




FLEET CHANNELS

MAY - JUNE '07  VOLUME 16, NO. 3



SUMMIT 2007 WRAP-UP EDITION

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GIGI & TEEGAN JACOBSON
ENJOY ORLANDO
& THE 2007 REGION THREE SUMMIT

THE NEWSLETTER FOR REGION THREE

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 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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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.

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Through the Eyes of a Redneck

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

Howdy,

Let me start by saying that we now have our 11th successful Summit behind us. With that, it is time to provide you with Summit '07 follow-up information. But first, I want to thank everyone who attended or had a part in making Summit '07 as successful as it was.

During Opening Ceremonies at Summit '07, I had the honor of recognizing members from across Region Three as they received Region Three Individual Awards, '06-'07 Annual Awards and various Promotions to the rank of Captain and above.

I want to congratulate the following members/groups from Region Three who received recognition at Summit this year.

Promotions to Captain/Colonel: Lloyd Bates

and Scott McKinlay; to Fleet Captain/Brigadier: Cami Houser and Jeff Schnoor (Brigadier); to Commodore/Brigadier General: Karon McLain and Robert Graham; to Rear Admiral/Major General: Billie Clifton; and to Vice Admiral: Raymond Ford.

Annual Awards: Newsletter of the Year: *USS Aurora Vulcanus' Aurora's Glory* (Volume 15, Issue 3); Junior Member of the Year: Remington Shugart, *USS Regulator*; Enlisted Member of the Year:

Clint Hill, *USS Ark Angel*; Chapter of the Year: *USS Trinity River*; Officer of the Year: Mark West, *USS Regulator*; Member of the Year: Sam Black, *USS Lone Star*

Our next major event this year is the return of the Pool and Darts event in Killeen at the Harker Heights Moose Lodge on Saturday July the 21st. The Moose Lodge is located at 125 West Veterans Memorial Blvd in Harker Heights, TX. Next is the Biennial Region Three trip to the Space Center in Houston, TX. that is set to take place in September. And we wrap up the year with the very successful annual Region Three Game Day to be held in Round Rock, TX. during November. Events being held during the weekend will include open gaming, the third Brigade Fall Muster and much more.

Until more information is announced on other Region Three events you can keep a watchful eye on the Region Three web site <http://www.region3.org> for more updates.

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
vrccs@region3.org



Howdy, Howdy,

As I write this, I am not sure what to say about Summit and the after weekend postings. Many spoke with their

emotion and pain. I hope one day the hard feelings will be less returning to our more family connections. In the past we experience disagreements, say our peace and then go back to having fun. It would be a shame, if we let things change that.

I want everyone to remember what is important: the fun and the activities we do as a region. Those are still happening. The financial is being handled and we will be better for it. We have other things on our plate; the new Trek movie is coming out, hey a hook to get new members. We have new groups adding to our family. We will deal with what comes our way as we always have.

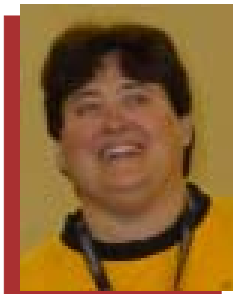
I want to thank Robyn and the *Trinity River* crew plus everyone who had anything to do with summit. Yes, I did have a great time. The panels were fun, loved the dinner and I even got a table decoration. I chatted with folks I haven't seen in years. That is what the weekend was truly about.

Of course our groups are gearing up for the summer. The *Firebird* is taking a ton of Academy courses. The KED-TV auction had support of the *Joan of Arc* membership. The Renaissance and what will be the Corsair group at teaming up for August's Babel Con. The *Ark Angel* is preparing for their first fan film and will be doing a casting call. I can picture it now - a star is born.

continued next page

NORTHERN LIGHTS

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



Well Summit was here and now it's gone. The USS Trinity River hopes that everyone had a good time while they were here. We'd like to think everyone for making the trek to Dallas for the 2007 Summit. I would like to again express my thanks to the Crew of the USS Trinity River for the hard work they did in preparation for summit and all the behind the scenes activities at summit. Thank you to the Crew of the IKV *Melota* for helping and making it a true Federation event. Thank you to everyone who helped out with summit from around the region from our panel moderators to Sound crew to the 3rd BDE and those at the registration table and everyone in between. Also thank you to those of you that stepped in at the last minute when a few challenges arose; Mary Webb, Sam Black, TJ Gordon and Kris Winegar.

As we relax from Summit hear in the North, there are still ballgames to be had for the Rangers and the Fort Worth Cats. We're still celebrating *Star Wars* 30th Anniversary with an exhibit at the Fort Worth Science Museum. Dallas Comic Con 9 will shortly be upon us (June 30 and July 1) and one very special media guest is none other than Robert Beltran, Chakotay from *ST: Voyager*

Several of us will even be making treks around the region for Science Fiction Literary conventions such as ApolloCon (www.apollocon.org), Conestogoa (<http://www.sftulsa.org/conestoga/>) and Armadillocon (www.armadillocon.org) where we'll meet old friends, new friends, and talk with authors from around the US

continued

GO WEST YOUNG MAN!

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



This was a mostly fun and very interesting summit. There were definitely memorable moments, and some of those moments are the kind that keeps on giving. I was totally shocked to be chosen as the Member of the Year. It is an honor of which I never thought I would ever be the recipient. I'm just a humble servant of the members, on all levels. I have never been here to further any agenda other than that of putting the members above all else. I guess that's the advice I would give for all you out there with ambitions of any kind.

There are a few things coming up for the members to keep on their radar screens. Coming up in July is the return of Pool and Darts back to standing on its own, and its return to Killeen, as well. We also have the trip to Space Center Houston coming up later this year all the way down south in H-town. The IC in Denver is just around the corner in August. It's rarely too late to jump on the bandwagon and head to the Mile High city to enjoy the weekend with Tim Russ and all the rest of the merry band of 'Fleeters. Additionally, I'm proud to say that our chapter will be welcoming home, albeit temporarily, one of our newer members on leave from service in Afghanistan in July.

One of the most important things that we as members have as a duty is to remember to stand up and vote in the upcoming CS elections. There are many issues facing STARFLEET and who we, as the membership, choose to lead us into the next decade is very important. In the last few CS elections, only about one-third of the membership took the time to let their

continued

VRCS -- continued from page 3

Next regional event is July's Pool and Darts. The steaks are back along with the fun we always have at this event. We also have Space Center Houston and Game Day coming up, so try to join in on the fun when you can.

And may the good news be yours.

Admiral Michelle Fanelli
Vice - Regional Coordinator, South

VRCW -- continued

such as Elizabeth Moon and Laurell K Hamilton. If you'd like to join us drop me an Email and we'll work out a plan!

Keep those feet on the ground and keep reaching for those Stars.

Robyn

VRCN -- continued

voice be heard. I would hope that each and every one of you out there would take the time to become educated voters. Study the platforms and issues. Quiz the candidates. Send in that ballot when it comes to your mailbox.

I'd also like to take a brief opportunity to bid an early welcome to a soon-to-be newly formed chapter out here in the west. Last I heard the paperwork is on its way around the cycle for the USS *El Destino* up in the Panhandle to enter the Shakedown program. Great news for growth here in the west!

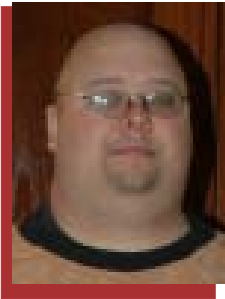
One last thing before signing off, if anyone would like a copy of the slideshow I put together for this year's summit, feel free to contact me. It's fully rendered and there are no known technical glitches yet to be found.

Until next time,

Black, out.
VADM Sam Black, VRC West

Fifely Yours...

Deputy Chief-of-Staff Report
by: COMM Jeffrey Webb
dcos@region3.org



Greetings:

I'm the Deputy Chief of Staff. At Summit last year, we included a moment during the awards ceremonies that explained to the Region what each person's job on the REC was. This year, we deleted that part because it was mostly being talked over in the excitement of watching all our regional friends receive their recognition. I'm going to take a moment to explain precisely what my job is according to the manual, and then let you know what I feel is unwritten but just as important about the job I do.

The Region Three Handbook says:

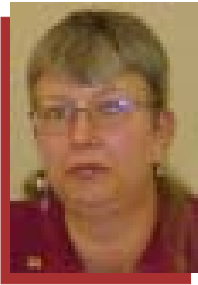
- 1.) The Deputy Chief of Staff (DCoS) will serve as an assistant to the Chief of Staff (CoS) and
- 2.) Will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the Regional Support Staff. The DCoS
- 3.) Will receive monthly reports, as needed from the RAC, RCC, RJA, RQM, RSFO, and RSPO then compile these reports and provide the CoS with a synopsis, as needed.
- 4.) The DCoS is also responsible for assisting the Chief of Staff in the direction of committees, task forces, boards and departments assigned by the Regional Coordinator.

