



FLEET CHANNELS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY '08 A VOLUME 17, NO. 1

NEW FACES FOR ICONIC CHARACTERS;
NEW LOOK FOR SHIP



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THE NEWSLETTER FOR REGION THREE

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

ADM Michelle Fanelli rc@region3.org

VICE-REGIONAL COORDINATORS

VRC (North): COMM Robyn Winans vrcn@region3.org

VRC (South): OPEN AT THIS TIME vrcs@region3.org

VRC (West): OPEN AT THIS TIME vrcw@region3.org

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chief of Staff: VADM Raymond Ford cos@region3.org

Deputy Chief of Staff: COMM Jeff Webb dcos@region3.org

Operations: RADM Stephanie Izard ops@region3.org

Communications: VADM Mark A. Vinson comm@region3.org

Shuttle Operations: CAPT Randi South shoc@region3.org

Computer Operations: MGN Aaron Murphy compops@region3.org

Senior Enlisted Advisor: MCPO Clint Hill sea@region3.org

REGIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

Awards Coordinator: RADM Billie Clifton awards@region3.org

Counselor: COMM Kat Sweeney-Richards counsel@region3.org

Financial Officer: OPEN AT THIS TIME finance@region3.org

Judge Adv. General: FCPT Emilio Martinez jag@region3.org

Quartermaster: CMDR Reed Bates qm@region3.org

Special Forces Officer: BDR Jeff Schnoor specialforces@region3.org

Special Projects Officer: OPEN AT THIS TIME 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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Address corrections, Letters to the Editor, articles and/or artwork are strongly encouraged and should be sent to *Fleet Channels*, P.O. Box 591874, Houston, TX. 77259-1874. 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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Confessions of an RC

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli, Regional Coordinator
Regional Coordinator@region3.org

One's first column as RC, what to say. The last month has been a mix of emotions - the looking at the past, while moving forward. Trying to get the records down to Houston. Signing your first a chapter in training request. The hotel losing your contract. Conducting your first Retreat and songs of Mel Brooks' break out. Looking at your budget and knowing it will be a lean year. A friend told me this was like starting a new book for the Region authored by me. The first days can set the tone for the whole term. I could not even try to title it. I had a hard enough time coming up with a column title. The Redneck didn't fit. And anyone who has seen my chapter's command briefs of The Madam's Log, knows, I am rarely follow the normal path. Confessions of a RC fits; I always put my personal spin on things.

I know many of us were disappointed Brad could not make Retreat. The weekend was still very much a celebration of Region Three. All of you who have worked so hard to get the region where we are now and who will be working with me to move us forward. The weekend was for everyone, not just one individual.

We did business. We got notes being typed up, which we plan to make available when finished. We had fun. The Louisiana groups gave a great breakfast party and I got a wand. Wonder how many wishes one gets. I thank everyone who made the trip, showing their support. That is what

Region Three is all about all of us, making this a fun and interesting place. And one I would not trade for anything. See with all of the ups and downs, it is the members that make it special and keeps me going. The best and biggest regional asset is you.

We have a lot happening in the months ahead. With our new territory lists, we are confirming North, while hunting for Vices in the South and West. I hope this list will be used to bring members together and help get our away missions for recruiting going. We also plan IRC chats, to brief members on current happens and have fun. And we can bet if I collapse the entire Internet.

We are forgoing our normal Fort Worth Zoo trip. Instead I hope many will attend the Corsair's April commissioning in Baton Rouge. We will have summit in July. New Trek film to gossip about. Of course the hard work like looking at incorporation and getting a new handbook is also on for the year. I have a lot of hope for the year and plan to enjoy the work. I am also thankful are showing understanding as we continue to bring things up to speed.

I want to welcome the Serenity to the regional family. Love the title. It was also a blast to finally meet Trisha and Ed Tunia at Retreat. We met through correy years ago. You got to love this club for the friend factor.

I do want to thank Jeff Webb, Raymond

and Heather Ford for herding the Retreat. They did an awesome job under difficult conditions. A big hug to Aaron Murphy who took my computer ideas and make them real in warp speed.

I do want to send out well wishes to Mark West. He has been having some health issues and I hope he gets back hundred percent soon.

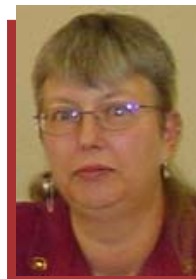
So far my first month has been interesting. I have learned new skills, like fax machine and burning CDs. Nope I would not trade a single moment.

And may the good news be yours.

Admiral Michelle Fanelli
Regional Coordinator

Ops Central

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



Hello Region Three!

Retreat weekend turned out very well. It was great to see family and friends again. I missed Friday night's party, but I heard a lot about it on Saturday.

Note to self, come in Friday night for retreat. Anyway, Saturday's meetings were quite productive. Everyone seemed upbeat and looked forward to the coming year. Regional events could be pretty lean this year, however plans are in the works for events that are low or no cost to the region and we can all still come together and have fun. Isn't that what we get together for? To have fun??

Speaking of events, if your chapter is holding a local event, let me know about it. I'll be working on a list of events around the region for Aaron to post on the web site. Such as the Corsair having their

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Fifely Yours...

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



Greetings to the members of the Third Fleet!

It is my happy duty to report that the support staff is fulfilling their function in the best traditions of Region Three.

While things are quiet on the front of such offices as JAG and Youth Services, our Awards Coordinator has been working to fill gaps in the awards committee with an eye toward the upcoming International Conference and Summit awards season. Please keep an eye on the lists for information about awards deadlines, we really don't want to see any of our excellent members denied a chance for recognition due to simple errors of communication and timing.

Our Quartermaster has likewise been burning the midnight Dilithium to bring us some new items that I believe will be very popular, including a possible new source of t-shirts and polos. Despite being under the weather at Retreat this past month, CMDR Reed Bates arrived with a very complete picture of where the Quartermaster department stands and where it is headed. I've got to say I'm very proud of CMDR Bates for being there, presenting her report, and driving on through her illness where we were missing some other personnel with no such malady to keep them home. It's dedicated folks who keep this Region running.

With this first REC meeting of the new administration, I've got to say that from my own small corner of the staff I am PUMPED. ADM Fanelli has some great ideas and infectious energy that is sure to make things change for the better around these parts. I'm gearing up for a much increased activity level, but for details I'll leave it to the new RC to let us all in on what's up.

As always, contact me with any questions or comments directed toward the Support Staff (if you can't get a hold of the staff member you're looking for) or my office directly.

In Service,

Commodore Jeffrey A. Webb,
Deputy Chief of Staff, Region Three

AT YOUR SERVICE

Regional Senior Enlisted Advisor Report
by: CMCPD Clint Hill
SrEnlistedAdvisor@region3.org

Greetings Region Three!

Command Master Chief Petty (CMCPD) is one of the most senior enlisted officers in the United States Navy Chain of Command. Being the primary liaison between the Officers and Enlisted, They are a major resource for the commanding officers, and often are called upon to gauge morale and battle readiness.

Chief of the Boat (COB) is a senior Enlisted personal on a submarine in the United States Navy who assists and advised the Commanding officer and executive officer on matters regarding the good order and Discipline of the crew. The COB is generally responsible for the Day to Day operations of the boat's Non-Commissioned personal and for their morale and training.

