USS Mountaineer*, R1

"We plan to continue recruiting strong members, increase networking with other community organizations and businesses, continue our steady growth of our annual Board Game Extravaganza fundraiser, and finally and most importantly, support more financially disadvantaged youth involvement in visual and performing arts."
-FCAPT Bob Van Tuinen, CO, *USS Balthasar*, R4

"We look forward to maintaining general awesomeness; inspiring more poetry and whimsical *Trekkie* fandom entries; continuing to be a Ship that Katherine Johnson would be proud to be the namesake of: a kinder, gentler ship, always striving to live up to its motto: In the face of adversity, excellence."
-VADM Tom Restivo, Commanding Officer, *USS Katherine Johnson*, R7

"This year we hope to do more outings as well as reach out to the community at large. Also, we are trying to see about attending the 2024 regional

conference."
-CAPT Anthony Perez, CO, *USS Osiris*, R7

"We have 3 members of the crew graduating from university studies and will be putting their new experiences into practice both within the practical world and aboard ship."
-COL Christopher Good, CO, *USS Hope*, R11

"The *USS Zavala* has several big cons, *Star Trek*-themed parties, and other fun events planned for 2024. We will continue to volunteer and raise funds for Kids Meals of Houston, TX."
-ADM Lucy Ferron Franck, CO, *USS Zavala*, R3

"The *USS Merlin* is looking forward to celebrating 2024, with the second year under our wonderful CO (and SFI Officer of the Year!) and growing its crew. It'll be a year full of movie watch-alongs, virtual *Trek* movie & TV episode script-readings, "ultimate crew" competitions, and general silliness!"
-FCAPT Phillip Hunter Gilfus, XO, *USS Merlin*, R20

"We are looking forward to celebrating our 10 years as a chapter in SFI. Plus going to our regular venues such as Calgary Expo and Vulcan, and some new voyages. It's going to be FUN!"
-CAPT James McGuire, CO, *USS Chinook*, R10

"We are looking forward to February, when we create our 10-Forward bar and Holodeck at RadCon sci-fi convention. Keeping with RadCon's theme, this year, the Holodeck will feature a visit to our Lt. Bjornak's alma mater, *Hogwarts School of Magic and Wizardry*, where he was an intergalactic exchange student in his youth."
-VADM Lea Morgan, CO, *USS Antares*, R5

"The *Cerberus* crew will be working towards community engagement to bring our love for *Star Trek* to western Canada. If it wasn't for SFI our crew and friendships wouldn't exist."
-CAPT Jeromy Estell, CO, *USS Cerberus*, R10

"We hope to continue making new friends and strengthen links with old ones. We hope to do more with our local community, charities and of course have fun!"
-FCAPT Phyllis Seale Foynes, CO, *USS Liberty Belle*, R20

"*USS Raven* is looking to continue its recruitment drive as well as begin arranging online activities and in-person activity days."
-LCDR Chloe Miller, XO, *USS Raven*, R20

"We have an incredible year ahead with our plans for *Destination Trek* about to swing into gear. We also have a range of new activities planned for our online and in-person meetings. There are new games and away missions to spread the SFI word, online presence expansion, and more from our chapter magazine the *Incoming Hail*."
-CAPT Clive Burrell, Co, *USS Mercia*, R20

"We look forward to new away missions, including escape rooms and virtual reality activities, trekking to *Star Trek* filming sites, meetings with *Star Trek* actors and professionals, and attending parties."
-CMDR Jeremy Kranz, XO, *USS Angeles*, R4

"We're looking forward to seeing our established members take on more active roles and engage with their newer members to bring about a more productive, participative, active community strong hold, making a difference through our common interests."
-CAPT Jeffrey Triz, CO, *USS Niagara*, R7

"As we continue our second year as a ship, we are excited about participation in local conventions, the exciting away missions our crew has scheduled, and our continued participation in charity events in our community. We miss our members and friends who have gone before us into the Final Frontier and carry on in their memories."
-COMM Laurie McFarland, CO, *USS White Sands*, R17

"Our focus for the new year is member engagement. We will be implementing a buddy system to encourage participation. In addition to member engagement, we will continue to increase our community service efforts. Our motto is "Not for self but for a better community."
-CAPT Barb Barton, CO, *USS Tecumseh*, R13

"For 2024, we are looking to get back into our heads because we're currently out of our minds."
-CAPT Geraldine Bush, CO, *USS Theresa Sylvester*, R7

The Ferengi with Heart: Quark's Impact on Star Trek

PO3 Alex Giles, SCC 84142



When we explore the universe of *Star Trek*, our thoughts are immediately drawn to certain iconic characters.

Among these, we find Quark, brought to life by the talented Armin Shimerman. Quark isn't your typical bartender; he's the Ferengi proprietor of Quark's Bar, Grill, Gaming House, and HoloSuite Arcade on *Deep Space Nine*.

His character possesses a multitude of layers that significantly contribute to the depth and appeal of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.

Armin Shimerman's portrayal of Quark is a masterpiece, breathing life into the character and instantly making Quark a fan favourite, one of the most iconic figures in the *Star Trek* franchise when he possibly wasn't meant to be.

Quark, a Ferengi motivated by profit, defies being pigeonholed. Throughout *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, he becomes entangled in various adventures and moral dilemmas, revealing a more intricate side to his character. Adding to this complexity is Quark's relationship with his brother, Rom, who transforms from a bumbling technician into a pivotal character, playing a significant role in the "Dominion War" storyline.

Quark's interactions with the crew members of *Deep Space Nine*, including his friendship with Constable Odo and his complicated romantic involvement with Major Kira Nerys, infuse his character with life and make him an integral part of the show's dynamics.

Quark's bar serves as a social hub on *Deep Space Nine*, where a diverse range of alien species gather, exchange information, and interact. This setting provides a unique backdrop for the series, fostering a wide array of engaging character interactions.

"You're overlooking something. Humans used to be a lot worse than Ferengi. Slavery, concentration camps, interstellar war. We have nothing in our past that approaches that level of barbarism. You see, we're nothing like you. We're better". — Quark

In addition to his role as comic relief,

Quark's character serves as a catalyst for thought-provoking social commentary, challenging viewers to re-evaluate their values and judgments. The show frequently delves into the consequences of Ferengi culture and capitalist principles, thanks to Quark's presence.

Despite his profit-driven nature, Quark occasionally displays acts of generosity and compassion, challenging the stereotypes associated with Ferengi culture and offering glimpses of his true character. Quark's unique charm extends beyond these facets. He is a character filled with contradictions. Nobody really likes him, yet everyone needs him. During the Bajoran occupation, he profited from serving drinks to the Cardassians, but Bajorans don't resent him because he also sold them medical supplies at a fair price.



Even Constable Odo, who dedicates his life to exposing Quark's many crimes, finds an unlikely friend in him. While other Ferengi see Quark as a loser, he's the only link to the Gamma Quadrant and its untold profit.

Quark is a survivor, thriving under three separate governments. Although he holds no official rank or position, he knows the station inside and out. He's the one person everyone wants as an ally, if only to prevent his talents from falling into enemy hands.

Originally intended to be an unlikable



character, Quark's transformation into an integral part of *Deep Space Nine* is a testament to Armin Shimerman's brilliant performance and the writers' adaptability as the show evolved.

But there's more to Quark's story. His complex and often adversarial relationship with Worf on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* added another layer of intrigue. Despite their seemingly opposite natures, Quark's admiration for Worf's strength and courage, and Worf's appreciation of Quark's intelligence and cunning, led to a grudging friendship. Their friendship faced challenges but endured, providing one of the series' most unique and interesting dynamics.

Whether you're a devoted *Trekkie* or a casual fan, there's no denying that Quark's character and his dynamic relationships added layers of complexity and depth to *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. This makes it a series worth revisiting for its unforgettable Ferengi bartender with a heart.

I have kind of fallen in love with him and hence the name of this article. Regards,

Alex

Originally posted on [Quarks Corner](#)

ORDERS OF MERIT



Trish Tunis

Jeremy Carsten
Sean Duerr
Lynn Harper
Meg Karper
Stephen Hebbend-Bach

Jeremy Carsten
John Hardy
Lynn Harper

Mark Anderson
Stephen Hebbend-Bach
Ivar Bardie
Chris Boggs
Jeremy Carsten
Ryan Case
Sean Duerr
John Hardy

John Hardy
Katie Moncelsi

Lynn Harper
Ken Kopacki

Stephen Hebbend-Bach
Ken Kopacki

Jeremy Carsten
Gregg Kleiner
Ken Kopacki
Katie Moncelsi

Lynn Harper
Meg Karper

Dawn Alberino
Paul Blaha

Patrick Conran
Lynn Cowan
Jonathan East
Phyllis Foynes
Anne Grace

Sarit Carsten

Order of Babel - First Class

Order of Cochrane - First Class

Ken Kopacki
Randy Mitson
Erin Poole
Chris Poole
Gerhard Pretorius

Order of Darmok & Jalad - First Class

Meg Karper
Gregg Kleiner
Ken Kopacki

Order of Dionysus - First Class

Erin Poole

Grankite Order of Tactics - First Class

Lynn Harper
Meg Karper
Gregg Kleiner
Randy Mitson
Alicia Muhammad
Ann Marie Norris
David Nottage
Chris Poole
Gerhard Pretorius

Order of Hawking - First Class

Coleen Parker
Cindy Ray
Tiffany Sobczak

Order of Prentares - First Class

Lynn Harper

Order of Roddenberry - First Class

Order of S'harien - First Class

Randy Mitson
Gerhard Pretorius

Order of Samaritan - First Class

Alicia Muhammad
Chris Poole
Erin Poole
Cindy Ray

Tarbolde of Canopus - First Class

Gregg Kleiner
Alicia Muhammad

Order of Babel - Second Class

Missy Merchant
Anna Phillips
Royline Takashita

Order of Cochrane - Second Class

Victor Swindell

Order of Darmok & Jalad - Second Class

Derek Sauls

Order of Dionysus - Second Class

Aimee Hollingsworth
Jim Landelius
Shane Landelius
Paula Lennox
Douglas Leopard

Grankite Order of Tactics - Second Class

Order of Roddenberry - Second Class

Jessica Klutzz

Gregg Kleiner

Andrew Reist
Ed Tunis
Trish Tunis
Jayden Tyronian

Ann Marie Norris
Erin Poole
Caroline Signol

Andrew Reist
Michael Rosen
Caroline Signol
Tiffany Sobczak
Jerry Tien
Ed Tunis
Trish Tunis
Jayden Tyronian

Jayden Tyronian
Catherine Weeks

Gerhard Pretorius
Michael Rosen

Ed Tunis

Tiffany Sobczak
Ed Tunis
Trish Tunis

Valerie Pollet
Trish Tunis

Gary Taylor
Lauren White

Eilidh Montgomery
Sharon O'Neill
David Smith
Andrew Quinn

Deborah Keyes

ORDERS OF MERIT



Alvin Dozier
Sean Duerr

Michelle Barton
Edward Bobbett
Anthony Achee
Julia Achee
Jeromy Estell
Armando Fuentes

Coleen Parker

Janine Darnell
Jonathan Darnell

Simon Cordell
Lynn Cowan
Michael Heslop

Ryan Presson

Lana Gramlich

Gregg Kleiner

Eric Bowman
John Franck
Robert Hall

Matthew Bolger
David Griffin

Julia Achee
Edward Bobbett
Allison Boggs
Chris Boggs
Graham Boggs
April Carter
Neale Carter
Raven Cochran
Charlene DeRoche
Alejandro Fuentes

Brian Crist

Order of S'harien - Second Class

Tony Perez

Order of Samaritan - Second Class

Gregg Kleiner
Michael Mendoza

Order of Surak - Second Class

Antonia Tenney

Order of Axanar - Third Class

Kayley Sandbeck

Order of Babel - Third Class

Sydney LeJeune
Missy Merchant
Jacob Miller
Cheryl Nicholson
Gail Perrin
Dusty Ransomme

Order of Cochrane - Third Class

Order of Darmok & Jalad - Third Class

Bradley O'Connor
Mark Polanis

Order of Dionysus - Third Class

James Innes
Pam Kingsley
Eilidh Montgomery
Charlene DeRoche

Order of Gaea - Third Class

Grankite Order of Tactics - Third Class

Taleah Greve

Order of Hawking - Third Class

Coleen Parker

Order of Herodotus - Third Class

Order of Prentares - Third Class

Robert Hunnicutt
Valerie Ng Joe
Julia Jones
Liz Richter

Order of S'harien - Third Class

Order of Samaritan - Third Class

Armando Fuentes
Lana Gramlich
Landon Hicks
Susan Mahaffey
John Mitchell Jr
Stephanie Mitchell
Suzanne Patterson
Dusty Ransomme
Linda Ransome
Mike Sandbeck
Cierra Schmidt

Order of Surak - Third Class

Arlene Henriques

Tarbolde of Canopus - Third Class

Linda Smith

Pam Rodriguez

Aaron Sharp
Sarah Styles
Ashely Waguespack
Zack Wooten
David Yee

Gary Taylor

Ryan Presson

David Sladky
Marie Smith
Craig Walsh

Dusty Ransomme

Zack Wooten

Rodney Davis

Steven Shapiro
John Stein
Max Triola

Earl Simon
John Stein

Desiree Shaw
Joshua Shaw
Dale Smith
Frank Smithey
Angelia Thelin
Brian Thelin
Daniel Thelin
Ed Tunis
Danny White
John Wofford

Ed Tunis

PROMOTIONS LIST



Name	Chapter	Region	Rank	Date
David Lowery	USS Black Hawk	12	Commodore	September 3, 2023
Beau Thacker	USS Ascalon	3	Admiral	October 3, 2023
Gene Armstrong	USS Dragonfly	5	Commodore	November 14, 2023
Jim Landelius	USS Archangel	12	Rear Admiral	December 7, 2023
Shane Landelius	USS Marko Ramius	12	Fleet Captain	December 7, 2023



REPORT: ACCESSIBILITY OFFICE

CPT Coleen Parker, SCC 82868



Hello from the Director of Accessibility.