Okay, so I assist Vice Admiral Ford, and I hear from the Support Staff. I hear from our Awards Coordinator usually 'round Summit time, preparing for our yearly awards. Youth Services I hear from occasionally. JAG? Not unless there's a problem going on. Quartermaster? Well, CDR Bates has that pretty well squared away most of the time. BDR Schnoor stays in contact with Brigade matters, and

continued next page

Ops Central

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



Hello Region Three!

Once again we have had a very ... interesting ... Summit. I don't know who on the Trinity River came up with those bags from the National Space Society, but those were a GREAT summit perk. Most everyone was thrilled with them.

I was thrilled that I actually got to go to a couple of the panels. I usually don't have the time, but this year everything just fell into place. It was nice to just sit and enjoy the panels for once. I also had a great time just watching the Klingons and their jail. They were quite a group; we might need to invite them back for next year.

The Charity Auction did very well this year. I would like to thank everyone that contributed items for the auction. We had some incredibly nice things this year and did very well for the North Texas Foodbank.

Our next away mission here in the Region will be Pool & Darts in Killeen on July 21st. It should be fun for all and a steak dinner to boot.

Hope to see you all there.

RADM Stephanie Izard,
Regional Operations Officer

REED'S SHOP ON THE PROMENADE

Regional Quartermaster Report
by: CMDR Reed L. Bates



Hello fellow Region 3-ers. Summit up in DFW was pretty uneventful with the quartermaster's office, at least as far as sales went. I did sell over \$150 in merchandise and had one new offering that sold pretty well (please read on for more info about that). Nevertheless, with everyone in unplanned meetings all day, I really did not see as much action as I was hoping to see. I hope things will pick up at Pool & Darts, NASA, Game Day, and on and on.

Polo Shirts

On the polo shirt front, I am down to only having three black polos left (1 small, 2 medium). That's it. I will be ordering more very soon. I would like to know if you wish to own a Region Three black polo with a pocket and what size. If you tell me soon, I can order your exact size and I can bring them to Pool & Darts or the NASA Trip, etc. In addition, all Staffers who need a maroon-colored staff shirt please email with your size and the quantity required. I will also endeavor to order the staff shirts and bring them to the various regional events upcoming or I can place them in the mail if there is an urgent need or you are not going to be at any of the regional events.

The New Web Site

In my Fleet Channels article a while back, I stated that I would have a web site up and running by Summit. Well, I had it working but it is not up to speed totally yet. By the time this edition goes to print (pdf) and distributed, you should be able to see the new R3 Quartermaster web site at home.grandecom.net/~razcer (no www in front). I will work with CompOps

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DCoS -- continued from page 5

I have dinner with Special Projects Officer RADM Heather Ford at least twice per month. We, the support staff, are in some ways the Maytag Repairmen of the Region. Many of the jobs on the Support Staff are only active a few times a year, around major events.

The most important part of my job, in my opinion, stems from being a member of the Regional Executive Committee. As part of the REC, I feel it is my duty to act as an advocate for the Region as a whole. There's a lot of stuff going on right now, some controversy, some scandal, and I think it's my duty to look to the morale and welfare of the Region as a whole as much as I possibly can.

Right now, what we need in Region Three is not another polarizing scandal. We've been at the eye of the IC2005 hurricane, and when IC2006 came into focus it brought us back in with the ghosts of 2005 being dragged into the discussions. When ADM Pat Spillers was replaced as CFO, eyes were once again on Region Three. The latest Communiqué even has articles about both the IC debacle and the CFO replacement. Now, we have the issue with the Comptroller's Office to deal with -- and this one will be far -- reaching as it's not just the Region that's affected, it's STARFLEET. Who is to blame for these heinous crimes against our organization?

My answer? It's not important at this time. "Punishment" if necessary will come from the peers of these individuals once things come to light. Right now, we need to fix the PROBLEMS, not the BLAME. Am I angry that someone felt so strongly about something that they called the mundane authorities to deal with problems internal to Region Three, and that the fallout threatens the very financial stability of STARFLEET? You bet your sweet bippie. But right now, at this time, we don't need a Witch Hunt, folks. What we need is to get back to the business of having fun. That's what STARFLEET is all about, right?

As a member of the EC, I'm going to

make a request of each and every person reading this, up the chain and down. I want you to do your best, your absolute top effort to clear your calendar for 21 July 2007. Come to Killeen and join us at Pool and Darts. When you get there, leave your politics at the door and have some fun. Let's compete with darts and cue sticks, a little friendly rivalry that at the end of the day will be forgotten over steaks and drinks. Let's get back to the business of enjoying our hobby. We're a Region, a team, a family.

I have four Godchildren. Their parents are shipmates. If not for STARFLEET, I would never have met FCAPT Cami Houser, MGN Aaron Murphy or his wife Kris, and I would not have the opportunity to play with and love these four beautiful kids. I'll bet if I were to ask around the Region, there would be quite a few folks who have met friends, spouses, and all sorts of important people through STARFLEET. Thanks to connections I made in the Fleet, I've met actors and crewmembers, gotten autographs, even posted the Colors and traded salutes with Admiral Forrest.

My job description doesn't say anything about morale, event promotion, or retention. I'm concerned about these things because I strongly feel that Job Number One for any member of the Regional Executive Committee no matter what their position or rank should be the continued well-being of Region Three. This means morale. I received a phone call from a CO telling me that a long-standing member, XO, and fellow Marine has decided not to renew his membership because everything he hears from Region and FLEET is scandal after scandal with no end in sight. That shows me that morale is low in some parts of Region Three, and it's up to your leadership to fix it. We need to retain all our members, as each and every one of you are a vital and important part of what we do. The Region is built of Chapters, and Chapters are built of members- every single member, from Crewman on up, is vital and important to Region Three. Retention of those members is part of the mandate of the Regional Executive Committee. Fun - that's

why we're here, right? This is a hobby! We're supposed to be enjoying it. Event Promotion is part of that. *I*, personally, as a member of your REC and as your friend, want to see each and every one of you at Pool and Darts. There will be board games and card games in addition to the P&D, and you can be certain a good time will be had if you let it. So let it! Let's get back to the basics of having fun as a Region.

Mary and I are trying to adopt a child. I want there to be a strong, vital Region Three around when that child is old enough to enjoy it. I want there to be chapters and events for that child to take part in, if he or she chooses, and God willing to help organize and run. The friends, the fun and the family are the legacy we're trying to create and protect. Every family has arguments and issues, and I'm making it my priority to try and help pull this one through our rough patch in my own small way.

My virtual office door is always open. Please feel free to e-mail me at any time with questions, concerns, and anything else you'd like to send my way. I want to see this Region continue to prosper, and that means growth, recruiting, retention and most of all having fun together. You know what they say, we'll hang together or we'll hang separately. It's a slippery slope STARFLEET is facing with all this turmoil and finger-pointing. With this being an election year, it's probably going to get worse before it gets better. Let's have some fun- some real fun at Killeen, NASA, Game Day, or anywhere else -- to remind us all of why we joined STARFLEET in the first place.

In Service,



Jeffrey A. Webb
Commodore, SFI
Deputy Chief of Staff, Region Three
Commanding Officer, USS Ark Angel

QM -- continued from page 5

to see if we can upload this to the region's site and I can access to make changes as needed or see if there can be a "redirect" where you can go to it like, qm.region3.org or something.

Please note, all prices for Region Three merchandise include applicable sales tax. I know there was some stink at Summit about this subject, but the Region has a Sales Tax Permit and has paid state taxes on the merchandise that has been sold. The Region will endeavor to make sure that we comply with the laws and rules of this state and the United States.

I also talked with a few people at Summit who might have special R3 items for sale occasionally through the web site. The details have yet to be worked out, but if we do, we'll have some one of kind items for you to own. With the web site going, I plan to have monthly sales, polls for new items, and have an ordering system with either PayPal or maybe just a simple form to fill out and mail (email) to me.

Get Your Calendars Before They Sell Out!

The latest and greatest, newest item is the new Region Three Calendar. It is made to the size of the Region Three Calendar Covers and is in black and white. Included in the new calendar are event happening for the Region as well as some Star Trek birthdays, along with some pictures of some of our Region Three friends from Retreat -07 and Game Day '06. The prices for the calendars and calendar covers are:

- 1.) \$3 for R3 Calendar "Refill" (just the calendar to be inserted into the R3 Calendar Cover);
- 2.) \$4 for the R3 Calendar Cover; and
- 3.) \$6 for both the R3 Calendar "Refill" and the R3 Calendar Cover.

The dates for this edition run from June 2007 through January 2008. Since the Region's events are set at Retreat in January, I will wait until then to do a new calendar, which should run at least February 2008 through January 2009. You

should be able to visit my web site to view a sneak peak at the calendar. If you have any questions or if you would like to order a calendar, please email me at qm@region3.org. If ordering a calendar, please include your address if you wish it to be mailed to you and I will email you back with the cost of the postage.

Contact Me

Please send me a line to let me know what you think and stay tuned to your local bat channel.

