



# FLEET CHANNELS

JULY - AUGUST '08 A VOLUME 17, NO. 4

## SUMMIT 2008 WRAP-UP EDITION

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"PIRATE LASS" JENNIFER HENGH POSES FOR THIS SHOT BY EVAN RICHARDS AT SUMMIT 2008

THE NEWSLETTER FOR REGION THREE

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VRG (South): RADM Jeff Webb ..... vrcs@region3.org

VRG (West): COL John Johnston ..... vrcw@region3.org

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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  
RegionalCoordinator@region3.org

The dog days of summer are upon us, apologies to my dog AJ. Even though gas prices and temperatures are climbing, we have had an awesome time in Region Three.

I enjoyed a fun filled and productive IC too; but don't ask me about the flight back. The IC team really did an outstanding job and I thank them for the weekend. The ECAB meeting gave out a lot of handouts and I am still trying to type up my notes. One really needs an assistant for these. The big news coming out of the weekend is that Fleet is talking to Viacom/CBS about the name Starfleet. It looks like Starfleet: The International Fan Association Inc., owns the copyright on the name. They are in final discussions, but it looks like the name will be in Fleet's hands. Very cool.

Congratulations to the *Corsair* for winning Shakedown Chapter of the Year for Starfleet and the *Aurora Vulcanus* for Mothership. It was honor to pick up the kids's award.

Summit was awesome. The *Ark Angel*, *Rhyanna* and *Serenity* really out did themselves. There are so many to thank, I know I will forget someone, so THANK YOU. Special hugs to Jeff Webb, who pulled it together. We have a great team of folks who made my first summit a pleasure and I could work in the system very

easily. It was wonderful to see so many new faces. I think all had a blast. And I like the going out to dinner and sampling the local food. Thanks to the *Freedom III* for inviting the *Old AV* crew to have Mexican food. We also raised a lot for the charity. See money matters for the current total. And of course I cannot forget Jim Van Cleave for giving me the bird. The second parrot I have received from the "Old Pirate" and I owe him one. And to my sister "The Catt" who surprised me for an early birthday. I know many were in on it and I didn't have clue. My Iron Man figure is protecting my computer.



It was also a great weekend for folks wanting to get more involved. We had great chats on recruiting, working with others and just I want to help out. That is what makes a region run, members moving things together. We cannot do it without you.

Speaking of which, we got a great response for our handbook project. I have a list and we are looking at the final picks. Even if we don't use them all, we have your name for future work; I don't like to let volunteers get away.

We also lost two folks on staff: Raymond Ford and Randi South. Raymond has been on staff forever in different roles and decided it was time to take a break. I didn't cry with the announcement at summit, but I was close. I thank him for hang-



ing in there for these months of my first term. Randi as our SHoC has been a wonder, but wishes to focus on other things. I thank her for being guidance counselor for our kids. We are currently looking for talented and giving folks to step in and help the region grow. We are still on the hunt for Communications and Finance officer as well.

Speaking of financial matters, we did ask Fleet to talk to their lawyer about a region incorporating. At IC, it was discussed and there might be some issues if we did. They did not tell us No, but there were some concerns about our membership and if it would change the relationship they had with fleet. Also we would not get much benefit if we did, since we would go for the hobby club or 501c7. Fleet is also starting to extend their corporate umbrella more to the regions and hope to help in the liability area. So we decided not to seek incorporation at this time. We will continue to file taxes, report to the state, etc. We did have the option of using Fleet's sale tax permit for summit if we needed it. Fleets also let us use their plan for Office Max for copying. So I expect them to continue to look for ways to help the regions more.

Our next event is Pool and Darts in Killeen September 13th; yes the steaks will be ready for us.

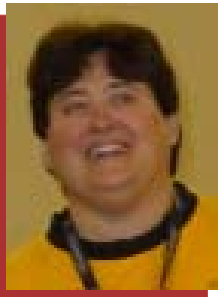
And may the good news be yours.

Admiral Michelle Fanelli  
Regional Coordinator

*Photos provided by Evan Richards*

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

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



We've got a busy fall ahead of us. We had many good ideas come out of meetings from Summit and I am sure many folks in this issue of *Fleet Channels* will be sharing those with

you. Recruitment and PR for the region our keywords for this fall.