It is this that I view as the foundation for being Senior Enlisted Advisor. As a newly appointed member of the Regional Executive Committee, my goals are to help the region grow by bring new people to our family and help increase the "Fun and Excitement". I also plan to increase awareness of the Enlisted ranks and what it means to be enlisted. It opens more doors for chapters and members giving them more opportunity for growth. I plan to work hard for the region to accomplish these goals.

Let me take this time to tell you a little about myself. My name is Clint Hill, I am Chief of the boat for the USS Ark Angel and Senor Enlisted Advisor for Third Fleet. I have been a member of The Ark Angel ever since a group of close friends decided to join Starfleet. My fellow crew members will tell you that I am very dedicated and hard working individual. I believe that a job worth doing is a job worth well.

CMCPD Clint Hill, SFI
Senor Enlisted Advisor, Region Three

OPS report -- continued from previous page

commissioning on April 19th with an overnight stay on the USS KIDD afterwards. I know of at least one away mission being planned for that one. There has to be other ships that are doing something. Send me an email and lets get those posted.

That's all for now. Let's have fun out there, but be safe too.

RADM Stephanie Izard,
Regional Operations Officer

Fleet Channels Deadlines

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

March/April Issue -- April 1, 2008
May/June Issue -- June 1, 2008
July/Aug. -- Aug. 1, 2008
Sept./Oct. Issue -- Oct. 1, 2008
Nov./Dec. Issue -- Dec. 1, 2008

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

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



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"

Well it was a strange end of the year for the Old AV. After a great Space Center Houston, the ship experienced a major systems failure. Though still under investigation, it is rumored something to do with a plot from the past involving Bill Gates and Windows 95.

The ship slowly returned to homeport with one causality the mighty Frankkenputer. The ship experienced upgrades and repairs of the damage caused by the incident. Our engineering staff is running simis on the holodeck. We don't know about the long-range scanners, but we sure can game. Our new computer system was christened Frank Junior.

Even with all of the upset the publication elves produced a wrap up AG and a Madam's Log to end the year. Our writers are busy with submissions for 2008.

Members attended and supported the Wings Over Houston Air Show. One had to fight rain, but the Snowbirds were worth it. We also had away teams to the Texas Renaissance Festival. They added Thanksgiving weekend, cold but fun and filled with Christmas ideas. Members also did some gaming and exploring hobby shops.

Crew returned from shore leave holidays ready for whatever the New Year brings. All report a wonderful time with friends and family. We hope that was for all in the Fleet.

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USS Corsair, NX-26556
 Sector 3 -- Baton Rouge, LA.
 CO -- FCPT Trisha Tunis
 corsair@region3.org
 XO -- LCDR Danielle Truitt
 Launch Date: July 29, 2007

Next April, we want to invite everyone to come join us in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for our Commissioning to full Chapter Status in STARFLEET. As we are a "pirate" themed ship, and we want to show off our city, we would like to see who would be interested in an overnight stay over aboard the USS *Kidd*. The vessel is berthed along the Mississippi River in downtown BR right off of I-110, an easy hop from I-10. The cost would be between \$20-\$30. For those who want to come early Saturday for lunch, the USS *Corsair* would include a crawfish boil/jambalaya/BBQ at our XO's house.

This will be a family friendly event for ages 6 and above, and we can also discuss opportunities for Cub/Boy/Girl Scouts to earn badges and/or patches. I have an information packet from the ship for those that have questions, or want more information.

In order to reserve a slot, I need at least 20 people who would be willing to attend. If you want to come in from out of state and interested are flying in, please let me know, and we can make arrangements. Please let me know if you can attend, and if so, what Saturday is best for you: April 5th, April 12th or April 19th.

E-mail me at pirate.trisha@gmail.com to RSVP.

In Service,
 FCAPT Trisha Tunis
 CO, USS CORSAIR,
 Chapter in Training



Space Station Freedom III, NCC-SS001
 Regional Correspondence Vessel
 CO -- FCPT Evan Richards
 freedomiii@region3.org
 XO -- ADM Brad Pense
 Commissioning Date: March 25, 1995
 Motto: "Let Freedom Ring"
 Greetings Region Three!

Here on the Freedom III we are undergoing a small Renaissance of sorts with a new CO, a new website and new e-mail services, and new members coming on board/back aboard from the USS *Panther City* which chose to shut down last year and the *Ark Angel*.


Fleet Captain Evan Richards took over from his wife Commodore Kathleen Sweeney-Richards last year becoming our fifth Station Commander since our inception.

Our new website (www.ssf3.org) is still under construction but we have our latest issue of *The Freedom Press* available for download and Evan is working on another one.

Welcome Aboard to VADM Mark A. Vinson, MS3 Lauren Vinson, CAPT Kevin Topham, RADM Sean Caughman, MCPO Kelly Seamon, LT Steccie Morgan, CAPT Lloyd Bates and CMDR Reed Bates.

Mark has taken over Communications and the RVA Duties. Kevin has taken Security and Steccie has taken Medical. Hopefully the others will be taking on other roles within the chapter soon.

Til Next Time, LLAP


 VADM Mark A. Vinson,
 RVA, SS Freedom III



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"

Holiday Greetings to Region 3 from the USS *Joan of Arc*. I hope everyone had a Happy, Exciting, & Joyous season. There is a tradition in our ship that we celebrate both the end of the current year & the start of the new year with a bang. Both parties were a great success but let me back up a few months first.

November, besides having our usual general meeting, found the club involved in it's last recruiting table for '07. It was there we introduced our newest member: Dead Fred the *Star Trek* Zombie. She was a victim of "Red Shirt Disease". A once common ailment of Security Away Team members in the Original series. Fred has now become our Mascot promoting the Joan's major event for '08. She hopes to see some of her former teammates at the Zombie Walk here in Corpus Christi in Early November. More information will be available as the Walk gets closer.

The general December meeting was devoted to putting the finishing touches on the Christmas Party & the Anniversary Party. The Christmas Party was held on December 15th, at a local restaurant, The Sirloin Stockade. It went well until it was discovered the party room was double booked. The party at the back of the room made more noise than we did, so it was with great relief about 1/2 way thru OUR party when they left. We had dinner, visited with out of town members, read the yearly poem, had a Ferengi gift exchange, & sang the 12 days of Christmas *Star Trek* style. The Hottest gifts were a 25 dollar

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USS Regulator, NCC-73337
Sector 1 -- Fort Worth, TX.
CO -- BDR Mark West
regulators@region3.org
XO -- LTC Kyle Schugart
Commissioning Date: October 1, 1992
Motto: "Defending the Final Frontier"

It was an interesting year in 2007 but it looks like things are going to be better in 2008. At least our crew is doing better. Last year we seemed to have someone in sickbay whenever you turned around, which made making plans for meetings difficult. So far, everyone seems to be doing well, discounting the normal ailments that come with a crew of our age. We are planning some interesting outings for the coming year and will keep you informed so perhaps the rest of you could join us. More info coming in future additions.