I am at your service,

Reed L. Bates, CMDR
R3 Quartermaster
qm@region3.org



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 second AG of the year and for once before the summit packing. We have added more columns tying into character's departments and a new con section. Steve Burchett will be our new layout editor and plans are being discussed to change the format. Steve has also started a project to save some of our older issues. The chapter is excited about the idea.

Due to computer problems, command is favoring using tin cans to communicate. As an older ship, we do have our tech problems. Smoke signals were ruled out.

The 321 our Marine Unit published their newsletter *The Grips of Death* with a fun usage of color

An away team was sent to the Minneapolis Creation Con and gave the weekend rave reviews. Lucky.

Members attended the Houston Prix, two days of fun midway activities and racing.

The command team of Michelle and The Catt, plus BJ made the Dallas Trek for the Region Three Summit. They report having a great time and did make a stop at the Half-Price books mothership. They also touched base with Joyce Fink while in the area. And Catt almost left Shell behind, proving that rule -- The Catt waits for no one. They thank all who made the weekend fun.

Until Next Time,
MCPT Jared K. Fielder



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

Greetings to all from the crew of the USS *Joan of Arc*:

The newly installed program of "Trekking around the Coastal Bend" seems to be a success. April's event was a part recruiting part fun event out in Padre Isles.

First the crew, plus one, gathered for a birthday/poker night party at the Van Cleave's house. Here we celebrated April birthdays with her own personal sized "tribble cake". This is an individual cake covered with many long strings of frosting giving it a fuzzy look. This also helped raise operating funds for the chapter. Poker night is where the crew members play poker plus snacks for about an hour,

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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* has been very busy during April, May, and the first part of June.

April began quite busily with the chapter hosting an Easter party for the children staying at Women's Protective Services (the South Plains battered women's shelter). We had games and Easter baskets. Prizes were given to the top performers. The blizzard that rolled in did hinder the planned egg hunt, but didn't deter the Easter Bunny from making an appearance, much to everyone's enjoyment. This was followed with members delivering filled Easter baskets to the residents for one of the organizations who run group homes in our area. We followed this with our crew meeting, hosted once again on Skype. We were glad to have attendees from across the state tuning in to our meeting. When the meeting wound down, we tossed in a DVD and enjoyed Harry Potter 3 on the view screen.

The next week, the CO & JAG hosted a chili cook-off. Two entries made it to the table and it was too close to call which was better. We had scratch cornbread provided as part of the last few visits by a pair of our members preparing for a move to the northern edge of the country. October Sky was chosen as the movie for the evening and the Game Cube in the other room got a good workout as well. Our area Klingon visitors joined us again

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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"*

Our chapter is a unique group of individuals, with many interests. We all love different aspects of *Trek*, but also have very full lives with work, hobbies, and family activities. Besides *Trek*, some things we all have in common are we never take ourselves too seriously and we all love to read.

As part of our community service, our chapter wanted to reward a local high school senior who has plans on attending some form of higher education, whether it's a junior college, a college, a technical school, or a graduate school and reach out to those in the community that aren't members of Starfleet. It's a chance to assist a worthy kiddo, and it's another way to get the word out about *Star Trek*. We have fundraising activities throughout the year and our expenditures are very small since we all pitch in when it comes time to eat out or do community service activities (We don't dip into station funds very much at all, but instead, pay for things out of our own pockets. We pay our own way to Regional activities, have potlucks, share movies, go Dutch at dinners, etc.). My son has gotten Fleet scholarships for Texas Tech and I thought we'd pass along the "good thing" to individuals that aren't in SFI (and also not compete with SFI scholarships).

We do the award as an essay contest. This year's prompt was: "Please explain how principles of *Star Trek* can relate to modern life and a positive future." That

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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"*

This has been an interesting month. While getting ready for Summit (our Cadets are participating for the first time) nothing else seems to have gotten done. And with all this rain, it's a wonder we haven't started building an ark. I don't know about the rest of you but it seems to dry up long enough to mow the lawn and then here we go again. But we did need the rain badly!!

We are still planning for Quark's Casino the first part of October so be sure and mark those calendars. Our members are canvassing the area and getting some interesting items for the auction. We've been offered a different location for this year's event but haven't completely decided on it yet. But there will still be plenty of room and lots of food. I'll let you know by the next issue what the menu will be from our resident chef.

Try and stay dry and we'll see you around the galaxy.

Liz Goulet, FCPT
Communications Officer
USS Regulator



**Alan Goulet
accepts
Mark West's
Officer of the
Year Award
during
opening
ceremonies at
Summit 2007**



USS Trinity River, NCC-6425

Sector 1 -- Dallas, TX.

CO -- COMM Robyn Winans
trinityriver@region3.org

XO -- FCPT Elizabeth Weber
Commissioning Date:

February 12, 2004

Motto: "One and Indivisible"

It's been a busy summer for the crew of the USS *Trinity River*. Months of work and planning paid off with a fun and successful Region Three Summit in Dallas in June.

On behalf of Summit Chair and USS *Trinity River* CO Robyn Winans, we'd like to thank all of the *TR* crew and the many members from other ships, far too many to name here, who made Summit possible. Special thanks to the *Rhyanna* crew for their usual excellent job handling registration.

In addition, we'd like to thank all of the people outside of Region Three who also helped make this event a success. We can't forget the Klingon crew of the IKV *Melota*, Tim Miller of the Dallas Future Society, Pastor Rawd from Hillcrest Church, and of course the staff of the Radisson. Plus we give special thanks to the National Space Society for donating those cool totebags.

It hasn't all been work this summer. We've managed to work in game days, movie nights, and a few other fun and fellowship activities as well. Just after Summit we celebrated the fourth anniversary of our launch with our annual Crew Picnic. Weather forced us inside but we still grilled, feasted, and celebrated as a crew.

Thanks also for giving the crew something extra to celebrate as we shared the news that we're the Region Three Chapter of the Year with our members who were unable to attend Summit. That's quite an honor to live up to but we'll try

continued on page 11

JofA -- continued from page 7

then using their accrued chips bid on things other members have donated to the 'house'. This is where most of the fun is since there are usually several 'hot' items. Many things changed hands and all went home happy with new treasures. Steve Gordon, the Captain of the USS *Victory*, joined us as special guest. Steve made out like a bandit with all the 'new' stuff he won to take home to S.A.!

As I previously said the April Trekking event was closer to home. We went out to play mini golf in Padre Isles, a small community located on the island itself just past Flour Bluff. Eight of the crew made it to this event wearing our uniforms. At first some people just looked at us but finally a few brave souls asked "Is there a *Star Trek* Convention in town?" This led to an explanation of why we were there, where and how often we meet. By the time the evening was over, we had given our cards to four different groups of interested people. The group had a fun evening with three of the golfers making a hole-in-one.

May is usually a busy month since this is when we have one of the largest community service events of the year. Our local public television hosts a tele-auction and this will be the 13th year the club has manned the phone bank, displayed bid items, provided runner duties, and assisted with multiple Fire Sales. This year we were asked to please come to fill the late night shifts on both Friday & Saturday nights. These shifts were from 8:30 p. until close shortly after midnight. Revenue from this auction helps the station cover expenses as well as purchase new shows. My favorite part is when new volunteers arrive to see the club dressed in persona and then take a step back when Robert walks out of the studio in FULL KLINGON!!! After the last item is sold there is a door prize drawing but only those who stayed all night are eligible for. This time on Sat. night there were TWO club members who won prizes: Klingon Robert & myself.

May's Trekking event was held here in Corpus Christi as we had 4 birthdays to



**Members of the "Lady J"
at a recent charity event**

celebrate. A beach bonfire was planned but the weather nixed that idea as we didn't want to fight washed up sea weed all over the camp site. We did have a smallish bonfire in Robin's backyard. There we roasted turkey, chicken, home-made venison sausage for the main course. This was followed by many side dishes finished off with birthday cake & roasted marshmallows for dessert. Presents were presented and all went home full and happy.

Three valiant crew members journeyed up to Region three Summit this year, to be joined by a fourth member Saturday afternoon & evening. The weekend promised to be full of fun, meeting old friends, making new ones & learning new skills. There were many interesting panels offered this year. Among the three of us (Kris Dobie, Tahnaya Abbott and Margaret Branstetter), we managed to attend a good many of the panels.

Friday evening has always been devoted to arrival, registration, & CHOCOLATE, massive amounts. This year was no different — In the hosting club's rooms several yummy treats were laid out. I also had an entry in this traditional feast. I created 'Counselor Troi's 5 star chocolate chip cookies'. It was a variation on the usual Chocolate oatmeal cookie with a small twist: I used 5 types of chocolate to make them. We ate chocolate, visited

continued on next page

JofA -- continued from previous page

with friends and ate more chocolate all evening. YUMMY!!!

Saturday began with Opening Ceremonies, Roll call of the Region 3 ships & other ceremonial type things. Finally it was time for the awards. The winner of the Chocolate contest was announced before the R3 promotions and awards began I was TRULY surprised to hear my name called there. Finally all the awards were given out & it was lunch time. Every one left to find food since breakfast had been early in the morning. Panels of one type or another filled the afternoon, and as I stated earlier, between the three of us we covered a good many.