Happy New Year STARFLEET!

I'm Coleen, and I'm the new Director of Accessibility. The goal of this office is to improve accessibility throughout STARFLEET. While the office will initially focus on the fleet level, we are also a resource for auxiliaries, region level, and individual ships.

After all, accessibility benefits everyone!

Toward that end, I would like to ask for two minutes of your time to answer an anonymous survey. By filling out the survey, you're helping us focus our efforts during the initial set up of this office.

[Survey](#)

Feel free to reach out at any point to sfcoa@sfi.org. Anything you disclose to this office is protected under the STARFLEET Data Protection Policy.

Let's boldly go,
Captain Coleen Parker
SCC#82868
Director of Accessibility
Assigned to USS *Lilith*, R17

REPORT: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Admiral Jonathan "Gumby" Simmons, SCC 23195



Greetings Fleeters!

As of December 20, 2023, there are 5402 members serving aboard 216 chapters in the Fleet. 19 chapters and 4 RCs failed to report this month. Regions 1, 2, 3 and 15 failed to report.

25 chapters are on Standby for various reasons ranging from understrength to SFDPP.

They are:

Belknap
Columbia
Yeager
DaVinci
Harry Mudd
Diamondback
Hecate Battle Group
Bismarck
H Lamarr

Wolf 359
Imperium
Thunderchild
Abraham Lincoln
Curtana
Phoenix
Magellan
Septarian
Ares IV
Darwin
Helen Pawlowski
Roger Williams
Pioneer
Cuchulain
Raven
Reginald Mitchell

There are 5 chapters in DryDock.

They are:

Columbus
Tavros
Augusta Ada

Omnus
Lexington

These chapters are in danger of being decommissioned.

In Ops News, we are gearing up for the 2024 Recruitment Contest. It begins January 1st, 2024, and runs through June 1st. See my announcement for more details.

That's it for this month!

REPORT: PERKS OFFICE

FCAPT David Reffitt, SCC 69185



To all members of the Fleet,

let me introduce myself. I am FCAPT David Reffitt, your new Director of Perks. I will be posting new perks as they become available to the STARFLEET Business Facebook page and the STARFLEET Members Only Facebook page. I have several perks already and more to come.

A little about myself. I have been a member of STARFLEET off and on since 1992. I started on the USS *Stargazer* under the command of (then) CAPT Coyote. She was a great help and a model STARFLEET officer. During that time, I was also a member of the Klingon Imperial Navy (later renamed Klingon Defense Force). When the KIN dissolved, I formed the Klingon Ambassador League, and we are still going strong. After a few years away, getting that up and running, I re-joined STARFLEET in 2012 and I have been involved with furthering my career here.

In October of 2022, I started the shakedown cruise of the USS *Odin*

NCC-1875. My mothership was the USS *DarkSabre* under the command of COMM Mike Calhoun. Another model STARFLEET officer. It would not have been possible if it were not for him (shameless plug). The USS *Odin* was finally commissioned this year and I could not be more proud of my crew.

So, onto the perks that I have and am working on. I have FanSets onboard to offer our members 10% off site-wide using the code: TrekGeeks. I also have onboard but waiting on the discount code is SciFi Geeks (formerly PatchGeeks) who has extended to our member 10% custom orders. If you are looking for great quality patches for your ships, this is the place. I used them in KIN, and they are great quality. I have reached out to the following and am waiting on replies:

Enterprise Rentals
Vanguard Military supply
Titan Pop Culture
CafePress
CosPlay Supplies
Glendale Parade Supplies

Choice Hotels International
OfficeMax/Depot
Vistaprint
FedEx/Kinkos
DHL
MegaCon
Planet Comicon
San Diego Comicon
Emerald City Comicon

To name a few. This is still an ongoing list which I did not want to take up the whole Communique with all the places I am trying. I am also working on expanding Perks for our international members and have reached out to our Regional Coordinators that are outside the US. I am working on getting liaisons to help me get perks for our International Members.

My perks email is up and running. I will post it on our social media pages and look forward to any ideas or suggestions for Perks.

LLAP,
FCAPT David C. Reffitt
Director of Perks, SFI

REPORT: CHIEF OF MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Admiral Bran Stimpson, SCC 52416



The Director of Member Retention position with the office is open.

The Director of Member Retention position with the office is open. Head on over to the Volunteer Resources page to look at this opening, and of course many others. TJ with Recruitment and Meg with Orientation continue their slow and steady work on getting their programs moving. Real life and holidays have made things a little slower than we would all like. After the last EC meeting it was decided that we would change the way that Information Services tickets are handled. Starting a few weeks back, all tickets for the Membership Services Helpdesk that require Information Services work will be assigned to them within the Helpdesk.

I want to thank Chris P. for his diligent work on the Helpdesk. We are trying to get to the point where all tickets are initially touched within 24 hours of being submitted and resolved within 72 hours. Also, shout out to Matt with Processing, John with Volunteer Resources, and Kelli and her team in Recognition. These folks work

tirelessly to make sure your memberships are processed, you have a chance to volunteer with STARFLEET, and your memberships are recognized. Huge thanks to these folks!

Onboarding has been a bit of a bumpy road. Albert has been great at pushing through these issues and keeping up with the large number of emails that are sent out. Several issues are pretty much out of our hands. The email server that STARFLEET currently uses only allows for a certain number of emails to be sent per day before being blocked. Also, on occasion it seems that the server likes to block IP addresses, seemingly randomly. We continue to work on ways in which we can work around these issues and limitations. The department is hoping to kick off a bunch of programs and offerings in 2024. If you have some ideas or thoughts that you would like us to consider, please feel free to reach out to myself via email.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

FCAPT John Brice Jr

As DCMS I'm pleased to see members renewing their memberships regardless of the price increase. Some members have even bought multiple year memberships and donated extra funds to our scholarship programs which is a great way of funding our charitable causes as well! I am also delighted that Volunteer Resources continues to shine with the cooperation of everyone out there who wishes to publicize their services better. I would like to see continued resilience from auxiliary and other office leaders who can keep me constantly updated about changes in the master organizational roster which I take care of. If you have issues with administrative functions in our office, feel free to reach out to me. Both of my emails are available for anyone to use. I would also like to thank CoS, Fran Booth, for helping me find awesome candidates to fill out our Commander, STARFLEET positions and I will continue to look out for other services that require assistance as well.

REPORT: CHIEF OF INFORMATION SERVICES

Commodore Erin Poole, SCC 82515



CSR IS November Report

Preparation for New Database Information Export Report

Currently, we're in the process of auditing member details within the existing database to ensure their accuracy. The upcoming new database will mandate an email for login, and those lacking a correct email won't transition over. To ensure a smooth import into the new database next year, we request that everyone verifies and updates their member information by logging into the database

Database Enhancement Update

The registration process programming has been successfully completed. A revamped registration form has been designed with multiple improvements to guarantee better data accuracy and a more user-friendly experience for new members. This new form has been segmented into five sections, each accessible only after completing the necessary information in the previous section.

Two optional fields have been added to the contact information: "AKA / Trek Name" and a space for the new member's preferred pronouns. The date of birth field now operates as a date picker, adapting to the local date format based on the member's location. In the address section, the "state / province" field is linked to the country field, showing relevant information based on the selected country. Additionally, the phone number field, though not mandatory, is validated according to the format of the chosen country.

After entering contact and address details, members move to the Region and Chapter selection, determined by the geographic region entered. This phase offers options to select a Chapter based on the region, choose a different Region to select a Chapter from, or opt not to join any Chapter immediately. There are also provisions for a family membership, allowing the addition of information for up to 5 family members, with membership dues calculated based on the number of family members included.

Members are then required to confirm that they've read and agreed to necessary notices before proceeding to process their payment via PayPal. Upon completion of the PayPal transaction, the new member along with the included family members will be created in the database, pending activation. For those interested in a demo of the completed work, please contact your Regional Coordinator to arrange one.

Next Database Phase: Reporting

SFI Servers Update

We've encountered intermittent server downtime, especially during peak usage times shared with other entities. To enhance stability and independence, we're considering migrating to a dedicated server, aiming for implementation in the first half of the upcoming year.

Regional and Chapter Websites

Starting January, all Regions are eligible for a complimentary website on SFI.org. To qualify, each Region needs to designate a webmaster to oversee website construction and management via the SFI WordPress

multi-site platform.

Also starting in January, SFI will offer two economical web hosting packages for chapters:

Option 1: Host your existing website with a unique domain on our servers.

Option 2: Host your website on our multi-site platform, [yourchaptername].SFI.org, providing access to a range of plugins and SSL certificate security. For inquiries or further details, please email CIS@sfi.org

New SFI Website Progress

Last month, we launched a feedback form for members to share opinions on the new SFI website. The consensus leans toward maintaining the current design, but we're planning a design refresh based on this feedback. Access the feedback form [here](#). Insights from this survey will guide VADM Greg Mortensen and the SFI.org team in designing the upcoming website

SFI Email and Vanity Email Transition

Requests for troubleshooting existing email accounts and setting up new ones continue. To streamline our support, we're shifting exclusively to mailboxes from forwarders. Departments requiring an SFI vanity email for fleet positions should file a help desk ticket through their respective department head.

Academy Grades Integration

We're collaborating with the academy to incorporate historical grades for students who completed courses now divided into smaller segments.



Educational Services Accessibility Committee (ESAC)

Team Member Positions Now Available

JOIN US!



What We Do

Our team currently works with Deans, Directors, Chapter Commanding Officers, and other ES Staff, to convert their existing documents into a more accessibly-friendly format. We also work directly with our special needs members (adults, cadets) to assist in providing better access and use of publications and course materials throughout both STARFLEET Academy (SFA) and STARFLEET Marine Corp Academy (SFMCA).

Description of Role

Team members will:

- research pertinent websites for current or updated information about accessibility, assistive technologies, adaptability, and usability on an international scale and bring that information to the team for discussion and possible addition into existing support and documents
- convert manuals, exams, and other files into a more accessibly-friendly format in general for screen readers, and more specifically, for members with challenges such as, Dyslexia, Low Vision, Autism, Short Memory Retention, and other intellectual or physical challenges
- use Zoom or other virtual media for training sessions and group meetings
- be proficient in the use of email, attaching files, and replying promptly as needed
- An understanding of special needs is a plus; and, if you are a member with special needs, you are highly encouraged to apply.
- new duties as may be needed

We have a lot more work to do and would love to have you as part of our growing team!

Skills Needed

- proficient with Microsoft Word (preferred); any version from 2010 to 365. Optionally, other word-processing software's such as Libre or Open Office can be used as long as files are able to be converted into .doc, .docx, and .pdf file formats.
- overall use and know-how to create .pdf files using Adobe Reader (preferred). Other .pdf file creators will need to be approved for use on our team.
- ability to join Zoom meetings
- ability to use Facebook and Facebook Messenger
- document formatting, such as the use of: headings, styles, headers, footers, punctuation, grammar, spelling, British English, Alt Text, line spacing, margin adjustments, columns, tables, fonts, and color vision deficient (CVD) palettes
- creating or editing images is helpful but not necessary

- researching copyright, terms of use, and proper citation and attribution of information and images
- use of Accessibility Checker in Microsoft Word
- use of embedded screen readers in Microsoft Word and Adobe Reader are a plus
- ability to work in a team environment is crucial

Training is provided, so don't worry if you're weak or lacking in some skills.

STARFLEET Requirements

- must be a member in good standing in STARFLEET International (SFI), either affiliated or non-affiliated
- SFDPP 101, 102 and the current year's SFDPP recertification
- Officer Training School (OTS) course
- STARFLEET Academy Orientation College (SAOC) courses

Please be aware that the SAOC is currently closed for revisions, and that any placement at this time will be conditional upon the person completing this college when it is reopened.

If you're interested in applying, please provide the following with your application:

- Name, E-mail, SCC#, Chapter name (if affiliated), and Region number
- STARFLEET resume
- please briefly describe your skill sets and experiences relevant to this position
- Why are you interested in this position?
- What can you bring to the ESAC team?
- if you have any real-life experience that relates to accessibility or special needs, please make sure to include it with your application

Please submit any additional supporting documents in .pdf (preferred), .doc, or .docx format to Volunteer Resources. Any other file format should be converted into one of these three prior to uploading to Volunteer Resources.

Please also be sure to read the online Description of Role as there may be other information added that does not appear in this position request.

Age Requirements

- 18 Years or older

Thank you for considering joining the ESAC team! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this position.

CMDR Cindy Ray
Co-Founder and Co-Chair, ESAC
accessibility@academy.sfi.org

revised v2, 202312.10

What Star Trek Gets Right About Disabilities

ENS Heather Avello, SCC 79396



Winner of the Non-fiction Newsletter Article of the Year 2022

In most of its iterations, *Star Trek* has been a beacon of hope for people that the future will be better than the faulty, flawed present in which we live. One of the things that stood out to me through the years is that *Star Trek: The Next Generation* is not a top favorite of many people. I've met die-hard fans of the *Original Series* and people that will extol the virtues of *Deep Space Nine*, but TNG takes a lot of flak for some of its less popular decisions. Then why have I been so devoted to this series through the years? I could blame nostalgia, as this was one of the shows I watched as a child, but I still fangirl hard over Spock, and I know that's a remnant of my early childhood. I've discovered a draw that has more nuance and subtlety: as an adult, I've finally learned how to put that acceptance into language—I felt TNG understood me.

As a child, I knew there was something about me that wasn't quite normal. I suffered from serious Social Anxiety Disorder—before it had a name—which labeled me “painfully shy” and difficult to get along with. I also didn't get diagnosed with hearing loss until I was an adult and the embarrassment drilled into me from an early age kept me from accepting that this was a part of my life for a longer time than I'd like to admit. As someone who now identifies as a deaf adult (ask anyone what it's like to talk to me without my hearing aids!), I see something really appealing about how TNG showed disabilities without flinching away from their realities. TNG gave me a feeling of acceptance early on and continued to do so through my formative years. I think a lot of this feeling stems from how this series handles disabilities with such compassion in ways that the other iterations of *Star Trek* have yet to master.