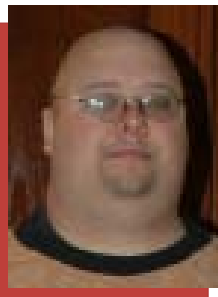
The movie is coming out next May and we're all planning many events leading up. If you haven't heard the sad news of *Star Trek: The Experience* closing then you better get yourself transported to Vegas before the Aug 31st. I've had the opportunity to see the *Experience* twice. Once with my sister who was kind enough to go on the ride with me even though she's not fan of *Star Trek*. The second was when Ed won a trip to Vegas for two just a few weeks after the Borg ride premiered.

As for Recruitment and PR; Trisha, CO of the USS *Corsair*, is looking for input from each ship in the region so that she can write up new and improved Region Three flyers that will be available to all chapters to use for the many activities that each of us have lined up this fall and early next year before the new movie comes out. All members should be on their respective territory lists for their ships as well as participating on the territory list for their physical locations. These are great tools that VRC's use to hear feedback from our members. It's also a great way that the VRC's can communicate with the members in their territory and everyone gets the same information.

*continued on next page*

## SOUTHERN SPACEDOCK

Vice-Regional Coordinator, South  
by: COMM Jeff Webb  
vrcs@region3.org



Whew.

Summit 2008 is behind us and it sounds like a good time was had by nearly everyone. I can't be grateful enough to Clint and Dixie Hill, Heather Ford, Stephanie Izard and their committee members for all the hard work that went into the execution of the event. Not everything went according to the "Grand Plan", but then no plan survives contact with the enemy -- and no Summit survives contact with attendees. FUBAR or not FUBAR, that is the question. Wether tis nobler to stick to the plan as written or adapt and overcome for the greater enjoyment of the membership. I think we did all right, and judging by the comments, emails and phone calls I've gotten -- we did.

Now it's time to move forward. We've got the scramble of putting together a Summit in record time behind us -- and those involved in the project rose to the task. Now, we've got to get the Region rolling in nearly every other way. Recruiting, retention, new activities, updating old activities are our immediate tasks at hand. All of this requires work, planning and volunteerism in execution. This means you -- the rank and file member of the Region. We, the staff-types, do get tired. We do get worn out. We're happy to be of service, but we've got to feel like that service isn't being offered in a vacuum. We can't do this forever. With a little bit of spreading the work around, we can all have a good time and no one group of folks will get the dreaded "burn-out".

See, this little missive of mine is going to

*continued on next page*

## GO WEST YOUNG MAN!

Vice-Regional Coordinator, West  
by: COL John Johnston  
VRC-West@region3.org



Greetings to all! I know we are all recuperating from the Waco Summit, and some from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Dolly. Hang in there, folks.

My heartfelt thanks go to the crew of the *Ark Angel* and the *Rhyanna* for putting on a great summit in Waco! Can't wait for next year's summit! Congratulations to all of the awardees and those who received promotions.

For those who were curious about the fox suit, yes it was pretty warm inside that big walking carpet. For those who are asking, "What fox suit?" you can look for the pictures in the Summit picture site, as soon as LGN Murphy puts them up. That's what you get for missing Summits -- you miss out on silliness like that.

For those who were affected by Hurricane or Tropical Storm Dolly, I hope the damage wasn't too severe and the emotional strain was not too traumatic. I was deeply concerned about the tornadoes in San Antonio and Corpus Christi. El Paso got two days worth of steady rain, reminiscent of the Flood of 2006.

Anyway, everyone take care and I hope to hear from you soon.

COL John Johnston  
VRC-West, R3  
DOIC, 3BDE  
SFMC



*John's Alter-ego  
Photo by Evan Richards*

## Here's to You!

Regional Awards Coordinator Report  
by: RADM Billie Clifton  
awards@region3.org

Greetings from Region Three Awards Coordinator:

I hope everyone that attended Summit had as much fun as I did. Not the usual scurrying here and there, oh, my I'm late for this or that, instead really relaxed and laid back this year and I enjoyed it immensely. There was actually time to visit without having to look at your watch every five seconds and figure out where you needed to be.