One member provided rescue service for our resident Klingon from his 'mundane family' to his Fleet family. She drove across Dallas to 6 Flags get him. He showed up in FULL persona speaking in KLINGON when questioned!! Robert Shaver is always a hit wherever he goes. Dinner was interesting because of the looks we got when we went to the Chinese Buffet just down the street. We dined with the USS *Victory* as it was the only time we could get together due to different schedules at the event.

The auction was next followed by the Casino night but we passed up the Casino night since it had been a long day for all..

More Business meetings (CCO), then Closing Ceremonies finished Sunday. The most enjoyable part of Sunday was the slide show. People cheered when they recognized themselves or a crew member. After hugs & kisses were given around we hit the road. Almost 9 hours later we pulled into Margaret's drive way. Both of us hauled ourselves plus suitcases, upstairs found beds then crashed until late Monday morning. This is an abridged version of our trip. Stay tuned for the update on the Texas Treasure Boat trip...

FCapt Kris Dobie, RVA
USS *Joan of Arc*

Lone Star -- continued from page 8

for a fun-filled evening.

The 21st brought highs and lows. At Fox & Hound, we gathered and enjoyed each other's company and practiced our pool and darts skills. Additionally, we also had a new member join us for the first time with lots of enthusiasm. On the flip side, while on the way home, we received word that Tulia had been hit by a devastating tornado. We have a contingent of our crew there with their families. We were very relieved to hear from all of them that they, very luckily, were spared. Many of their friends and acquaintances weren't quite so lucky with their homes, businesses, and possessions. Tulia continues to go through the cleanup and rebuilding process and we continue to stand ready to lend a hand, even from afar.

To bring the month to a close, we held a send-off party for our pair moving up north. Lots of home-cooked favorites were available for all to enjoy. The JAG, who was supposed to spend a little time at the beginning before heading off to chaperone his school's prom, arrived late and just stayed after returning from sponsoring a trip with his students to the state computer programming contest who brought home a 10th place victory out of 70 teams in attendance. The group broke up after around 1am and a good time was definitely had by all.

The month of May began with the regular crew meeting. Afterward, we fired up the grill and tossed on a variety of goodies provided by various crew members. Games topped off a fun-filled evening.

The next weekend featured sausage pot luck. Never knew there were so many different kinds of sausage and dishes made with sausage. We even had some great side dishes to round out the spread. The evening included watching "Déjà Vu" and playing games.

The next week found the *Lone Star* crew preparing and serving dinner at the local Ronald McDonald House. The menu included baked ham, green bean casserole, coleslaw and potato salad. After

cleaning up the kitchen, the crew caravanned across town to the local Fox and Hound for pool and darts and lots of fun and fellowship.

The last Saturday of the month the crew gathered at the JAG's home for Mexican food pot luck. One of our crew makes enchiladas to die for. The evening featured games and watching a couple of videos.

The following night the crew gathered at our drive-in movie theater to watch the latest Pirates movie. Besides being less expensive than a walk-in movie theater, you can converse with friends and not disturb other movie goers.

The first Saturday in June was time for the regular crew meeting. Once again it took place at the CO's home. Pot Luck theme for the evening was casseroles. We had every thing from chicken Fettuccine Alfredo to green Chile casserole. The highlight of the evening was everyone playing the *Star Trek* interactive video game and the DVD *Star Wars* Trivial Pursuit game. It was like a live *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. A great evening was had by all who attended. It was great having the area Klingons join us for the evening.

The next weekend found part of the crew traveling to Dallas for the 2007 Region Three Summit. It was great to get to see our crew members that live in Irving. We always enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones. Highlight of the weekend was having our JAG officer Sam Black named Region Three Member of the Year. Way to go Sam!!! Three of the USS *Gunslinger* members joined our trek from Lubbock to Dallas. It was great having them as traveling companions. All arrived home safe and sound.

For those of you that haven't heard, the USS *Lone Star* not only has a face to face meeting, but it is also setup using Skype so our out of town members and friends can also attend. If anyone would like to attend any *Lone Star* meeting via Skype (or in person), contact Sam to get set up

information. The door and “subspace communications” to the *Lone Star* are always open.

Commodore Lisa Pruitt, CO
USS *Lone Star*

Maverick -- continued from page 8



Janice Rainwater accepts the SS *Maverick* scholarship from Captain Doug Hogan (XO, S.S. *Maverick*) at Monterey High School in Lubbock.

way it is open-ended and they can be as creative or organized as they want. We then look over the submissions and decide on the best one. This year we reviewed all entries during a cookout and it was easy to pass around and read while we ate and discussed. We followed up with emails and phone calls and decided on a winning entry.

Last year I offered that we'd make the presentation in uniform or incognito, depending on what the winner wanted. One of the high school counselors replied, "That would be a blast!" While that school didn't win, there's always next year! This year's winning entry was submitted by Janice Rainwater, of Monterey High School, here in Lubbock. She plans on attending Colorado State University and major in Electrical Engineering. When presented with the scholarship certificate and check, she was gracious and very thankful. I asked her if what she wrote in her paper was true and she replied, "Yes. My mom helped refresh me about some of the things about the original show and everything is true." You'll notice in her entry that she and her brother were named after some famous people and her holidays are probably similar to many in Fleet. See her award winning entry in

this issue for more information.

If any other chapter would like to sponsor their own scholarship I'll be glad to send you a copy of our packet. It's easy, fun, and, as Quark would say, "It's worth it!"

How old were you when you discovered *Star Trek*? I was 7 and watched it on a brand new color TV in 1967 but I really started getting into it with reruns in the 1970s. I've been a teacher for 15 years now and still find ways to expose Trek to new generations - and try to convince them that *Star Trek* beats *Star Wars* anyway!

We recently had our last school day. It's traditional for teachers to have it as a fun, calm day to pass out any papers, clean out lockers, and show a movie. As part of their cultural heritage, I expose my elementary students to *Star Trek* throughout the year. They hear lots of phrases; from "warp speed," to "shields," to "Is that logical?" They know that it isn't anything weird, it's part of my personality, and it's part of their history as Americans. I don't overdo it, but they know it's an interest of mine.

This year on the last day of class, I treated my students to two episodes from *TOS*. I picked out two I thought they would enjoy ("*Mir*" and "*Arena*"). I set up the shows first, showed the episodes and then we discussed the main points and characters. The kids watched the shows with incredible attention and I realized that they hadn't seen them before. Can you imagine growing up without Captain Kirk, Spock, or Dr. McCoy as heroes or even knowing the wonderful drama and adventure of this piece of television history? One student came up to me and said, "I get what the colors [of the uniforms] stand for: the yellow is for captains, the blue is for scientists, and the red is for the police." Not bad for a 9 year old's view of a television series that was filmed 30 years before he was born and 4 subsequent series ago.

As we grow older, keep in mind the characters and episodes of the various se-

ries that you enjoyed. If you can, share them with others of younger generations. We may have to be the ambassadors of Trek for awhile, until the next series comes out. If we share what originally excited us about the show, we might be able to "pass the tricorder" on to another generation - the Next Generation.

Doug Hogan, XO
S.S. *Maverick*

Trinity -- continued from page 9

our best to continue to serve with distinction.

Next up for the ship is Dallas Comic Con 9 in Richardson, Texas, where we'll have a recruiting table and serve as volunteers to help the event run more smoothly. This show, to be held June 30-July 1, will feature Robert Beltran from *Star Trek: Voyager* as well as Kristy Swanson, *Futurama* star Billy West, and Mary Oyaya from the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy. You can get all the details on the DCC at www.dallascomiccon.com.

Yours in service to the Fleet,

LCDR Ed Dravecky,
Communications Officer
USS *Trinity River*

Fleet Channels Deadlines

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

July/Aug. -- Aug. 11, 2007
Sept./Oct. Issue -- Oct. 13, 2007
Nov./Dec. Issue -- Dec. 8, 2007

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

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

PIX FROM SUMMIT 2007



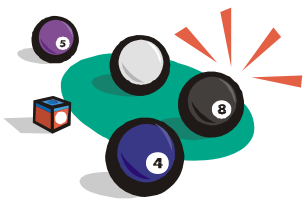
PIX FROM SUMMIT 2007



FLEET ACCEPTS

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

(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

Elimination events



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 (just a few blocks from the Lodge):

Heights Inn: 410 West Veterans Memorial Blvd., Harker Heights, TX 76548, Phone: (254) 690-8700

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

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



SUMMIT 2007: THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE

by: Mark A. Vinson

Region Three held its Eleventh Annual Summit, "The Captain's Table," June 8th -10th at the Radisson Hotel and Suites in Dallas, Texas.

The USS *Trinity River* was the host chapter for the weekend's activities. In addition to the Usual Regional Suspects that were in attendance, members of SATARFLEET's Executive Committee and Candidates from two different slates for the upcoming Commander, STARFLEET election were present.

