



FLEET CHANNELS

MARCH - APRIL '07 VOLUME 16, NO. 2

SNOW AT SCARBOROUGH FAIRE '07 !?!

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PHOTO BY JESS NAUMANN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR REGION THREE

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

ADM Brad Pense rc@region3.org

VICE-REGIONAL COORDINATORS

VRC (North): COMM Robyn Winans vrcn@region3.org
VRC (South/Senior): ADM Michelle Fanelli vrco@region3.org
VRC (West): VADM Sam Black vrcw@region3.org

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chief of Staff: RADM Raymond Ford cos@region3.org
Deputy Chief of Staff: COMM Jeff Webb dcoss@region3.org
Operations: RADM Stephanie Izard ops@region3.org
Communications: VADM Mark A. Vinson comm@region3.org
Shuttle Operations: RADM Dave Walker shoc@region3.org
Computer Operations: MGN Aaron Murphy compops@region3.org
Senior Enlisted Advisor: CMCPD Randi Spears sea@region3.org

REGIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

Awards Coordinator: COMM Billie Clifton awards@region3.org
Counselor: COMM Kat Sweeney-Richards counsel@region3.org
Financial Officer: RADM Heather Ford finance@region3.org
Judge Adv. General: FCPT Emilio Martinez jag@region3.org
Quartermaster: CMDR Reed Bates quartermaster@region3.org
Special Forces Officer: COL Jeff Schnoor specialforces@region3.org
Special Projects Officer: RADM Heather Ford specialprojects@region3.org
Youth Services Director: COMM Robert Ybarra cadetcorps@region3.org

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT CHIEFS

Operations: FCPT Alex Trevino vops@region3.org
Engineering: VADM Bill A. "Mac" Schwab engineering@region3.org
Communications: FCPT Evan Richards vcomm@region3.org
Security: BGN Bryon Flynt security@region3.org
Science: FCPT Bill Downs science@region3.org
Medical: LT Terrie Thomas medical@region3.org

REGIONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Monthly Status Reports msr@region3.org
Shakedown Status Reports smsr@region3.org
Promotions Requests promotions@region3.org
Fleet Channels fleetchannels@region3.org

REGIONAL MAILING LISTS

There are currently two mailing lists: R3list@region3.org, the general information list for Region Three and shoclist@region3.org, for all prospective and current vessels taking part in STARFLEET's Shakedown Operations. To subscribe, send e-mail to majordomo@region3.org with "subscribe <maillist>" in the body of the message (where <maillist> is the list to be joined). More information can be found at the Region Three Web Page (<http://www.region3.org>).

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Certain uncredited material may be written by the editor. The opinions presented in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Region Three or *STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association*.

Address corrections, Letters to the Editor, articles and/or artwork are strongly encouraged and should be sent to *Fleet Channels*, P.O. Box 1756, Coppell, TX. 75019. Unsolicited submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a S.A.S.E. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month prior to the next issue.

Submissions are respectfully requested in the form of an ASCII Text file or Works for Windows v4.0 that can be sent via the INTERNET to FleetChannels@region3.org. If you cannot upload a file then send it to me at the above address on a returnable 3.5" floppy disk compatible with IBM or carefully typed on white paper with at least one and one-half spaces between the lines in a sans-serif font (i.e.: Arial). If you cannot type then carefully hand print -- incursive will not be accepted under any circumstances! Reports and/or submissions need to be 500 words or less.

Published items become the property of *Fleet Channels* and Region Three.

Through the Eyes of a Redneck

by: ADM Brad Pense,
Regional Coordinator
rc@region3.org



Howdy:

In the last issue I listed all of the Regional Staff positions, the current Region Three Staff member holding them and those that were "open" this year.

I had set the deadline for resumes to be in no later than 15 April 07 so all of the positions can be staffed by 01 May 07... I am going to extend these dates a couple of weeks so that you have until 30 April 07 to have the resumes in by so that we can hopefully have them staffed by 15 May 07.

Also, wanted to let everyone know that the Summit '07 Committee has been working extra hard this year to bring you this year's Regional Summit. This will be our 11th Annual Summit and we are going to the Radisson Hotel and Suites in Dallas this year. As you will see from the information contained in upcoming issue of *Fleet Channels*, we have Lots of informative and fun panels and events planned for your enjoyment.

The Radisson Hotel and Suites Dallas located at 2330 W Northwest Highway in Dallas. You can call (800) 333-3333 or (214) 351-4477 to make room reservations for \$75/night (plus tax), for Singles and Doubles (1-4 people per room) and \$99/night for a Suite. Be sure to mention Region Three Summit Code of Reg3 to guarantee the Summit room rate. Online Summit registration is available at www.region3.org/summit do not forget to register NOW before the rates go up.

Other upcoming events include the Bienial Region Three trip to the Space Center in Houston, Texas is set to take place in September. Until more information is

announced, keep a watchful eye on our web site for updates. Or, you can e-mail ADM Michelle Fanelli (vracs@region3.org) with questions or for more details. And last but not least, the annual Region Three Game Day scheduled for November 9th - 11th in Round Rock, Texas. Events being held during the weekend will include open gaming, Pool and Darts, the Third Brigade Fall Muster and much more. For more information you can go to www.ussarkangel.com or contact Comm Jeff Webb (DCoS@region3.org) for more details.

In closing, while this will be my last year to serve as your Regional Coordinator I will not forget all of the friends that I have made over my last 12 years in office.

In service to the Fleet,

ADM Brad Pense,
Commander, Third Fleet

SOUTHERN SPACEDOCK

Senior Vice-Regional Coordinator
Vice-Regional Coordinator, South
by: ADM Michelle Fanelli
vracs@region3.org



Howdy, Howdy,

Spring is here and though some of us need a canoe, I think we all have a lot to enjoy during the next few months.

So many of us are gearing up with recruiting: the *Ark Angel's* 342nd had Recruiting Day at Stony Point High School JROTC with Chili cook off (food is a powerful draw); the *Bexar* is having a few interested folks showing up at their friendly monthly meetings; and the Renaissance held Super Bowl party with a little planning for their recruitment drive (Nothing like social and food to get the workers going).

The *Joan of Arc's* first "Trekking around the Coastal Bend" event was held at the Texas A&M - Kingsville campus. The crew enjoyed dinner while chatting with the students about everything sci fi and science. This sounds like a cool idea and hope we hear more about this type of outing.

Great to see all of us are looking at the recruiting now, as we start looking toward the next *Trek* film. Good or bad, there will be buzz and this is our way to show off to other interested folks what Region Three is about and how much fun we have.

A Gold star to the crew of the *Firebird* for assisting Harris County Pets by helping to reunite lost dogs with their owners.

Our thoughts and prayers go out the *Joan of Arc*. Their command staff lost family members in the month of February.

Get well soon to Cadet Isaiah Schnoor of the *Thunderwolf*. He is a brave little one with his surgeries.

Congratulations to the new XO of the *Thunderwolf*, Bryon Flynt.

We do have an official date for Space Center Houston, mark September 15 to explore space with Region Three. Let's start thinking a quiet hurricane season now. <G>

Good luck to the *Ark Angel's* April Laser tag befitting the Stony Point NIOTC Booster club. What a great way to help a cause and get new recruits.

Next regional event is June's Region Three Summit. I know the Trinity River and others are working very hard to make this an event to remember. Be on the look out for information updates, so you can make your plans to enjoy The Captain's Table.

And may the good news be yours.