I hope everyone saw Jeff's postings of award winners on the R3 list (you can also find them klater in this issue *Fleet Channels*), and I'll say everyone deserved each award that was given at Summit; good job everyone and keep up the great work! I'll be contacting CO's of the chapters that didn't have anyone in attendance that did receive an award, so I can mail your members certificates and award pins out.

I've given Aaron the award pin cluster arrangements (how your awards should be set to be worn) that were approved. Aaron will be posting the cluster arrangements on the website in the award section so everyone can see how the award pins need to be worn. When looking at the clusters keep in mind which side your planning on wearing the cluster on the left side or the right side to set the arrangement correctly.

Again, congrats to all of the 2008 Region Three and Starfleet Award winners.




RADM Billie Clifton  
Awards Coordinator

*VRC-N continued from  
previous page*

The ships in LA were unable to join us for Summit but they had no boring weekend! They participated in BabelCon in Baton Rouge and thirteen more members were signed up for Region Three. Congrats to Beau and Trisha for their hard work and persistence.

We're currently working on Summit '09 and hope to have some great news by the next time you read *Fleet Channels*.

Keep you feet on the ground while reaching for those stars!



Robyn

*VRC-S continued from  
previous page*

be quite a bit shorter than the "manifestos" I am so notorious for writing. That's because I am personally pretty worn out right now physically and emotionally. Most of you know that when Summit was over, Mary and I had to drive home, repack, and head to South Texas to attend her grandmother's funeral. That kind of thing really makes you put things in perspective. STARFLEET is a wonderful place to meet wonderful people -- but it is in the end a hobby. In order for all of us to have fun, we've got to spread the administrative and operational load around a bit. Whether you're volunteering to help with registration or child care, or taking a shot at an REC or support staff job -- get out there and find something you're good at. We can find a job for anyone who wants to help, and in my humble opinion it's time to accept and utilize that help.

Folks, we, the leadership need your help to revitalize and repower Region Three. Summit weekend, the crews of our intrepid Louisiana chapters were busy signing up at least thirteen new members, I'm told, doing the recruiting thing and getting their names and STARFLEET's out there. That's the example I want to see

us all following. Let's get out there and do stuff. Lots of stuff. And while you're out there make sure to keep us, your leadership, accountable. Ask us questions, give us opinions and demand information. Show us that you're interested, and that you're listening. It'll help us remember why we're here doing what we're doing. Or at least why we should be here. We, the leaders, shouldn't be here to earn your accolades and adoration. We're here to work, we're responsible by virtue of our titles and offices for making things happen so that you, the membership, get what it is you need out of your membership in STARFLEET and Region Three.

I'll see you all out there. I'm happy to say the Southern Squadron is forging ahead mightily. Let's see if we can get the whole of Region Three running all ahead full.

In Service,



JEFFREY A. WEBB  
Rear Admiral, STARFLEET  
Vice Regional Coordinator (South)  
Commanding Officer, USS Ark Angel

## Fleet Channels Deadlines

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

Sept./Oct. Issue -- Sept. 29, 2008  
Nov./Dec. Issue -- Dec. 1, 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 Azrael, NX-73339  
 Fleetwide Correspondence Vessel  
 CO -- FCPT Beau Thacker  
 azrael@region3.org  
 XO -- LTC David Bailey  
 Launch Date: July 29, 2007  
 Motto: "Strike Hard, Strike Fast,  
 Strike Deep"

Greetings All!

The *Azrael* has had a very busy last two months, but first I want to salute my members that are overseas with operation Iraqi Freedom. Currently the *Azrael* has four members overseas or in another zone serving for this cause.

Now the last two months have been really busy with all three Sector 3 CO's gathering at Trish Tunis', captain of the *Cor-sair*, house for our first Captain's meeting where we discussed plans and other fun things that our chapters are doing this year here and abroad.

The *Azrael* had a family day at Galaxy Skate where eight of us enjoyed roller blading, skating and laser tag. We also went to FEDCON where as the con was shut down but I did get to mingle and meet with several guest stars and rekindle old friendships.

Our most fun was at Babelcon where members from all three chapters were there, wished I could send all the photos here, but Google Babelcon and follow links to pictures and more. We're on YouTube also. The *Azrael*, brought Richard Hatch, Apollo from the original *Battlestar Galactica*, to Babelcon and also was honored by the presence of Bob May, *Lost In Space*'s Robbie the robot guy.