Lt. Com. Geordi LaForge is an integral member of the Enterprise crew; there are many episodes where his ability to puzzle out engine problems saves them from certain destruction. He's also been blind from birth and uses technology that utilizes the electromagnetic spectrum to see. What is important to me here is that not only is he living with this uniqueness on board a ship, but he

also carries the responsibility of Chief Engineer and does it well. His VISOR has been a part of Geordi that one can almost forget that he wears, and his co-workers never talk down to him or treat him any differently because of it. His disability is presented as something to be accommodated and not something that hinders him in any way from doing his job. This accommodation has given Geordi such a different view of the world that he has been the only one to see solutions to difficult problems.

In the fifth season episode, “*The Masterpiece Society*,” the colonists have isolated themselves to create a group of superior humans through selective breeding, genetic enhancement, and intensive focus on training them to be their “best” selves. When a natural disaster threatens this colony, the *Enterprise* is willing to help but is at a loss to find a way. While explaining the mechanism of his VISOR to a fellow engineer from the colony, Geordi has the brilliant idea to use the same technology that allows him to see to enhance the tractor beam, proving that he is not only of value to this mission but vital to it. As Geordi tells Hannah, it's rather perfect that “the answer to all of this is in a VISOR created for a blind man who never would have existed in your society.”

In the second season episode, “*Loud as a Whisper*,” we see another physical disability that is displayed instead as an opportunity. Riva, a deaf man, is asked to mediate negotiations to end a civil war on Solaris V. He is the last hope of a planet torn nearly to shreds because neither side can hear the other's point of view. Riva's interpreters, his chorus, allow Riva to communicate with the hearing world. When a rogue member of one of the delegations kills his chorus, Riva is distraught and feels incomplete without them, unable to attempt the job he has been assigned. After the crew of the *Enterprise* meets his need for communication (Data learns to sign, and Deanna takes the time to try to reach him on a personal level), he sees that there is more than one way to approach the situation. Riva decides to solve the problem with a logical solution that focuses on the communication needed to stop the war. He will teach the delegates to sign, helping them learn to speak with him and with each other.

There are a couple of things to note about this powerful episode. First, Riva is not just ranting when signing to himself after his chorus is killed. If you happen to understand ASL, you can see him grieving for his friends and expressing anger about his situation, saying things like, “tired of all you hearing people not understanding me, not talking to you anyway.” This is such a raw emotion being expressed because he is so overwhelmed; his coping mechanism for interacting with the hearing world has been ripped away from him in an instant. The importance of this expression is that the *Enterprise* crew did not throw their hands up and walk away or assume that now Riva is incapable of what he was sent to do. Still, they meet him more than halfway, showing him that communication with him is important to them. The other and perhaps more important thing to take away is that the deaf actor who played Riva, Howie Seago, was brought in as a consultant and objected strongly to the original way the episode was supposed to end. Riva was to be given the ability to speak to complete the negotiations; Seago instead proposed that they teach them all to sign instead. This allowed viewers to see that there was room for every person at the table. As Riva says to Geordi, “It is a blessing to understand that we are special, each in his own way.”

TNG didn't just tackle physical disabilities; it tackled mental disabilities with equal thought and compassion. For example, we see elements of PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - in several episodes that show Picard's difficulty coping after his encounters with the Borg. This is probably most clearly illustrated in the movie *First Contact*. The series approached this issue earlier with the third season episode, “*The Hunted*.” In this episode, we see a group of men who were programmed to help their society win a war, and when they were no longer needed, they were discarded to a gilded prison because they were “dangerous.” It's a clear and pretty damning illustration of veterans and the way they are treated post-victory in our society.

When Picard is facing down these men at the end of the episode, he orders his people not to fire on them because they are trained not to harm those who are not trying to harm them. When the leader, Roga Danar, tells the

What Star Trek Gets Right About Disabilities

ENS Heather Avello, SCC 79396



prime minister that they would rather die than go back into their prison. Picard tells the prime minister that he has a choice to make—whether to attempt to solve the problem that they as a society has created, or to die in the process. Picard doesn't attempt to solve it for them, which I think is important; the number one thing that this society can do to heal its wounded warriors is first to accept them and understand them on their own, which they are now forced to do.

The recurring character Lt. Reginald Barclay on TNG, is a capable, valuable member of the *Enterprise* crew that often helps to save the day with his peers. He also suffers from almost debilitating social anxiety that frequently has his behavior played for laughs. In the episode "*Hollow Pursuits*," we see that Barclay's senior officers determine him to be unreliable and nervous and generally making others in his department uncomfortable. Riker and LaForge (who incidentally helps to prove that even someone who has faced hardships with disabilities can be just as prone to one-dimensional thinking as someone without them) determine that he brings no value to the *Enterprise* and needs to be transferred elsewhere. Picard makes a point to tell Geordi that when an officer isn't adapting well to a new place, it is often the leader's fault, telling him to make Barclay his new best friend. We will fast-forward through the embarrassment of finding Barclay among his holographic companions; after all, not all coping mechanisms are healthy or socially acceptable. But we can now focus on the scene where LaForge and Barclay are speaking in Ten-Forward. LaForge refers to Barclay as "shy," to which Barclay responds with a heart-rending

description of what it is like to be like him. "Being afraid all of the time, of forgetting somebody's name, not-not knowing... what to do with your hands. I mean, I-I am the guy who writes down things to remember to say when there's a party. And then, when he finally gets there, he winds up alone, in the corner, trying to look comfortable examining a potted plant."

His words are not just emotive, but simple, visceral, and raw. As someone who grew up "painfully shy" and had the unfortunate tendency to have panic attacks when attention was focused on me, I can relate to the way he struggles to interact with others. For me and others like me, escapism happens in books, plays, movies, writing, and now, video games. The 23rd century has the holodeck, which combines all of these escapes into one location with the added bonus of allowing Barclay to reenact the problems of the day and respond to them how he wished he had the confidence to manage. Barclay is ultimately accepted as someone of value and an integral part of engineering; moving forward into the *Voyager* series, his unique perspective helps the lost ship to connect with their families back home and return sooner than the 75-year ETA.

Autism is another element of the spectrum that is depicted in TNG. This has been done well in some iterations of *Star Trek* (Thanks, *Discovery*!) and rather poorly in others (I'm looking at you, DS9). In contrast, TNG presents us with an analogy that addresses autistic symptoms from a blind perspective, allowing us to internalize the message and apply it without being fully cognizant of doing so. Tam Elbrun, the Betazoid character on the third season episode, "Tin Man," was born with his telepathic

abilities turned on—something that most Betazoid children do not have to face. As a result, he is constantly on sensory overload, which is a great way of describing autism. As is typical of people who have never faced such a different perspective, Tam faces judgment and causes discomfort in those around him, but he finds Data fascinating because his mind is silent. The two bond in a way that only two people with neuro-divergence can, understanding each other even though they are very different characters. Tam finds his place in the universe with the space-faring organism Tin Man, who speaks to Tam in ways he can experience without the constant overwhelming pain and pressure of others' thoughts and expectations. He, too, has a vital and important role—another thread in the fabric of society that may have different stitching but is just as vital as the other strands that hold it all together.

There are elements of disabilities and differences that the different *Star Trek* series have brought to the forefront through powerful and moving episodes, and the ones I've mentioned are just a small fraction of one series. While some make me angry (I'll talk through those at a later date when I'm not feeling generous!), the majority are helpful to people with differences, as they help us all to feel seen and heard. As the Vulcans will tell you, we must value the infinite diversity in infinite combinations that make up our world, or in this case, our universe. We each have a part to play, no matter what abilities, disabilities, or uniqueness we bring to the table. Each of our very different faces has a place in the big picture; sometimes, we must adjust our focus to ensure everyone is included.

REPORT: IC LIASON

ADM Jerry Tien, SCC 11697



Activities:

Answered follow up questions from fleet HQ and bidder of IC 2024. Compiled summit stats to help us project potential IC attendance. Exchanged info with VCS regarding

general requirements about STARFLEET IC's. Checked with some local convention groups in case we need backup plans.

Issues: N/A

ADM Jerry Tien,
USS Eagle, R4, SCC- 11697



Navigating the Universe of Star Trek in the New Year

As we embark on the journey into the cosmos of *Star Trek* in 2024, it's evident that the universe envisioned by Gene Roddenberry continues to evolve and expand across various mediums. Now, this is not a comprehensive list but just stuff we know about and that has been spoken about in public already.

Paramount+ has become a haven for Trekkies, hosting a diverse array of shows that delve into the uncharted territories of the final frontier. In this article, we'll explore some of the exciting developments slated for the *Star Trek* Universe, ranging from upcoming seasons of well-loved series to captivating books, events, and even a dive into alternate realities with a gripping new comic series. Let's set our phasers to stun and explore the stars together as we anticipate what lies ahead in the ever-expanding *Trek*-verse.

Television Series: Navigating New Frontiers

The small screen is set to beam us up into thrilling adventures with several ongoing and upcoming series and, although I mention them here, there is a chance they might STILL NOT be out in 2024 due to filming and stuff being pushed back thanks to the strike. But I figure even if it's not to be released in 2024, we will still be seeing/hearing a lot about them through the year, so I have added them in.

Star Trek: Discovery is poised to conclude its journey with an epic fifth season, while *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* embarks on its third season, promising to unveil even more wonders and challenges. The animated comedy, *Star Trek: Lower Decks*, continues its humorous exploration in a renewed fifth season, and the younger audience can look forward to the second season of *Star Trek: Prodigy*. Furthermore, the enigmatic *Section 31*, led by the exceptional Michelle Yeoh, will soon take centre stage in a spinoff from the *Discovery* storyline.

In March 2023, Paramount announced that *Star Trek: Discovery* season 5 will be the show's last. That means the end of the road for the show that brought the franchise back to T.V. after 12 years. In what in my eyes is

an under rated show that has really grown into itself, what could we be in for in this final season? I am excited to find out.

Strange New Worlds got back to work straight after the strike ended and the filming window is reportedly set from December 2023 to June 2024 so could we see it before the year ends? Could it be a split season like I think we will see a lot of.

More adventures on the USS *Cerritos* are on the way as *Lower Decks* was renewed for season 5 in March 2023 which is great news, *Lower Decks* has been consistent in its release schedule so far, with new seasons typically premiering in August/September of a given year so we can pretty confidently guess 2024 will be the same.

Prodigy season 2 is expected this year after Netflix picked up the *Prodigy* shaped ball and running with it, they have just thrown up season 1 last month in December for people to get acquainted with before the new season comes.

With regards to both *Section 31* Live-action movie and *Starfleet Academy* we are all desperate for any kind of information we can get but personally if I have to guess I think we will see *Starfleet Academy* by the end of the year and *Section 31* into 2025 BUT...

Look how amazing *Starfleet Academy* sounds:
"Admission is now open to Starfleet Academy
Explore the galaxy!
Captain your destiny!"

For the first time in over a century, our campus will be re-opened to admit individuals a minimum of 16 Earth years (or species equivalent) who dream of exceeding their physical, mental, and spiritual limits, who value friendship, camaraderie, honour, and devotion to a cause greater than themselves.

The coursework will be rigorous, the instructors among the brightest lights in their respective fields, and those accepted will live and study side-by-side with the most diverse population of students ever admitted.

Today we encourage all who share our dreams, goals, and values to join a new generation of visionary cadets

as they take their first steps toward creating a bright future for us all. Apply Today!

Ex Astris, Scientia!"

Literary Exploits: Words Beyond the Stars

The written word continues to be a vessel for *Star Trek's* exploration, with upcoming book releases such as "*Lost to Eternity*" by Greg Cox and "*Pliable Truths*" by Dayton Ward. Additionally, Nana Visitor invites fans to "*Open a Channel*" and share in her *Trek* experiences. David Mack contributes to the literary galaxy with "*Picard: Firewall*," adding depth and nuance to the character we've come to admire.

Destination Trek UK: A Celestial Gathering

For those eager to engage with fellow fans, Destination Trek UK offers a celestial gathering from July 26th to 28th, 2024, at the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool. Immerse yourself in the *Trek* experience, with panels, discussions, and the shared passion of Trekkies from across the galaxy.

Comics in 2024: A Journey Across Universes

In the realm of graphic storytelling, IDW Publishing brings us "*Star Trek: Sons of Star Trek*." Penned by the talented Morgan Hampton and illustrated by Angel Hernandez, this four-part miniseries delves into the aftermath of Kahless' harrowing Day of Blood. Join Jake Sisko and Alexander Rozhenko as their destinies intertwine in an alternate universe, offering a fresh perspective on the legacies of Starfleet legends.

They will carry on with the flagship "*Star Trek*" title and I am sure we will get more titles through the year that haven't been announced yet.

As we set course for 2024, the *Star Trek* universe continues to be a beacon of exploration, fostering a sense of unity and excitement among fans old and new. Join us as we navigate the expanding cosmos, anticipating the unknown and celebrating the enduring spirit of exploration and discovery.

Engage!

"STRANGE NEW WORDS"

A New STARFLEET Special Publication of Short Fiction and Poetry

The next deadline for submissions is May 1st 2024.

The selection process will award 1st , 2nd and 3rd Place winners with gift cards.

1 Honorable Mention will receive one year free SFI Membership.

All entries will receive special certificates.

ALL ENTRIES

- Original writing by current SFI members only
- No graphic novels, cartoons, pictures or artwork
- Number of submissions - 1 per member per issue in each category
- All entries must be electronic and have not been published in previous CQs
 - No scripts please.
- Submission - Submit to rogersdSFA08@gmail.com, include Name, SCC#, Chapter, Region

SHORT FICTION

*Subjects – Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, or Anime

*Non-serialized short stories

*Length – Between 1,000 and 8,000 words

POETRY

*Subjects – No limitation

*Length – 1-2 pages



REPORT: CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS

Admiral Lucy Ferron Franck, SCC 53002



Greetings and Happy New Year!