Admiral Michelle Fanelli,
Vice-Regional Coordinator, South

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Vice-Regional Coordinator, North
by: COMM Robyn Winans
vrcn@region3.org



Here in the North we're not sure if spring has arrived or not. The Easter Bunny, I am told, was wearing mittens and earmuffs! But we do know that Summit is just a few short months off.

Have we got some excitement for you!

Our theme this year is "You're Invited to the Captains Table," based on the popular series of "Captain's Table" *Star Trek* books. Our Banquet this year is a buffet style with two fabulous entrées: London Broil with mushroom sauce and Grilled Boneless Breast of Chicken with chef's choice of sauce. Our meal also includes a mixed salad with Ranch or Italian dressing, chef's choice of starch and vegetables, dinner rolls, ice tea, coffee, or water. Top it all off with dessert, including a sugar-free selection this year. If you've signed up for Summit and then decided you'd like to upgrade to the Banquet please send me an e-mail at summit@region3.org.

Our Charity this year is the North Texas Food Bank (www.ntxfoodbank.org). They are affiliated with America's Second Harvest. We're doing a non-perishable food drive at Summit as well. The most needed food items are things such as macaroni and cheese, cereal bars, peanut butter, chili, stew and many more. Did you know that Texas ranks #1 in the nation for the number of hungry families? For Texans who receive food stamps, the average monthly benefit per person is \$85.10; for households served by North Texas Food Bank feeding programs who receive food stamps, this benefit is exhausted after an average of 2.5 weeks.

To help raise funds/food we've got some

great fundraising activities planned. For some of our activities you can donate food items in lieu of money. They'll all be listed in the program guide. In your registration packets you'll find a restaurant/attractions map with directions to the local Sam's Club and area Wal-Mart stores, in the event you'd like to shop locally.

The Deanna Troi Chocolate Contest is back again! The bake-off begins NOW! To kick-start the weekend, why not give them chocolate? The overall Grand Prize for this event is an autographed photo of Marina Sirtis as Deanna Troi from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Photo donated by our friend Ben Stevens of Dallas Comic Con & Sci-Fi Expo.

The Fashion Police: Watch out! If you're out of uniform, out of style, or just plain clash those colors you'll get a ticket and be hauled off to the Klingon prison colony of Rura Penthe.

Project Laredo is back! Its time to find out if your Crew as what it takes to defend the Alpha Quadrant! CO Emilio Martinez and his crew are back with the Federation and Klingon Bridges to battle it out. Sign your crew up for a day of war-gaming adventure!

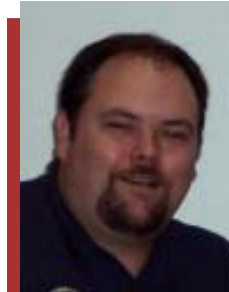
Find Nemo, Dory, Marlin, Gil, and all the rest: Join our Youth members for a trip to the Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park. (www.dallas-zoo.org/aquarium/aquarium.htm). This world-famous aquarium opened in 1936 and it's still swimming along! Admission is just \$4 for Adults (that's ages 12 and up) and just \$3 for ages 3 to 11. Volunteer to be a chaperone and see the wonders of the world thru a child's eye.

These are just a few special things we have lined up for you at Summit this summer. Hurry and get your registration confirmed, get your room booked, and upgrade to a Banquet package. The Captain's Table is reserved for you!

Commodore Robyn
VRC-North Region Three

GO WEST YOUNG MAN!

Vice-Regional Coordinator, West
by: VADM Sam Black
vrcw@region3.org



Greetings from out west!

We have had a few busy months here at the start of the year already. I want to say that the first joint USS *Lone Star*-USS *Gunslinger* Anniversary

Celebration in Lubbock was well attended and received. Well-earned awards and promotions went out to members of both ships. The ships were also proud to host a visit from the appointed Klingon Ambassador from the group The Empire to Region Three. It was nice making a connection to a "friendly" face from another facet of *Trek* Fandom. Word has it that the *Gunslinger* is already begun preparations for their hosting next year's joint party. I, for one, am definitely looking forward to it. I know they can plan a party. And, this VRC is looking forward to another ROADTRIP!! I hope everyone who braved the weather to visit the past over Easter weekend had a fun time. Maybe one of these days, this won't fall in the middle of my busy time with school and I'll get to join the *Trek* to the Middle Ages.

A busy spring has sprung. Contests abound. Grades come and go. Deadlines pass. Graduations loom. Summit and IC start to rumble on the horizon. Retirements being planned. A busy election year ahead for both the region and all of Fleet. When the calendar starts to fill up and even become unpredictable, planning and time management become the order of the day. Responsibility. Taking care of one's responsibilities is an important facet of being a good leader. We all took on our positions with our eyes open, knowing that it meant hard work and hard decisions at times. We have the duty to do what's right, not what's

popular. I know I'm not here to have my brass kissed. If anyone has jumped into or grown into a leadership role and has come to believe that about themselves, they have another thing coming. Every leader out there has a responsibility and a duty to the people they lead to take care of their business. Every leader has a duty and a responsibility to be honest to the people under their tutelage. Sometimes responsibility weighs heavy, especially when life gets hectic. I would hope that anyone who is unable to bear that weight is honest enough to themselves and to the people they serve to own up to it and step aside gracefully.

Honesty. Respect. Responsibility. All important qualities we should embrace and not be afraid of as leaders in any situation.



VADM Sam Black
Vice-Regional Coordinator, West

Ops Central

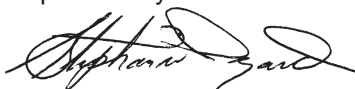
Regional Operations Report
by: RADM Stephanie Izard
ops@region3.org



Hello Region Three!

Our annual Summit is quickly approaching and everyone should be getting excited. All seems to be progressing as well as it usually does this time of year. This could possibly be a very memorable summit. It won't be long now until we all will be reunited with our Region Three family and making new friends. If you haven't made plans yet, you need to get a move on. Aaron has set up a link to the Summit registration on the new Region Three home page at Region3.org.

Hope to see you all there.



RADM Stephanie Izard
Regional Operations Report

ACROSS THE SUBSPACE NET

Regional Communications Report
by: VADM Mark A. Vinson
comm@region3.org



Greetings Fellow Trekkers!

This issue is brought to you by the letters "D" and "P" and the number 6.....

The Webster's New World Dictionary defines "deadline" as the latest time by which something must be done. Webster's also defines "procrastinate" as putting off doing something until later; to delay. The first you should honor six times a year and the second you should not do when honoring the first.

Not everyone that submits a report for each issue of *Fleet Channels* is required to do so but EVERYTHING IS WELCOME. In fact, the more articles submitted the merrier I am. I greatly appreciate anyone and everyone who submits reports on time to *Fleet Channels*. You make my job easier and I am very, very grateful. THANK YOU! You may stop reading now. The rest of you read on.....

I cannot express to everyone how important it is for each *Fleet Channels* deadline to be met by those who are required to submit reports. Now before you cry "Real Life", know that I understand; I always have. I have always tried to work with those who have an emergency but please remember that I have a "Real Life" too.

Because of my "Real Life" the time window I have for doing each issue of the newsletter grows smaller each year. These days I am doing more at work than in the past and cannot work on it there. My daughter is also growing up and getting into activities that she wants/needs me to attend. As such, I do not have time every weekend or even some weeknights like I used to to work on it at home.

With limited production time in mind, I set aside the required production time for each issue around the deadline. I do not schedule events that will interfere with the production of each newsletter so I can get it out while it is still timely and relevant. If I am forced to wait on required report(s) after the deadline passes then *Fleet Channels* will be delayed (as this issue has been).