Liz Goulet, Flt Capt
Communications Officer
USS Regulator



USS Rhyanna, NCC-1892
Sector 5 -- Austin, TX.
CO -- RADM Heather Ford
rhyanna@region3.org
XO -- FCPT Kathy Hensch
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 Rhyanna crew met in January to plan for the upcoming year. We were waiting for some of the Region 3 dates to be fi-

nalized but already have plans for another camping trip to west Texas, and NASA (even though the Region will be at Renaissance). We really like NASA!

We had some visitors from Temple. They are currently considering whether to join Starfleet. They are an independent *Star Trek* group and try to meet twice a month. It was interesting to hear from another small group. Even though Starfleet itself is huge, the Rhyanna has always been a very small, intimate group. On that note, it is finally official that the Shuttle Serenity has gotten it's papers signed, so Stephanie and some of our former crew will be getting started on their own ship. Congratulations, Stephanie!

We are all looking forward to Summit. We want to present a panel, hopefully there will be more on this as plans are set by the "people in charge". I think the next regional event will be the DFW Zoo in March, I am not sure how many of us will make it there. Maybe we will see you there!

Gigi Jacobson
USS Rhyanna

AV -- continued previous page

Sadly Bill and Bob Downs lost their Mom in January. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our away team to Killeen's Retreat reports having a fun time and no misadventures in the shuttle. Another Messina Hof winery run was made for the XO, who could not make the trip. They thank all who worked to make the event happen.

Next briefing, the ship should be back on normal patrol - clipping coupons, creating tales, and enjoying sharing our part of the universe.

Until Next Time,
MCapt. Jared K. Fielder

JOFA -- continued previous page

gift card to Walden's Book Store, several beautiful dragons & the second season of DS9 on DVD. This year since there were three cadets, they had their own version of the Adult gift exchange. They drew a gift but there wasn't any trading since the ages were 4 to 9 years old. There was a slight change of order at this party as the Ambassador is usually presented at the Anniversary Party. Since this year is the 15th anniversary of the *Joan* as a club, we went out of town to San Antonio for Dinner & awards. The incoming Ambassador was unable to join us in San Antonio so she was presented at the Christmas party in Corpus. At the conclusion of the Christmas party, Holiday Shore Leave was declared until Jan. 3rd to allow the crew to spend time with their families both in town & out.

Tahnja Abbot invited the crew to come with her family out to their property on December 31 for snacks & fireworks to welcome the New Year in with a bang. The weather was SUPPOSEDLY to be cooperating with warmish temperatures & little wind. Tahnja, Shane, her husband, Margaret Branstetter, & myself went out to the site to set things up. The COLD FRONT started blowing in around 9:30p. When the rest of Shane's co-workers arrived close to 10 p.m., the wind had picked up also. All the men plus a few of the older kids set off the fireworks while the ladies tended smaller kids from the back of various pick up trucks. Tahnja, Margaret, &



myself looking like over grown Horta's, watched for a while but decided to drive back to Sinton in favor of getting warm & out of the wind. Shane showed up very early Jan. 1 after seeing the fireworks properly taken care of.

With Shore Leave on Jan. 5, over it was off to San Antonio where we met at the church of Saint Joan to have the new sword & banner blessed. Everyone arrived, changed into uniforms including Klingon Robert, then the priest did a simple ceremony to bless the two new sword & banner. We gave a crew "T" shirt & a donation for the church. Once again the crew gathered in front of the marker for the church to show where we were. This is the second set of Banner & Sword we have had blessed at this same church. Dinner & awards were due to follow at the Magic Time Machine where the various rooms were decorated to match the room theme. Our waiter was none other than Obi-wan from *Star Wars*. He was almost as eager to see us as we were to see him.

Fate had OTHER plans in store however. Robin's car blew a tire on the access road only moments before getting on the 410 loop. We were stranded there with only the fact that it happened by a huge warehouse for sale having no name to guide the tire

repair truck to finding us. He was told how ever to look for a large white flag waving in the wind. Over an hour later we FINALLY pulled into the restaurant's parking lot. It didn't take Klingon Robert very long before somebody asked him for a photo. They thought he was Gen. Martock. A few braver people even requested an autograph.

Dinner itself was in my opinion really good plus the waiter truly stayed in character as he served the dishes. After the meal was finished, Robin began awards ending with the change of Standard Bearer. Margaret Branstetter will be the first crew member to have charge of the new Banner. This concluded the event so everyone began the 'trek' back to the cars thru the incoming diners most wanting a shot of Robert. In the parking lot the group separated all going to their different journeys home.

We have been invited to come & share a ice hockey game with the Corpus Ice Hockey team on Feb. 16. Check the Joan Website if You want to come down also. It should be a real Blast. The P.R Director told us to come in persona & we would be featured at the break between 1st & 2nd play periods. Stay tuned for results in the next *Fleet Channels* edition.

FCPT Kris Dobie, RVA
USS *Joan of Arc*, NCC-73289.



Election Results

by: COMM Ray Brown, IG, STARFLEET
Tuesday, 20 November 2007



Fellow Members of STARFLEET:

The CPA has released to us the results of the Commander, STARFLEET election and the four constitutional amendments. 3538 ballots were mailed, and 1087 were returned. There were 4 cards that had duplicate serial numbers, so the total of cards counted was 1,083, for a response rate of 30.61%.

The election results:

COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Lizard / Halverson : 532
Ueffing / Halber : 233
Plant / Devine : 162
Olson/Berenberg: 144
Total : 1,083

Sal Lizard and Gary Halverson are declared the winners and will take office as Commander, STARFLEET and Vice Commander, STARFLEET on January 1, 2008 for a three year term.

Constitutional Amendment 0701:

Yes: 823
No: 234
Abstain: 26

This amendment is declared ratified, and goes into effect immediately.

Constitutional Amendment 0702:

Yes: 840
No: 217
Abstain: 26

This amendment is declared ratified and goes into effect immediately.

Constitutional Amendment 0703:

Yes: 932
No: 123
Abstain: 28

This ammendment is declared ratified and goes into effect immediately.

Constitutional Ammendment 0704:

Yes: 857
No: 200
Abstain: 26

This ammendment is declared ratified and goes into effect immediately.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the candidates and their teams for an interesting election. We believe that this is the first time that we have had FOUR candidates for Commander, STARFLEET.

ITS BEEN AN HONOR...

by: FADM Les Rickard
Commander, STARFLEET (Ret)



Ladies and Gentlemen,

As of yesterday morning a new administration has taken over STARFLEET. I had

the opportunity to talk to Sal New Years Eve, wish him well and extend any assistance I could to him and his team.

As you have already heard, I was (and remain) without internet, cable and phone

until Time Warner reconnects service at the new house. So I am taking a few minutes here at the office to try and send something.

As I said, congrats to Sal and team and good luck. I am sure they will step up and make positive changes for STARFLEET. Change happens and is good for any organization - STARFLEET included. While I may not always agree with everything done I respect the administration's attempt to do whats best for STARFLEET from inside HQ.

When I learned I was going to Iraq I initially was convinced I was going to be stepping down. But, after talking to the EC and others whom opinions I respect, I felt that I could finish the term. So I made that decision and, for fair or foul, I lived with it. By no means was I as effective a CS while overseas and I have certainly made my share of mistakes and errors during this administration. For those I apologize to those they affected as well as to the membership for any lapses in leadership that occurred. I have certainly come out the other end of this knowing what my strengths and weaknesses are. I hope to serve the Fleet and my Region in the future in some way and look forward to that day.