The Social Media Services team lost one member and gained another this month. We thank CAPT James McCoy for his service and dedication the last eleven months. He left to take on more responsibility on the USS *Gorkon*. PO3 Alex Giles of the USS *Alba* has been brought on board for that Moderator position. Alex also volunteered to write for the CQ, so be sure to check out his articles in this issue on Quark and what 2024 holds for the *Star Trek* franchise.

Administrative planning for Discord's future usage has begun. Discussions are ongoing with the Auxiliary department on how to utilize volunteers under their branch in moderating the SFI server. A new unverified role has been created in Discord to allow a place for those who are unverified to ask questions, and for Administrators to monitor the level of unverified members. Adding this has shown an increase in requests for verification, and there will be a discussion on what to do with those who remain idle in the server.

Pinterest continues to be a resource for information and graphics for many *Star Trek* related topics. There are currently 30 boards (sections of specific interests) and 1492 followers from around the globe. I think it's interesting to note that 44.4% of the audience uses an Android phone to access Pinterest, with 28% using an iPhone. The rest use a device other than a phone.

November was a relatively slow month for the CQ staff. Some articles were submitted, plans for the general theme for the next issue were made, deadlines were publicized on social media multiple times, feature articles were worked on, and photos were being collected for the contest. Having a time to breathe in November was good because December will be a very busy month getting the CQ ready

for publication on January 1, while also having time for family holiday celebrations. We would still like to include fan art drawn by members but none were submitted for this issue. Come on! I know we have some good, even great, artists in STARFLEET!

This January 1 email (Mailchimp) with The *Communique* will also include the second edition of *Strange New Words*, STARFLEET's fiction publication. This second edition has more poems and short stories than before. The quality and diversity of the submissions is terrific. We have excellent fiction writers in STARFLEET, and we thank them for sharing their creative writing with us! Thank you to SNW Editor, RADM Dean Rogers, the team of proofreaders and judges, and Layout Editor CAPT Gerhard Pretorius!

I am proud to announce the winners for *Strange New Words, 2nd Edition*:

First Place (Poetry)
"Star Steps" by S. Christopher Boggs, USS *Blackstone*, R12

First Place (Short Fiction)
"The Heist" by Lance Davis, USS *Diamondback*, R3

Second Place
"Starfighter" by Loki Dewitt, USS *Blackstone*, R12

Third Place
"First Day of Work" by Philip Gilfus, USS *Merlin*, R20.

This past month was extremely busy with the production of segments, interviews, spots, and holiday greetings for the December 3rd video streaming of STARFLEET *News Now*, *The Holidays Show*. If you missed the live broadcast, you can still see the show on the STARFLEET YouTube channel. Many different members and chapters participated. A separate video will be placed on the channel if you want to see the holiday greetings all together (they were spread out in the actual show). Edited versions of interviews with Denise Okuda, Michael Okuda, and JG Hertzler were in the show, and you can see the complete interviews posted on our YouTube channel as well.

Many thanks go to the individuals who made *The Holidays Show* so special

and fun: Producer/Managing Editor Ryan O'Connor, Producer/Studio Director Bradley O'Connor, Technical Director Ken Kopacki, the Commander of STARFLEET, FADM David Nottage; Special Guests Denise Okuda, Michael Okuda, JG Hertzler, and Chef Ian Farquhar; and our special contributors Clive Burrell, Vince Ceraso, Tamara Fisher, Taleah Greve, Justin Hunt, Jessica Kluttz, David Lyons, Liz Richter, Dean Rogers, Christina Sievers, Ben Thomas, Lyxantha White, and Christopher Williams. Thank you also to the chapters and officers who submitted holiday greetings!

In case you haven't heard, STARFLEET departments, auxiliaries, and regions now have the opportunity to send E-newsletters out via the SFI paid for Mailchimp account. Deputy Comms Chief ADM Trisha Tunis is working with Information Services to create a form that can be used to request this service. In the meantime, if you have a need, please email comms@sfi.org and we'll work on it with you.

The Production, CQ, and Social Media teams continue to look for enthusiastic volunteers. If you don't see a particular position posted but have an interest, send me an email and let's talk.

Cheers to all and wishes for a happy and successful New Year!

REPORT: CHIEF OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Lieutenant General TJ Allen, SCC 66154



**For November 1, 2023 –
November 30, 2023**

Chief Educational Services

TJ Allen

Deputy Chief Educational Services

Jill Rayburn

Chief of Staff

Sam Black

Academia Council

Composed of the heads and deputy heads of all campuses and the heads or deputies of the organizations represented.



CES OFFICE

After all the Turkey and Pie from Thanksgiving in the US and with the halls being decked out for Christmas and the Holidays, The Academy is bustling with challenges and students coming through.

I have been listening to all the rumblings and making a list. I have also been checking it twice. I will find out if they are naughty or nice. And I will talk to the staff about what I find. I know the staff talks to me and lets me know what they hear. And I make some decisions. Hopefully, these decisions will be for the betterment of the Educational Services.

I have been reviewing the SFDPP manual that will be released soon. I have reviewed the material from front to back and back to front. Be ready for the release.

I'd like to thank all of those involved with the Academies for their support. Whether you're a student, director, dean, one of the groups doing a challenge, or any member of the staff, you have supported the Educational Services and have helped make it all enjoyable even for me.

Educational Services are always here. ces@sfi.org and dep-ces@sfi.org are the best ways to get us.

Lieutenant General TJ Allen
Chief of Educational Services

SFA NEWS

November was the fourth best month of the whole year for SFA. There were 166 individual students, and those students took 2,220 courses. Some of this is likely due to the current challenge from STARFLEET Medical, the Interspecies Medical Challenge. There is another challenge that started at the end of November, from Petfleet, and this one is active until Feb. 1st, so you still have time – just visit the Petfleet page on Facebook for more information.

While I do not have the totals for the whole year yet, I am pleased to say that there have been over 23,500 courses taken so far in 2023, and I am hopeful that when we add December to that, we will have over 25,000 for the year. Our best month for 2023 was July, with over 2,750 courses taken, and even our lowest month (April) was a good month, with 1,500 courses. We said goodbye to some staff members in 2023, and hello to others. Some courses and colleges were opened, while some were temporarily closed, or merged into other colleges. Still, some are in revision, as we try to put out the best materials that we can for our students. Even more new courses and colleges will be opened in 2024, and we are excited to keep growing. Additionally, we are working to get manuals for as many of our courses as possible, which should make it easier for both students and staff. This will take time, but we are dedicated to making it happen.

One important project that is active is the revision of the STARFLEET Academy Orientation College. This is taking some time, but it is very important as we need to update our policies and procedures. Please bear with us while we finish this important work, and we hope to have the college reopened very soon.

I often get questions like "where is my grade" or "what do I do if I don't agree with my grade". I wanted to address a few things that are good for students to know:

- Academy staff has 7 days to process grades from automated quizzes, and 14 days to grade and process exams that are graded manually. Please give us that time, and then after that if you still do not see your grade, you should contact the Director of the course (addresses are in Moodle,

or in the Course Catalog). Things like this are usually cleared up very quickly, but if you don't go straight to the Director, it will likely take longer as the inquiry has to go through more people. After another 7 days, if you still do not have your grades, you should talk to the Dean of the Institute for that college. If it is still not resolved, you can elevate it to the Academic Coordinator, and he will investigate the issue.

- If you believe that your grade is incorrect, or that you have found a problem with a quiz or a manual, please contact the Director with all the necessary information. If you do not hear back from them within 7 days, or if you do not agree with their ruling, you should contact the Dean of the appropriate Institute. Again, if it needs to be elevated further, please contact the Academic Coordinator.
- Please take no more than 5 courses at a time from any one college. This is for both automated quizzes and PDF quizzes. After you have submitted 5, please wait to take more from this college until your grades have been posted. This way, our directors do not get overloaded, potentially causing them to fall behind. Some of our colleges are large and can be quite busy, and if even a handful of people all turn in several exams at once, then things add up quickly.

Lastly, I see comments frequently where people have suggestions for courses or colleges, or changes in how we do things. If you are one of those people, or anyone else who is interested in serving, I encourage you to step up and volunteer for one of our many open positions in STARFLEET Academy. It is easy to say "I think we need a college of X, or a course about Y, but then when we tell people that we are happy for them to create things for SFA, they rarely do. New and exciting things can happen within SFA, but we need volunteers to make that happen. If you are interested in joining our staff, please visit the Volunteer Resources [website](#) and apply for one of our open positions. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at dep-ces@sfi.org or jazdansfa@gmail.com

General Jill Rayburn
Commandant, STARFLEET Academy

REPORT: CHIEF OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Lieutenant General TJ Allen, SCC 66154



SFMC NEWS

The STARFLEET Marine Corps Academy currently comprises 5 colleges, covering 14 different Branches with over 160 available courses. As November rolled into the holidays, things slowed down some. A total of 98 courses were taken, with Officer Development, MECHA, and Infantry and Professional Development – in that order – as the most popular Branches for the month. The most common score was in the Honors range (47%), followed by Pass (23%) with 20% of the students acing the exams. Five awards were earned:

two Initial Entry Training (IET), two Professional Development Awards, and one Marine Proficiency Award.

We continue to work on the updates for the Combined Arms and Military History schools and hope to see them released soon.

All awards and courses should be up to date. If you think you are missing something on your transcript or don't have an earned certificate, please reach out to me at superintendent. sfmca@academy.sfi.org and we'll research it and get you what you're owed.

As reported last month, there are a number of -301 courses being reviewed. We hope to have them finished by the end of the month. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. I can be reached via email, Facebook, Messenger, and on Discord.

Michael Malotte, General
DCOTRACOM
SFMCA Superintendent

REPORT: SFMC COMMANDANT

General Edward C Tunis III, SCC 14121



"Someone once told me that time was a predator that stalked us all our lives. I rather believe that time is a companion who goes with us on the journey and reminds us to cherish every moment, because it will never come again"– CAPT JL Picard

Happy New Year, STARFLEET's Misguided Children (that's said with love). I hope 2024 provides you with many blessings. There are several projects all in different stages of development. I'll touch upon the largest ones that have the greatest impact.

The Marine Force Manual update is progressing, and I hope it will be 100% completed by the early second quarter. No major changes, just some tightening of words and missing clarifications. The updated logo/seal is proceeding slower than anticipated. The SFMC Scholarship is also at a snail's pace and that responsibility is squarely on my shoulders and for which I apologize. Hopefully, there will be positive news

by the International Muster. I am putting the final touches on my Commandant's Campaign Award and hope to be rolling that out soon.

STARFLEET DATA PROTECTION
- any marine with needed elevated access MUST complete the 2024 recertification by January 31, 2024, and notify your next in the chain of command. Failure to do so may result in degraded access. This is non-negotiable. Any marine leader should be setting the gold standard.

The DepDant is very pleased seeing people embrace the *Strange New Worlds* monster maroon uniforms. These are now available in black and easily converted for use in the SFMC. A recommended vendor is [Cosermart](https://www.cosermart.com).

The SFMC would like to remind marines to follow the uniform and accessory guidelines while submitting. Headquarters appreciate your enthusiasm but there is a process in place for a reason.

ForceCom continues to be at a high tempo. In addition to the appointment of new brigade OICs, discussions have arisen about providing tutorials for setting up a Marine Strike Group, filing reports to customizing that new SNW Monster Black you just purchased. ForceCom is continuing the process of clearing out the backlog of awards that need to be entered into the database. (If not near completion) Just so you're aware of how we're updating these records, the method we're following is we're checking each person's awards record to see if an

instance of that award has already been entered for that date, and if not, then it's entered. This is to avoid duplicates of existing awards. Thus, this will be time-consuming, but we've divided the work up into lots, so that should make it easier to keep track of and keep the momentum.

The certificates for these accomplishments have already been distributed to the award winners. If you are missing any, please contact Major General Eric Johannson. His email is sfmcforcecom-award@sfi.org.

Stay tuned on the Starfleet Marine Corps Facebook and Discord servers for more information.

Respectfully,
Edward C. Tunis III
General, SFMC
Commandant



Open Positions Available!

JOIN US!

Institute of Technology (IOTK)

Greetings STARFLEET Members!

As Dean of the Institute of Technology (IOTK), I'm reaching out to you to announce that there are four open Assistant-Director positions available in the Institute just waiting to be filled. **ALL** STARFLEET members in good standing are encouraged to apply. And I mean **ALL**! If you're a member with special needs or one of our International members, I'd love to have you aboard.

1. **Assistant-Director**, College of Laser Technology (COLT)

Are you curious? Did you ever want to know just how a laser light-show actually works? Or how far a laser can be beamed into space? The moon? Mars? Students with curious minds will find answers to these questions and more - how lasers work, the different kinds of lasers, and why there's so many different colored laser beams. As Assistant-Director, you'll be taught how to assist student's beam their way through the .pdf exams, clear up any questions they may have, and send them their wicked cool, newly designed custom certificate!

2. **Assistant-Director**, College of Engineering (CENG)

Engineering can be fun! What if I told you that you could be and Assistant-Director to an amazing woman, NASA engineer, and teacher? The Director of CENG is just that! She'll help you to understand the intricacies of Engineering, and teach you all you all you need to know about being the best Assistant-Director you can be.

3. **Assistant-Director**, College of Aeronautics (ACART)



Step into the world of Aeronautics where you'll be helping students to navigate and fly planes and helicopters. So how DO they stay up in the air anyway? This college is not in QAM yet, but as Assistant-Director you'll be working right away with the Director and Dean to get this college 'off the ground'. After that, you will be trained for other duties assigned by the Director.

4. **Assistant-Director**, College of Robotics (CORo)

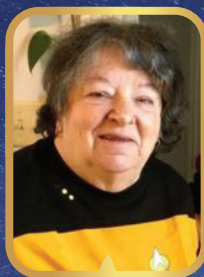
Do you like NASA, *Star Wars*, *Lost in Space*? Do you know "R2-D2", "C3PO" "Robot", "Robonaut" and "Robonaut2"? Then you must have heard of at least one or maybe two of these Robots that have become part of our everyday conversations. Wouldn't you like to know how they work? How they actually see, touch, and think? There are even robots that cook meals, clean homes, and perform precision operations. "Fascinating", Spock would say. Come join CORo and you can be fascinated all the time as its Assistant-Director - where the "techy" never ends.