Fleet Channels Deadlines

The following is a list of the upcoming deadlines for *Fleet Channels*:


May/June Issue -- June 1, 2007
July/Aug. -- Aug. 15, 2007
Sept./Oct. Issue -- Oct. 15, 2007
Nov./Dec. Issue -- Dec. 15, 2007

ALL e-mail submissions should be sent to: fleetchannels@region3.org.

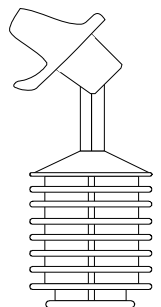
Note: Reminders of approaching deadlines will be posted on the R3 list.

With all this in mind I ask those whose reports are required for *Fleet Channels* to go to press -- PLEASE allot and then take the allotted time to do their reports and get them to me on time. If not, I may take the advice given to me time and again throughout the years -- you might your article title, picture and name but nothing else in the next issue.....

I appreciate your understanding and reports on time in the future,



VADM Mark A. Vinson,
R3 Communications





USS Ark Angel, NCC-1889
Sector 5 -- Round Rock, TX.
CO -- COMM Jeffrey Webb
arkangel@region3.org
XO -- CMDR Scott McKinlay
Commissioning Date: January 1, 2001
Motto: *"The Price of Freedom
is Eternal Vigilance"*-- JFK

It is my great pleasure to announce the first of what we hope will be semi-annual or even quarterly tournaments hosted by the USS *Ark Angel* and her embarked MSG, the Highland Rifles. On 28 April 2007 at Round Rock West Park in Round Rock, TX. we will be holding a tournament for four-player teams using the Lazer Tag Team Ops tagger gear. The taggers will be supplied by the Highland Rifles in exchange for a \$20.00 entry fee per team. The profits from the tournament will be donated to Charlie Company, the Stony Point High School NJROTC Booster Club.

Each team is guaranteed at least two competition games as we will be running a double-elimination tournament. Rules for the different game styles can be read at www.342ndMSG.com on the Lazer Tag page. We encourage teams from the Fleet and Marine sides to participate, the more teams the merrier. This event is being advertised to the local JROTC units around the area and is being used as a large-scale recruiting drive by providing an activity the target audience is sure to enjoy. We will have a recruiting table with materials from the chapter and the Marine Company, and will gladly make available any materials any other chapter would like to send over.

Once again, we have the taggers, so no equipment or experience is necessary to compete. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing for outdoor activities. The 324nd

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USS Aurora Vulcanus, NCC-1888
Fleetwide Correspondence Vessel
CO -- ADM Michelle Fanelli
auroravulcanus@region3.org
XO -- CAPT Catt Fanelli
Commissioning Date: July 4, 1983
Motto: *"Creatively Sailing in
Exploration of the Imagination"*

The chapter published the first AG of the year. Our interactive fiction 'Lets Impress the Brass' wrapped successfully. We will be taking the next issue or two off to develop the next activity. We also had new stories from members, including our new member Steve Burchett. Great to see him jump into the action. We continue with other publication features including a new SF column, by yours truly. Our trivia column is generating promotion points for members as well as expanding their knowledge.

The Almost Annual Survey to gather opinions and confirm contact information was sent out to the membership. Command reports as always the ideas are very good and a few new projects might be developed.

Our Marine Unit is looking at continuing their publication and reading many, many books.

No away missions in the month of February. Think we were waiting for the thaw of spring.

Chapter is working hard clipping coupons and might be looking at the Stampede as well. Our friends in Baton Rouge will be sending in donations as well as they get ready for their own group.

Until Next Time,
MCPT Jared K. Fielder



USS Joan of Arc, NCC-73289
Sector 6 -- Corpus Christi, TX.
CO -- FCPTRobin Van Cleave
joanofarc@region3.org
XO -- LCDR Tahnya Abbott
Commissioning Date: January 6, 1994
Motto: *"Legends Endure"*

As mentioned in the previous months report, the USS *Joan of Arc* has a new command staff. They are starting a new program where the club has a business/planning meeting on the first Saturday of each month. This meeting will be at the International House of Pancakes (IHOP). We will gather at different places/different cities around the Coastal Bend for our second monthly meeting.

The first meeting of Feb. saw the completion of plans to meet on the Texas A&M - Kingsville campus to see a slide show at the conservatory run by our XO's father. Unfortunately, Tahnya's grandmother passed away the Friday of that same weekend. It was decided to still meet in Kingsville so that we could assist Tahnya with her dragon table while canceling the slide show.

March found the club even busier. It was the second year in a row that the club was asked to participate in Texas Public Schools Week in early March. We were the last entry in the mini march around the school and thru the many clusters of students on the playground. This year we were led by our fifth grade Cadet Alex Van Cleave & his father Rear Adm. Jim Van Cleave carrying the club banner. All total six members were there, a good number as it was during work hours on a week day. Several groups held their hands up in the Vulcan salute and a group of the older students yelled "What's in your Wallet?" at Robert as we passed by.

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USS Lone Star, NCC-73628

Sector 8 -- Lubbock, TX.

CO -- FCPT Lisa Pruitt

lonestar@region3.org

XO -- LCDR Darrell Carey

Commissioning Date: March 2, 1996

Recommissioning Date: July 20, 2002

Motto: *"Coming Together . . .
Reaching Out to Others . . ."*

As usual, the USS *Lone Star* found plenty to keep us busy during February and March. However, our chapter family enjoys getting together no matter what the reason might be.

February was a busy and eventful month. It began on the 3rd with the monthly crew meeting. We began what is hopefully a new way to get more attendance at our meetings from our distance members—we have begun Skype-casting our meetings. Two members of our senior staff joined in from the comfort of their home in Irving -- 6 hours away. It was great and we are working to improve input and attendance through this new medium.

The following week, we started the morning with members making the journey to make a full assessment of the current status of our full-sized shuttle craft. Determinations were made as to what could be salvaged and what we would need to re-build from all the mistakes made by the prior build team. It looks like we will be partnering with one of the local homebuilders and others to make this even better than before. Later that evening, we gathered at our Ops Chief's home to watch *Pirates of the Caribbean II*.

The next weekend was our regular weekend to prepare and serve dinner for the families at our local Ronald McDonald House. This time the menu was spaghetti

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Space Station Maverick, SFR301

Sector 8 -- Lubbock, TX.

CO -- FCPT Margi O'Neill

maverick@region3.org

XO -- CAPT Doug Hogan

Commissioning Date: July 2, 2005

Motto: *"Honor, Courage, Commitment"*

Hello from stormy Lubbock! Tornadoes are one of nature's most beautiful and deadly sights but one I'm already tired of seeing on the TV radar. Some of our members have had personal history with funnel clouds this month. We've set a new all-time precipitation record for March with about 6 inches of rain and hail (our average is about a tenth of that). Depending on what resource you use, our yearly average is about 11 inches. This is a very wet beginning for us here in the Hub City. I'm sure that during our 100+ degree days this summer, we'll be wishing we had these cool, wet days!

I'd like to pass along an interaction I had with a stranger recently. It was one of those moments of serendipity that we need to be aware of; one that makes me proud to be a *Star Trek* fan.