The following is a list of the award winners and promotions handed out at the Summit to members of Region Three and the Third Brigade.

Congratulations to all winners.

CHOCOLATE CONTEST WINNERS

The evening's Grand Prize went to Kris Dobie from the USS *Joan of Arc* for her "Counselor Troi 5 Star Chocolate Cookies"!

The Judge's Prize went to Dan Stokelman of the USS *Trinity River* for his "Devil's Food Cake Falls".

The People's Choice Award went to Elizabeth Weber for her "Devil's Advocate".

ANNUAL GOLD PRESSED LATINUM TOURNAMENT

Joshua Holman of the SS *Freedom III*

R3 COMMENDATION

USS *Ark Angel*, USS *Aurora Vulcanus*, USS *Bexar*, USS *Firebird*, SS *Freedom III*, USS *Gunslinger*, USS *Joan of Arc*, SS *Maverick*, USS *Panther City*, USS *Rhyanna*, USS *Spirit Wolf*, USS *Tejas*, USS *Victory*

Alvina Bryant, Austin Clarke, Del Davis, Joshua Earl, Justin Earl, Daniel Evans, Robin Grace, Michelle Goulet, Ashley Heedly, Cameron Houser, Raeleigh Kessen, Jack Norman, Pat Power, Jeff Schnoor, Robert Suttles, Beau Thacker, Neil Traplon, John Tuttle, Mary Tuttle, Tony Walker, Jacque Williams, Mary Faye Webb, Cody Wyatt, Norma Ybarra

PURPLE HEART

Joshua Earl, Justin Earl, TJ Gordon, Dixie Hill, Clint Hill

IRON STAR

Chris Bailey, Angelita De Luna, Byron Flynt, Joy Flynt, Blackhawk Fornelli, Robert L Houser, Jr., Jeff Molzow, Kira Norman, Chanda Norman, Kenneth Norris, Remmington Schugart, Chris Short, Dan Stockelman, Lee Vitasek, Alexis Williams, Norma Ybarra

SILVER PILLAR

Jan Agee, David Bailey, Matt Brinkley, Raymond Ford, Alan Goulet, John Halliday, Jessica Hench, Matt Hill, Cathleen Fanelli, Karen Kessen, Norbert Kessen, Kristi Long, Dan Long, John Montgomery, Cindy Norris, Dan Stockelman, Don Shanks, Christina Short, Sarah Takahashi, Beau Thacker, Dorothy Tuttle, Don Williams, Kris Winegar, Joe Wisdom

GOLD PILLAR

Alice Carey, Darrell Carey, Brent Chapman, Ed Dravecky, Steve Gordon, Dixie Hill, John Johnston, Chanda Norman, Lisa Pruitt, Kyle Shugart, Nathan Taylor, Mariena Taylor, Joe White

LEGION OF MERIT

Heather Ford, Liz Goulet, Kyle Shugart, Elizabeth Weber, Mark West

CRYSTAL STAR

Lloyd Bates, Reed Bates, Billie Clifton, TJ Gordon, Sharon Lambert, Scott McKinlay, Beau Thacker, Kristie Halford-

White

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Clint Hill, Kira Norman, Jeff Schnoor

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Angelita DeLuna, Michelle Goulet, Angela Hardy, Ashley Heedly, Robert Houser, Charles Pense, Veronica Pense, Sara Pense, Rachelle Phifer, Remmington Schugart, Randi Spears, Cameron Thacker, Cody Thacker, Alexis Williams

VOLUNTEER AWARD

Angelita DeLuna, David Fanelli, Nicole Green, Kenneth Norris, Cathey Osborne, Conell Osborne, Jeff Schnoor, Beau Thacker

ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

USS *Aurora Vulcanus' Aurora's Glory*
September 2006 issue (Volume 15,
Issue 3)

JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Remmington Shugart – USS *Regulator*

ENLISTED MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Clint Hill – USS *Ark Angel*

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

USS *Trinity River*

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Mark West – USS *Regulator*

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Sam Black – USS *Lone Star*

SFMC ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

CROSS OF VALOR

1LT Mor'taH veStai-tSepeS (Kenneth Norris)-308th MSG

continued on page 16

SATURDAY AT CAMP MABRY

by: Jess Naumann

War. It's a small word, but one with a big impact. It's a path to victory and a path to defeat. In a battle, no one knows with absolute certainty as to the outcome, not the generals on down to the soldiers who carry out their orders. Regardless of who wins and who loses, one can hope that learning from history continues to be a virtue rather than a burden in order to avoid repeating it. Such is the case at Camp Mabry and its G Company.

This Memorial Day weekend, G Company, which is the Living History Detachment of the Texas Military Forces and the Texas National Guard at Camp Mabry in Austin, held an event called

"Close Assault: 1944" which featured weapons and tactical demonstrations as well as a brief but informative history throughout the years of World War I and World War II.

Visitors who attend are treated to a variety of demonstrations that included American, German, and Japanese weapons, as well as a bit of show-and-tell of their uniforms. In one case, a young volunteer was shown first hand the amount of equipment that a soldier might be typically required to carry into battle. One thing is always stressed throughout the demonstrations: that war is not a good thing, that it's a nasty business. But it may be necessary at times. This is what

G Company excels at, that it's not just to recreate a battle, but to remember what it was like 65 years ago during a war that might have had a different outcome were some circumstances changed.

To this effect, they recreated a battle of the Sigfried Line which is on the German border during WW2. A German machine gun nest was the target of the infantry. An M4 Sherman tank, all 35 tons of it, was used in the demonstration of this battle, and one round was fired. Even though blank rounds were used, the loud explosion from this heavy vehicle is enormous, but the real thing would have been far louder. A "Half-track" vehicle was also used. The entire battle lasted about 7

minutes, but I daresay in reality's history, it might have been longer than that. In the movies, we see some battles that last for a few minutes in a scene, but some battles will last for days in real life with absolutely no idea as to the out-

come.

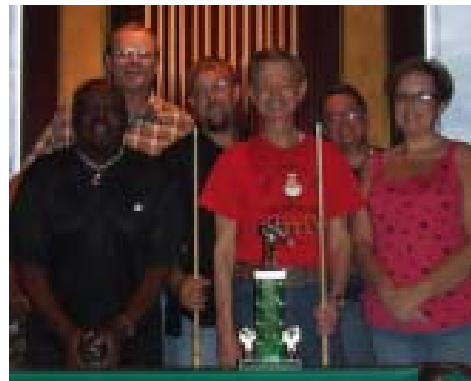
By seeing this demonstration, one can appreciate in a small way what our soldiers of all branches must have gone through during World War II and any other battle as service to our nation. Seeing this recreation on this Memorial Day weekend was one way of honoring those servicemen and women who fought for our country's freedom. As someone once said, "Freedom isn't Free." It never has been, and it never will be.



Members of the Ark Angel at Camp Mabry
photo by Jess Naumann

S.S. Maverick's Pool Team Racks up Wins!

by Doug Hogan



Maverick Pool Team from left to right: Tommy Thomas, Doug Martin, Eric Sharp, Gene Adams, Doug Hogan and Dawne Franks

What our friendly team knew all along is now in the record books – our members are trophy winners! Through weekly practice sessions, strategy, and determination, the Robbin's Nest 8-ball league team tied for first place this season. We then went on to sweep the playoffs with down-to-the-last-shot wins in some key matches. Team Captain, and excellent strategist, Gene Adams led our intrepid members to their trophies and toasted them with Saurian brandy (or was it Andorian cognac?).

Since we won the playoffs, we were then invited to play in the Lubbock - Las Vegas tournament; with the top two teams earning all expense paid trips to compete in the National Tournament in Las Vegas. Visions of *Star Trek: the Experience* danced in my head as I tuned up my pool cue. "Don't count your tribbles before their born," I told myself because the best 28 teams in the city were going to be at Fast Eddy's for the weekend event. The Lubbock tournament was double elimination where strategy and stamina played a large part in who won and who went home. We started the competition at

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A Financial Matter Facing STARFLEET

by: General Mark H. Anbinder
Vice Commander, STARFLEET

Good evening, STARFLEET! I'm writing on behalf of Commander, STARFLEET FADM Les Rickard and Chief Financial Officer COMM Liz Woolf and the rest of the EC, to inform the membership of an issue that has arisen.

Last weekend, at the STARFLEET Region 3 Summit in Dallas, a woman asked to meet with Liz and R3 RC Brad Pense, who were joined by the other members of the EC who were on hand, and identified herself as an Enforcement Officer for the Texas State Comptroller's office. She informed us that they had received an anonymous tip into their Austin headquarters about the event and that STARFLEET and Region 3 might not be in compliance with tax law.

The Sales Tax Issue

A meeting was held with the enforcement officer, the aforementioned EC members, CS Chief of Staff Greg Trotter, Region 3 Regional Coordinator Brad Pense, and at times, Pat Spillers, former CFO, former Quartermaster, and the chair of the 2005 STARFLEET International Conference (which was held in Texas).