Apply for an Assistant-Director position with this link: <https://sfi.org/hr/assistant-director-various-college-openings-available/>. Keep in mind that there are other qualifications for these positions, so be sure to read the position description and requirements. Thank you and good luck with your submission to the Institute of Technology!

CMDR Cindy Ray
Dean, Institute of Technology
IOTK@academy.sfi.org



In Memoriam



CR Sandy Cain,
USS Ketherine Johnson, R7

ADM Russell Ruhland, USS DaVinci, R2



INTERVIEW: Banks & Marcano: "Lawmen: Bass Reeves"

RADM Dean Rogers, SCC 47082



Hello members of the Fleet, your roving reporter is back to give you the Inside Scoop in the world of entertainment. The interview that I am bringing you this issue is the first interview that I conducted just days after the SAG-AFTRA strike concluded.

On this edition of THE INTERVIEW, we are talking to one of the directors and one of the stars of the upcoming series, *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*, that is currently streaming on Paramount+.

This eight-episode anthology series is based on the man who was allegedly the inspiration behind *The Lone Ranger*. Reeves was a man born into slavery, who escaped the American Civil War, lived among the Native Americans, learning their languages and skills, and went on to become one of the first Black deputy Marshals in 1875, despite the many racial injustices of the time.

I had the pleasure of talking to the director of episodes four, five, and six, Damian Marcano and Howard University alumni, Lauren E. Banks who plays the wife of Bass Reeves, Jennie.



First, I want to start with our local HBCU graduate. Lauren, talk to us about the role of Jennie and what got you interested in the role.

Lauren E. Banks (Jennie): Jennie Reeves is the young matriarch of the Bass Reeves family. She is the heartbeat. She is the integral compass of the family; the mama bear, when danger comes knocking at the door. What drew me to this role was her. The fact that she was a real person, not a creation of Hollywood. She lived during enslavement, survived it, and

then built a life for herself along with Bass Reeves during Reconstruction. It was a thriving life because they had over 10 kids. They had a big family.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime for me as an actor to be able to delve into the dialectical work, the physical work, the weapons and training the horses. I couldn't have been happier with the people that I got to collaborate with, like this guy here to my left, Damian, as a director, and all the other storytellers that were part of it.

Damian, I want you to talk about the summary of directing those three episodes, and working with David, Lauren and the rest of the cast.

Damian Marcano (director): Episodes Four, five, & six, are very triumphant episodes, in my humble opinion. One of the things that drew me to the show and the script and those episodes, was the fact that I had been from where I'm from. I'm from Trinidad, from this rock in the middle of the sea, man. Everything I had ever seen about people that look like me, in this country, in that time period, we were somebody's property, or we were getting our ass kicked. This was different because we were doing the ass kicking.

And that's four, five and six. We get to see a black man with a gun and a badge and a triumphant story. A man who finally gets to make decisions of his own, based on where his origin stories were. When we first met him, he was owned by someone else, right? He sort of got his own freedom, made a life out of it. And now we see the man who he's become. But we also started to explore the things like the weight of the badge and the fact that sometimes he has to arrest the very people that look just like him.



Photo: Emerson Miller/Paramount+

Lauren, what is one facet about Jennie that surprised you as you stepped into the role?

LEB: I think it's kind of surprising. Their first child was Sally Reeves, played by the lovely Demi Singleton, who you saw play Serena in *King Richard*. Jennie had Sally very early in life. And so, she and Bass started their family very young, and yet she has all of this responsibility.

It's a very interesting balance between the young woman that is Jennie Reeves, who has desires and dreams of her own talents, whether it's playing the piano or enjoying what freedom looks like for her in a house that she is not property in. Then also, balancing that with the day-to-day responsibilities of running a farm and in protecting the animals from wildlife and all the other things that come along with living in so near to Indian Territory, as it was called at that time. There's a grace and a softness to her and it will sneak up on you in the project.

Damian, along the same lines; what were some of the things about Bass's life that surprised you?

DM: It all was shocking for me. To be quite honest, there wasn't anything I had learned about just that man. I am an immigrant to this country. So, I've been given the immigrants version of American history, which is that a bunch of bad stuff happened in the West with a very wide lens. It's like a bunch of bad stuff happened to one group of people. It was done to them by this other group of people. And then the United States was born. That's kind of what we get.

So, going into this show, and not having done all the research, I really was just drawn to the story about a man. A man who had this creed. A man who was a faithful, family man and once again, in the 1800s, he was black. Curious, right? I feel in every last bit of it was a 4-D history lesson for someone like me. I went to work every day with an open spirit and the will to learn. I got to work with great people like this lady here to my right and this brother (Justin) over here.

I felt like, "man, we felt like we were in this bubble. Check this Rasta man, you got to learn American history all

INTERVIEW: Banks & Marcano: "Lawmen: Bass Reeves"

RADM Dean Rogers, SCC 47082



over again. It's so raw and direct." I got retaught history.

Alright, Lauren, this feels like a homecoming to you. This is the first project you brought back to HU. What goes through your mind, especially moments ago, when you saw the crowd and they knew what the callback was immediately... and its home!

LEB: So many things come through my mind. I mean, it truly does feel like yesterday that I was sitting in

Blackburn, waiting to hear from whoever was working in entertainment and whatever they might have to say, or nuggets of inspiration, they would leave with me. So, that memory is going through my mind.

I think the joy of being able to bring back something that feels in service of black American history, and something that I know will be embraced by the wonderful studios and smart students at Howard University, who will be critical. They will be looking at it through a global lens of understanding of the diaspora and that matters much to me. I'm very happy to be embraced by a place that I love so much. And that has inspired me to do exactly what I'm doing right now.

Damian, talk about some of the new challenges that you face while filming on location. I understand you were filming in Texas, correct?

DM: Texas was the challenge man.

You never been to Texas...

Oh, I've been to Texas.

We were about an hour and a half west of Fort Worth. From January to June, you get every bit of weather I've ever seen as a human being. Not tornado warnings but tornadoes – a tornado is here. We just need to see if it's close enough. (laugh) The torrential downpours. The golf ball size hail. You name it, we saw it. So, it made us pivot a lot. There were days that we wanted to go do this and we just couldn't do that.

On top of all of this right, Lauren mentioned this before, just all of the training that all of our performers went through. Like I said, I'm used to directing, I'm used to going on set and essentially – the stallion that's on set, or the two stallions that I'm dealing with, our number one and number two actors in Hollywood. Insane names and they're like, "Oh, how are you going to deal with this today?"

David Oyelowo, a stallion himself, but he's actually riding one. He's going to give me those lines and he's going to fire a Winchester rifle while doing it. I was like, "so obviously we're gonna put in his stunt double. We cut them in. This is how we try to do these things so we don't damage on number ones." What I can say is David Oyelowo had a brilliant stunt performer by the name of Jamal. I don't want to even downplay how good Jamal is but David didn't let Jamal do anything the entire season.

He came to work that prepared. They all came so prepared, that every time we were faced with the challenges that was just Texas, it was never a challenge as to where they were as a performer or they couldn't. I never once had Lauren tell me like, "I can't

do this or whatever." It was just kind of like "So, you need me to do this. And you want me to cut it right here. Shoot this right? Okay, cool, and raise all of these kids."

Lauren, what advice would you give to your fellow Howard Bison as they pursue their dreams through their education, right here at Black Mecca?

LEB: Well, the biggest advice I could say is that art isn't created in a vacuum. So, what does that mean? It means that what is required of you to become a storyteller, whether you're going to be a journalist an actor, director, writer, is more than just what's going to happen in the classroom. It does require you to be involved actively on the campus, socially, culturally, politically. Just those experiences are indelible, like they're incredible and indelible. They have an indelible impression on who you become as a human in the multifaceted nature of your humanity.

And then, you also are here in at Howard and this city also has a lot to offer, in terms of its cultural identity and in complexities right with the international community that is here. I think having both the rich context of the education that you'll get here, plus, the overall environment that you get at Howard in DC, is going to make you the multifaceted artist that you desire to be.

Then the next thing is call on your alumni. Connect with them and say, "Hey, I would like to assist you for a month or I would like to shadow you for a week." We are here and we're happy to support that. I did it and I learned a lot. So, I strongly encourage that.

Last question is to the both of you. If you could sum up your experience of filming and presenting this series in one word, what is that one word?

DM: Prideful.

LEB: Service.

See Lauren as Jennie Reeves & Damian's work as a director in *Lawmen: Bass Reeves* – Now streaming on Paramount+.

RECIPES

from STARFLEET News Now, *The Holidays Show*



For this edition of the CQ, we have recipes from around the globe to help you start the new year with friends and family!

ENDIVE WARP NACELLES with CRAB NEBULA

CAPT Jane Petrovich/USS *Vector*/ Region 13

Separate the leaves of a head of Belgian endive, wash and trim, and place on tray, concave upwards. Fill with Crab Nebula.

Ingredients:

1-2 heads Belgian Endive
4 ounces Cream Cheese
3 tbsp Sour Cream or mayonnaise
1 tsp Lemon Juice
½ tsp Seasoning (salt, pepper, paprika, celery seed, ground mustard, nutmeg, ginger, allspice, cloves, cinnamon)
8 ounces crabmeat (1 can) or 1 package crab 'sea-legs', chopped.
2 tbsp Chives

Crab Nebula:

Blend cream cheese, sour cream, lemon juice and seasoning.
Fold in lump crab meat or sea-legs.
Fold in chopped chives.



BURGIO PIZZELLE RECIPE

From Lt. Commander Phil Bugio, Head Chef on the USS *Moebius*, R1

Ingredients:

6 Eggs
1 1/3 Cup of Sugar
½ Pound of Butter/Margarine (2 sticks)
2 Tbs Vanilla Extract
4 Cups of Flour
4 tsp Baking Powder

Preparation:

Soften butter.

Beat eggs, add sugar, blend.
Add butter/margarine and vanilla extract, blend.
Add flour and baking powder, blend.
Chill dough for about half an hour.
Make dough into little balls (may want to prepare a dozen before starting).
Preheat pizzelle iron.
Spray iron with cooking spray.
Once the iron is heated, place dough in center of iron and cook for 30 sec.
Gradually make more balls as you cook the pizzelles.
If dough gets too soft to work with, re-chill.



And lastly: an Anonymous Recipe

AMISH FRIENDSHIP BREAD STARTER

Ingredients:

1/4 cup warm water
1 package (2 1/4 teaspoons) active dry yeast
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup milk
Instructions

Day 1: In a small bowl, combine the warm water and yeast and set aside until bubbly, 5-10 minutes. In a large non-metal bowl mix together flour and sugar, before stirring in the milk and yeast mixture.
Cover loosely and allow to stand at room temperature until bubbly. Pour into a one-gallon zip lock bag and seal. Allow to sit at room temperature.

Day 2: Mash the bag.
Day 3: Mash the bag.
Day 4: Mash the bag.
Day 5: Mash the bag.

Day 6: Add 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, and 1 cup milk. Mash the bag until well mixed.

Day 7: Mash the bag.
Day 8: Mash the bag.
Day 9: Mash the bag.

Day 10: Pour starter into a non-

metal bowl and add 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar, and 1 cup milk. Mix well with a non-metal spoon. Divide out 1 cup portions of the starter into separate 1-gallon zip lock bags. Keep one bag for yourself and give the rest away to friends along with this recipe!

Friendship Bread Recipe

1 cup starter
1/2 cup sugar + 1.5 tsp ground cinnamon for dusting the pan.
3 large eggs
2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup vegetable oil
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
2 cups flour
1/2 cup milk
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 large box instant vanilla pudding
1 cup sugar
1/2 tsp baking soda

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.
2. Grease two large bread pans. Mix 1/2 cup of sugar and 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon and dust greased pans with mixture. Tap out extra sugar mixture into a bowl and set aside.
3. Mix remaining ingredients in large bowl until smooth. Pour evenly in the two pans and top with remaining cinnamon sugar mixture.
4. Bake for 50-60 minutes or until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
5. Cool ten minutes before removing from pan.



BEVERAGE RECIPES

from STARFLEET News Now, *The Holidays Show*



KLINGON BLOOD WINE (NON-ALCOHOLIC)

Ingredients:

1 Liter - Grape, Black Currant, or other dark berry Juice
2 or 3 Pieces of Fresh Ginger - Grated
2tsp - Orange Zest/Peel
4 or 5 - Cloves - Crushed/Broken
2 or 3 - Cinnamon Sticks (Broken into pieces)
Pinch - All Spice (Optional)
Pinch - Nutmeg
1 tsp - Cardamom (powder)
½ Cup - Sugar
1 - Apple (Sliced)

Combine all the ingredients above in a small saucepan. Stir to incorporate. Cook on low or medium low heat stirring constantly until simmering. Remove from heat - do not let mixture boil. Let rest for 10-15 minutes. Strain/ remove solid ingredients. Serve warm.

ROMULAN ALE

Ingredients:

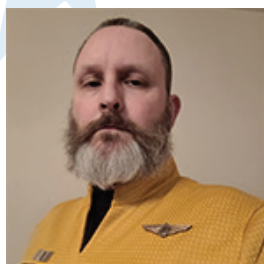
1.5 Liters - Sprite or other Clear Lemon/Lime Soda
1/3 Liter - Seltzer
2-5 squirts - Blue Food Coloring
Tabasco or Hot Sauce

In an open container, combine Lemon/ Lime soda and Seltzer. Gently stir in blue food coloring until light blue in color. Carefully add a few drops of hot sauce and gently stir to incorporate until fully mixed in. Pour into tall glass. Serve chilled.



REPORT: JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

Brigadier General S Christopher Boggs, SCC 23592



The Judge Advocate General's office has had a very busy and beneficial year.

We have had several members contact JAG seeking guidance regarding opening complaints. All have been pointed towards the CS/IG for further clarification.