To my team thank you. It was pretty difficult for all of you while I was in Iraq. Mark and I essentially acted as one person doing the job of running Fleet during my time overseas. Without the steadfast service of Mark Anbinder and my Chief of Staff Greg Trotter I doubt we could have completed the year. I echo those words on behalf of the rest of the EC. Thank you so much to Gumby Simmons, Dixie Halber, Wayne Killough, Liz Woolf, Jerry Tien and Susan Ueffing. Without a team willing to come together and work so hard

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Our first two weeks

by: FADM Sal Lizard,
Commander, STARFLEET



Well 15 days have passed since we took our place as the new Executive Committee and I'd like to announce what we have accomplished and problems we've experienced.

Now (by department):

CS - We are happy to announce that we have established the International Liaison position as I promised at some of the summits last year. Mike Allen (R7) serves in this capacity and is working on my behalf to understand the needs and discern how we can best help our international members. Recently, I was told that many members/chapters in R20 were dis-associating because STARFLEET ignored their concerns and offered no support. Mike is working to reassure those members/chapters of their importance to our organization and our commitment to them.

As Les relayed in an email message to the starfleet-I, he did experience some "real life" issues and was not as available as we would have liked during the "transition" but he did solicit my thoughts on his submission of Robert Westfall for the interim Inspector General position before submitting it to the AB.

Les has yet to send over the STARFLEET equipment from his office. He had assured me that it would be sent out early last week but hasn't to my knowledge.

Also Scott Akers contacted Wade Hoover a little over a week ago to get his address and will be sending him the STARFLEET Historian materials.

As many know, I have started a blog at

livejournal.com/sallizard. I will be moving my blog onto the sfi.org website under the CS section soon. In the meantime, I have resumed blogging.

VCS - Among other things, the VCS department is busy working on edits to the Membership Handbook to include the new resolutions that you voted on during the election and to correct other mistakes that were noted during the review. The updated version will be presented to the AB for review and approval shortly.

Gary and Mark communicated regularly and completed their transition prior to January 1st.

Operations - Ops has already kicked out their first Vessel Registry. Through their Chapter Care program, they are working to help re-establish R20 members and chapters.

Mike and Gumby worked together to ensure a smooth and timely transition of the Operations department.

Communications - Communications is on track to get their first CQ (the Feb/Mar edition) in the mail by early February.

Dixie Halber has yet to send Peter the Communications materials and printer despite several indications that she was ready to ship.

Academy - The Academy continues to perform without interruption. There was a brief interruption of services when CompOps was adjusting database permissions but it was fixed fairly quickly.

Wayne remained on staff in the Academy and the transition to Peg went very smoothly.

Shakedown Operations - Warren has contacted all of the "Chapters in Training" to introduce himself and provide his contact information. He also took the opportunity to convey his personal "congrats" to all for filing their MSRs ontime.

Warren and Jerry still work together so

their transition happened early in the transition period so that Warren was ready to go before January 1st.

Computer Operations - Besides the arduous task of making database permission, email addy and operational list adjustments during his first days in office, CompOps has also fixed the database certificate issue.

Matt was contacted by Larry Barnes who turned over the access to the website, mail and database hosting but has yet to be contacted by Susan. Matt was contacted by Joost a little over a week ago to offer any help he could. Matt responded that he really would like to talk to Susan for some CompOps guidance/clarification but has not received any other communication. Matt has pretty much had to learn on his own with some limited help from me.

Matt is also awaiting the turnover of the Membership Processing Supplies from Chrissy. Chrissy had previously indicated that she would get the shipping information from Liz while she was out in California at the end of the year but that meeting never happened. As I understand it, Chrissy did get the shipper info from the CFO's office the other day and should be shipping it shortly.

Financial Operations - The CFO's office is working to file for the proper licenses and tax documents for STARFLEET's operations. So far we have the tax id numbers for Texas and Alabama. They are preparing to file for a New York tax id number to cover the upcoming International Conference to be held in Ithaca and QM sales in that state, and a Florida tax id number for Linda Olsen's Marine Quartermaster sales. Pat Spillers has compiled the past QM sales in Texas and has determined that our tax should be a little over \$400 + anywhere up to another 60% penalty for not filing in time to take advantage of the state's amnesty opportunity. The only thing holding up the resolution of the sales tax issue in Texas is the lack of a check to pay the tax which

continued on page 11

Inspector General Announcement

by: FADM Sal Lizard
Commander, STARFLEET

This was supposed to go out a few days ago, but got lost in the ether on its way here.

The AB was tasked with confirming a candidate for STARFLEET Inspector General shortly before I took office. Voting was underway but not complete when I took over as Chair of the Admiralty Board so it took a little while to do the necessary research to count the votes which were cast prior to Jan. 1st. So, without further ado...

It is my pleasure and great honor to announce that Vice Admiral Robert Westfall has been confirmed by the AB to serve the remainder of the Inspector General's current unexpired term of service.

Congratulations and/or condolences can be sent directly to Robert at ig@sfi.org.

Great to have you aboard, Robert, and may the god(s) have mercy on your soul!

MONEY MATTERS

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli,
RC - Region Three

Brad and I are working out the final details as to the accounts and records, since he could not make Retreat. At this writing, Aaron Murphy will be down in Houston and hopes to bring items with him. We do have a back up plan for file transfer, just in case.

The transfer is causing a delay in setting up items like the Quartermaster, but I believe we should not spend until we see what we have in the bank. The general total is reported as \$3500.00, but this does not include any outstanding bills from 2007 nor the Retreat bill. As of February 4th, I am awaiting the final bill from the Howard Johnson's.

We are keeping the accounts at Frost

Bank, since there is a local branch. There has been a delay in transfer, so Brad is contacting the bank to see what is the hold up. I do have access to the credit card, which was used for retreat's hotel. Brad has requested with the state, that the sale tax permit reflect the new mailing address. I will let you know when it arrives in Houston.

As for the state sale tax, the break down is the following

1998	\$273.28
1999	\$176.36
2000	\$231.75
2001	\$208.16
2002	\$272.64
2003	\$189.69
2004	\$180.76
2005	\$15.70
2006	\$164.84

Total \$1,697.48

The total was made in two payments of 1,016.09 and 681.39.

Brad also paid the 2007 sale tax of \$133.74.

The incorporation did not occur before the end of the year. Brad didn't have the time and I could not make an informed decision until I look over the books. This will be another expense for 2008, but will protect the region down the road. I have been talking with many in the region and the fleet as well as individuals in the local area to get a feel, which way we should process.

I will be looking for a new RFO and plan to have them more in the loop. If we do incorporation, we have to be running more like a business. I have been speaking to Heather Ford and others on how to make the role better. This person will be a reviewer of summit contracts, keeping on top of where the money is being spent and what forms we will need to fill.

I know the transition has not gone the way we had intended. Hopefully in the next few weeks all will be on track and we can keep moving forward.

Many Thanks!