My family was out in the front yard a few weeks ago, observing the lunar eclipse through my telescope. It was the start of a chilly evening and we were all wearing jackets and some even had caps on. We were marveling at the color of the moon and watching the "bite" out of it grow, when an SUV drove by, then turned around. The driver spoke to me, asking if we were watching the lunar eclipse. I replied that we were and he then asked if they could observe it through my telescope. "Sure!" I offered. As he and his young daughter watched the progression of the eclipse, we visited about the phenomenon and introduced ourselves. He told me they had been driving home, talking about the eclipse and, at that same

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USS Regulator, NCC-73337

Sector 1 -- Fort Worth, TX.

CO -- BDR Mark West

regulators@region3.org

XO -- MCPT Kyle Schugart

Commissioning Date: October 1, 1992

Motto: *"Defending the Final Frontier"*

So far, the *Regulator* has 2007 started well. We have already celebrated our Security Officer's nuptials — they were unusual to say the least. He and his new wife got married in Florida. They had a reception there and honeymooned in New Orleans. Then there was another reception in Illinois (I think) where she is from and then another one down here that everyone from the *Regulator* attended. We have pictures to prove that some of us have music in our souls — there was much dancing — and we all got high on caffeine and sugar.

We are looking forward to Summit and other events throughout the year.

FCPT Liz Goulet,
RVA — USS *Regulator*





USS Rhyanna, NCC-1892
Sector 5 -- Austin, TX.
CO -- RADM Stephanie Izard
rhyanna@region3.org

XO -- FCPT Kathy Hench

Commissioning Date:

September 24, 1991

Motto: "If we don't know it or we don't have it, we'll learn it or find it!"

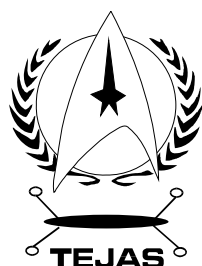
The crew of the *Rhyanna* is finally getting into the swing of things for 2007. We have made some plans for activities during the year, including attending (and working) the Summit in June, a camping trip to see the McDonald Observatory and take in a "star" party, and raising money again for the Komen Austin Race for the Cure.

On a monthly basis we are continuing our meetings, which are well attended. Heather Ford and Jessica Hench keep us informed on *Ark Angel* activities and some of our plans during the year include them. It's great to have another group in town to "play" with. Especially since we play together so well!

The first time most of us will see the rest of the region will be in Dallas at the Summit. Look us up at the Registration table, and say "Hi!"

Until then,

FCPT Gigi Jacobson



USS Tejas, NCC-9756
Sector 7 -- Vernon/Wichita Falls, TX.
CO -- CAPT Brent Chapman
tejas@region3.org

XO -- COMM Chrylon Stroud

Commissioning Date: May 16, 1998

Motto: "Embracing Friendship Through Flights of Fancy"

Hello there fellow R3 from the USS *Tejas* in Sector 8:

This year is shaping up to be an interesting one, we are trying different avenues of recruitment, we are a small crew.

How many have received the CD in your Starfleet Membership Packets? It is very well done and sure does make, getting to the needed information real easy.

Capt. Brent Chapman,
CO — USS *Tejas*

Ark Angel -- continued from page 6

MSG recommends thinking about knee and elbow protection as well as long sleeves and trousers. We hope to see a good turnout, and get a favorable response to the recruiting effort. Please cross-post this message to any lists you may think will contain interested players.

In Service,

Jeffrey A. Webb
Sergeant Major, SFMCR
Brigade Sergeant Major, 3rd Brigade
NCOIC, "E" Company, 2nd Battalion "The Highland Rifles"

Joan of Arc -- continued from page 6

He was in battle armor Klingon-style and ALWAYS a crowd favorite.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in Sinton with a dinner at the restaurant called the

Butterchurn. We wore our uniforms and passed out flyers to those bold enough to approach the table! Finally, we will have a composite birthday/BBQ/games night on the 31st of March at the Captain's house.

More on that party in the next edition.

FCPT Kris Dobie,
RVA — USS *Joan of Arc*

Lonestar -- continued from page 7

with homemade sauce, garlic bread, and tossed salad. Afterwards, we re-convened at the Fox & Hound for dinner and to practice our pool shooting and dart throwing in preparation for the annual Region Three tournament coming up in July.

The awards committee and promotions board met the following week to determine the ship's honorees at the upcoming joint anniversary celebration with the USS *Gunslinger* taking place on the 24th. On the 23rd, six members of the USS *Gunslinger* and one from the USS *Victory* docked their crafts at the CO & JAG's quarters for the weekend. Once Saturday came upon us, the night was filled with great food, lots of honors all around, and even a visit from an ambassador from The Klingon Empire, one of the national Klingon organizations. After the dinner was adjourned, the celebration moved to the CO & JAG's house where we broke open the Bloodwine and Fire Water presented to us by the ambassador, among other spirits. As we said goodbye to the crew of the *Gunslinger* on Sunday, we became anxious for another year to fly past so that we can visit them next year for the second year of our joint celebrations.

The USS *Lone Star* took the opportunity of having 5 weekends during the month of March to put together an action-packed, fun-filled group of happenings.

Things kicked off on the 3rd with our regular crew meeting, hosted at the CO's quarters. We worked out a few technical difficulties experienced last month with

continued on next page

Lonestar -- continued from previous page

our first Skype-enhanced meeting. Our JAG shot down all the gremlins which surfaced and we were able to have our members as big as life in attendance from afar. Items on the agenda included switching to "social" nights from just game nights or just movie nights, the upcoming ship garage sale, upcoming community service projects, assessment of our ongoing full-size shuttle renovation project, and the ongoing issue of the region failing to follow through with the commitment to disburse the funds raised at the 2004 Summit and the 2005 New Years Eve party to the ship and to the SFI Scholarship Fund. We are hoping for even more of our members to be able to join us in this manner in the future when they can't be here in person.

March 10th came upon us with the JAG firing up the grill for the first time of the year as the inaugural Social Night hosted at the CO's multi-venue quarters. While the JAG served up the burgers and hot dogs, a round of X-Box and N64 games in the sun room, *Sequest DSV* DVDs played on the big screen, as well as a poker game and chess game got underway in the front room. To cap off the night, Spaceballs was freed from its packaging

and went into the DVD player. Before long, everyone was in the main room enjoying the classic comedy.

Following up on our commitment to improve our showing at this year's R3 Pool, Darts, & Chess tourney, at the Fox & Hound, on Saturday the 17th. Practice for both our darts and pool teams went well, leaving little time for our chess expert to get any sort of workout this time.

Our Ops Chief has spent the better part of the month moving into new quarters and invited the crew over to help christen his new apartment on the 24th. As we have a few members who still had yet to see *The Princess Bride* (Inconceivable!), this was the central event of the evening.

The early part of the next week was spent gathering and organizing donations for our ship's garage sale. The sale began on the 31st with lots of toys, furniture, clothes, and various assorted items. The culmination of the weekend's work resulted in a major shot in the arm to our ship's treasury, which will help with our Easter Parties coming up in April along with our other community service and shuttle renovation activities.

The first quarter of 2007 has come to a

close with quite a bang for the USS *LoneStar*.

Commodore Lisa Pruitt

Maverick -- continued from page 6

moment, noticed us in the yard with the telescope. He then went on to tell me why he knew he would be safe stopping to visit with us, a group of total strangers. It was because of the comm badge pin I had on my leather jacket. He said he knew we were okay because we were *Star Trek* fans. We chatted a few minutes more and they left after shaking hands and thanking us.

If it hadn't been for that jacket, they may have driven on by and his daughter would have missed out on a chance to see this beautiful phenomenon. We would have missed out on a chance to be gracious ambassadors to our neighbors. We would have also missed out on the wonderful feedback that our fandom is seen as a positive thing; a safe activity. It's one of those "warm glow" moments. If you have an experience like this, let others know. We'd love to hear about it in the *Fleet Channels*!