Members have called on our services this year, more so than in previous years. We've been busy helping from the beginning to the end with more than a few disagreements. We've stood as advisors and advocates. We never know what the outcome is going to be, but we support the members to the fullest extent.

Joyous Christmas Season from the JAG Office.

MGen S. Christopher Boggs

CMDR Mike Watkins

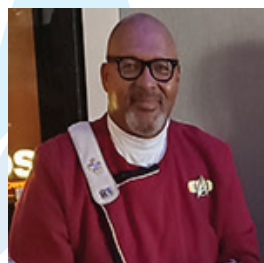
MAJ J. Justin O'Donnell

BDR Antonio De Angelis

COL R.B. Rozier

REPORT: INSPECTOR GENERAL

Rear Admiral Stephen Stott, SCC 46891



Star Date 2312.06

Greetings from the Office of the Inspector General. I want to take this opportunity to let you know I was nominated and confirmed for another tour as your Inspector General. I greatly appreciate the vote of confidence the Commander, STARFLEET and the Admiralty Board have in my service to the fleet. I am hopeful that my staff and I will continue to serve the members of the fleet.

Regarding Regional Coordinator

elections, in R17, Commodore Laurie McFarland has assumed duties as the new RC. In R4, Commodore Justin Fietzek has retained his position as RC for another term. Congratulations to our newest member of the Admiralty Board.

Live long and prosper,

RADM Stephen Stott
Inspector General, STARFLEET
ig@sfi.org

REPORT: STARFLEET FINANCIAL OFFICE

Commodore Dave Lowery, SCC 28236



Happy Holidays Everyone,

The latest financial management update for the month of November 2023 is included below from the CFO's Office:

(1) **November 2023 Performance:**
For the month of November 2023, STARFLEET's total income was \$3,441.86 and total expenses were \$676.77, which resulted in a net monthly income of \$2,765.09. The last two Calendar Year 2023 STARFLEET Scholarship physical check payments (\$1K each) have been ordered and pending deposit by the individual scholarship recipients.

Total Income: \$3,441.86

- **Membership Processing:** \$2,558.00
- **QM Sales:** \$525.50
- **Scholarship Fund Donations:** \$282.00
- **Interest Earned:** \$76.36

Total Expenses: \$676.77

- **QM Merchandise + Supplies:** N/A

- **Software:** \$348.16
- **PayPal Processing Fees:** \$328.61
(2) **Current Financial Allocations:**
As of December 14th, 2023, STARFLEET has a total organizational financial balance of \$142,457.56. This amount includes \$57,346.40 in unrestricted funds and \$85,111.16 in restricted funds with the following current allocations:

Total Resources: \$142,457.56

- SFI Checking Account: \$57,146.40 (Unrestricted Funds)
- SFI PayPal Accounts: \$200.00 (Unrestricted Funds)
- SFI Savings Account: \$56,017.32 (Restricted Funds)
- SFMC Checking Account: \$11,701.05 (Restricted Funds)
- SFMC PayPal Account: \$1,260.86 (Restricted Funds)
- SFI Scholarship Account: \$2,000.00 (Restricted Funds)
- SFI Scholarship Savings Account: \$10,828.22 (Restricted Funds)

- SFMC Scholarship Account: \$2,750.71 (Restricted Funds)
- Conference Account: \$500.00 (Restricted Funds)
- OneFleet Membership Grant Account: \$53.00 (Restricted Funds)

(3) Current 12-Month Financial Trends:

Looking at the past twelve consecutive months of financial activity (November 1st, 2022, thru November 30th, 2023), STARFLEET's balance sheet started with \$135,746.31 and ended on November 30th, 2023, with \$142,457.56. It has ended on an upward trend with a net gain of \$6,711.25 (+4.71%). Additionally, during this rolling annual period, more operating expenses were going out than income coming in during three of the past twelve months during this rolling period (November 2022, March 2023, and July 2023).

Commodore Dave Lowery
Chief Financial Officer
cfo@sfi.org
USS Black Hawk, Region 12,
SCC- 28236

QUARTERMASTER'S STORE



STARFLEET 50 Years Coin
\$20



STARFLEET Ball Cap
Was \$18, on sale for \$13



PVC Patch – Starfleet Sunrise /Starfleet Ships
\$15.00



STARFLEET Padfolio
\$20.00



REPORT: DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY SERVICES

Major General Jeremy Carsten, SCC 60142



Ahoy STARFLEET,

We close on another year and advance into our 50th anniversary! With that we are bringing our ever-growing Auxiliary Services with us, as a HUGE part of this fleet/organization. We are still sitting at nine total auxiliaries: Five permanent, Two Established, and Three Provisional. I'll break all that down for everyone in a moment. First, I would like to thank each of the Auxiliary leaders, and Mark Anderson (My Chief of Staff), for hanging with me these past months. This whole year, looking back, has not been great for me personally. Rather the opposite. Yet, these fine people all worked with me, and my availability limitations, as we pushed the SFAS forward as a whole. Every one of them has had individual successes, as well as coming together for the Virtual IC, and other efforts, to really start to shape something that SFI has never

seen before; a cohesive path for ALL Auxiliary Services to put their time and energy toward, in concert with senior leadership. Not "Us vs Them", but all working to bring something to SFI as a whole. The success of these Services, together and individually, really has been the highlight of my year, overall. So again, a huge, very personal thank you to each of you for that. I needed a win!

To that end, I will announce our plans for next year: Interservice efforts. We're going to find not where each of these overlaps, but how they might "play together" and work together to bring about even more success. Marines and Tactical joining up for some sort of deeper gaming? SFSO and Intel helping find even more information - maybe at a convention? The Corps of Engineers and Sciences just NEED to bring us something wonderfully geeky. Etc. No solid plans yet, but all leaders have been informed to put their thinking caps on about it over the holidays.

The Auxiliaries are all about two main objectives - each service has to pass those two, very broad, checks: They must enable member interaction in some way and provide a service to

some aspect of the fleet. Within those bounds are so very many options, and increasing the member interaction will be my focus this year.

Each one has a website up and running on the sfi.org domain. Each should have the emails settled for their respective senior leadership and staff. And each one has seen growth this year; both in raw numbers of participating members, and in how they align and support the greater organization. I am intensely proud of our Auxiliary Services, and I think the rest of the fleet should be as well. Even if you don't care for a particular offering of one or more; understanding that all of SFI would be far less rich without any of them is key.

With that, some raw numbers and I'll wish everyone happy holidays, and let's have an amazing 50th anniversary year coming up!

Service	Total Members	Total Units (SPMC and SFSO)	Total Regional Officers (Brigade OICs, ASGs, etc.)	Total Pets	Status
STARFLEET Marine Corps	1158	137	17	-	Permanent Auxiliary Service
STARFLEET Special Operations	204	56	4	-	Permanent Auxiliary Service
STARFLEET Medical	312	-	26	-	Permanent Auxiliary Service
PETFLEET	573	-	-	864	Permanent Auxiliary Service
STARFLEET Sciences	78	-	-	-	Established Auxiliary Service
STARFLEET Corps of Engineers	67	-	-	-	Established Auxiliary Service
STARFLEET Diplomatic Corps	3	-	-	-	Provisional Auxiliary Service
STARFLEET Tactical	175	-	-	-	Provisional Auxiliary Service
STARFLEET Intelligence	74	-	-	-	Provisional Auxiliary Service

SEND OFF TO STOVOKOR

by CPT Geraldine Bush, SCC 54773



**Since before your Sun
burned hot in space,
..... I have been
attending Star Trek
conventions.**



And so it began.....

It started as a one-day con at Towson University student union. (3rd Floor). I was con chair. (1979)

Fans up and down the East coast urged us to make it a 3 day con.

With the financial backing of Theresa Sylvester, the con that many attended in Baltimore County went to 3 days. But not without some hurdles to be dealt with.

Most importantly, WHERE ARE WE GOING?!

So started..... * *Star Trek 2 ½* - The Search for Hotel Space*

Theresa Sylvester (AKA, Moogie) and I went on a search for suitable and affordable function space in the Baltimore area.

It was a challenge as there were many hotels in the area but for one reason or another, nothing was suitable. Be it cost, location (Baltimore City was a

no-go for far too many reasons).

Which left one hotel left. But it was out in the boondocks of Baltimore County. Bottom line, we had no other choice. So, I signed the contract and Moogie cut the check for the hotel.

That was 1980.

I ran the convention for the first 7 years. Then I decided it was time to retire and follow my real life dreams

For all the following years, (except 1986) the convention was held at the Hunt Valley Inn, Cockeysville, Maryland.

Until it happened. In Mid-September, one of the members of R7 was at the hotel for a real-life conference and went to book the hotel for a future business event. The R7 officer was then informed of the closing of the hotel. Formal close of business, October 30, 2023.

As per the ways of Man and Fandom.....the news spread like wildfire.

When my XO and I got the news, we decided that we would do something to memorialize the Grand Lady known as the Hunt Valley Inn. And so was born.....

Send Off to Stovokor, Memorial Wake for the Hunt Valley Inn.

October 28, 2023

The timing of the event was Karmic to say the least.

It was October 28, 2008, that our chapter namesake, Theresa Sylvester, left for Stovokor herself.

The HVI Wake was inspired by the Wake for the Commodore Hotel (NYC) back in 1976. I should know as I attended the Commodore Wake. I was far too young to travel to NYC by myself from Baltimore, so my father traveled with me. I was in such heaven. Because this was the hotel where the very first *Star Trek* conventions started back in 1972.

(For more information on these conventions, please find yourself a copy of the book, **Star Trek Lives**. Written by Jaqueline Litchenberg.)

We decided for a floral arrangement for the event. The crew from the ship traveled far and wide to be at the final farewell. Much video taping and picture taking occurred.

The news of the floral tribute went out to all Trekkies in attendance, and all wanted to have their picture taken.

We are currently working on a video for general release as well. The planned release date, July 2024.

If you have any memories of the Hunt Valley Inn, we encourage you to send in a short video (no more than 60 seconds please) telling of your Starfleet memories at the hotel. We are in the process of setting up a suitable web address for acceptance of pictures and videos. Information will be posted far and wide.



TREK TECH - CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY

by LtJG John Styles, SCC 85199



Now you see it, now you don't.

The familiar cry of the stage magician as they perform one of the best tricks out there, making something disappear. Where did it go? How did they do that? A magician never reveals their secrets, you know. And with the flourish of their arms ("nothing up my sleeve!" they shout), it reappears.

Humans have always been fascinated by the ability to hide something, to make it so that someone else can't see it. Indeed, it would have been a prime survival strategy when we were first venturing out of our caves and hunting things...or being hunted. Can we hide well enough so that the deer we are stalking doesn't sense us? Can we hide well enough so that the wolf stalking us doesn't sense us. Will we eat, or will we be eaten?

As we progressed through time, we took it to the next level. Instead of just hiding ourselves in whatever was nearby, we started to actively create coverings that would hide us. Clothes that helped us blend in with our surroundings, nets that could cover an entire building. We even developed tech that hid us from radar or sonar; the very tech that was created to find things. From stealth bombers to radar jamming, we have always looked to hide. The main disadvantage to this, if somebody just looked, just used their eyes, all that tech would be useless. You can't make something completely invisible to the naked eye... or can you?

The *Star Trek* cloaking device, or invisibility screen, is a type of stealth technology created to hide an object, mainly a starship, from most forms of sensors as well the naked eye. It is one of the most strategically important technologies that a race can possess, with its main advantage being that it allows a race to keep their starships from being destroyed, or to help them destroy another starship.

Cloaking devices have their disadvantages though. They use a huge amount of power, and this means that they must take power from

other devices that use a lot of power. This usually means shields, which is not really an issue as you are cloaked, nobody can see you to shoot at you. This also means however that you must have a quick system for transfer of power once the cloak is disengaged to allow your shields to protect you again. And if your enemy has discovered a way through your cloak, which can happen, they will know where you are. And you are very vulnerable without your shields, as you should well know.

You also cannot use your weapons systems while cloaked, again because of the drain in power. Unless you have a massive ship with backup power systems and maybe an extra warp core hiding in a drawer somewhere, you are not firing at anyone. This flaw in cloaking technology is one of the main reasons that races with cloaking technology have not taken over more territory. No cloak is 100% perfect, there will always be a way through it, given enough time and ingenuity.

Many species have cloaking technology. We all know that the Klingons and Romulans possess it, it is the first thing that you think of whenever their ships are mentioned. Other races have the technology but have not used it to the extent of the Klingon Empire and the Romulan Star Empire. The Federation officially has no cloaking tech, as stated in the Treaty of Algeron (TNG "The Pegasus").

In the *Star Trek* Universe there seems to be three main uses for cloaking technology:

One – to allow for the hunting of other races, to stalk your prey and not show yourselves until it is time for the kill.

Two – to allow for information gathering. Hide as close to your enemies as you can while they go about their business and learn their secrets.

Three – to allow yourself to be safe, to protect yourself and your allies while your enemies pass you by.

Stalking and hunting is the reason that the Klingons have the technology. The Klingon warrior loves nothing more than biding his time, waiting for the perfect moment to strike. They do so in normal combat,

so of course this extends to their space warfare. You would never know that a fleet of cloaked Klingon ships was nearby until they wanted you to know. One of their favourite tactics is to uncloak for only the exact amount of time needed to fire their weapons at their enemy. As the shields take some time to come back online after decloaking you would think this would be a bad way of fighting. Not so. In this tactic, as they are only uncloaked for the time it takes to fire, their enemy has no time to lock on and fire before they have been hit and the Klingon ship has re-cloaked. The ship being targeted can order a full phaser sweep or random volleys of torpedoes which may eventually score a hit, but this tactic will often go the way of the Klingons.



The Klingons did at one point develop a Bird of Prey that could fire while cloaked but this had a flaw in its space frame that eventually led to its destruction by the *Enterprise* 1701-A and the technology was never redeveloped (*Star Trek IV: The Undiscovered Country*). Of course, the Klingons did not develop cloaking tech by themselves, they acquired it from the Romulans in exchange for ship building technology (TOS "The Enterprise Incident").