She brought to our attention that Texas state law requires collecting and remitting sales tax for merchandise, Summit registrations, banquet fees, and charity auction sales. In addition, she informed us that in Texas, memberships are taxable if processed in Texas for Texas residents who submit memberships by mail. (Internet-purchased memberships, and memberships for those in other states, aren't taxable.)

Also, STARFLEET Quartermaster sales were handled in Texas by Pat Spillers for some time, so all Quartermaster sales to

Texas residents during Pat's tenure are subject to Texas sales tax. STARFLEET's 1998 and 2005 International Conferences, both of which occurred in Texas, also came up.

Though I was traveling on Saturday afternoon en route to California for work, Greg and Liz reached me and briefed me on the situation. We have since informed Les and the rest of the EC, and the Admiralty Board, and have had a few valuable discussions on the subject.

What's Next?

Our first order of business shall be to open a dialogue with the state to clarify our responsibilities and any liabilities. The Texas Comptroller's office is offering amnesty through August 15, 2007 for remedy of past-due taxes. Thus, if we can have any amount due paid by that date, we should be able to pay no penalties or interest on our late filings. We plan to work with a Texas-based CPA or tax attorney to assist us with this task.

In addition, we'll have to determine the sales tax requirements for all states in which we do business. For example, in New Jersey memberships are not taxable, nor are items of clothing. Because Liz is an officer of the corporation and resides in New Jersey, however, we may be considered to be "doing business" within the state, and it is likely that non-clothing Quartermaster purchases are taxable to New Jersey residents, regardless of how they are ordered. These determinations will have to be made in every state in which STARFLEET operates especially those housing operations centers (such as Membership Processing or the Quartermaster) or those in which corporate officers reside.

The events of this weekend also bring into question the tax status of our International Conferences. We will be working with IC'07 organizers to communicate with the State of Colorado, and most likely, STARFLEET will obtain a "special event" sales tax ID in Colorado for the IC.

Task Force

To deal with these many questions we have established a task force of knowledgeable STARFLEET members who are willing to do the leg work and research to help STARFLEET come into compliance with these regulations. The task force will be run by Steve Halber, and will include Brad Pense, Tammy Wilcox, Chrissy Killian, Emmett Plant, and Liz Woolf.

My thanks to these folks for agreeing to share their time and expertise with STARFLEET as we figure this out. While we don't plan to expand the task force, please let Liz or me know privately if you have specific expertise or knowledge pertaining to the relevant sales tax laws in your state.

What Should YOU Do?

We have asked the STARFLEET and SFMC Quartermasters to stop selling merchandise until the sales tax requirements facing them can be clarified. Liz and I would caution all regions and chapters to be very careful in selling merchandise or collecting funds for any reason until we have some more answers. Our suggestion is that you cease all sales and other activities involving taking in funds until the situation can be clarified. (Note that sales via separate organizations such as CafePress can continue; they are selling the merchandise, not you, and they're responsible for collecting sales tax as needed.)

STARFLEET will continue to process memberships. We believe we have a pretty good grasp of how this affects us.

Staying Focused

It's very important that STARFLEET act and speak with one voice in this matter. Please DO NOT contact authorities in your state on STARFLEET's behalf, and please DO NOT contact the Texas Comptroller's office to request more info. Please DO NOT begin your own inquiry

continued next page

WITCH HUNTS

by: General Mark H. Anbinder, VCS

Good afternoon, friends. I'm saddened and stunned to have learned that a member of STARFLEET has called the Comptroller's Office of the State of Texas, and told them that we have formed a task force to find out who initiated the original sales tax complaint that I outlined to you a week and a half ago. These dire insinuations of a witch hunt could not be further from the truth.

As everyone here knows, STARFLEET's Chief Financial Officer has formed a task force of volunteers willing to give of their time to help STARFLEET come to a clear understanding of its obligations to Texas and to other states in which we do business, so that we may be more fully compliant with sales tax laws in the future. This task force has absolutely no mission to determine who initially raised this issue, and there is no other task force with that mission.

We have no interest in finding out who originally reported STARFLEET's unwitting lack of compliance to the State of Texas, and I don't even want to worry about who placed the more recent call with baseless allegations of STARFLEET's non-existent plans for retaliation. This isn't something we have the time or energy to worry about, and that's not how STARFLEET operates, anyway.

STARFLEET is not interested in finding or punishing the person or persons who have contacted the State of Texas to report the true information that we were not meeting our obligations with regard to sales tax in Texas, or the untrue and hurtful disinformation that there is a Fleet-sanctioned witch hunt.

If the person or persons responsible are reading this message, I would urge you to find something better to do with your time than lying to a state agency to raise a false specter of conspiracy.

A Further Note from FADM Les Rickard, Commander, STARFLEET

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me be clear on one thing regarding any perceived or actual "witch hunts" into who, what, why and etc on the report to the Texas State Comptrollers Office.

There will be none sanctioned by Fleet anywhere, at any level at any time.

We are moving forward with fixing a problem we have. Regardless of the method, intentions or otherwise we will not retaliate in any way. We will fix the problem and move forward...a better Fleet.

I hope that is plain and clear enough for everyone.

Financial Matter -- continued from page 15

into these matters.

We expect to be able to provide information that will help individual STARFLEET chapters and other subgroups of the organization to determine what their responsibilities are with regard to sales tax. If we're not able to provide information relevant to you, we'll encourage you to contact your local authorities solely for your own local needs.

While some of the reactions I've heard this week have tended towards shock or dismay at the realization that someone, presumably within STARFLEET, reported this issue to the State of Texas rather than attempting to bring it up within the chain of command. I must urge all of you to remember that, while that might have been a preferable approach, it's still something that simply needs to be addressed. The important thing is to determine the right thing to do to fulfill our legal obligations to Texas and the other states we operate in, protect STARFLEET, and ensure there is a club to go on. Yes, this could sharply affect our finances, but we will survive this and continue.

Summit Recap -- continued from page 13



SWORD OF VALOR

MCAPT Chanda Norman - 325th MSG

SHIELD OF VALOR

BDR Jeff Schnoor - 347th MSG

STAR OF VALOR

LCPL Sarah Takahashi - 342nd MSG

PROMOTIONS

Promotions to Captain/Colonel: Lloyd Bates and Scott McKinlay; to Fleet Captain/Brigadier: Cami Houser and Jeff Schnoor (Brigadier); to Commodore/Brigadier General: Karon McLain and Robert Graham; to Rear Admiral/Major General: Billie Clifton; and to Vice Admiral: Raymond Ford.

Maverick Pool -- continued from page 14

about 10 o'clock Saturday morning and our members won match after match, sending some very qualified teams to the losers' bracket. Our day (or rather night) finally ended at about 1 o'clock the next morning. On the second day, our run ended after about three hours. Maybe it was the weak coffee, maybe it was the excellent competition, but no matter, by the end of the match we realized we had gone farther than ever before. Our group finished the event in 8th place. And do you know what? Eighth out of the dozens and dozens of teams in the city is a pretty good place to start our climb. Look out for next year -- is that Elvis I hear? "Viva, Las Vegas....."

DATELINE: STARFLEET

Comics Boldly Returning To Original Five Year Mission

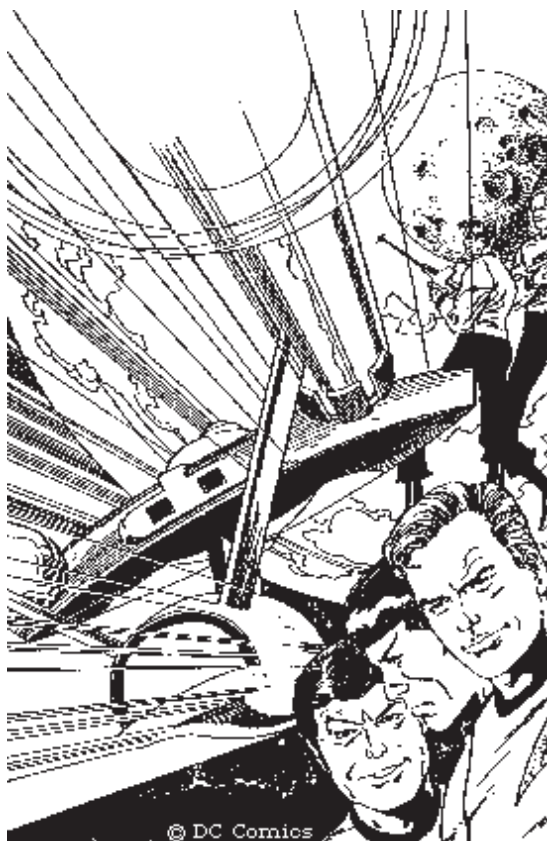
by: Michelle TrekToday.com
June 6, 2007 - 11:27 PM

Comic writer David Tischman is working on completing the original Enterprise's five-year mission, though he said he wonders whether *Star Trek: Year Four*, which will be published in July, might be his own personal Kobayashi Maru.