Doug Hogan
Space Station Maverick, Lubbock

IMAGES FROM SNOWY SCARBOROUGH FAIRE '07



photos by Jess Naumann,
R3 Photographer

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CFO Removed

by: General Mark H. Anbinder,
Vice Commander, STARFLEET

It is my duty to announce a personnel change on STARFLEET's Executive Committee. Admiral Pat Spillers has been relieved as Chief Financial Officer, STARFLEET. FADM Rickard asked her to resign on Thursday evening, and I asked her to resign yesterday, following her observation that I am currently serving as Acting CS. Pat still refused to step down, and I made the difficult decision to remove her from office this morning, effective immediately.

This is a decision that Les and I made together. Due to a variety of questions and issues that have arisen over the last several months, it is our strong feeling that Pat no longer enjoys the confidence of STARFLEET's membership, and she no longer enjoys the confidence of the CS and VCS in her handling of her job. Les has made it clear that he and I, and STARFLEET as a whole, must have confidence in the people he's leaving behind to help run STARFLEET while he's overseas serving in the Navy for the rest of his term as CS.

There is no question that Pat has devoted a lot of time and energy to her duties as CFO since she joined FADM Livingston's crew, as well as her efforts for her chapter and Region 3. In particular, Pat made a clear effort to provide lots of information about the organization's finances to the members. Unfortunately, that wasn't the entire job. Whatever differences of opinion we may have, she deserves credit for all her work, and she deserves our respect for the time and energy she has devoted. Les and I would like to sincerely thank Pat for all of her service to STARFLEET as CFO.

Because the CFO is a position that needs work on a day-to-day basis, we don't have the luxury of waiting for an application period, so after consulting with a few advisors, Les and I have selected Commodore Liz Woolf as our new Chief Financial Officer. Thanks to Liz for her willingness to take on this role.

Liz has been involved in STARFLEET's staff for many years and in many capacities, most visibly as STARFLEET Awards Director. She's already familiar with how Fleet works, and has audited our finances for more than one administration. The cfo@sfi.org e-mail address has already been changed to point to Liz, and you can also reach her directly at lizwoolf@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about this decision, you're welcome to contact Les or me directly.

No Mystery Meat Here!

R3 Summit Banquet
by: Commodore Robyn,
Summit 2007 Chair

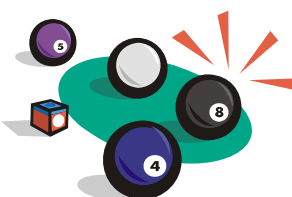
Our Banquet this year is a buffet style with two fabulous entrées: London Broil with mushroom sauce and Grilled Boneless Breast of Chicken with chef's choice of sauce. Our meal also includes a mixed salad with Ranch or Italian dressing, chef's choice of starch and vegetables, dinner rolls, ice tea, coffee, or water. Top it all off with dessert, including a sugar-free selection this year.



If you've signed up for Summit and then decided you'd like to upgrade to the Banquet please send me an e-mail at summit@region3.org.

Let's Play!

Resumption of Region Three's Annual Pool and Dart's Parrises Squares Tournament in Harker Heights, TX.
by: VADM Mark A. Vinson



On Saturday, July 21st we will see the resumption of Region Three's Annual Pool and

Dart's Sector vs. Sector Parrises Squares Tournament in Harker Heights TX.! In years past this has been one of the best loved and most looked forward to events. After a few years off we are once again going to invade en masse the Kileen/Harker Heights Moose Lodge (125 West Veterans Memorial Blvd., Harker Heights, TX 76548) and enjoy the cash bar and steak dinners. Oh, and we will throw darts and shoot pool. Come one, come all and let make some more memories!

Here is the Schedule:

11 A.M.:	Lunch -- PLACE TBA
12 P.M.:	Sign-up / Practice
1 P.M.:	Darts Tournament
3 P.M.:	Pool Tournament
7 P.M.:	Steak Dinner *
8 P.M.:	Finals (if needed)

* The 3rd Saturday of each month is the Moose Lodge's Steak dinner night and it is open to everyone attending our Pool and Darts Tournament. The meal includes a steak grilled the way you like it, a baked potato, a salad and a dessert. Cost is \$8.00 per dinner.

Those of you interested in taking advantage of this GREAT meal need to e-mail
VADM Mark Vinson



USS Rhyanna from 2000

(comm@region3.org) NO later than July 1st so the Lodge has an idea on how many of us will be eating that evening.

Pool and Darts Tournament

Rules

Following are the rules that will be used for the Region Three Darts and Pool Tournament; these rules are from the published ADO rules.

1. Each Sector will have one four (4) person dart team and one four (4) person pool team.
2. If enough cadets show up ... each Sector can have a dart and pool team also.
3. Each tournament (Darts and Pool) will be played as Single

Darts

1. A match will consist of a game of cricket and a game of 501.
2. Dart teams will be two (2) people to throw in the 501 game and two (2) people to throw in the cricket game.
3. A tie breaking game will consist of a team 801 game in which all four team members throw.
4. Example: Sector 1 wins the cricket game; sector 3 wins the 501 game. The two teams will then play a tie breaker game of 801.
5. All darts will be thrown from behind the throw lines in place already.
6. Scoring is as follows: outer ring is Double value, big sections are single value, inner ring is triple value and bulls are outer ring single inner circles double.
7. To close a number you must hit that number with either three (3) different darts or with a double and single or just a triple.
8. Remember ... the SCORE KEEPER

in each game is NOT a target!

Pool

1. Pool tournament will be played with a two (2) person team for the 8 ball game and a two (2) person team for the 9 ball game.
2. If a third game is needed, it will be decided on by a flip of the coin.

Final Rule

Come out and ENJOY

Recommend Hotel:

Heights Inn: 410 West Veterans Memorial Blvd., Harker Heights, TX 76548, Phone: (254) 690-8700. Just a few blocks from the Lodge

Rates: 1 Bed \$45 (tax included), 2 Beds \$52 (tax included)

Call NOW for your reservations ... they will fill up fast.

Regional Award Nomination Time

by: Region Three Awards Committee



Hailing all CO's and Chapter Awards Officers.

Have crew members that need recognition for their hard work? Want to brag on your crew members to the rest of Region Three? Then nominate those crew members for a Region Three Award.

Not sure how to nominate crew members? Go to the Region Three web site and click on Awards. Not sure how to write a nomination or what should be included in a nomination? Contact Region Three Awards Coordinator Billie Clifton at biloren@sbcglobal.net.

Deadline for nominations is 11:59PM Sunday May 20th. Start sending them in as soon as possible. Also, feel free to

contact any awards committee member at any time.



Awaiting your nominations.....

Panel s, Panel s and more Panel s Summit 2007 Needs You

by: Commodore Robyn, Summit 2007 Chair

Summit is for you and about you. What would you like to spend your time learning about on Saturday afternoon between 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.?



Marine Muster 2004

Its Region Three University time!

The Summit committee wants to know what Panels, YOU, the member of Region Three would like to participate in as Panelist, Moderators and Attendees.

Tired of the Same Ol', Same Ol'? Then let us know what floats your boat. Is there a Star Trek area you'd like to know more about? How about science fiction in general? What about Science Fiction TV? Would you like to learn more about how a large chapter work's? How a once small chapter grew to twice its size? Would you like to know how Chapters get their members involved in Community work? What about the future of SFI or the future of Region Three? Learn about costume making for the Sci-fi Genre.

