



# FLEET CHANNELS

MARCH - APRIL '08  VOLUME 17, NO. 2



**Joan of Arc Invades  
Hockey Game**



**In Remembrance  
A.C. Clarke  
dies at 90**

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**STAR TREK MANGA COVER ART  
BY FELIPE SMITH**

**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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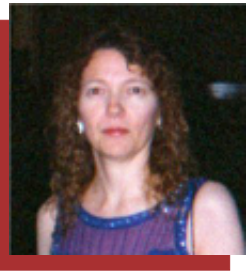
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Address corrections, Letters to the Editor, articles and/or artwork are strongly encouraged and should be sent to *Fleet Channels*, P.O. Box 591874, Houston, TX. 77259-1874. Unsolicited submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a S.A.S.E. 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  
RegionalCoordinator@region3.org

Spring is here and I am enjoying the few days Houston is not muggy. Yes, one needs some time off the computer.

We are moving along. The finances are almost completed and at the close out stage. Read it about it the "Money Matters" article later in this issue. I am relieved we are getting this done and though the money is not what I would have wished for, I know we are looking forward; which is always a good sign. I am getting together with Reed Bates and we will see about those shirts. She has found a good company, so the Quartermaster should be happy and gearing up to go shopping.

Summit, well, after the problems with the HoJo, we moved to the back up site of the Waco's Clarion. What does one have to do to get a bill? I do want to thank the summit team who are working their tails off. I know some members have had questions about last year's selection process. I think most feel the deal of the HoJo was a good one in terms of cost. We did not foresee that the HoJo would take a powder nor no contracts would be signed until I got into office. I have explained what happened and I hope it clarifies what occurred.

By now we would normally be putting out the call for summit 2009. Due to the delay in finances and since I don't want to put any group behind with bids, we are looking at the option of the Region running it one more time. So if you are interested for 2010, I encourage start your homework. Let us know early, so we can help you with the information you might need in terms of attendance and budget. Since we do not have much, if any, data

on the last few summits a budget is hard to come by but that will be changing. If we expect folks to put one on, then Region has to do our part.

We have had the normal housekeeping. Some chapters are hearing from me, if you don't have XO or CO dues have expired. The chapter locator on Fleet's web page has been updated to reflect all of our groups. The VR also is current with contact information. We also have in the Documents section of the website, we have started posting notes from the EC



as well as Retreat's REC and Congress meetings (my Thanks to Stephanie Izard and Billie Clifton for doing the regional notes).

I do want to congratulate Robyn Winans on her reconfirmation to VRC-North. Robyn will be heading up our unassigned program managed by the Vices and leading the charge for recruiting. FedCon contacted us and she is organizing our efforts to get a good showing.

John Johnston is our new VRC-West. I thank him so much for wanting to assist the region. Our VRC-South selection process is almost there. Chapters are

deciding between Raymond Ford, Robert Graham and Jeff Webb. Many have stated a hard choice, which I agree with. The region will be lucky with any one of them.

In the scheduling department, we have the rough date for Pool and Darts as September 20. Richard Getz is letting me know if that date might change since the Moose State Convention will be that month. If the date conflicts the Steak Night it moves to September 27. We don't want to miss those steaks.

I have gotten some email about the letter FADM Sal Lizard sent out to all Fleet members and the current state of Fleet. Growth and change whether it is in person or an organization takes time and sometimes difficult to watch. I hope that we can be patient and let the new administration have the time to see what they got and what they might have to deal with. I am going through some of the same myself as a new RC. No matter what you think is coming your way; it is not the

same as the actual. We must focus on what we need to get our members involved and to grab the new ones. It does not make it easy, but you are this region's best selling point. Our summit, our folks chatting on-line and attending events is what our fun is all about. Did the AB mess up with conducting a vote of suspending a member's rights? Yes. Did someone us learn from it? Yes. And some of us got their reference shelf enlarged by getting Robert's Rules of Order. I voted not to suspend the rights until the IG investigation was concluded and I also support the voting total being made public.

Speaking of focusing on the fun, we have the commissioning of the USS *Corsair*. They are putting on a great event and I hope I will see many of you there.

And may the good news be yours,

*Michelle Fanelli*

Admiral Michelle Fanelli,  
Regional Coordinator

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

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



Greetings:

Well it's finally Spring Time in the North. Based on last year though we still might have snow before May! Baseball and Conventions are in the Air! We have alot going on this spring and summer so check the Regional calendar and the USS *Trinity River* calendar and come up North to join us.

The Northern Ships have just finished Dallas Comicon 11 and we had a blast! Lt. Dualla (Kandyse McClure) from *Battlestar Galatica* and Saffron (Christina Hendricks) from *Firefly* were in attendance.

The *Trinity River* will be hosting a day at Scarborough Renaissance Festival on Saturday, May 10th. Come on up and join us. We'll be joining our friends from ORAC, the oldest Science Fiction club in the DFW area (20 years and going strong)

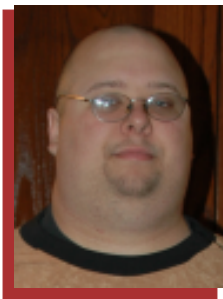
We've got parties planned for the DFW area for many of the great movies coming out this summer. First up is Iron Man hosted by the USS *Regulator* in Fort Worth in May!

Keep your feet on the Ground as you reach for those stars!

Commodore Robyn,  
VRC-North Region Three &  
CO, USS *Trinity River*

## Fifely Yours...

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



Greetings members  
of Region Three:

As we thunder into 2008, I just wanted everyone to know that we're working behind to scenes to provide some really excellent events and entertainment for the Region. Summit has been something of a mystery to most of the membership, well, let it be a mystery no longer. As I type this, we are awaiting the votes of a few final chapters before we can announce the theme of this year's Summit. Once we have that, we've got a boatload of content and a great event schedule to release.

We'll be back at the Clarion in Waco this time, on 18-20 July 2008. You can reserve your rooms by calling 254-757-2000 and referencing STARFLEET Region Three Summit. Standard rooms for up to four persons are \$89.95 per night, with Deluxe rooms \$99.95 per night. This includes a continental breakfast, as well.