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli,
RC - Region Three

I want to thank everyone who attended this weekend's Retreat. We had a great turn out and much fun. My highlight was the Mel Brooks Musical Review during the break in the congress meeting. See what you missed. <G>

My thanks to Jeff Webb, Raymond and Heather Ford who were our social directors for the event. Big hug to the Louisiana members who started the fun Saturday morning with a wonderful breakfast. Shell loves her goodie bag - my own wand and tiara. And a big thank you to Grace Ford for feeding my cookie need.

We did do some business and I know we are off to a wonderful start. We will be getting the notes together and do some posting about the CoC meeting. We have already started with our new territory lists for the chapters and posting award deadlines. And keeping looking in your box for information on the next regional trip - the commissioning of the Corsair in April.

Give me a few days to catch up on the email and recover. No, I didn't get what poor Reed had, but ran into more MSG than I should have.

So until next time, may the good news be yours.

Serenity Now!

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli
RC - Region Three

I am happy to welcome the USS *Serenity*, NX-1496, who on their Shakedown Cruise, to the Third Fleet. This correy group is headed up by Stephanie Izard and Billie Clifton.

They are the proud child of the USS Rhyanna and based in Marble Falls, TX. Please wish them well at captnrr@nctv.com.

Chapter Reporting for December 2007

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli,
RC Region Three

Chapters: 19
Chapters In Training: 2

Ark Angel, Aurora Vulcanus, Bexar, Firebird, Freedom III (Station), Gunslinger, Joan of Arc, Laredo, Lone Star, Maverick (Station), Palo Duro, Regulator, Renaissance, Rhyanna, SpiritWolf, Tejas, Thunderwolf, Trinity River, Victory, Azrael and Corsair

All groups reported in, so way to go. In the database, there were no reports listed for the *Ark Angel, Laredo, and Tejas*. These folks did not use the database and the reports were forward on to Operations. The *El Destino* returned to port during the fall. They are still showing up in the database, but Fleet knows they closed up shop.

The new address for reporting msrs to Operations by e-mail is msr-submit@sfi.org. Regional is still using msr@region3.org or smsr@region3.org. The database is not sending out reports and we thank folks are letting us know they are reporting in.

Belated Wedding Announcement

by: Byron Flynt



It is with great, yet belated, pleasure to announce

that Angelita Eva DeLuna & Jeff Alan Schnoor were married on Saturday, October 13th, 2007 at 3:00 PM.

Please join the members of the 347th MSG & the ISS *Thunderwolf* in congratulating the happy couple. All e-mails can be sent to Jeff Schnoor at whitewolf1964@excite.com.

Honor -- continued from page 8

under such difficult conditions I would have folded a long time ago.

Many thanks to the members of the Admiralty Board for their service and willingness to work with me and the team during the last year and a half, especially during the time I was away in Iraq. You made, what could have been a difficult time, very bearable in getting that work done with the AB.

A special farewell to the soon to be retired Admiral Brad Pense. Brad and I have grown to be very good friends since my first term as CS. He is training to be a Peace Officer in the State of Texas so our brotherly bond continues to grow. You will be missed on the AB I know and the AB will have to work hard to fill the gap left by your retirement. I am sure that your successor will do an admirable job taking over and my best wishes to Michelle. Brad, I'll make sure to leave you a rocking chair open on the porch so we can chat about the old days.

Thank you to the members. I received a lot of support in the form of letters, postcards, emails and such from a lot of members during my time in Iraq - and after I returned home. I would not have been able to do what I did and work for Fleet as well without the support of the membership. Finally, a thank you to my family. Heather, Riley, Zachary and the new addition Tucker "Trip" Rickard. Their love and support kept me from tossing in the towel more times than anyone knows. I love them all so very much and am glad to be able to spend more time with them.

Ladies and Gents, it has been a pleasure serving you and, while I am a little saddened at not being able to serve Fleet any longer I will say retirement as CS is something I am looking forward to. I will continue to serve as Chair for the 2009 International Conference in Greensboro

NC. Otherwise, you just never know what the future holds.

Goodbye, Farewell, Amen.

Two Weeks -- continued from page 9

must be remitted when filed.

The CFO's office is also awaiting a letter addressed to STARFLEET of the ruling that STARFLEET memberships are not taxable in Texas. The CFO's office has also requested a similar letter from the state of California.

Liz Woolf has suffered computer issues and has been unavailable until recently. She has made contact with Mike Stein within recent days and has provided access to the Quickbooks and provided Paypal history information that allowed

the CFO's office to match member payments with membership processing and clear up the backlog. Liz has assured us that she will turn over the checkbook, the debit card and any other CFO materials

and equipment as soon as she can. In the meantime, the CFO's office has proactively obtained a new debit card and some checks so that they can make the payment to Texas and pay the outstanding bills.

Mike will be sending a check along to Pat so that she can "hand-carry" them to the Texas Comptroller within the next few days.

This is just the highlights of the first fifteen days of our administration. The Headquarters Informational Newsletter mentioned by the Constitution will be submitted shortly to the AB by our VCS and will be passed "down the chain" to the chapters for dissemination to the members of STARFLEET. It will contain a more complete accounting of our activities and issues. Additionally, more information will also be contained in the Feb/Mar issue of the Communique.



DATELINE: STARFLEET

Star Trek XI Now Cast

J.J. Abrams' Vision of Gene Roddenberry's Universe Begins To Take Shape
from STARTREK.COM



vision series Heroes, will play the young Spock in the upcoming eleventh *Star Trek* film. Quinto's other credits include roles in the television series *So noTORIous*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Joan of Arcadia*, *Charmed*, *Lizzie McGuire*, *Dragnet* and *Touched by an*

Production began on J.J. Abrams' vision of a new *Star Trek* in November of '07 with a new cast for the iconic characters and a new look for the *Enterprise* itself.

The "Teaser" Trailer is now appearing online and the cast and crew are working to finish the film in spite of the Hollywood Writer's Guild of America strike.

The following is a brief rundown on the major characters"

Chris Pine has been confirmed to play the role of James T. Kirk. Pine turned down another role in another project to do this movie. The 27-year-old Pine is one of Hollywood's hottest young actors right now, gaining prominent attention as Lindsay Lohan's love interest in "Just My Luck" and as a neo-Nazi assassin in Carnahan's "Smokin' Aces." His father, Robert Pine, has played a couple of roles in *Star Trek* ("Liria," "Tavin") and performed with Michael Dorn on *CHiPs*.

Zachary Quinto, best known to genre fans for his portrayal of Sylar, the enigmatic superpowered serial killer on the hit tele-

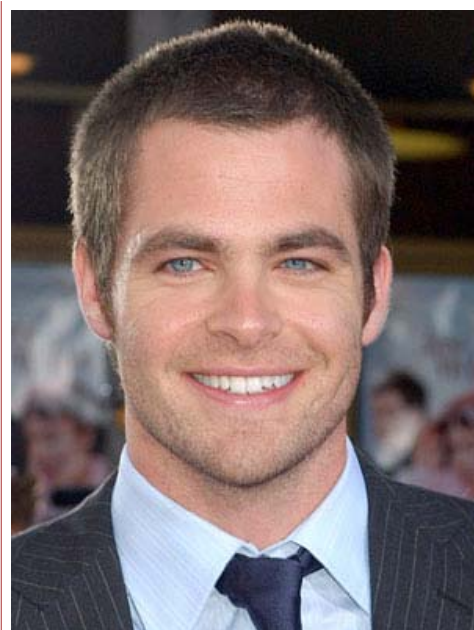
vision series Heroes, will play the young Spock in the upcoming eleventh *Star Trek* film. Quinto's other credits include roles in the television series *So noTORIous*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Joan of Arcadia*, *Charmed*, *Lizzie McGuire*, *Dragnet* and *Touched by an*

Angel, along with a memorable recurring role on the third season of *24*.