Send PRIVATE E-mails to Summit@region3.org or to vrcn@region3.org

2007 BRIGADE AWARDS TIME

by: Jeffrey A. Webb,
Sergeant Major, SFMCR

Marines of the Third Brigade, our Acting Brigade Commander, Colonel Schnoor, has asked me to begin collecting nominations for the Valor Awards, and any other awards accountable to Brigade level that you OICs would like to submit. The correct form for award nomination is located at <http://www.sfi-sfmc.org/tracom/awardrequest.php> BE AWARE - This form does not always come through properly. Please forward the forms to jwebb2@austincc.edu and brigadecommander3bde@hotmail.com to make sure the proper people receive them.



Please see www.sfi-sfmc.org/tracom/sectiontext.php?thissect=FORCECOMAWARDS for a full list of the awards available. The specific awards we need recommendations for are as follows:

LEGON OF VALOR - Brigade Unit of the Year
CROSS OF VALOR - Brigade Marine of the Year
SWORD OF VALOR - Brigade Leader (Officer) of the Year
SHIELD OF VALOR - Brigade Volunteer of the Year
STAR OF VALOR - Brigade NCO of the Year

Any award may be nominated for at any time. Please feel free to nominate members for any award you feel they qualify for. Remember that ANY Marine may recommend any Marine for an award. You do not have to be an OIC or NCOIC to do so.

The deadline for Brigade Awards is Midnight on Saturday, 12 May 2007. At that point, the committee appointed by Colonel Schnoor will deliberate on the recipients, to be announced at Summit. Per

Region Three tradition, the Valor Awards will be announced at Opening Ceremonies, while the remainder of the awards will be issued at Marine Muster.

Cool, Yet Faire Winds and Peaceful Snow

Region Three Day at
Scarborough Faire '07

by: Steccie Morgan and Mark A. Vinson
of the Space Station *Freedom III*

Normally the first weekend of April, Spring is in the air, temperatures are rising, and people enjoy the Scarborough Faire Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie, Texas under sunny skies and gentle breezes. This year....not so much. Five members of Region Three — all from the Space Station *Freedom III* — attended a very cold and snowy, yes, snowy, opening ceremony for the faire on Saturday, April 7th, where King Henry VIII declared the park officially open with the firing of the Faire's cannon.

As the gates opened, the members of the *Freedom III* were invited to help celebrate Scarborough Faire's 27th anniversary by stepping back into King Henry's recreated, 16th century English Village. Pea, dime, nickel and sometimes quarter sized snowflakes fell all day long. Snow in April, not unusual for England but not for Texas, allowed people to wear their full costumes plus cloaks and long underwear remain reasonably warm. This was the first time it has ever snowed on Scarborough and quite possibly the only time it will. The faire was quiet and peaceful the entire day. Although the snow was plentiful it never stuck to the ground and things never got too wet. This is something that those of us who attend regularly each year will talk about for a long, long time to come.

Members enjoyed juggling acts, storytelling, demonstrations involving glass blowing (where it was very nice and warm), games of skill, fine (yet very cold) ale and, maybe, just maybe a wench or two. On the many stages, we were entertained by the antics of Don Juan and

Miguel, beautiful songs by Queen Anne's Lace and the world's only traveling carillon ...the original Renaissance heavy metal... Cast In Bronze. Suffice it to say that there is something for everyone to do, including shopping in over 200 shops where you can buy anything from paintings to handcrafted, one-of-a-kind merchandise.

It is hard to do and see everything in one day, which is why people are encouraged to buy a season pass. For those interested in attending the Faire, it will be open every weekend through May 28th (Memorial Day Monday). For more information, check out their website at www.scarboroughrenfest.com.

As their motto says, Step back in time for the time of your life!

LAZER TAG TOURNAMENT INVITATION

by: Jeffrey A. Webb, CO,
USS *Ark Angel*

Officers, Crew and Marines of Region Three as CO of the USS *Ark Angel*, I'd like to invite every ship and MSG in our fair region to send four of their finest down here to Round Rock to compete for bragging rights against the USS *Ark Angel*/342nd MSG team and our local competitors.

On April 28th at 10:00 A.M., we will begin our tournament at Round Rock West Park in Round Rock. We will provide the actual taggers, no experience or lazer tag equipment is necessary -- just wear appropriate attire to get dirty in. Each team is four members, with a registration fee of \$20. The funds raised are going to the Stony Point High School NJROTC Booster Club.

Certificates will be distributed for the winning team and best individual player. Come on down and join us, and show us who has the best security team/away team/Marine unit/four peeps with phasers in the Fleet!

OPEN REGIONAL STAFF POSITIONS

by: ADM Brad Pense, Regional Coordinator

Listed below is a complete list of ALL Regional Staff positions and the current Region Three Staff member holding the position.

The Regional Staff Positions that are being opened up to anyone interested in submitting their resume will have a status of "Open" in the Status column.

Open positions are ones that have been filled by the current staff member for longer than the term length listed in Section 02:05:02 Sub-Section C of the Region Three Handbook. While consecutive terms may be served (as long as the staff member wishes to serve the Region), it has been decided to open these positions to others who might be interested in serving the Region. In no way does this mean that the Region is looking to replace the staff member that is currently in the position. If that were the case, it would be handled in a different manner.

If you are interested in submitting a resume (Real Life and Fleet) for one of the empty or "open" positions listed below, you will need to contact the Region Three Chief of Staff <cos@region3.org> or the Regional Coordinator <rc@region3.org> and let them know that you are interested. If you do not have e-mail capabilities, they can also be reached by sending a letter to the Region Three mailing address of PO Box 1756, Coppell, TX 75019.

Resumes NEED to be in no later than 15 April 07 so all of the positions can be staffed by 01 May 07.



Position	Staff Member	Status
Regional Coordinator	ADM Brad Pense	N/A
VRC - North	COMM Robyn Winans	N/A
VRC - South	ADM Michelle Fanelli	N/A
VRC - West	VADM Sam Black	N/A
Chief of Staff	RADM Raymond Ford	Open
Deputy Chief of Staff	COMM Jeff Webb	—
Chief of Operations	RADM Stephanie Izard	—
Chief of COMMunications	VADM Mark Vinson	—
Chief of Shuttle Operations	RADM Dave Walker	Open
Chief of CompOps	MGN Aaron Murphy	Open
Senior Enlisted Advisor	CMCPO Randi Spears	—
Regional Awards Officer	COMM Billie Clifton	Open
Regional Counselor	COMM Kat Sweeney	Open
Regional Financial Officer	RADM Heather Ford	—
Regional JAG Officer	FCPT Emilio Martinez	—
Regional Quartermaster	CMDR Reed Bates	—
Regional Special Forces Officer	COL Jeff Schnoor	—
Regional Special Projects Officer	RADM Heather Ford	—
Regional Youth Services Director	COMM Robert Ybarra	—
Regional Operations Officer	FCPT Alex Trevino	—
Regional Engineering Officer	CIV Eric Kristiansen	—
Regional COMMunications Officer	FCPT Evan Richards	Open
Regional Security Officer	BGN Byron Flynt	Open
Regional Science Officer	FCPT Bill Downs	Open
Regional Medical Officer	LT Terrie Thomas	—

DATELINE: STARFLEET

Star Trek actor's
ashes heading to
space this month
12:45 p.m. EDT, April 2, 2007



LAS CRUCES, New Mexico (AP) — The ashes of James Doohan, who played chief engineer Montgomery “Scotty” Scott on the original *Star Trek* TV series, have been loaded into a rocket that is set to launch in New Mexico later this month.