The Jem'Hadar also use this tech, having personal cloaking devices, hiding themselves from their enemies, which in the case of the Dominion was everyone (DS9 "The Jem'Hadar").

The Romulans bring us to our second use for cloaking tech. Spying, hiding, and gathering information. There is nothing a Romulan likes more. The ability to know what your enemy is doing without them knowing that you know. Even if they are not actually an enemy, the Romulan Empire seems to class every race as a potential adversary. To this point they hid themselves away for decades until the *Enterprise* 1701-D came across them again (TNG "The Neutral Zone"). Even with them being away for so long,

TREK TECH - CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY

by ENS John Styles, SCC 85199



they still knew so much, information gathering being the thing that they are best at.



Every so often so though, something happens that changes a way that a tech is used, as in the situation with the Romulan Empire when the Remans were very briefly in control of the Empire. The Warbird *Scimitar* was built for one purpose, as a predator. Every system on the ship was built to facilitate hunting their prey, in this case Captain Picard (*Star Trek Nemesis*).

Even the Federation used a cloak for the purpose of information gathering. The USS *Defiant* had a Romulan cloaking device installed (with a Romulan attendant) to enable them to go to the Gamma Quadrant and attempt to contact the Founders (DS9 *"The Search Part 1"*). The Romulan Empire allowed this amendment to the Treaty of Algeron as long as the Federation shared any data with them regarding the Dominion.



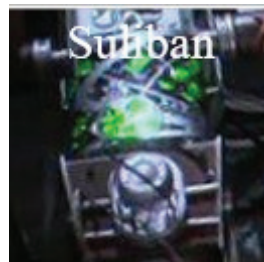
The third use of cloaking technology that we are going to look at is defence; hiding yourself from your enemies. The main uses that we come across for this use of the tech is for the camouflaging of bases, or in extreme cases, your whole planet. The planet Aldea was hidden away by its Custodians to protect the inhabitants (TNG *"When the Bough Breaks"*). Unfortunately, in this case it caused problems that could not have been thought of at the time of its creation. This does not take away from the success of its use, Aldea was thought of as only a legend.

The spheres in the Delphic Expanse

also used cloaking technology to stay hidden from prying eyes until their priority mission was completed (ENT *"Anomaly"*). Thankfully the Enterprise NX-01 stopped this mission from being carried out (ENT *"Zero Hour"*). Federation Headquarters, as well as Starfleet and most of the Federation fleet, also used a type of cloak to keep hidden after The Burn. (DIS *"Die Trying"*)

Many other races in the *Star Trek* universe used cloaking tech. From the Suliban at the start of the *Star Trek* saga on *Enterprise* (ENT *"The Communicator"*) to Booker's ship at the far end of our journey to the stars on *Discovery* (DIS *"That Hope is You"*). The Federation once decided to develop cloaking tech against the Treaty of Algeron, which ended in disaster in 2358 with the USS *Pegasus* being presumed destroyed. This was an inter-phasic cloak, which allowed the cloaked ship to pass through solid matter, ending in a huge accident when it failed (TNG *"The Pegasus"*).

The tech is so entrenched in the *Star Trek* universe that you can't hear of cloaking devices without automatically thinking of *Star Trek*.



What do we have now that is comparable to our favourite devices in Star Trek, and can they be used for good...bad...or both?

"Stealth technology, also termed low observable technology (LO technology), is a sub-discipline of military tactics and passive and active electronic countermeasures, which covers a range of methods used to make personnel, aircraft, ships, submarines, missiles, and satellites less visible (ideally invisible) to radar, infrared, sonar and other detection methods." *Wikipedia*

We have nothing so far that can completely make an item invisible, only so that certain scanning technologies cannot pick it up or see it. If you were to see it with the naked

eye, you would see it with no issue. They use a combination of certain materials, paints, and angles to throw off scanning technologies. Some scientists HAVE been successful in cloaking tiny amounts of matter but as it turns out, it becomes harder to hide an object the larger it is. TACS

Even with the technology in its infancy, the uses for good and bad are obvious. Depending on your point of view, you can hide your things from your enemy, but they can also hide their things.

Your hospitals and schools could be hidden from view in a war so that they could not be attacked. In the same conflict your enemies could hide their vehicles and weapons from you so that you didn't see them coming. Of course, on the other hand you could just as easily hide your military buildings so that you could continue making weapons.

Invisible weapons trying to attack invisible buildings and vehicles, circling each other for ever.

As I activate my cloak and fade from view, I realise this is basically your Christmas and New Year issue of the CQ, so I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and very, very Happy New Year (however belated)

Next Episode – Defensive Systems

LTJG John Styles

A NEW TREKKIE GOES TO COMIC CON

by ENS Vince Ceraso, SCC 86287



This past October, I embarked on my inaugural First Contact mission for STARFLEET International to the Big Apple, to attend New York Comic Con (NYCC) once again.

Since 2017, I've been to five NYCCs, but 2023 was my first year as a *Trekkie*. My journey down the *Star Trek* rabbit hole began after watching the Kelvin films in late July of this year, and on August 7th, I officially became a member of this great organization.

As the alternate universe J.J. Abrams trilogy—widely dubbed the Kelvin or Kelvin-verse films—was my real introduction to *Star Trek*, I thought it was only fair to don a blue shirt from the Kelvin films as a homage to Dr. Leonard “Bones” McCoy, played by Karl Urban in this iteration, while keeping the one and only DeForest Kelley close at heart.

I attended Friday and Sunday, which means I unfortunately missed the big *Star Trek Universe* panel, whose panelists previewed the final season of *Star Trek Discovery*, updated fans on the upcoming *Star Trek: Section 31* film on Paramount+, starring Michelle Yeoh, and revealed that Tawny Newsome, voice of Beckett Mariner in *Star Trek Lower Decks*, is on the

writing team for a *Starfleet Academy* series.

Thankfully, I didn't miss all the *Trekkie* fun. On Friday, I attended a smaller panel, *Star Trek: Boldly Going with IDW Publishing*. Artists from the world-renowned publishing company recapped 2023 releases and previewed upcoming works slated for release throughout 2024; the one that caught my attention was a *Lower Decks* “interactive” graphic novel, to be released next fall.

Aside from the panels, getting to interact with fellow *Trekki*es in real life for the very first time was an experience I won't forget. I ran into a lot of *Trekki*es, young and old, and made sure to end each interaction with the Vulcan salute, live long and prosper. In a sea of hundreds of people, I remember the moment a gentleman in a cyberpunk cosplay shot me the Vulcan salute. Even Cissy Jones, a voice actor from Disney's *The Owl House*, recognized the familiar Starfleet emblem on my shirt. The coolest thing there, however, was the *Star Trek x Kid Cudi Boldly Be* collaboration. Along with a showcase of t-shirts and a jacket with references

from the shows and movies, they had on display a *Strange New Worlds* captain's outfit worn by Kid Cudi himself in promotional videos, the outfit having been designed by Bernadette Croft and Gersha Phillips, with help from folks at the costume department from SNW. There was a big screen showing clips from various *Star Trek* media, both old and new. The volunteers manning the displays made sure to give their fair share of Vulcan greetings to passersby and

*Trekki*es who stopped to take pictures and converse.

What really moved me about this display was reading about how Kid Cudi named his character Captain Skyles. Skyles is Kid Cudi's father's middle name—his father introduced him to *Star Trek* many years ago. A beautiful homage if you ask me.

Since July, I've felt very much at-home within the *Star Trek* fanbase, so suffice it to say the post-convention depression hit me particularly hard this year, but I know it won't be the last convention; *Trek Long Island* is next May, and that convention is purely *Trek* and nothing else!



**U.S.S. APPOMATTOX &
U.S.S VIRGINIA**

CONvention News

by Captain Lynn Cowan, SCC 73585



This issue the focus is on autumn events in Scotland

This issue the focus is on autumn events in Scotland - OH!Con on the Isle of Lewis, with USS *Alba* Crew running a booth at the event, two of the bigger Scottish Conventions with four top *Star Trek* actors, and the USS *Alba*'s 10th Anniversary event: the 'Orient Express Holodeck Experience'.

Away Team Report

LTJG John Styles
October 14, 2023

Mission Location:

OH!Con 2023 at UHI Campus,
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

Mission Parameters:

Set up a Starfleet Information and Recruitment Booth on behalf of USS *Alba*



Having pressed our best uniforms, enlisted crew member Carron and I proceeded to the transportation laid out for us (our trusty V40).

We arrived an hour before the specified opening time to allow us time to set up and dress our booth and met up with other members of the USS *Alba* (Calum and Martin) who helped us as they had been at OH!Con last year with the USS *Alba* booth.

That was the first year of the OH!Con and also when I signed up for STARFLEET and was welcomed onboard the ship.

The doors opened at 10am and we were overwhelmed with the amount of people that we got in, nearly 500 for the day! The booth was really busy with people interested in *Star Trek* and the various tech that we had on display. We were also the last stop in a treasure hunt that had been set up.

From a green screen display to costume parades for both kids and adults, the day was a huge success. We had Sith lords and Hobbits walking past our table all day, as well as so many other costumes that took a while to guess.

Next year we hope to have the STARFLEET table bigger and better, with talk of a full-size Holodeck Arch for photo ops!!

Away Mission: ACME Autumn, Glasgow SEC 23-24 September 2023

This 2-day event is one of Scotland's biggest annual conventions, held each year at the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow. A popular convention, there was also a good turnout out by seven *Alba* crew.

Tony Scott enjoyed meeting and getting photos with all three *Star Trek* actors there: Christina Chong, who he said was so much bubblier than her *Star Trek* character, and also Martin Quinn (Scotty), both from *Strange New Worlds*, and Ed Speleers, Jack Crusher in *Picard*. Thanks also to Nicholla Dawson for the great group crew photo.

There were numerous Character Props and Franchise sets at the convention, from the Joker and Harley Quinn to Batman, *Star Wars* and *Ghostbusters*. A fabulous franchise crossover moment was captured by Tony Scott, of Chewy on an Iron Throne from *Game of Thrones*. Regulars at Scottish conventions, the *Ghostbusters* crew always come well equipped with great cosplays and ghostbusting kit including, this year, the giant inflatable marshmallow man, and iconic *Ghostbusters* car.



Comic Con Scotland,

Ingliston,
Report from Bryan Gillson
The Royal Highland Centre just
outside Edinburgh, 7-8 October 2023

A big 2-day event at the Ingliston, the convention had a big guest list, including: for the *Star Trek* fans, Paul Wesley, Jim Kirk on *Strange New Worlds*, and loads of other great guests - Andy Serkis, Elijah Wood, Ian Somerhalder, Matt Smith, Stephen Amell, Barry Pearl, Mark Sheppard, Robin Lord Taylor, Jared Padalecki and Zach Gilligan. From the USS *Alba*, Eilidh Montgomery and Bryan Gillson attended.

Thanks to Bryan Gillson for this report on a great family day out:

Arriving fairly early, just after half past ten, it only took about 15 minutes, and we were in.

We loved seeing all the amazing cosplays - people dressed in anime costumes, *Mandalorian* costumes, and *Supernatural* costumes. One cosplayer was dressed as Castiel from *Supernatural*, with amazing wings that she made herself.

The stalls had a great selection of memorabilia, from figures to movie posters.

We enjoyed looking round the prop stalls too. There were props from *Stranger Things*, *Ghostbusters*, *Star Wars*, and *Resident Evil*. They were free to get pictures with.

We met Robin Shou and Linden Ashby from the *Mortal Kombat* film - they were so nice to talk to, they loved making the film and meeting their fans. We also met Zach Galligan from *Gremlins*, he was really nice too - me and my nephew got our picture taken with him with Gizmo.

Then we met Mark Shepherd from *Supernatural*. He loved talking to us, and my nephew loved meeting the man who voiced *Scooby Doo* in the two movies - it was his highlight of the day.

My sister brought her boyfriend, meeting us there, at his first convention ... he enjoyed it and can't wait until the next one.

A wee complaint would be about a lack of seats and food being

CONvention News

by Captain Lynn Cowan, SCC 73585



expensive but overall, it was a great family day out.

We were exhausted after it, but I totally recommend Comic Con Scotland for anyone wanting to go to a convention ... I can't wait until the next one.

USS Alba 10th Anniversary: The Orient Express Holodeck Experience

Saturday 4 November 2023
CAPT Lynn Cowan, USS Alba
Executive Officer, SCC 73585



This event was the culmination of a year-long programme of activities celebrating the USS Alba's 10th Anniversary - and we wanted something special for our formal Captain's Table dinner.

Edinburgh has a unique challenge for venues - beautiful, old architecture, but accessible venues are hard to find. Many months later following numerous online searches, the Queen Charlotte Rooms 'Orient Express Experience' popped up in the results. The venue is stunning and designed to emulate the Orient Express train ... immediately conjuring up images of *Star Trek TNG* episode, "Emergence" ... and so the event became the 'Orient Express Holodeck Experience'. We had the whole carriage, and it was fully booked.

We were delighted to welcome our special guest, Jessica Odell, CO of the USS Caroline, who travelled from



Ireland to join us. Jess had designed a perfect ticket for the event and, to complete the illusion, was there in a period 3-piece suit and cap, stamping our tickets on the night.

What a great atmosphere in the 'dining car', so reminiscent of the legendary train, with period decor, atmospheric lighting, racks on the walls piled high with luggage ... each with a mysterious single silk slipper. La piece de resistance is the 'window' at every table - a video screen showing the view from the *Orient Express* on its journey through Europe and the Alps ... accompanied by a deep, low-level rumble over the speakers (alongside the music), giving the impression of train wheels on tracks. Incredible attention to detail, setting the scene for a fabulous meal and great night.

Many of the crew enjoyed the chance to get formal in a wide range of *Star Trek* uniforms - we don't set any standard uniform requirement - we all enjoy different series which was reflected in the wide selection of

uniforms on the night. My choice for the event? Command uniform from *Star Trek: Picard*.