I wish I could put a lot more out there about the event, but we've got to get the theme decided on before we can really throw the info out there -- so encourage your CO to vote! The sooner the votes are in, the sooner we can spill the beans.

I know this is probably the shortest piece I've ever written for FC or the R3 list... but I guarantee you'll be hearing more from me in the next couple of weeks.

In service,

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

## GET SOME!

SFMC Third Brigade Report  
by: BDR Jeff Schnoor  
Brigadecommander3bde@hotmail.com

Greetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Marines have been very active this period.

The 342<sup>nd</sup> has been preparing to host the upcoming Summit and there regular ceremony practice and in addition participating in Field Games against fellow Brigade Units and unit members in the Dallas area.

The 333<sup>rd</sup> has been active in competition against the 342<sup>nd</sup> in Mecha warfare ad Lazer Tag competition and planning to attend the Dallas Comic-Con and participate in a large Recruiting Drive.

The 308<sup>th</sup> recently hosted an Anniversary party that was attended by several ships and Klingon groups in the area and surrounding area.

The 314<sup>th</sup> are socializing and making future unit plans.

348<sup>th</sup> attended All-Con and attended the *Trinity River* Anniversary Party.

The 347<sup>th</sup> *Northern Flights* have been assisting in painting churches and video graphing the restoration process. The *Southern Flights* have been providing operations help, security, and Flag Honors for Semi-Pro games in assistance to the CO and Collecting magazines and items to be given to the local USO and overseas operations.

The 321<sup>st</sup> has been gathering Campbell's & Betty Crocker's Labels for point for charity. They have also been participating heavily in the Reading Challenge.

The following Marines where recognized with Brigade Valor Awards for there service in the Brigade:

*continued on next page*

### Marines -- continued from previous page

Cross of Valor (Marine of the Year): WO2 Joyce Fink, 321<sup>st</sup> MSG, USS *Aurora Vulcanus*

Sword of Valor (Leader of the Year): BDR Bill Downs, 321<sup>st</sup> MSG, USS *Aurora Vulcanus*

Shield of Valor (Volunteer of the Year): Kenneth Norris (Mor'taH veStal-tSepeS), 308<sup>th</sup> MSG, USS *Gunslinger*

Star of Valor (NCO of the Year): PFC Adam Andrews, 342<sup>nd</sup> MSG, USS *Ark Angel*

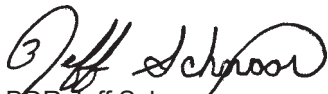
Legion of Valor (Marine Unit of the Year): 308<sup>th</sup> MSG, USS *Gunslinger*

Please congratulate all of these Marines in all of there hard work and Dedication to the SFMC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, and Region 3.

Battalion and Brigade staff are currently working on several projects that will be introduced at Summit during our Brigade Muster, Such as Brigade Competitions, Mecha Warfare, Lazer Tag, Paint Ball, Parade and Ceremony, Rifle team, and several other ones. So, Please take a time and be apart of the upcoming Summit in Waco in July 18-20<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

I would like to hear from Marines also on ideas of competitions we can participate in inter-unit during Retreat. I have already heard Paintball and Lazer Tag. Give me your suggestions Ladies and Gentlemen.

In Service to the Brigade and Corps,



BDR Jeff Schnoor,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Commander



## SpecOps

Regional Special Operations Report  
by: BDR Jeff Schnoor  
specops@region3.org

The Regional Special Operations department has been inactive due to restructuring issues in the VCS Fleet Resources Department. The Fleet level department is overseeing all Special Operations programs and is currently working to revive the Special Operations program around Fleet. They expect to resume operations within the next few months.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Marines within the region have been very active in community service programs and unit operations. Many units have been working on SFMCA Courses, drilling, and ceremony presentations. The Marines are currently preparing for Summit.

In Service to the Region,



BDR Jeff Schnoor,  
R3 Special Forces Officer

## FLEET CHANNELS DEADLINES

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

May/June Issue -- June 9, 2008  
July/Aug. Issue -- Aug. 4, 2008  
Sept./Oct. Issue -- Oct. 6, 2008  
Nov./Dec. Issue -- Dec. 8, 2008

ALL e-mail submissions should be sent to: [fleetchannels@region3.org](mailto: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](mailto:auroravulcanus@region3.org)  
XO -- CAPT Catt Fanelli  
Commissioning Date: July 4, 1983  
Motto: "Creatively Sailing in Exploration of the Imagination"

Greetings:

The Old AV is enjoying spring.

Coupon clipping is going well with our new Coupon Officer, Lee Vitasek. So far we have totals of over three thousand dollars.

Members have been busy taking Academy courses, so far twenty-three. Bill Downs earned a Bronze Boothby.

The 321st are going strong. Reading many books for the challenge and collecting Campbell labels. They are celebrating their two award winners for the region. R3 Cross of Valor (Marine of the Year Award) to Joyce Fink and the Sword of Valor (Leader of the Year Award) to Bill Downs. Way to go guys. We had a transfer to the chapter, Cami Dutton, who is settling into the unit.

Jared K. Fielder earned promotion to Marine Major. There was much rejoicing.

Writers submitted some fun material for the current issue of the AG. We are also playing with the format again. Joyce Fink made some great suggestions that we are trying. We are hoping to get some new helpers for the publications.

Our away team is gearing up for a trip to Denver's Starfest; lucky them.

The Command staff is looking forward to attending the April commissioning of our

*continued on next page*





USS Azrael, NX-73339  
Fleetwide Correspondence Vessel  
CO -- CAPT Beau Thacker  
azrael@region3.org  
XO -- LTC David Bailey  
Launch Date: July 29, 2007  
Motto: "Strike Hard, Strike Fast,  
Strike Deep"

Greetings:

The USS *Azrael* met in Dallas, TX. on March 8, 2008 for the ALLCON convention where we raised over, \$200.00 for the Deaf and Blind children of Baton Rouge, LA. While we didn't have a *Star Trek* guest, we did have a guest from *Battlestar Galactica* Aaron Douglas, Chief Tyrol, who helped with our venture in signing a Season 4 call sheet, to raffle out.