"The Kobayashi Maru is a test Starfleet cadets take, a no-win situation. It's a test of character," Tischman explained to Comic Book Resources. "I'm working hard - and the writing's been harder than I expected - but I think the stories are better because of the extra work."

Tischman recently completed the miniseries *Star Trek: The Next Generation: The Space Between* for IDW Publishing, which has posted images from the sixth and last comic book in the set. But he remains focused on Kirk, Spock and McCoy. "Kirk is the ultimate adventurer. He's Tom Sawyer and Buck Rogers and Allen Quartermain all wrapped up in one...Spock is the adolescent geek in all of us. Too smart for his own good...[McCoy] lets his emotions guide his conscience. It's a good lesson 'more people should listen to it.'"

Though he considers "A Piece of the Action" and "The Cloud Menders" to be must-see episodes, "Balance of Terror" is Tischman's favourite. "I actually have a huge fondness for the lesser-used characters," he said. "Nurse Chapel and Commanders Kyle and Riley." As far as the



films go, "*Star Trek II* is my favorite...I still believe Montalban should have been nominated for Best Supporting Actor" Unfortunately, he will not have an opportunity to write any Khan stories for the miniseries.

Tischman believes that comics "allow these fan-favorite franchises to live on, to explore the worlds created in TV and movies and to add to the existing universes." He is also writing a comic for Vertigo and for Moonstone he will adapt *Johnny Dollar*, based on a 1950s radio drama.

STAR TREK FLAT SOLD ON EBAY

Wednesday, May 16, 2007



Tony Alleyne, the *Star Trek* fan who turned his flat into a replica of

a *Star Trek* ship has sold it.

Alleyne, 54, spent two years and £30,000 turning his one-bed studio flat in Hinckley, Leicestershire, into a detailed copy of the starship *Voyager's* flight deck.

He put his flat up for sale on internet auction site eBay a month ago with a guide price of £130,000 - £50,000. It sold for five times that amount -- £425,000 -- when five fellow Trekkies began a bidding war.

The winning bid was made by a millionaire Birmingham businessman.

Mr. Alleyne started work on the flat two years ago after his marriage broke down.

The flat has molded wall panels, blue lighting and a "transporter room".

Last February Mr. Alleyne filed for bankruptcy after running up debts of £166,000.

He spent more than £30,000 converting the flat as well as £100,000 on marketing his firm, 24th Century Interior Designs.

But, despite going bankrupt, he refit the flat using income support payments.

2007 *Star Trek* Hallmark Ornaments

by: Doug Hogan & Mark A. Vinson



Hallmark Gold Crown stores has announced its Christmas 2007 *Star Trek* ornaments. This year they are

again featuring three different selections. The first is the Next Generation's Future Enterprise with three nacelles and lights. It's MSRP is \$32.00. The second selection is from *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*. In this one Kirk and Spock are on the bridge looking at the viewscreen that is filled with the Reliant. The ornament also includes Sulu at his console and features sounds and lights. It's MSRP is 28.00. The final is the lovely Uhura at her bridge console in TOS outfit. It's MSRP is \$16.00.

The Uhura ornament will be available for sale on ornament premiere weekend, July the 14th -15th.

Check them out online at www.hallmark.com. Goto Keepsake Ornaments and choose the links to the "Movie and TV" section and choose "Out of this World". Click past all the Star Wars and you will be able to see the pictures.

It is advisable to go your favorite Hallmark Gold Crown store and get on their waiting list. It's worth it!



Terminator Will Be Back, Without Arnold

by Gina Serpe
Thu May 10, 5:44 AM ET

Los Angeles (E! Online) - The Terminator is making good on its coming-back word. The Governator, not so much.

The Halcyon Company has announced plans to revive the cyborg-battling movie series with at least three more films, after the production company purchased all rights to the dormant franchise for an undisclosed, though likely eight-figure, sum.

But while Halcyon founders Victor Kubicek and Derek Anderson are looking to begin preproduction on Terminator 4 as soon as possible, they will do so without a leading man. Or man-machine.

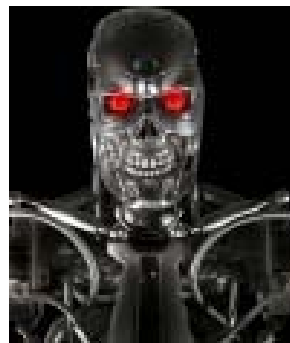
Plot details for the fourth film have been kept under tight wraps, though are said to pick up with John Connor, heir to the rebellion, in his thirties, leading the remainder of the human race in its ever-worsening battle against the machines. As the film will mark the beginning of a new trilogy, rather than a continuation of the previous three installments, it's unlikely that the Terminator himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger, will even take part in the film reinvention, other than perhaps a cameo.

Of course, there are other reasons why the Ah-nuld won't be featured on the big screen. He has a bit of a schedule conflict due to matters of a more gubernatorial nature.

T4 has already been fast-tracked for production, with Halcyon looking to get the installment in theaters by summer 2009. As it is, Schwarzenegger will be leading the state of California through 2011.

While a spokeswoman for the governor asserts that "no law says he couldn't" star

in the reimagined flick if he wanted to, the project was nonetheless "not even on his radar."



Still, the franchise's new minders aren't worried about extending the brand beyond Arnie.

"With T3, we included many incidental details and plot points that, along with the ain narrative, set the stage for an entirely new set of inter-related stories covering the future adventures of John Connor and the Terminators," producer Moritz Borman said. "This new Terminator trilogy will build upon the already huge worldwide Terminator fan base, which was both revitalized and expanded with the global success of T3."

In fact, T3, along with T2 and, well, plain old T, have grossed just over \$1 billion worldwide since Terminator was first released in 1984.

"The Terminator franchise represents by far the most popular and successful franchise not owned by a major studio," Kubicek said. "We see this global franchise as a cornerstone of Halcyon's future business plans."

In addition to the big-screen cyborg saga, the company snapped up all future merchandising and licensing rights to the franchise, future revenue generated by T3: Rise of the Machines and a portion of the rights to an almost guaranteed TV series based on the films.

Warned Bros. has already filmed a pilot for The Sarah Connor Chronicles, an hour-long show based around the Terminator character and mythology surrounding the movies. According to Variety, Fox has already expressed interest in the project, and could opt to pick up the series at next week's up fronts, when the fall prime-time schedules are unveiled.

STAR TREK'S SCOTTY'S ASHES LOST & FOUND

Reuters



After a three-week search, they found the rocket that had carried ashes of "Star Trek" actor James Doohan briefly into space.

The remains of Doohan, whose "Star Trek" character Scotty inspired the television catch phrase "Beam me up, Scotty," were blasted off to the edge of space from New Mexico on April 29, two years after his death at the age of 85.

The payload also included ashes of astronaut Gordon Cooper, who first went into space in 1963, and another 200 people.

But the UP Aerospace Spaceloft XL rocket carrying the capsules with the ashes back to Earth got lost in rugged terrain and the search for it was hampered by bad weather.

"Now we can all say 'mission accomplished,'" Rick Homans, executive director of New Mexico's Spaceport Authority, said on Friday.

Organizers said the rocket and the individual capsules containing the ashes were in good condition and would be mounted on plaques and returned to the families.

Canadian-born Doohan played the starship Enterprise's chief engineer Montgomery Scott in the original 1966-1969 "Star Trek" television series.

GEOCACHING

by: Heather Ford

Hi. My name is Ronin's Gal (aka Heather Ford), and I'm a Geocacher.

OK, I've admitted it, and that's half the battle to overcoming the addiction. Or not! I blame Doug Hogan. He sent to the list a while back a link to a really cool geocoin showing the Enterprise on it. I had already heard of geocaching before, having seen an article on the "Fit for Friday" segment that News 8 Austin does. But looking at all the geocoins on that site made me remember how fun this game really sounded! So I had to check it out. Then I informed Raymond that he was buying me a GPS unit for our anniversary. (I think I got him a computer game. Doesn't seem very equitable, does it?)

First off, this is a game. The game started May 3, 2000, with the hiding of a black bucket containing some videotapes, etc., in the woods near Beaver Creek, Oregon. It is, specifically, a high-tech scavenger hunt using a GPS unit to lead you to the latitude and longitude of the cache you are hoping to find. The game is a world-wide adventure, so you can keep playing on your summer vacation, winter ski trip, family reunion, etc. I even played on my way up to Summit. Raymond patiently waited in the car with Grace (aka Ronin's Ayame, who only plays when the mood strikes her), while I lifted lamp skirts in the parking lot of the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple. The cache was called "Paris' Home Away From Home," and I left a geocoin there that I had picked up in Round Rock 2 weeks before. If I ever get to Japan to meet some of Raymond's family, I'm gonna hunt down the cache near Fukuoka airport.