Adding to the celebrations, QM Ian Struthers, had arranged for some bespoke 10th anniversary pens and keyrings, with designs by Alison Stell, and he brought those along for attendees.

Thanks also go to James Fairbairn who prepared delicious handmade *Star Trek* chocolates to share, in two designs - Deltas and a Borg Cube.

Although our R20 Coordinator, Richard Sams, couldn't join us, we were delighted to hear a heartwarming message he sent, read to the crew by CO, RADM Eilidh Montgomery.

A thoroughly enjoyable and sociable event, rounded off by us all gathering for a group photo.

Here's to the next 5-year mission!



CONventional Wisdom

by Captain Lynn Cowan, SCC 73585



Your quarterly roundup of upcoming conventions, for January to March 2024.

The list is divided up geographically: Middle East, Europe & UK, Canada, Central America, United States.

Star Trek guests are listed here - check individual convention sites for details of other guests.

MIDDLE EAST

[Middle East Film & Comic Con](#),
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
9-11 Feb
Troy Baker

EUROPE & UK

[MegaCon Live](#),
London, England
13-14 Jan
John Noble, Laila Berzins

[The London Film Fair](#),
London, England
28 Jan
Steven Berkoff

[Avignon Geek Expo](#),
Avignon, France
10-11 Feb
Jason Isaacs

[London Anime & Gaming Con](#),
London, England
16-18 Feb
D.C. Douglas

[Capital Sci Fi Con](#),
Edinburgh, Scotland
17-18 February 2024
David Ajala

[Dublin Comic Con](#),
Dublin, Ireland
9-10 Mar
Christina Chong

Paris Manga & Sci-Fi Show by TGS,
Paris, France
16-17 Mar
Tony Amendola, Lea Thompson

CANADA

[Creep I.E. Con](#),
Ontario
3-4 Feb
Adrienne Barbeau, Doug Jones, Dermot Mulroney

[Fan Expo Vancouver](#)
17-19 Feb
Titus Welliver, Renee Nault, Grey Griffin /
Grey DeLisle, Michelle Hurd

CENTRAL AMERICA

[La Mole Convención de Cómics](#),
Mexico City, Mexico

15-17 Mar
Lou Ferrigno

UNITED STATES

[Ichibancon](#),
Concord NC
4-7 Jan
Lex Lang, Sandy Fox

[Anime Los Angeles](#),
California
4-7 Jan
Kari Wahlgren

[Fan Expo New Orleans](#),
LA
5-7 Jan
Jonathan Frakes, Frank Welker, Peter Weller, Maurice La Marche, Sonequa Martin-Green, Edward Furlong, Barry Gordon, Michelle Hurd, Diana Lee Inosanto

[SacAnime Winter](#),
Sacramento CA
5-7 Jan
Kyle Hebert, Brandon McKinney, David Sobolov, Laila Berzins

[Taiyou Con](#),
Phoenix, AZ
5-7 Jan
Chuck Huber, Todd Haberkorn, Richard Cansino

[Fan Expo Portland](#),
Oregon
12-14 Jan
Tony Todd, Frank Welker, Peter Weller, Dee Bradley Baker, Jennifer Hale, Titus Welliver, Michelle Hurd, Diana Lee Inosanto

[One Piece Day-Heroes Hideout Albany](#),
New York State
13 Jan
David Sobolov

[NWA Comic Con](#),
Rogers AR
13-14 Jan
Barry Gordon

[ANIME Impulse](#),
Pomona, CA
13-14 Jan
Mela Lee

[Central Florida Comic Con](#),
Florida
20-21 Jan
Tom Kenny, Elizabeth Maxwell

[SK Sketchfest](#),
various venues, San Francisco
20 Jan-4 Feb 2024
Carl Tart, Scott Thompson, Pamela Adlon, Maurice LaMarche, Adam Pally, Jessica McKenna, Phil LaMarr, Lauren Tom, Carel Struycken

[Salute to Xena](#),

Burbank, CA
26-28 Jan
Musetta Vander, Adrienne Wilkinson

[The Vampire Diaries Official Convention](#),
Allen, TX
26-28 Jan
Paul Wesley

[Anime Washington](#),
Tacoma, WA
27-28 Jan
Lex Lang, Elizabeth Maxwell, Neil Kaplan, Skip Stellrecht

[TulsaPopCon](#),
Tulsa, OK
3 Feb
Chuck Huber

[BrickUniverse Little Rock](#),
Arkansas
3-4 Feb
Neil Kaplan

[Simi Valley Toy and Comic Fest](#),
California US
4 Feb
Neil Kaplan

[Animeverse Fest](#),
Texas
9-11 Feb
Todd Haberkorn, Elizabeth Maxwell

[Comic Fest Ocala](#),
Ocala FL
9-11 Feb
Chuck Huber

[Kami-Con](#),
Birmingham, AL
9-11 Feb
Kyle Hebert, Kari Wahlgren

[Farpoint 31](#),
Maryland
9-11 Feb
Dr. Erin Macdonald, Tawny Newsome

[The Big Lick Comic-Con](#),
Virginia
10-11 Feb
Lou Ferrigno

[Brick City Anime Festival](#),
Ocala FL
10-11 Feb
Lex Lang, Sandy Fox

[Trading Card Game Con](#),
Houston, TX
10-11 Feb
Mela Lee

[Missouri Comic Con](#),
Springfield, MO
10-11 Feb
Grey Griffin / Grey DeLisle

[Gallifrey One](#),
California
16-18 Feb
Larry Nemecek, Julie Benson, Shawna Benson

CONventional Wisdom

by Captain Lynn Cowan, SCC 73585



[The Vampire Diaries Official Convention,](#)
California
16-18 Feb
Paul Wesley

[Mad Monster Party,](#)
Carolina
16-18 Feb
John Glover

[Star Trek Cruise,](#)
Port Canaveral, Curacao, Aruba
22-29 February 2024
Sonequa Martin-Green, Walter Koenig, Wil Wheaton, Brent Spiner, Gates McFadden, x Gates McFadden, LeVar Burton, John de Lancie, Denise Crosby, Nana Visitor, Armin Shimmerman, Max Grodenchik, Chase Masterson, Robert Picardo, Garrett Wang, Robert Duncan McNeill, John Billingsley, Connor Trinneer, Anthony Montgomery, Doug Jones, Anthony Rapp, David Ajala, Mary Chieffo, Michelle Hurd, Ed Speleers, Todd Stashwick, Peyton List, Celia Rose Gooding, Christina Chong, Tawny Newsome, Eugene Cordero, Gabrielle Ruiz

[Pensacon,](#)
Pensacola, FL
23-25 Feb
Mark Sheppard, Olivia d'Abo, Clint Howard, Vanessa Marshall, Troy Baker, Lou Ferrigno, Gigi Edgley, Barry Gordon, Kimiko Glenn, Sofia Boutella

[Jay and Silent Bob Cruise Askew,](#)
Miami, FL
23-26 Feb
Marc Bernardin

[Lubbock-Con,](#)
Lubbock, TX
24-25 Feb
Michael Welch

[OKC's Pop Culture Con,](#)
Oklahoma City, OK
24-25 Feb
Lou Ferrigno

[Claremore Comic Con,](#)
Claremore, OK
24-25 Feb
Chuck Huber

[Hollywood Show,](#)
Los Angeles, CA
1-2 Mar
Clint Howard, Anne Lockhart, Brian Bonsall, Leigh Taylor-Young, Lou Wagner, Robert Pine, Tanya Lemani, Judith McConnell, Melanie Smith, Susan Diol, Dana Sparks, Dey Young, Margaret Reed, Rosalind Allen

[Cult Classic Convention,](#)
Bastrop, TX
1-3 Mar
Anthony Cecere, Cyril O'Reilly

[Trek to San Francisco,](#)
CA
8-10 Mar
Vaughn Armstrong, Casey Biggs, Jeffrey Combs, John de Lancie, Max Grodenchik, Gates McFadden, Ethan Phillips, Brent Spiner, Connor Trinneer, Jeri Ryan, Larry Nemecek, Dominic Keating, Bonnie Gordon, Jonathan Del Arco, Ethan Peck, Terry Matalas

[TFcon – Los Angeles,](#)
CA
8-10 Mar
Michael Bell

[Awesome Con,](#)
Washington, DC
8-10 Mar
Tom Kenny, Raymond Cruz

[Louisiana Comic Con,](#)
Louisiana
9-10 Mar
Nakia Burrise

[Sac Comic-Con,](#)
Sacramento, CA
9-10 Mar
Brandon McKinney

[Days of the Dead,](#)
Las Vegas, NV
15-17 Mar
Denise Crosby, Jenette Goldstein, Kane Hodder, John Kassir, Malcolm McDowell, Mark Rolston, Jonathan Breck, Brad Greenquist, Tom Woodruff Jr., Daniel Kash, Kevin Foster

[Creation Burbank,](#)
CA
15-17 Mar
Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Samantha Smith

[Game On Expo,](#)
Phoenix, AZ
15-17 Mar
David Wise

[Anime New Mexico,](#)
Albuquerque, NM
15-17 Mar
Olivia Hack

[Permian Basin Comic Con X,](#)
Midland, TX
15-17 Mar
Jason Marsden

[GalaxyCon Richmond,](#)
Richmond, VA
15-17 Mar
Ron Perlman, William Shatner, Brent Spiner, Daniel Logan, Troy Baker, Mela Lee

[ConAgeddon 4,](#)
Boston, MA
15-17 Mar
Jarod Joseph

[90s Con,](#)
Connecticut
15-17 Mar
William Daniels

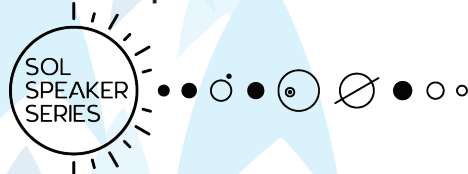


SOL SPEAKER SERIES: AUTHOR LARRY NEMECEK

by Captain Barb Barton, SCC 85037



Attention all hands! STARFLEET Sciences is excited to announce the 2024 Sol Speaker Series which will be held the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm EST.

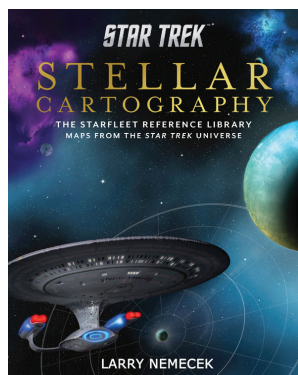


The Sol Speaker Series features guest presenters who will cover a wide range of inspiring and informative topics on space, astronomy, astrophotography, the Artemis mission, stargazing, and tons more! These one-hour events will be presented via Zoom and includes a 45-minute talk followed by a 15-minute Q and A session. You must register for each event to receive the Zoom link, simply send an email to capt.barbbarton@gmail.com and put "Sol" in the subject line. That's it!



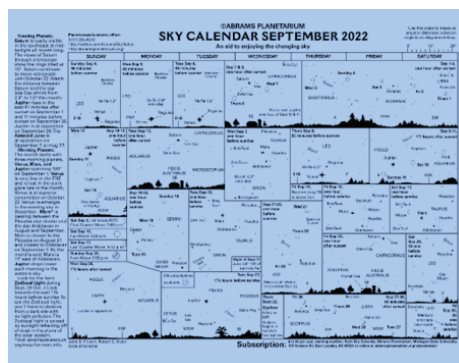
January 18 – Star Trek Star Charting: It All Fits Now! ~ Larry Nemecek, Author

Join "Dr. Trek" Larry Nemecek, the author of *Star Trek: Stellar Cartography* (2013/2018) and a *Trek* star mapper since 1976, for more than you ever realized: How much of *Star Trek's* stellar layout is based on real science? Where does everything go? And does anyone working or playing on *Star Trek* really pay attention?



Feb 15 – Astronomical Highlights 2024 and Beyond ~ John French, Abrams Planetarium

Take a tour of the upcoming celestial events in 2024 and beyond including the much-anticipated total solar eclipse with Abrams Planetarium's John French from Michigan State University. Also learn how he writes and creates the award-winning Sky Calendar - which has evolved into one of the United States' most highly illustrated, easy-to-follow guides to sky events.



Astronomical Highlights

2024 and Beyond

Abrams Planetarium
East Lansing, Michigan



March 21 – Bound for Space! We Are Go for Grow! ~ Diane Phillips, Aerospace Educator

From food replication to farming food sources for Mars and beyond. While the writers of the *Star Trek* series dealt with the production of food in a variety of ways, everything from colored cubes to a protein resequencer that could replicate certain foods to an onboard hydroponic greenhouse to grow fruits and vegetables, the reality of producing food in space is extremely complex. Hear how students are working hard on our planet to solve food insecurities and carbon farming for earth, space, and beyond.





Newsletter Awards

The STARFLEET Office of Communications is excited to announce the 2023 Newsletter Awards!

Winners will be announced at the IC or VIC



BEST NEWSLETTER Chapter/Region/Aux

GUIDELINES:

- Name of Newsletter
- Chapter/Region/Aux
- Name of Editor
- Publication Date
- Attach a Copy



BEST NEWSLETTER COVER

GUIDELINES:

- Name of Newsletter
- Name of Editor
- Name of Cover Designer
- Publication Date
- Attach a Copy



BEST ARTICLE Fiction & Non-Fiction

GUIDELINES:

- Name of Newsletter
- Name of Editor
- Name of Writer
- Publication Date
- Attach a Copy and reference page

- Please submit your entries to **dep-comms@sfi.org** and specify which award you are submitting for.
 - Newsletters/articles/covers must have a **2023** publish date, or **January 2024** for a **December 2023** dated newsletter.
 - Only **one** newsletter may be submitted per chapter or region/auxiliary.
 - Only **one** cover submitted per published newsletter.
- Only **one** fiction or non-fiction article per writer/member. An individual writer/member may submit **one** article in each category. Multiple members of the same chapter may submit articles individually in the Fiction and Non-fiction categories only
- Submission Deadline: **1 May 2024**. Questions may be addressed to **comms@sfi.org**.