CAPT Beau Thacker, CO  
USS *Azrael*



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"

WOW...Where did the first quarter of '08 go?? The USS *Joan of Arc* has been busy down here in South Texas. Come with us as we review the past two months...

On February 8, 2008 the club was invited back to share a home game with the  
*continued on page 8*



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"

Greetings:

The Commander isn't completely recovered, but he is making progress. The rest of the crew has pitched in and are keeping the ship on a smooth course. Several of us are planning on attending the Dallas Comic Con in Richardson with the *Trinity River*. Hope it's as much fun as it's reported to be. We are still working on finding things of interest to get the crew out to. This past winter the weather seemed to always interfere with anything fun but hopefully with the good weather coming we can get back outside and do some picnics and paintball, etc. We are all looking forward to Summit this year in Waco for the fellowship we always share. Guess that covers everything for now.

Til next time,

FCPT Liz Goulet,  
Comms Officer



*AV -- continued from page 5*

baby the *Corsair*, got the maps and the tour book on standby.

Until Next Time,  
MAJ Jared K. Fielder



USS Rhyanna, NCC-1892  
Sector 5 -- Austin, TX.  
CO -- RADM Heather Ford  
rhyanna@region3.org  
XO -- FCPT Kathy Hench  
Commissioning Date:  
September 24, 1991

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

Greetings:

The crew and command staff of the *Rhyanna* have been busy lately. We are gearing up for Summit in July and are also planning our annual camping trip to West Texas over the July 4th weekend.

Sometime in the next couple of months we are going to be meeting the Ark Angel for a "cook off" of *Star Trek* recipes. We will be selecting dishes and drinks from a book put together by Ethan Phillips (Neelix) and William Birnes. May the most inventive cooks win!

Our best to everyone in Region 3,

*Gigi*

Gigi Jacobson



*This 19" Captain James T. Kirk Ultimate Quarter Scale line figure from Diamond Select Toys will feature a deluxe display stand, electronic sound effects, phrases from the show, cloth costume, and articulation.*



USS Thunderwolf, NCC-1653

Sector 6 -- San Antonio, TX.

CO -- BDR Jeff Schnoor

thunderwolf@region3.org

XO -- BGN Byron Flynt

Commissioning Date: July 2, 2005

Motto: "We Hear the Call  
to Roam the Stars"

Greetings:

The ISS *Thunderwolf*, NCC-1653 has been busy volunteering in our community. We have been helping at the Ronald McDonald House and assisting in collection of materials which were donated to the USO for their overseas operations. Members of the crew have been assisting the CO at semi-pro football games in operations, medical, and security details. We also assisted in finishing the work on a home for Habitat for Humanities.

We are also working on recruiting materials and a recruitment drive during the upcoming Fiesta events here in San Antonio, TX. As a whole, we have a combined total of just over 100 hours in community service.

Commander Angelita Deluna-Schnoor has been working with the American Red Cross on her free time to help in International Services. She has helped three families become reunited from war torn regions of the world. Our Northern Members have been working to repaint churches in the Roanoke/Justin area as well as filming the remodeling and repairs of these institutions.

Respectfully,

BDR Jeff Schnoor, CO  
ISS *Thunderwolf*, NCC-1653

### *Joan of Arc -- continued from page 6*

Corpus Christi *Ice Rays* Hockey team. Paul, the Public relations director, even provided a table where we could set up a display to promote the club and upcoming Joan events before the game. As the people gathered out the skating arena waiting to enter the build, it was interesting to watch their faces. Some of them were so curious that they pressed their faces to the windows to get a better view. Something strange was happening in the lobby. Of course, Klingon Robert created the most interest. Most people had NEVER seen anyone dressed like that (he was in 'normal battle attire with the ceremonial cloak missing'). A few of the braver fans ventured over to look at the table before the game. Shortly before game time, Stinger, the Ray's mascot showed up for double promotions theirs and ours.

During intermission between play periods, two of the Joan crewmen were escorted out on to the ice to try to win prizes for shooting pucks into the net. Dead Fred, our resident Zombie, tried as hard as she could but 'Fred' only made 3 goals. It was hard to balance, swing the hockey stick, hit the puck, plus aiming it in the proper direction with an arena of rabid fans watching and cheering. Five more crew members got to ride in the "official Rays Guest truck" as it drove around the rink waving to the crowds. I'm not sure who was a bigger hit with the crowds, Klingon Robert or Stinger the Mascot...both were VERY popular. We must have brought the Rays good luck as they WON 5-2. Later after the players cleaned up, the team captain brought OUR Captain, Robin Van Cleave, the winning puck as a souvenir. The night was finished at a local restaurant, IHOP, for some fellowship and a small snack.

Two weeks later at the March general crew meeting, we put the final touches on the next big event scheduled. The Joan of Arc joined with the local Horror Society to sponsor an event designed to increase interest in a major Community Service Event planned for later in the year. The event was called "Maul the Mall" keeping with the theme of the movie

show as the highlight of that evening. There was a special one time showing of the George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead". This sci-fi cult Zombie movie had not been previously shown on the theatre screen and the tickets were available for a small donation.

People showed up in ALL manner of Zombie attire to compete in a variety of contests. One of the local TV stations (FOX) sent a camera crew and host of the late night show 'Chilling with Phil' to tape interviews to be shown later on that night's air time. Finally the moment came and close to 80 excited Zombie fans shuffled into the theatre to see the promised show. I heard it was quite good especially with the large amount of "CROWING" (making humorous comments loud enough to be heard all over the theatre) adding to the enjoyment.

March still had one more outside event for the club....To raise funds for the club to function on, the Joan holds Poker Nights. This happens around every three months generally on the 5th Saturday. The members gather at the designated site, have dinner, and bring their bounty to exchange for Latinum, the separate into two groups: Guppies and Sharks according to ability. After at least one hour of playing time has passed both groups combine for the house auction conducted with each player's remaining Latinum. Here is where you need REAL skill because you MUST know when to bid high or be left out when the bid is over your limit. Generally Poker nights are a fun time for fellowship as well as a way raise funds in an inexpensive manner.