In a recent interview, Quinto remarked that his dream role would be the young Spock in a *Star Trek* movie. Looks like his dream has come true!

New Zealander Karl Urban is set to play Dr. Leonard McCoy. Urban (not to be confused with the other famous New Zealander named Urban, country singer and guitar player Keith) has been in some high-profile films of late, including "The Bourne Supremacy," "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" and "The Return of the King," and "The Chronicles of Riddick." Urban's acting career began to take off back in his native New Zealand when he guest starred in several episodes of *Xena: Warrior Princess* and *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*, both filmed in Auckland.

For the role of McCoy in the new film, not much is known where we are in the story with the character of "Bones." Or if he even has



Chris Pine, the new "Kirk"

that nickname yet!

British actor Simon Pegg has been cast as "Scotty". Known for his comedic roles in "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz," Pegg also appeared as the technical wizard "Benji" in Abrams' hit "Mission: Impossible III."

Zoë Saldana will be playing Uhura. Saldana has appeared in a variety of films and TV shows in the past seven years including the first "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie and the surprise hit "Drumline." In "The Terminal" with Tom



continued on next page

Cast -- continued from previous page



Zachary Quinto, the new "Spock"

Hanks, she played a character who admitted to being a convention-going Trekkie, an airport passport officer named "Torres" (interesting). She was also featured in the short-lived Abrams-produced TV show *Six Degrees* (2006).

Sulu is on board in the person of John Cho, star of cult movie favorite "Harold &

Kumar Go to White Castle." George Takei, the original Sulu, reacted to the news by telling STARTREK.COM: "Sulu's in good hands. John Cho is an exciting actor. I've seen Cho in many productions at East West Players and he always brings a vigorous sense of individuality to his roles. Under the leadership of J.J. Abrams, the Star Trek franchise is being infused with new energy and I hope John Cho plays a critical part for many years — and films — to come."

Cho had been rumored for a good year to be a contender for Sulu, and had said,



Simon Pegg, the new "Scotty"

"My God, that would be an honor. I mean, I used to watch the Original Series when I was a kid. I've always thought it would be great to do a space joint." He added that it would be fun to dress up in sci-fi spandex. "That's what I'm wearing now, so why not do it for money?"

Aside from his breakout role in "Harold & Kumar," Cho is also famous for a small but memorable part in the raunchy comedy "American Pie," and turned a few heads in the independent drama "Better Luck Tomorrow." Early in his acting career, in the late '90s, he did a guest spot in Abrams' *Felicity*. In 2006 *People Magazine* listed him as the 11th sexiest man



John Cho, the new "Sulu"

alive.

Russian-born Anton Yelchin has been cast to play Pavel Anreyevich Chekov. Acting since the age of 9, Yelchin was barely 6-months old when his parents — both prize-winning Soviet figure skaters — emigrated to the U.S. from his native

continued on page 15



Karl Urban, the new "McCoy"



Zoe Saldana, the new "Uhura"

Asteroid renamed for Star Trek actor

NEW YORK (AP)
10-03-07

A piece of outer space named for George Takei is in kind of a rough neighborhood for somebody who steers a starship: an asteroid belt.

An asteroid between Mars and Jupiter has been renamed 7307 Takei in honor of the actor, best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu in the original *Star Trek* series and movies.

"I am now a heavenly body," Takei, 70, said Tuesday, laughing. "I found out about it yesterday. ... I was blown away. It came out of the clear, blue sky — just like an asteroid."

The celestial rock, discovered by two Japanese astronomers in 1994, was formerly known as 1994 GT9. It joins the 4659 Roddenberry (named for the show's creator, Gene Roddenberry) and the 68410 Nichols (for co-star Nichelle Nichols, who played Lt. Uhura). Other main-belt asteroids have been named for science fiction luminaries Robert Heinlein and Isaac Asimov.

The renaming of 7307 Takei was approved by the International Astronomical Union's Committee on Small Body Nomenclature. About 14,000 asteroid names have been approved by the panel, while about 165,000 asteroids have been identified and numbered, union spokesman Lars Lindberg Christensen said.

Unlike the myriad Web sites that offer to sell naming rights to stars, the IAU committee-approved names are actually used by astronomers, said Tom Burbine, the Mount Holyoke College astronomy professor who proposed the name swap.

"This is the name that will be used for all eternity," he said.

Burbine said he suggested Takei's name

in part out of appreciation for his work with the Japanese American Citizens League and with the gay rights group Human Rights Campaign. Takei, a spokesman for HRC's Coming Out Project, was cultural affairs chairman of the JACL, and he was appointed to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission by former President Clinton.

Takei has appeared on NBC's *Heroes* and appears regularly on Howard Stern's satellite radio show.

Under the committee's policies, whoever discovers an asteroid has 10 years in which to propose a name. After that, the panel considers other suggestions, although it warns would-be namers to avoid anything "in questionable taste" and any names honoring political or military figures sooner than 100 years after their deaths.

GEORGE LUCAS PLANNING STAR WARS TV SERIES

By Geoff Boucher, Los Angeles Times
Staff Writer
October 17, 2007

Attention, TV executives: The Force may soon be with you.

Filmmaker George Lucas said Tuesday that he has "just begun work" on a live-action television series rooted in the "Star Wars" universe, which is huge news not just for fans of the science-fiction epic but also for networks looking for a piece of the Lucas magic that has grossed \$4.3 billion in theaters worldwide.

There is a caveat, though: The proposed series doesn't have anyone named Luke or

Anakin in it, a story path that Lucas concedes is "taking chances" as far as connecting with an audience expecting the familiar mythology.

"The Skywalkers aren't in it, and it's about minor characters," Lucas said in an interview. "It has nothing to do with Luke Skywalker or Darth Vader or any of those people. It's completely different. But it's a good idea, and it's going to be a lot of fun to do."

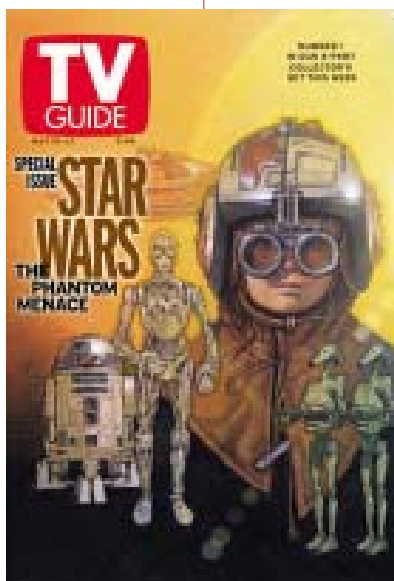
Lucas joked that the series would be about "the life of robots" but wouldn't let any details slip about the true premise. The "extended universe" of *Star Wars* has come to life already in Lucas-sanctioned novels, comics and games that chronicle the history of the Jedi and tell the tales of bit players in the films, such as the bounty hunters from *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Lucas already has another television series percolating: Lucas Animation has been working for months on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, a computer-animated series that he hopes will introduce a new era of visuals to weekly episodic television. Lucas plans to produce it through his own companies before shopping the finished product to networks.