The remains of Doohan, Mercury astronaut Gordon Cooper and some 200 others were loaded into the rocket Friday by Charles Chafer, chief executive of Celestis, a Texas company that contracts with rocket firms to send cremated remains into space.

“And we’re ready to go,” Chafer said after inserting the silver canister.

Jerry Larson, president of Connecticut-based UP Aerospace Inc., said the rocket will be launched April 28.

Families paid \$495 to have a few grams of their loved one’s ashes placed on the rocket.

Chafer said he’s aware of the dedication of *Star Trek* fans.

“There’s no doubt that we’ll find a way to accommodate fans who travel here and

want to be part of that experience,” he said.

Doohan died in July 2005 at age 85.

The remains of *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry were blasted into space in 1997.

Abrams Talks about Directorial Decision

from startrek.com

J.J. Abrams, the producer of “*Star Trek XI*” who recently signed with Paramount to also direct, has been talking about the project in a variety of forums, basically saying that after he read the completed script by Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci, it was so outstanding he couldn’t not direct it.

Abrams spoke March 2 at the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose, Calif., and then last Friday, March 9, at the Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) Conference in Monterey, Calif. He also visited with *Wired* magazine for an interview that was published last week.

In each case his talks encompassed a range of topics, and the “*Star Trek*” project was only a small part of each one, if mentioned at all. The reason: “If I talk about this movie, everyone else who is involved with it knows where I live and will use that and, er, kill me,” he joked at Cinequest.

However, he told the festival audience, “I can say that when the script came in it was so well written, it was so emotional, it was fun and big and I found myself unable to not direct it!”

Double negatives notwithstanding, he

continued, “I couldn’t give it up. I think it’s going to be great. If in my gut I felt there was nothing else to offer, I wouldn’t do it. It’s not a business decision; I would rather take no money and do something inspiring. I hope it ends up being both a really cool, original, emotional ride and comes from something that we’re familiar with.”

In the *Wired* article Abrams said something similar: “I’d feel like an idiot if I let someone else (direct) it.” He also reiterated, “It’s a little too early to talk about *Star Trek*, but I can’t tell you how excited I am to do that (project). I’m thrilled.”

He said the script is “clearly a fun, emotional and wild adventure,” and he couldn’t turn down the chance to take the helm. “This is going to be an incredibly fun movie. I can’t believe that they’re letting us do this,” he exclaimed.

He also mentioned, without being specific, that he is getting input for the project from the “science/geek community,” as the magazine put it. “I get the use of brilliant minds and futurists and people who are thinking these things through,” Abrams said vaguely. “We’d be crazy not to take advantage of the information coming to us.”

Also, he hopes to help *Star Trek* gaming reach its potential. “I love good games,” he said, but added that games based on existing properties typically “falter because they’re relying on the title and the name recognition instead of relying on game-play and story and content. So I feel like the ideal ... is when form and function come together. We definitely have the form, and the function needs to be better.”

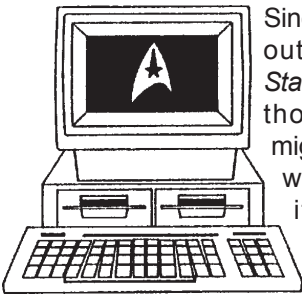
He’s also supportive of the “fan film” phenomenon in the *Star Trek* community, and has viewed some of the made-for-the-Web productions. “I’ve seen some that

are done with incredible passion and are really impressive. I love seeing anything that is created by anyone who is not doing it in a pre-existing system where resources and tools are available — the idea that someone is out there using off-the-shelf 3D software or, especially, software that is made by the entrepreneurial coder, who's out there creating their own software. I'm always making stuff, so the idea of people doing that is my favorite thing in the world. I love it."

At the TED Conference, Abrams apparently did not talk about "Star Trek" directly (per the blogs we've seen), but discoursed more generally about "mystery" in storytelling. In his presentation, he brought to the stage a wooden "Mystery Box" that he bought as a kid from a magic store in New York, a box with a big question mark printed on it. He has never opened that box and said he never will. "What I love about this box is that I find myself drawn to infinite possibility. Mystery is the catalyst for imagination. In my work, mystery boxes are everywhere." To illustrate his point, he said that "Jaws" and "Alien" were more compelling by the fact that we hardly ever saw the creature in each case.

Trek Star Web Sites

by: Doug Hogan, SS Maverick



Since we are without any current *Star Trek* series, I thought people might want to see what their favorite actor/actress is doing now and maybe drop them a line of appreciation for their work on *Trek*. I did some web research and found some official websites and some really good fan sites and organized them by series. All of these URLs are current as of March 2007. Enjoy!

THE ORIGINAL SERIES

William Shatner: www.williamshatner.com
 Nichelle Nichols: www.uhura.com
 George Takei: www.georgetakei.com
 Clint Howard: www.clinthoward.com
 Grace Lee Whitney: www.graceleewhitney.net

THE NEXT GENERATION

Marina Sirtis: www.marinasirtis.tv
 Denise Crosby: www.denisecrosby.net
 Wil Wheaton: wilwheaton.typepad.com
 Ronald B. Moore (special effects): www.trekvfx.com

DEEP SPACE NINE

Chase Masterson: www.chasemasterson.com
 Rene Auberjonois: www.renefiles.com
 Nana Visitor: www.nanavision.com
 Alexander Siddig: www.sidcity.net
 Casey Biggs: www.caseybiggs.com
 James Darrin: www.jamesdarrin.com
 P.O.V. Productions (agents for some of the Trek stars, especially DS9): www.povpromotions.com

VOYAGER

Katherine Mulgrew: www.totallykate.com
 Ethan Phillips: www.ethanphillips.com
 Robert McNeill: www.robertduncanmcneill.net
 Roxann Dawson: www.roxanndawson.net
 Robert Picardo: www.robertpicardo.com
 Tim Russ: www.timrusswebpage.net
 Richard Herd: www.richardherd.com

ENTERPRISE

Connor Trinneer: www.connortrinneer.com
 Dominic Keating: www.dominickeating.com
 Linda Park: www.lindapark.tv
 Anthony Montgomery: www.anthonymontgomery.com
 John Billingsley: www.johnbillingsley.net
 Vaughn Armstrong: www.vaughnarmstrong.com
 Jeffrey Combs: www.jeffreycombs.com
 Gary Graham: www.garygraham.com

U.S. Billionaire Heads to Space Station

April 7, 10:47 PM (ET)

by: Maria Danilova with contributions from AP Writer Jim Heintz

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP) - A Russian rocket carrying the American billionaire who helped develop Microsoft Word roared into the night skies over Kazakhstan Saturday, sending Charles Simonyi and two cosmonauts soaring into orbit on a two-day journey to the international space station.

Climbing on a column of smoke and fire into the clouds over the bleak steppes, the Soyuz TMA-10 capsule lifted off at 11:31 p.m. local time, casting an orange glow over the Baikonur cosmodrome and dozens of officials and well-wishers watching from about a mile away.

The capsule turned northeast and moved downrange before entering orbit about 10 minutes later. It was scheduled to rendezvous with the station Monday.

Among those bidding farewell was Simonyi's friend Martha Stewart, who watched the launch from a location separate from other spectators.

After seeing Simonyi off for final preparations, Stewart spent the final hours before the launch aboard another mode of transportation common to this part of Kazakhstan's steppes - a camel.

"The ride was excellent," she said.