The first of April should have a small awards time plus continuing to plan for our participation in the KEDT (a local PBS TV station) teleauction coming up in the second week of May. Stay tuned for more details in the next edition of Fleet Channels.

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

F  
FL  
AE  
CE  
TT  
S

## Money Matters

by : ADM Michelle Fanelli,  
Regional Coordinator

In mid-February Aaron Murphy traveled down my way bringing with him six boxes of regional items from Brad. Some had regional merchandise, flags and summit materials. My favorite was the 50 VHS tapes. I have joked, I am sure, Ranna was happy some of this was leaving the house. There were paper copies of bank statements, tax documents, and summit files. We also had an electronic transfer of the financial records so I could set up the files in my system. I thank Aaron for his long drive and Brad for making the items available.

It has taken awhile to get the bank accounts transferred to the Frost Bank here, but all has been taken care of. New bankcard and checks are in my hands, so we have started finishing up what needed to be taken care of. There were some things I knew about such as the payment for the Summit 2007 charity, other things like the Gold Pressed winnings I did not. On Monday April 8, I sent checks to VRCN Robyn Winans for reimbursement for the *Trinity River's* expenses of \$175.00 for the event. The other was for the North Texas Food Bank of \$1,117.67. The *Trinity River* will be giving it to the Food Bank for the region. Also on that date, I send to Evan Richards, CO of the *Freedom III*, their winnings of \$80.00. I want to thank them for hanging in there.

During review of the records, it was discovered that the check for the donation to the Scholarship fund given to Fleet at Summit '07 was never cashed. Fleet looked into it and it seems the check had gone missing. On April 8, I sent by certified return receipt a replacement check

of \$953.50. Fleet gave me the time to get our house in order and I appreciated their patience. Hopefully when the checks go through, the books for 2007 will be closed. You can hear the cheering on this end.

We still have no bill from the Howard Johnson's for Retreat. They were sent a request for the bill by certified mail with a return receipt requested in March. I did get the signed receipt, but at this typing no contact as to the final amount. Our meeting space was a \$159 with tax, but we had to make up whatever rooms the region didn't book for the weekend. The number was twenty and I am hoping we missed by five or less.

When the checks go through for the 2007 items, the region will be left with \$1,886.18 at Frost Bank and \$150.00 in our PayPal account. Our budget went from \$3,500.00, to the working total. That will affect a lot of the decisions we make in this year and the next. It has been a deciding factor with a lot of the summit items. As I said at Retreat we were going to have to find ways to get more bang for the buck and that 2008 was going to be a lean year. We looked at what items will cost, before we just do them. If we cannot afford something, we will not do it. We have started developing budgets.

I am not thrilled; there were a lot of things I hoped we could do this year. Just means we do them a little differently. I know that it is tough now, but the region will be better for it long term.



## STARFLEET ACADEMY COINS

by: Pete Mohnney,  
Starfleet Quartermaster  
quartermaster@sfi.org

On Monday, April 7th the mailman put into my hands a small box containing the long-awaited



Starfleet Academy Challenge coins! I have already taken orders for quite a few of them, and have received numerous inquiries from others.

While the majority of the coins were made in a gold color, ten were made in silver and are on sale, first paid, for \$30 each. (No more than one coin will be sold to any one person or address.) In addition, one coin -- and only one -- was cast in black, and this coin is being auctioned off to benefit the Starfleet Academy Scholarship Fund.

Here's how the auction works: to place a bid, send an email with your bid, name and email to [qm@sfi.org](mailto:qm@sfi.org). I will take bids until 11:59 p.m. central on April 21. Any bids received after that time and date will not count. You may also send in bids through the mail to:

Pete Mohnney  
Starfleet Quartermaster  
3152 Dolly Ridge Dr.  
Birmingham, AL. 35243

Please note that the Starfleet QM order form has been updated to contain info for the silver coins.

Thanks for looking, and happy bidding!



## R3 Summit '08

by: COMM Jeffrey A. Webb  
Region Three Summit  
Chairperson 2008

Officers, Crew and Marines of the Third Fleet,

I know there has been a lot of curiosity and speculation about Summit 2008 (July 18-20, Waco, TX.). Allow me to fill you in on some of the information we have at this time.

First of all, this is not your father's Oldsmobile. Erm... Summit. We're changing some things up in a fresh, new way to see how the Region likes it. We're adding a couple of new twists we hope you'll enjoy -- and oh, yeah -- there's going to be a commemorative Summit 2008 t-shirt available as well.

Summit this year is offering a commemorative t-shirt with the Region Three logo on the front, and the Summit 2008 logo on the back. Wanna see the logo? So do we! Encourage your CO to vote on the Summit theme. We've got great plans in the works for both proposed themes, and we'll be able to display a Summit logo once the theme has been decided by the chapters of the Third Fleet.

Right now the finishing touches are being put on the Summit schedule and itinerary. You have my personal guarantee that we will be putting all this information out to you as soon as it's fixed and available. All we're waiting on is for the Region to tell us what theme they want, and we'll be able to finish up the planning stages.

Remember the Mirror, Mirror promotion game from the Mirror, Mirror Summit? It's back, with some new flavor. Come join a Pirate Crew -- or is it a cell of the OSS/French Resistance? The Region picks the theme, and boy do we have a game. Outwit your fellow Summit attendees and work your way up the ranks through guile,

deception, and the suitable application of a cardboard dagger. Want more info? Watch the list.

Summit will be \$18 per member, \$12 per member 12 and under. At the door, registration rises to \$20 and \$15. There's no banquet package this year. What? Are we crazy? Maybe, Egon, but that's not all. You see, members have talked and we listened. Several folks have complained about the price of hotel food, and the quality for that price. So this year, we're trying something new. We've got some gonzo entertainment scheduled for the normal after-dinner shindig, and in place of a \$20 or more banquet we're offering a Summit t-shirt. The commemorative shirt will be available with your Summit registration and will have the Region Three logo on the breast, and the Summit 2008 logo on the back.

Swanky, no?