Are there always prizes? No. Not all

caches are created the same. Many of the "park and grab" caches, such as the one I just mentioned, are nothing but a 35mm film canister or an Altoids tin with paper in it for logging your visit. Others, such as one called "Bedrock" in Round Rock's Old Settler's park, are larger, much more elaborately hidden caches, and capable of holding trade items a small notebook for logging your visit, and a pen. This was the first physical cache Grace and I found. She traded out a stretchy green alien toy that we brought along for a ring left by a previous visitor. Some caches have themes - "Have a Ball, Y'all", also in Old Settler's Park (we haven't found this one yet - it's on a creek bank in a forested area of the park), is for trading out bouncy balls. One in Bryan has a theme of Saturday morning cartoon characters, and was launched with, among

other things, comic books inside. Often, caches like these will often become the temporary homes of the geocoins mentioned above, or travel bugs - also called hitchhikers - items which have trackable dog tags attached to them and which have a mission all their own. A great example of this is one that

a first-grade class in San Francisco placed in a local cache, with a mission to be moved along to the Iditerod race in Alaska. The kids were in the 4th grade by the time their bug found it's way there, but they got lucky and the previous year's winner carried it along with him during the race. He then sent it back to them with a nice letter about how it came to be in his possession. My Brownies will be placing a cache this fall, and launching a travel bug from it. Hmm.... this could be a potential "Council's Own" badge in the making..... uh, never mind.

There are also "virtual" caches - usually involving historical markers. A great way to learn a little local history. Grace and I have checked out 3 so far, and downtown Austin is just loaded with these. Some-

continued on page ??



GeoCaching -- continued from previous page

times the regular caches will teach you something, too. Anybody know from where TAMU recruited it's first professors? Look up the information on the cache "TMI Castle" (located in Austin), and find out.

So, sound interesting? There are a few rules, the first and foremost being GET PERMISSION BEFORE PLACING A CACHE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!! We don't want anyone shot or arrested. Following closely is rule number two, do NOT

place a cache in a location or in a manner in which the cache could be misconstrued as a bomb! (Corollary: Ammo, knives, drugs, etc., are not appropriate trade items - geocaching is a child-friendly sport). You all probably remember the recent problem Cartoon Network had with their Aqua

Team: Hunger Force ad placements up north. There is even a town in New Jersey that has an ordinance against geocaching because of the confusion a poorly-placed cache can cause. That said, the McDonald's in Hutto has a cache in its drive-thru, in plain site of the surveillance cameras, and all with the permission (and to the great amusement) of the management. They are becoming accustomed to grown men, often in groups of two or three, skulking around their drive-thru at 3 AM. Which is because of another rule - try to avoid the muggles. Yes, that's right. You, reading this right now, with the known exceptions of Doug Hogan and Ed Dravecky, are muggles, and we aren't really supposed to do this stuff in front of you, out of fear that you will come up afterwards and mess with the cache (or get paranoid and call the cops on us!). Muggles often do find these accidentally, though, so if you ever do run across one, feel free to sign the log, and then please place it back exactly as you

found it.

Don't have a GPS unit? Check out your local Craig's List. I've seen them for as low as \$40, with software (for loading/tracking waypoints from your computer to the unit). Worried about using up a lot of gasoline? The caches are all around you (like the one near my favorite Freebirds in Austin's Hancock Center). Don't have a lot of spare time? I've been doing this since March, and only have 17 finds so far. Some folks have thousands. But then, some folks pay for pager notifications and go running off at 1 AM to try

and be "First to Find." I'm not that competitive. And you don't have to be, either. I still haven't found that one at the McDonald's (not for lack of trying, but for lack of height, I suspect), and I only live 0.7 miles from it. Last excuse - what if there aren't any in my town? Nonsense. A quick glance at some cities

around R3 reveal[search limit is for all caches within a 50 mile radius] :

Abilene - 401 caches
 Alexandria - 255 caches
 Amarillo - 247 caches
 Austin - 1,827 caches (a bunch of these are in the Killeen/Harker Heights area - including 1 within a mile of the Moose Lodge)
 Baton Rouge - 287 caches (includes some in MS)
 Bossier City/Shreveport- 512 caches (LA & TX)
 Bryan-College Station - 246 caches
 Corpus Christi - 259 caches
 Dallas - 5,394 (one of which is at the AMC theatres that were right near the Summit hotel, btw)
 El Paso - 331 caches (includes many in NM and 2 caches in Juarez)
 Fort Worth - 5,086 (many, but not anywhere near all, overlap with the Dallas caches)
 Houston - 2,417 caches

Lake Charles - 258 caches
 Laredo - 34 caches (all in Texas)
 Lubbock - 205 caches
 Lufkin - 722 caches
 Midland - 175 caches
 New Orleans - 552 (includes some in MS)
 San Angelo - 428 caches
 San Antonio - 1,484 caches
 Texarkana - 279 (includes TX, AR, & LA)
 Waco - 1,421 caches
 Wichita Falls - 185 caches (including OK caches)

These stats came from www.geocaching.com, where you can search any country in the world for caches, read recent news articles about geocaching, and find geocaching events happening in your area. You can also find local geocaching groups via Yahoo! Groups and other websites of that ilk.

So, who's gonna keep me company at Pool & Darts (c. N 31 05' 25" W 097 39' 55")? I have GPS, will travel, and can fit 3 other adults (with or without their own GPS) in my car..... and I promise not to take you to the caches just placed at the Killeen landfill last week.

AT PRESS TIME

Schwab's Celebrate Anniversary & Son's Wedding

by: David Hubbard



I just wanted to spread the word that former RC, VADM Bill Mac Schwab and his bride Ellen, will be celebrating thier thirty-second wedding anniversary in August and a double joyful event the wedding of thier youngest son (and my nephew) Zachery J. Schwab!

Those of you who care to send cards here is thier mailing address:

Bill A. & Ellen Schwab
 3114 Persimmon Ct.
 Rowlett, TX. 75088

NASA MARS ROVER READY FOR DESCENT INTO CRATER

from NASA.gov
June 28, 2007



WASHINGTON - NASA's Mars rover Opportunity is scheduled to begin a descent down a rock-paved slope into the Red Planet's massive Victoria Crater. This latest trek carries real risk for the long-lived robotic explorer, but NASA and the Mars Rover science team expect it to provide valuable science.

Opportunity already has been exploring layered rocks in cliffs around Victoria Crater. The team has planned the descent carefully to enable an eventual exit, but Opportunity could become trapped inside the crater or lose some capabilities. The rover has operated more than 12 times longer than its originally intended 90 days.

The scientific allure is the chance to examine and investigate the compositions and textures of exposed materials in the crater's depths for clues about ancient, wet environments. As the rover travels farther down the slope, it will be able to examine increasingly older rocks in the exposed walls of the crater.

"While we take seriously the uncertainty about whether Opportunity will climb back out, the potential value of investigations that appear possible inside the crater convinced me to authorize the team to move forward into Victoria Crater," said Alan Stern, NASA associate administrator, Science Mission Directorate, NASA

Headquarters, Washington. "It is a calculated risk worth taking, particularly because this mission has far exceeded its original goals."

The robotic geologist will enter Victoria Crater through an alcove named Duck Bay. The eroding crater has a scalloped rim of cliff-like promontories, or capes, alternating with more gently sloped alcoves, or bays.

A meteor impact millions of years ago excavated Victoria, which lies approximately 4 miles south of where Opportunity landed in January 2004. The impact-created bowl is half a mile across and about five times as wide as Endurance Crater, where Opportunity spent more than six months exploring in 2004.

The rover began the journey to Victoria from Endurance 30 months ago. It reached the rim at Duck Bay nine months ago. Opportunity then drove approximately a quarter of the way clockwise around the rim, examining rock layers visible in the promontories and possible entry routes in the alcoves. Now, the rover has returned to the most favorable entry point.

"Duck Bay looks like the best candidate for entry," said John Callas, rover project manager, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. "It has slopes of 15 to 20 degrees and exposed bedrock for safe driving."

If all of its six wheels continue working, engineers expect Opportunity to be able to climb back out of the crater. However, Opportunity's twin rover Spirit lost the use of one wheel more than a year ago, diminishing its climbing ability.

"These rovers are well past their design lifetimes, and another wheel could fail on either rover at any time," Callas said. "If Opportunity were to lose the use of a wheel inside Victoria Crater, it would make it very difficult, perhaps impossible, to climb back out."

"We don't want this to be a one-way trip," said Steve Squyres, principal investiga-

tor for the rovers' science instruments, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. "We still have some excellent science targets out on the plains that we would like to visit after Victoria. But if Opportunity becomes trapped there, it will be worth the knowledge gained."

July

Wednesday the 4th: Independence Day
Saturday the 21st: Annual Pool and Darts Tournament at the Kileen-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

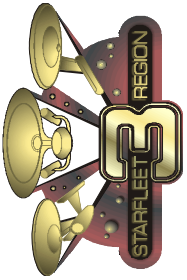
Monday the 8th: Columbus Day (observed)
Wednesday the 31st: Halloween

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



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DEADLINE FOR THE JULY / AUGUST ISSUE IS AUGUST 11, 2007