Inside the capsule, Simonyi and cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin and Oleg Kotov grinned for the onboard camera, gave the thumbs-up sign and batted at a toy black cat hanging from rope -- a token of good luck chosen by Kotov and named after his two children.

Simonyi, a 58-year-old native of Hungary, paid \$25 million for the 13-day trip, the fifth such paying "space tourist," or "space flight participant," as officials prefer to call

continued on next page

**Billionaire -- continued from
previous page**

them.

"I think for Charles it is a dream come true," said Victoria Scott, a friend who watched the liftoff as others drank champagne toasts and chanted "Charles! Charles!"

In a posting on the blog he intends to maintain while in orbit, Simonyi said he spent his final day getting a haircut and a therapeutic massage and watched a traditional showing of a classic Soviet-era war film.

There was no mention of Stewart on the blog, but Simonyi did make reference to one of the lesser-known, last-minute traditions for cosmonauts heading into space -- urinating on the tire of the bus transporting them to the launch-pad.

Three days after arriving at the station and greeting its current occupants — Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and American astronauts Miguel Lopez-Alegria and Sunita Williams — Simonyi will treat the crews to a gourmet meal, chosen by Stewart, in honor of Cosmonauts' Day, the Russian day commemorating Yuri Gagarin's historic 1961 flight into space.

The menu includes quail roasted in Madiran wine, duck breast confit with capers, shredded chicken parmentier, apple fondant pieces, rice pudding with candied fruit, and semolina cake with dried apricots.

Simonyi had said he would bring with him the paper computer tapes that he used decades ago when he first learned programming on a bulky Soviet machine called Ural-2. He emigrated to the United States in 1968 and eventually worked at Microsoft Corp. (MSFT), helping to develop Word and Microsoft Excel before founding his own software company.

While at the space station, Simonyi will be conducting a number of experiments, including measuring radiation levels and studying biological organisms inside the lab.

He is to return to Earth on April 20 along with Tyurin and Lopez-Alegria.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE GOES TO SPACE

By: LTC Joseph White,
Third Brigade Adjutant & OIC 318th
Aerospace Squadron

In what could bring private business one step closer to space, Space Exploration Technologies launched its Falcon 1 rocket from the Kwajalein Atoll launch site in the Pacific Ocean. The rocket was carrying a one hundred and ten pound (fifty kilogram) set of experiments, including an automated flight safety system, low-cost satellite communications transceiver, and mechanical payload adapter ring.

The rocket was scheduled to launch at 7pm Eastern Daylight Time, but due to several problems, which included a payload communications problem, and one pad abort (just one second before lift-off,) the launch was aborted while they checked out the malfunctions. Then, in what would have done NASA engineers of the 1970's proud, the problems were resolved and the Falcon rocket was launched at 9:10pm, Eastern daylight time. (Well within the 4 hour deadline.)

The first stage was an unmitigated success and broke away, leaving the second stage to climb space wards. Sadly, however, there was a malfunction in the second stage, which resulted in a roll that most likely sent the payload stage on a path that re-entered the earth's atmosphere somewhere over the Pacific Ocean, without completing a full orbit.

According to the Space Exploration Technologies spokesperson, the mission is considered a success, instead of a failure, since they did technically reach space. At the time of the malfunction, telemetry showed the Falcon-1 to be at an altitude of one hundred and ten miles, which is just fifty miles below the International Space Station. He also stated that

only a full review of the mission logs and camera footage would show how the malfunction occurred.

This is the second attempt for Space Exploration Technologies in trying to reach space. Their first Falcon 1 rocket exploded on lift-off on March 24, 2006 and was later determined to be the result of a corroded aluminum nut on the fuel tank.

It should be noted that Space Exploration Technologies could have launched another rocket within six months of the first failure, but waited for the upgrades to their launching facility and gave them a chance to put the Falcon 1 Mark 2 to the test.

The sixty-eight foot tall rocket has two sections that allow it to boost satellite payloads of one thousand two hundred and fifty-six pounds into low and medium earth orbits. The first section is detachable and like rockets of the past, uses parachutes to lower it into the ocean, where the company can retrieve it for later use.

Despite the failure of this payload to stay in space for one full orbit, Space Exploration Technologies plans to launch two more rockets, one set for June, which will orbit the Navy Research Lab's TacSat1, and the second which has an undetermined date, which will launch the Razaksat Earth-observation satellite.

The Falcon 1 is to be the direct precursor of the Falcon 9, which is slated to be the rocket that will launch the company's re-usable Dragon Spacecraft.

The following sources were used in the compiling of this article:

- 1.) www.space.com/missionlaunches/070320_spacex_falc1_test2.html
- 2.) www.space.com/missionlaunches/060324_spacex_failure.html
- 3.) www.space.com/missionlaunches/070210_falcon1_delay.html
- 4.) www.space.com/spacenews/businessmonday_060306.html
- 5.) www.spacex.com/

April

Saturday the 28th: Lazer Tag Tourney sponsored by the USS *Ark Angel* in Round Rock, TX.

May

Saturday the 5th: Cinco de Mayo

Sunday the 13th: Mother's Day

Monday the 28th: Memorial Day

June

Friday Night thru Sunday the 8th - 10th: Summit 2007 "Captain's Table" at the Radisson Hotel and Suites in Dallas, TX.

Sunday the 17th: Father's Day

Thursday the 21st: Summer solstice

July

Wednesday the 4th: Independence Day

Saturday the 21st: Annual Pool and Darts Tournament at the Killeen-Harker Heights Moose Lodge

September

Monday the 3rd: Labor Day

Saturday the 15th: Biennial NASA/Space Center Houston trip

Sunday the 23rd: Autumnal equinox

October

Monday the 8th: Columbus Day (observed)

Wednesday the 31st: Halloween

November

Thursday the 1st: All Saints Day

Sunday the 4th: Daylight Saving Time ends

Friday Night thru Sunday the 9th-11th: Gameday

Sunday the 11th: Veterans Day

Monday the 12th: Veterans Day (observed)

Thursday the 22nd: Thanksgiving Day

December

Wednesday the 5th thru Wednesday the 12th: Chanukah (Jewish)

Thursday the 20th: Eid-al-Adha (Islamic)

Saturday the 22nd: Winter solstice

Sunday the 23rd: Festivus

Tuesday the 25th: Christmas Day (Christian)

Wednesday the 26th thru Tuesday the Jan 1st: Kwanzaa

Monday Night the 31st: New Year's Eve

Fleet Channels Deadlines

The following is a list of the upcoming deadlines for *Fleet Channels*:

May/June Issue -- June 1, 2007

July/Aug. -- Aug. 15, 2007

Sept./Oct. Issue -- Oct. 15, 2007

Nov./Dec. Issue -- Dec. 15, 2007

ALL e-mail submissions should be sent to: fleetchannels@region3.org.

Note: Reminders of approaching deadlines will be posted on the R3 list.

GREETINGS FROM THE BRAVE FEW WHO ATTENDED SCARBOROUGH FAIRE '07



Members of the SS Freedom III, their families and friends at the Region's Biennial trip to Scarborough Faire, Opening Saturday, April 7, 2007. Back Row From Left: Jen Thompson and her husband Randy, CAPT Kevin Topham, Jen's mother Helen, VADM Mark A. Vinson.

Front Row From Left: the Black and White Ninja herself, Ginger Morgan, and her daughter LT Steccie Morgan, Ian Thompson and MS4 Lauren Vinson.

Not in the photo because he is taking it: FCPT Jess Naumann.

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY / JUNE ISSUE IS JUNE 1, 2007