The Registration Page will be up in a matter of days. To secure your room for the weekend, please call the Clarion Hotel, Waco Texas at 512-757-2000 and tell

them you're registering for STARFLEET Region Three Summit on the 18th, 19th and 20th of July. The Clarion is located at 801 South 4th Street in Waco, Texas 76706. Rooms for up to four occupants are \$89.95 per night, with a Deluxe Room with two Queen sized beds are available for \$99.95 per night. Each room includes continental breakfast.

Some folks may remember the Clarion from events past. She's been completely renovated and remodeled, and is under new management. USS *Ark Angel* commissioned in this Hotel, and we've had a lot of fun events there, including a Summit and a Millennium Party. Let's make it one more for the history books.

So reserve those rooms. More information and event details are coming down the pipe. Count on it.

## VCS OFFICE VACANCIES

by: ADM Dennis Gray  
Director of Personnel, SFI  
personnel@sfi.org

The following are current vacancies within the Vice Commander Starfleet's office. These positions will remain open until filled. All interested applicants should read the duties and qualifications carefully, and then, if interested, send an email to ADM Dennis Gray at: personnel@sfi.org. They are:

VCS office vacancies:

- 1.) Fleet resources Director
- 2.) PetFleet Coordinator
- 3.) Medical Corps Coordinator
- 4.) Costuming Guild Coordinator
- 5.) Echoes from Space Coordinator
- 6.) Alternate Universe Coordinator
- 7.) Video and Movie Production Coordinator

To apply, send your Starfleet resume, including your name, SCC #, rank, region, chapter, position(s) held, and any other relevant Starfleet and/or real world experience and/or training. Send your email to: personnel@sfi.org, and (this is important), put the name of the position that you are applying for in the subject line of your email!

Additionally, if you are not interested in these positions, but want to place your name in the pool for consideration for future openings, send your info to me as well, and indicate in your email that you are submitting your name for the resume pool.

Good luck!



## NEW STARFLEET LISTSERVE

This time they are official

For many years the people in charge of the various departments of STARFLEET have posted official business on an UN-OFFICIAL list, Starfleet-I. On the advice of STARFLEET's law firm, this administration has set up an official site -- sfi-l (<http://lists.sfi.org/listinfo.cgi/sfi-l-sfi.org>) -- whose purpose is to discuss STARFLEET business. The site is open to all STARFLEET members who are PENDING or ACTIVE according to the SFI database.

There is talk about creating an official list just for fun, as well, but this is still in the discussion phase. SFI-L-announce is the other official listserve some of you are familiar with.

At first we were off to a rocky start because the rules were still in question and we hadn't selected our permanent moderators yet. But now we have five ... count them ... five moderators, one of whom is yours truly. So flaming and name-calling have been dealt with for now.

Just so you know, the unofficial list starfleet-I is still alive and well.

Subscribers to the Official SFI Members Discussion List are required to be members in good standing of STARFLEET.

Until the official guidelines have been completed and the following will serve as our temporary guidelines:

- 1.) Mail to the group should be of broad interest to the group as a whole.
- 2.) Please be conscientious of the volume of mail being posted. Send personal mail directly to the person concerned. Brief congratulatory/welcome messages should also be sent personally rather than to the group. Likewise messages such as "I Agree, and/or Me Too", should be avoided.

3.) No flaming! Any messages of complaint about another member should be sent directly to that person or to the moderators.

4.) The writings and opinions posted to the SFI-I mailing list are strictly the opinions of the writer and do not contain any endorsements or guarantees of any kind, unless otherwise noted by an person in an official capacity or a list moderator/owner.

5.) Postings that could be construed as defamatory, libelous, or offensive (such as race, creed, religion, etc.) to other members should not be posted to the list.

6.) Membership on this list constitutes an undertaking to abide by these initial rules and to be considerate of other members when posting mail to the list.

7.) Keep in mind, that sometimes folks may misunderstand the tone of your words, as they can not see you, so choose your words carefully, when you are passionate or upset about a subject.

In addition to these ground rules, we have a guide to netiquette to help members make the best use of our mailing list. New subscribers are requested to familiarize themselves with the ground rules and the netiquette guide before posting to the list.

## REGION THREE REPORTING STATUS

by : ADM Michelle Fanelli,  
Regional Coordinator

### January 2008

Chapters: 19

*Ark Angel, Aurora Vulcanus, Bexar, Firebird, Freedom III, Gunslinger, Laredo, Lone Star, Maverick, Palo Duro, Regulator, Renaissance, Rhyanna, SpiritWolf, Tejas, Thunderwolf, Trinity River, Victory*

Chapters in Training 3

*Azrael, Corsair, Serenity*

### Feburary 2008

Chapters: 19

*Ark Angel, Aurora Vulcanus, Bexar, Firebird, Freedom III, Gunslinger, Joan*

*of Arc, Lone Star, Maverick, Palo Duro, Regulator, Rhyanna, SpiritWolf, Tejas, Thunderwolf, Victory*

Chapters in Training 3

*Azrael, Corsair, Serenity*

Operations is keeping better track of reporting in terms of on time and late. If you get your report in on 5th, you have reported on time. After the 5th and until the 12th, you are considered as reported late. If you are using the database and wish to send a copy to the region, since the database is not e-mailing the MSR out, you can export and use the [msr@region3.org](mailto:msr@region3.org) or [smsr@region3.org](mailto:smsr@region3.org). The database has sent a few MSR's out in the month of April, so keep your fingers crossed it might be working better.

## *In Remembrance...*

John W. Bunton Passes On  
by: VADM Mark A. Vinson, R3 Historian

Around 2:00 a.m. on March 24, 2008 a former member of STARFLEET and an early mover and shaker of Region Three, John W. Bunton, passed away after a long bout against cancer.



John joined the USS *Joshua*, in January 1990 and served as her CO in 1992. He also served briefly as Regional Coordinator. Many things happened during his tenure as CO and RC that led Region Three to where we are today and why we are what we are. For some these events stir painful memories and may still be upset with John but for others John is remembered quite fondly. Whatever your feelings on the issues, John was, basically, a good man. He was not a malicious person but rather a kind and gentle

*continued next page*

**Bunton -- continued from previous page**

person who honestly meant well. He was always filled with ideas, energy, love and enthusiasm for *Trek*, SFI and those locally involved with such.