That model may also be used for the live-action show, although producer Rick McCallum said Tuesday that it's too early to say. McCallum is interviewing writers for the live-action series.

Lucas is confident he can find a home for his droids and Jedi, but he also knows the projects are unorthodox enough to give network executives pause.

"They are having a hard time," Lucas said. "They're saying, 'This doesn't fit into our little square boxes,' and I say, 'Well, yeah, but it's *Star Wars*. And *Star Wars* doesn't fit into that box.'"



Cast -- continued from page 12



Anton Yelchin, the new "Chekov"

St. Petersburg in 1989. Victor and Irina Yelchin were both stars with the Leningrad Ice Ballet and had qualified for the 1972 Winter Olympics, but the Soviets did not allow them to participate due to their Jewish religion.

The family settled in Southern California and remained active in ice skating, but young Anton soon took an interest in acting. After appearing in commercials for the likes of McDonald's and Chuck E. Cheese's, he landed the first of many TV guest roles with ER in 2000. From 2004-2006 he appeared on Showtime's original drama Huff as the younger son Byrd to Hank Azaria's conflicted psychiatrist, Dr. Craig Huffstodt. Other TV guest roles include Curb Your Enthusiasm, The Practice, Judging Amy and Without a Trace.

He made his film debut in the independent film "A Man Is Mostly Water" in 2002, then won the Young Artists Award for "Best Lead Performance in A Feature Film" in "Hearts in Atlanta" opposite Anthony Hopkins. His highest-profile role to date may have been that of the Russian ambassador's son in the Morgan Freeman-Ashley Judd thriller "Along Came A

Spider," while more recent work includes co-starring turns with Diane Lane and Donald Sutherland in "Fierce People" and in "Alpha Dog," co-starring Emile Hirsch and Justin Timberlake.

Ben Cross has been cast as Sarek. Cross, a graduate of London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, rose to international stardom with his breakout role as runner Harold Abrahams in the Academy Award-winning 1981 film "Chariots of Fire." He will be seen in the upcoming "Hero Wanted" with Cuba Gooding, Jr. and



Eric Bana as "Nero"

Ray Liotta. Last year he performed with Alexander Siddig in the BBC historical drama about ancient Rome, "Hannibal."

Oscar-nominated actress Winona Ryder has been cast as "Amanda Grayson." Winona Ryder is one of Hollywood's golden girls of the last two decades, first stealing hearts as a goth teen in her breakout role in Tim Burton's "Beetlejuice." She continued to establish herself as a movie star in "Heathers," "Edward Scissorhands," "Mermaids" and "Bram Stoker's Dracula." She earned an Academy Award nomination two years in a row, 1994 and 1995, first as a supporting actress in "The Age of Innocence" and then as a lead in "Little Women." She went on to play an android in "Alien: Resurrec-

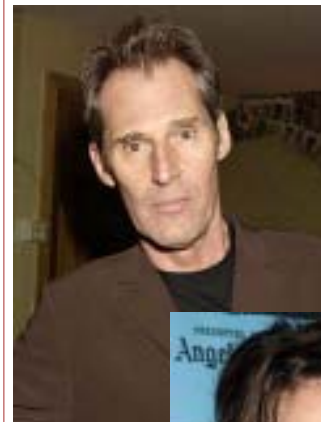
tion," and co-starred with Whoopi Goldberg in "Girl, Interrupted."

Her career experienced a bit of a lull after a touch of legal trouble in 2001-02, but she began making an upswing again with several film roles including "A Scanner Darkly." She recently wrapped filming on a crime drama called "The Informers," and a comedy called "The Last Word." Other upcoming film roles include the dramas "Alpha Numeric" and "The Private Lives of Pippa Lee."

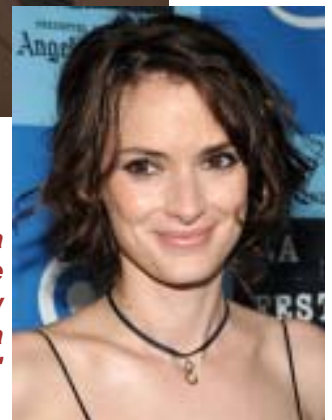
There is no information on how large the role of Amanda will be in the "Trek" movie. Given that Ryder, 36, is only six years older than Zachary Quinto, who plays her son, suggests that either she will be made up to appear older, or perhaps she will be seen in a flashback.

Australian actor Eric Bana, best known for his role in "Munich," will be playing a new villain called "Nero". Little else is known about this character, but based on Bana's past performances the Aussie will make a fine antagonist.

Production on J.J. Abrams new "Star Trek" movie began in November of '07 at Paramount, with a release date of Christmas Day 2008.



Ben Cross, the new "Sarek"



Winona Ryder, the new "Amanda Grayson"

Eternal Image Licenses *Star Trek*

Funerals Are the Final Frontier as *Star Trek* Merchandise Reaches Out to Four Decades of Fans



FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich.— (BUSINESS WIRE)—Eternal Image,

Inc., a public company engaged in the design, manufacturing and marketing of licensed brand image funerary products such as caskets and urns, today announced it has executed an agreement to design, manufacture and market a line of *Star Trek* branded funeral products. The

line will include collector-quality urns, caskets, memorials and vaults. The international agreement encompasses the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Korea and Japan.

"After launching our company in 2006 with sports, collectible, religious and pet branded items, the agreement provides us with a tremendous opportunity to enter the entertainment industry category with an extremely popular and well-loved brand," said Clint Mytych, CEO Eternal Image.

"These licensed-image *Star Trek* products offer true fans a unique expression of their commitment to the franchise. For many years fans have asked for these types of products -- or made their own -- and we believe the *Star Trek* audience will embrace the idea which will create a very strong demand," added Mytych.

Eternal Image has begun the design process and expects to begin shipping urns and caskets to distributors in late 2007.

Building Q, a licensing and marketing firm headquartered in Medford, New Jersey, represented Eternal Image in the acquisition of the license.



Eternal Image, founded in 2002, is headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI. The company is the first and only manufacturer and marketer of licensed brand image funerary products. Currently, the company offers urns and caskets that feature licensed images from Major League Baseball(TM), Precious Moments(TM) and the Vatican Library Collection(TM), as well as pet urns featuring the American Kennel Club(TM). For more information about EI, visit www.EternalImage.net or call 1-888-6-CASKET.

Golfsmith makes a USS *Enterprise*, NCC-1701 Putter



A pop culture icon that offers unprecedented forgiveness!

This fully USGA conforming, officially licensed collectible shares its looks with the famous *Star Trek*® USS *Enterprise*, NCC-1701 starship from the classic television series.