In May of 2004, RADM Sean Caughman, Ret., forwarded an e-mail from John stating he had been diagnosed with Colon cancer but after surgery found that it had metastasized and was in his liver as well. He maintained a website until January of 2007 (<http://www.goldwing-world.com/>) that celebrated his love for motorcycles and kept people apprised of his progress — good or bad — along with information

about how to fight cancer that I am sure many people have found helpful.

Below is John's Obituary from the Dallas Morning News:

**John William Bunton** passed away at Hearthstone Assisted Living Hospice in Irving, TX on March 24, 2008 after a long battle with cancer. John was born on July 18, 1963 in Ft. Riley, KS where his father was stationed in the Army. After high school John attended Midwestern State University and later earned an Associates Degree in Electronics from Devry University in Dallas. John was employed as a support engineer at Microsoft in Las

Colinas, TX. He is survived by his wife Gail, parents James and Johnnie Bunton, sister Cynthia Hubbard, brother-in-law Greg Hubbard, niece and nephew Amanda and Kyle Hubbard; special brothers-of-the-heart Scott Staggs, Steve Liptak, John Coward, Mike Maxey; many friends and relatives from his childhood, work, motorcycle activities, sci-fi club and those he met and testified to all through his life. A Memorial Service in celebration of John's life will be held Saturday, April 5 at 2:00 p.m. at Laurel Land Dallas. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the charity of your choice.

## NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF TREK

# DATELINE: STARFLEET

**Writer****Arthur C. Clarke dies at 90**

By RAVI NESSMAN, AP Writer  
03-22-08

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka - Sir Arthur C. Clarke, visionary science fiction writer who co-wrote "2001: A Space Odyssey" and won worldwide acclaim with more than 100 books on space, science and the future, died Wednesday, aide Rohan De Silva said. Clarke, 90, died at 1:30 a.m. after suffering breathing problems. He was unmarried and had no children.

He was buried in his adopted country of Sri Lanka. Music from the film 2001: A Space Odyssey was played at the funeral and a nationwide minute's silence was ordered by the Sri Lankan government to coincide with the ceremony.

"Here lies Arthur C. Clarke. He never grew up and did not stop growing," his gravestone in Colombo is to read, in ac-

cordance with the author's wishes.

Arthur's younger brother, Fred Clarke, attended the funeral along with members of the Ekanayake family, whom the writer had lived in recent years. Fred said his brother had "always loved" the "warm climate and the friendly people" of Sri Lanka. "He said he had managed to escape 40 British winters and had no regrets."

Tamara Ekanayake, who grew up in Sir Arthur's home in Colombo, paid tribute to him at the service, saying: "We feel so privileged that you left your mark on us. Your footprint will never fade. If anything, it will only magnify what we do," she told mourners.

Before the funeral, yellow roses were thrown onto Sir Arthur's body as a final gesture of respect as it lay on a white bed beneath curved elephant tusks.

Co-author with Stanley Kubrick of Kubrick's film "2001: A Space Odyssey," Clarke was regarded as far more than a science fiction writer.



He was credited with the concept of communications satellites in 1945, decades before they became a reality. Geosynchronous orbits, which keep satellites in a fixed position relative to the ground, are called Clarke orbits.

Clarke's non-fiction volumes on space travel and his explorations of the Great Barrier Reef and Indian Ocean earned him respect in the world of science, and in 1976 he became an honorary fellow of

*continued on page 13*



## Company offers moon as final resting place

Thu Mar 27, 7:31 p.m. ET  
by: Jill Serjeant & Frances Kerry, Reuters LA

The moon could become a final resting place for some of mankind thanks to a commercial service that hopes to send human ashes to the lunar surface on robotic landers, the company said on Thursday.

Celestis, Inc., a company that pioneered the sending of cremated remains into suborbital space on rockets, said it would start a service to the surface of the moon that could begin as early as next year.

The cost starts at \$10,000 for a small quantity of ashes from one person.

Celestis president Charles Chafer said his company reached an agreement with Odyssey Moon Ltd. and Astrobotic Technology Inc., to attach capsules containing cremated remains onto robotic lunar landers.

Odyssey Moon and Astrobotic are among private enterprises seeking to land a robotic craft on the moon and conduct scientific experiments. The cremation capsules would remain on the moon with the lunar landers when the missions were complete.

Chafer said he expected about 1,000 capsules containing ashes to be launched on the first lunar mission, expected in late 2009 or early 2010, and about 5,000 on future flights.

"The moon is a special place," Chafer said, adding a half dozen people had already signed up for the service.

"For many people, it would be a romantic



**An artist's rendition of the Moon Rover which will carry capsules containing a portion of cremated remains of persons (see next image) in a payload to the surface of the Moon by Celestis, Inc. as soon as 2009. (Odyssey Moon, Ltd./Handout/Reuters)**

notion to look up into the sky and see the moon and know that your mom or dad or loved one is up there memorialized."

In the past 11 years, Celestis Inc., a unit of Houston-based Space Services Incorporated, has sent the ashes of hundreds of people from 14 nations into space, including U.S. astronaut Gordon Cooper and *Star Trek* actor James Doohan, who played chief engineer Scotty in the popular TV series.



## 'Flying Saucer' Home to Be Auctioned in Tennessee

Associated Press  
Friday, March 14, 2008



CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A mountainside house being auctioned in Tennessee is perfect for anyone tolerant of gawkers and fascinated with outer space: It's built like a flying saucer.

The home "landed" on a twisting road leading to Chattanooga's Signal Mountain in 1970 — just after television executives grounded the run of the original "Star Trek" series. It will be sold to the highest bidder Saturday.

The circular house — ultramodern when it was built — is ringed with small square windows and directional lights and perched on six "landing gear" legs. It has multiple levels, three bedrooms, two baths and an entrance staircase that retracts with the push of a button.

Terry Posey, an agent with Crye-Leike Auctions of Cleveland, Tenn., said the current owner has had the property only four months and didn't want to comment. Posey posted an e-Bay ad and said he already has a \$100,000 bid.

John Kleeman of Litchfield, Conn., an attorney and space culture enthusiast, said he knows of variations of the flying saucer design in Florida, Connecticut and

*continued page 14*

## EICK: BIONIC IS DEAD

by: Ian Spelling

David Eick, co-executive producer of NBC's SF series *Bionic Woman*, confirmed to SCI FI Wire that



the network has indeed canceled the show, though the network has not yet officially said as much.

"I just felt that the process was so frustrating, and the conditions under which we were making that show never really came to fruition in such a way that I felt like we could make the show well," Eick said in an interview at SCI FI Channel's upfront presentation to advertisers in New York on March 18. "The actress [Michelle Ryan] we found was wonderful. Some of the writing was good."

But, he added: "We just didn't ever bring it all together like we did with *Battlestar*. At a certain point, when it becomes that frustrating, I think you're better off to say, 'Let's try again another time,' and let it go."

*Bionic Woman*, a reboot of the 1970s series of the same name, debuted to strong ratings last fall, but its numbers dropped precipitously after that, and behind-the-scenes problems persisted. Cancellation was expected after the network failed to order additional episodes once the writers' strike ended.

**Clarke -- continued from page 11**

the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

But it was his writing that shot him to his greatest fame and that gave him the greatest fulfillment.

"Sometimes I am asked how I would like to be remembered," Clarke said recently. "I have had a diverse career as a writer, underwater explorer and space promoter. Of all these I would like to be remem-

bered as a writer."

In 1950 he began a prolific output of both fiction and non-fiction, sometimes publishing three books in a year. Some of his best-known books are "Childhood's End," 1953; "The City and The Stars," 1956; "The Nine Billion Names of God," 1967; "Rendezvous with Rama," 1973; "Imperial Earth," 1975; and "The Songs of Distant Earth," 1986.

When Clarke and Kubrick got together to develop a movie about space, they used as basic ideas several of Clarke's shorter pieces, including "The Sentinel," written in 1948, and "Encounter in the Dawn." As work progressed on the screenplay, Clarke also wrote a novel of the story. He followed it up with "2010," "2061," and "3001."

In 1989 Clarke, a commentator on the Apollo moonshots in late '60s, wrote: "2001 was written in an age which now lies beyond one of the great divides in human history; we are sundered from it forever by the moment when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped out on to the Sea of Tranquility. Now history and fiction have become inexorably intertwined."

Clarke won the Nebula Award of the Science Fiction Writers of America in '72, '74 and '79; the Hugo Award of the World Science Fiction Convention in '74 and '80, and in 1986 became Grand Master of the Science Fiction Writers of America. He was awarded the CBE in 1989.

Born in Minehead, western England, on Dec. 16, 1917, the son of a farmer, Arthur Charles Clark became addicted to science fiction after buying his first copies of the pulp magazine "Amazing Stories" at Woolworth's. He read English writers H.G. Wells and Olaf Stapledon and began writing for his school magazine in his teens.

After High School Clarke went to work as an auditor clerk in the Exchequer and Audit Department in London, where he joined the British Interplanetary Society and first wrote on space travel.

In the wartime Royal Air Force, he was put in charge of a new radar blind-landing system, Ground Controlled Approach.

But it was an RAF memo he wrote in 1945 about the future of communications that led him to fame. It was about the possibility of using satellites to revolutionize communications — an idea whose time had decidedly not come and was almost rejected as too far-fetched by a publication called *Wireless World*.

It was not until after the World War II that Clarke received a BS degree in physics and mathematics from King's College in London.

He moved to the Indian Ocean island of Sri Lanka in 1956 after embarking on a study of the Great Barrier Reef.

Clarke, who had battled debilitating post-polio syndrome since the 1960s, discovered that scuba-diving approximated the feeling of weightlessness that astronauts experience in space. He remained a diving enthusiast, running his own scuba venture into old age. "I'm perfectly operational underwater," he once said.

Clarke was linked by his computer with friends and fans around the world, spending each morning answering e-mails and browsing the Internet.

At a 90th birthday party thrown for Clarke in December, the author said he had three wishes: for Sri Lanka's raging civil war to end, for the world to embrace cleaner sources of energy and for evidence of extraterrestrial beings to be discovered.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Clarke once said he did not regret having never followed his novels into space, adding that he had arranged to have DNA from strands of his hair sent into orbit.

"One day, some super civilization may encounter this relic from the vanished species and I may exist in another time," he said. "Move over, Stephen King."

**Flying Saucer -- continued from page 12**

California.

The flying saucer designs popped up about the time of the moon landings. "That's when all the excitement was," Kleeman said.

The Chattanooga home's unusual shape

— sort of like two white Frisbees pasted together — poses some interior decorating challenges. The curve of the exterior creates a sloping ceiling and short side walls, but there's also a striking curved bar and a custom bathtub.

The house is larger than the prefabricated and movable UFO-shaped structures, known as Futuro houses, designed by

Finnish architect Matti Suuronen in 1968.

"It really looked like a spaceship ready to take off," said Realtor Lois Killebrew, who handled an open house at the first sale of the Chattanooga home decades ago.

The late Curtis W. King and his family built the unusual home because "they liked to do unusual things," Killebrew said.

**Not a Mercury or Saturn, but It Goes Way Off Road**

By JOHN SCHWARTZ  
Published: March 30, 2008

It turns on a dime and parallel-parks like a dream. On the downside, it's a little pricey (at \$2 million or so) and its top speed is a pokey 15 miles an hour.

Still, there's a lot to like about the concept car taking shape here at the Johnson Space Center.

Did I say car? The new moon buggy conceived by space center engineers is anything but a car or a buggy. Its official name is Chariot, and this, my friends, is a truck. A heavy duty workhorse of a truck.

"America basically created the truck," said Lucien Junkin, the chief engineer on the project. And so, he says, why not take a truck to the moon if NASA, as planned, takes humans back, as early as 2020?

It is a beguiling idea, especially as realized in a vehicle infused with the lessons learned from the Apollo-era moon missions and the subsequent success of the Spirit and Opportunity robotic rovers on Mars.