But its out-of-this-world look is not just a



novelty. With a moment of inertia (MOI) of 6818 g-cm² — 40% higher than average putter MOI — the NCC-1701 is the most forgiving putter head Golfsmith offers. Most of its weight is positioned in stainless steel heel and toe weight cylinders which give the CNC-milled



putter head its unique look — and also serve as alignment aids.



The aluminum body features an advanced urethane face insert for soft, solid feel at impact. If you are in search of a putter head design with ultimate forgive-

ness, the USS *Enterprise*, NCC-1701 is a great way to "beam it" into the cup. CSTM1499

This product is available for order. The Price: \$129.99



NASA Launches Asteroid Mission

by: Marcia Dunn,
AP Aerospace Writer

C A P E
CANAVERAL,
Fla. - NASA's
Dawn spacecraft
rocketed away
Thursday, Sep-
tember 27, 2007
toward an unpre-
cedented double
encounter in the
asteroid belt. Sci-
entists hope the
mission sheds
light on the early
solar system by
exploring the two



largest bodies in the belt between Mars and Jupiter: an asteroid named Vesta and a dwarf planet the size of Texas named Ceres.

Dawn's mission is the world's first attempt to journey to a celestial body and orbit it, then travel to another and circle it as well. Ion-propulsion engines, once confined to science fiction, are making it possible.

"To me, this feels like the first real inter-planetary spaceship," said Marc Rayman, chief engineer. "This is the first time we've really had the capability to go someplace, stop, take a detailed look, spend our time there and then leave."

The 3 billion-mile trip began a little after sunrise. The Delta II rocket thundered through a clear blue sky and headed southeast above the thick clouds over the horizon. A harvest moon was faintly visible in the west.

"*Dawn*, you're on your way. Good luck," Launch Control said once *Dawn* separated from its third rocket stage an hour later, right on cue. Already, the spacecraft was 4,000 miles from Earth.

Dawn won't reach Vesta, its first stop, until 2011, and Ceres, its second and last stop, until 2015.

Scientists chose the two targets not only because of their size but because they are so different from one another.

Vesta, an asteroid about the length of Arizona and not quite spherical, is dry and rocky and appears to have a surface of frozen lava. It's where many of the meteorites found on Earth came from. Ceres, upgraded to a dwarf planet just last year, is nearly spherical, icy and may have frost-covered poles. Both formed around the same time some 4 1/2 billion years ago.

Spacecraft have flown by asteroids before — albeit much smaller — and even orbited and landed on them, and more asteroid missions are on the horizon. But none has attempted to orbit two on the same mission, until *Dawn*.

"While these other asteroid missions are, I think, very exciting, I hope one doesn't confuse the kind of asteroids that *Dawn* is going to with the near-Earth asteroids and these other small bodies," said Rayman, who is based at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "I think many people think of asteroids as kind of little chips of rock. But the places that *Dawn* is going to really are more like worlds."

Dawn has cameras, an infrared spectrometer and a gamma ray and neutron detector to probe the surfaces of Vesta and Ceres from orbit. It also has solar wings that measure nearly 65 feet from tip to tip, to generate power as it ventures farther from the sun.

Most importantly, *Dawn* has three ion engines that will provide a gentle yet increasingly accelerating thrust. Electrons will bombard *Dawn's* modest supply of xenon gas, and the resulting ions will shoot out into space, nudging the spacecraft along.

Even *Star Wars* had only twin ion engines with its T.I.E. Fighters, Rayman noted with a smile earlier in the week.

The mission costs \$357 million, excluding the unpublicized price of the rocket.

Japan lunar probe reaches orbit

by: Eric Talmadge, AP
10-04-07

TOKYO - Japan has placed a satellite in orbit around the moon for the first time, officials said Friday, in a major space breakthrough for the Asian nation.

The \$279 million Selenological and Engineering Explorer — or SELENE — is the largest lunar mission since the U.S. Apollo program in terms of overall scope and ambition.

The mission involves placing the main satellite in orbit at an altitude of about 60 miles and deploying two smaller satellites in polar orbits, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA.

Researchers will use data gathered by the probes to study the moon's origin and evolution. The main orbiter will stay in position for about a year.

Japan launched a moon probe in 1990, but that was a flyby mission. It canceled another moon shot, LUNAR-A, that was to have been launched in 2004 but had been repeatedly postponed because of mechanical and fiscal problems.

The long-delayed SELENE was launched on Sept. 14 aboard one of the space program's mainstay H-2A rockets from Tanegashima, the remote island where the agency's space center is located.

The mission — four years behind JAXA's original schedule — comes as China is planning to launch its own lunar probe. That country's minister of defense and technology told China Central Television in July all was ready for a launch "by the end of the year."

China's Chang'e 1 orbiter will use stereo cameras and X-ray spectrometers to map three-dimensional images of the lunar surface and study its dust.

NASA Begins Hunt for New Astronauts

Tariq Malik, Staff Writer SPACE.com
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Astronaut hopefuls with the right stuff have a fresh chance to reach for the International Space Station and, ultimately, the moon, thanks to a new NASA hunt for qualified spaceflyers.

The U.S. space agency announced Tuesday that it is accepting applications for its 2009 Astronaut Candidate Class. Would-be spaceflyers have until July 1, 2008 to apply, the agency said.

"They would begin duty at the Johnson Space Center in August 2009," NASA spokesperson Katherine Trinidad told SPACE.com of the new astronauts. Based in Houston, Texas, the Johnson Space Center (JSC) is home to NASA's space shuttle and ISS mission controls, as well as its astronaut corps.

After completing basic training, members of the 2009 astronaut class could go on

to fly long-duration flights to the ISS or lunar flights aboard NASA's future Orion Crew Exploration Vehicles, NASA officials said.

Trinidad said there are currently 91 active NASA astronauts training for spaceflights or performing technical duties. An additional 15 international spaceflyers are also on active duty, she added.

To be considered for NASA's astronaut corps, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in engineering, science or mathematics and have three years of relevant professional experience, the space agency said.

While most successful applicants are veteran engineers, scientists or pilots of high-performance jets, NASA also urged educators to apply for its newest class of astronauts. Experienced teachers of kindergarten through the 12th grade level are also considered qualified, NASA officials added.

There are currently four educator astronauts in NASA's spaceflying ranks, the first of whom — former Idaho schoolteacher Barbara Morgan — completed her first spaceflight last month aboard the space shuttle Endeavour. Morgan participated in ISS construction during NASA's STS-118 mission in August and served as backup

to the agency's first Teacher in Space Christina McAuliffe before the 1986 Challenger accident.

NASA will announce the final selections for the new astronaut class in early 2009 after a six-month interview and evaluation process.

"We look forward to gathering applications and then being able to select from the largest pool possible," said veteran astronaut Ellen Ochoa, NASA's chief of flight crew operations at JSC, in a statement.

The 2009 astronaut candidates will be NASA's first new space-bound class since 2004, when 11 new spaceflyers joined the U.S. space agency. Included in the 2004 group were three educator astronauts. A trio of spaceflyers from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) also trained alongside the 2004 class.

To apply for NASA's 2009 astronaut class, visit here: www.usajobs.gov or call (281) 483-5907 for more information via NASA's Astronaut Selection Office.



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