This model took a year to build. It looks

kind of like what you'd get if a monster truck had a ménage à trois with a flatbed trailer and a medieval siege engine.

As a concept car, it is more than just ideas in metal and rubber, Mr. Junkin said. He said he hoped it would be attention-getting enough to be "a signature item for return to the moon" — the kind of object that in itself can build excitement about NASA's new lunar program.

That is a pretty big load for any vehicle, no matter how spiffy. But this one may be able to carry the weight: basically, it is a long flatbed with six sets of double tires, each set independently steered. At one end is the driver's seat — actually, a rotating turret with a computer screen and a joystick — along with a host of cameras, lights and sensors that would let the rover be driven by remote control, or even to make its way along the barren plains of the moon or Mars with a degree of autonomy.

The astronaut driver would snap himself or herself into the turret — it's designed to accommodate a space suit — with a rigid seatback inspired by those in Nascar. "We want light, but we want strong," Mr. Junkin said.

A compactly built man with a crew cut, Mr. Junkin has the hardy aspect of someone who grew up working around gravel

pits — which he did. For four generations, his family has owned a gravel business that supplied stone that went into levees on the Mississippi River and highways around the South. He looks like the kind of guy who worked a bulldozer before he could ride a bike. This is also the case: he remembers sitting on his father's lap at the age of 5 on Sunday afternoons. "We used to get on bulldozers and pull sticks," he recalled.

Now he has a degree in mechanical engineering and a lot of experience with robotics. Standing in the turret, he grabs the joystick and punches commands into the video screen. He turns the turret to the left and right, and the wheels swivel to drive in the direction he is facing.

He stops and invites me to put my feet in the metallic gold restraints on the back of the vehicle — the "cheap seats," he says. And then he corrects himself: "Don't call 'em cheap seats!"

They are, properly, "contingency seats," for two astronauts whose other rover may have broken down.

Whatever. I strap in, and Mr. Junkin sets off toward the moon.

Or at least a reasonable facsimile thereof. He is driving in an open patch of dirt at

*continued next page*



### ***Lunar Buggy -- continued from previous page***

the edge of the Johnson Space Center, and his gravel expertise is much in evidence here. There is a steep hill strewn with rocks, a patch of gravel with three "craters" deep enough to challenge the vehicle, and another patch of red dirt with larger rocks cast about that is supposed to simulate the Martian surface. It is an otherworldly scene, rendered only slightly less so by the sight of an apartment complex across Space Center Boulevard.

As he drives up over the lip of a crater, the wheels under me edge out over nothing and don't touch the gravel until the vehicle is far enough out over the edge that gravity brings my end down.

This feels a little like being on the end of a diving board just as somebody releases it from its stand, but I have my right arm hooked over a railing, so I get only a jolt that will make me more aware of my shoulder's existence for a day or two. Once in the crater, he crabs up the side again, gravel spitting away as the wheels steadily move us upward.

Rubber tires like these will never touch regolith, the abrasive dust and rock that covers the moon. This buggy was built to test ideas for the next generation of lunar vehicles, successors to the Mars rovers.

So this baby is loaded. For one thing, its six sets of wheels can be independently steered so that it can revolve in place — or "crab" — to the left and right on its way uphill. To use a terrestrial example, it could slide sideways into a tight parking space.

It also has an active suspension — really active. The driver can raise or lower the chassis from ground level to about 28 inches high.

Mr. Junkin sees his robotic creation as the kind of machine that could land on the moon in the years before humans return, potentially clearing a patch of land and preparing it for construction. The team has tested a bulldozer blade for the

front of the rover and started pushing gravel around. "It worked so well, I was surprised," he exclaimed.

But at 4,500 pounds, this beast is far too heavy to hoist moonward. It is far too big as well. The first lunar rovers of the 1960s folded up like mechanical origami, and so did the Mars rovers; the moon truck will almost certainly need some of that Transformer magic as well.

Its off-the-shelf parts — commercial tires, cheap Webcam — would never make it in the extreme environment of space. "Our thought is, we can take a version and run it around and test it" here, Mr. Junkin said, and then make choices about what works and what trade-offs need to be made.

The features will be lined up against one another, and crabbing wheels might be seen as adding too much weight or cost. But the six sets of wheels might prove so advantageous that they have to stay.

NASA has suggested that the final version might even be a covered and pressurized vehicle that would let its passengers to work in the same shirtsleeve environment that they enjoy on the space shuttle and the International Space Station; suits would be incorporated into the exterior of the vehicle with the back of the suit open so that the explorers would step into them, seal up and then walk out onto the lunar surface.

Such concepts go too far for some at NASA of a more critical bent. One scientist, who insisted on anonymity out of concern for his career, called the current thinking on moon rovers "sheer fantasy" that relies on plans for something that would be too heavy and too expensive, and would leave astronauts too vulnerable to the intense radiation that washes



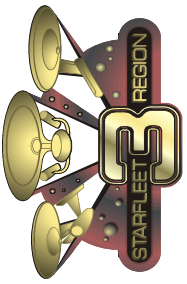
over the moon.

The design team is small — 10 people. Mr. Junkin is chief engineer, and there are other engineers for suspension, transmission, batteries, power distribution, software. "We like to say it was Apollo-like," Mr. Junkin said, referring to the rapid decision-making and flexibility of the nation's first lunar program.

Jodi Graf, an engineer on the project who works on the sensors and how their data is used, watched as Mr. Junkin took off again and climbed the steeper hill. Three of the wheels went airborne, but she said with a smile, "As long as he's got three, it's safe — and I've seen him on two."

Ms. Graf said that working on an experimental vehicle has its moments. She recalled one blindingly hot and miserable summer day when she and the team were out with the truck. She recalled looking toward Space Center Boulevard and seeing that people had stopped their cars to watch. "Yeah," she recalled thinking, "what I do is cool." And it is. At least, to people who find such things cool.

Some people are less enchanted, of course. They might not be moved by the romance of space, or the geeky fun of really big toys. When I got home, I proudly showed my wife a picture of me riding the rover. She examined it for a moment. And then she said, "You are such a dork."



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