The *Azrael* also gained new members and also is helping with two Away Teams forming in Sector 3. Trish will have her hands full as the new Sector 3 Chief.



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

Greetings from the *Lady J*:

I trust everyone who attended Summit in Waco has now had time to recover and resume their "real life duties". June was a calm, peaceful month. Besides the usual monthly meeting, we had a backyard Bar-B-Cue to celebrate the 'official' arrival of summer, according to the calendar, Ha, Ha, HA! It was held at Robin & Jim's house as they have the largest yard complete with Kiddy pool and two grills. All members who attended had a good time with fun, food and fellowship.

July started off with a semi-rained out garage sale held at the XO's house. Each time there was a cloud burst, the sale items were pulled into the garage and the sale continued. Unfortunately, mostly due to the weather, the results were less than desired from such a venture.

Summit on the other hand was definitely better. After a few false starts, the Corpus contingent was on the road by Friday noon. Waco was the gathering point for members of the *Joan* from several different directions. The main group came up from the south with a group of Marines joining us from Victoria. There was one very brave soul who FLEW in from Florida to join us. We arrived at the hotel around 8 p.m. having been fed dinner by Jim's aunt who lives in Waco. The Hospitality room was going strong as well as a few other groups all greeting each other with Hi, how are you?, Nice to see



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"

Well, we made a good showing at the Region Summit this year in Waco. We had five adults and one cadet that were able to be there.

Our cadet, Alex, was in the Color Guard and did a wonderful job of it. She also received a scholarship award for all her hard work in school.

Various members of the crew also got some good awards as well -- including the Newsletter of the Year award for our chapter newsletter.

Our own Don Williams and Kyle Schugart represented us proudly at the Pirate Battles (fencing tournament) during the Saturday evening dance/tournament festivities.

We all made it home safely at various times on Sunday and next year looks like it should be just as interesting. Thanks to the Regional Staff and the *Ark Angel*, *Serenity* and *Rhyanna* for making it a good weekend.

FCPT Liz Goulet,  
 Comm. Officer  
 USS Regulator



**Liz accepts the R3 Newsletter of the Year Award at Summit '08.**  
 Photo by Jess Naumann

***Azrael -- continued from previous page******Bob May, Beau Thacker and Richard Hatch at BabelCon***

The *Azrael* shall commission soon and with that, many more adventures await us as we continue to go to the third star to the left and full speed ahead,

FCPT Beau Thacker

***JofA -- continued from previous page***

you this year, etc. This year it had more than just Chocolate goodies; the *Joan* donated some 'Cosmic Rice Krispie Treats' made from fruity pebbles cereal.

Saturday morning came early as club members prepared for Opening Ceremonies with anticipation. I threw a lot of people a curve by showing up in my Andorian persona. Some of these people had known/seen me for years but didn't recognize me BLUE. They would give me the strangest/longest looks until I spoke or was spoken to. Then everyone would laugh & try to fool someone else.

The *Joan* did really well in the awards this year receiving a total of nine including both Chapter of the Year and having Robin Van Cleave get Officer of the Year. The following awards were handed out too: Iron Star, Diane Beets; Silver Pillar, Margaret Branstetter; Golden Pillar, Tahnya Abbott & myself; Legion of Merit, Robert Shaver; and Volunteer, again Robert Shaver & myself. After a filling Italian lunch, it was off to the afternoon pan-

els. Our younger members really enjoyed making their own swords then transforming into pirates for the Summit Treasure Hunt. I sat in on the 'Meet the RC' panel for a while then checked out the costuming one also. During the Marine Muster, I attended the Sci-fi Name that tune. That was a hoot, especially if the 10-15 seconds of music had the name of the show mentioned. If it was a *Trek* theme you had to tell the series as well. People made the strangest faces while they tried to remember the answers, or waited their turn sure they were correct. Prizes were awarded to the people who named the most songs.

There were two birthday parties for dinner, Shell-Shell, and Jim's. His was at his aunt's home there in Waco and it was attended by members of the *USS Victory*, the Aaron Murphy family as well as the crew of the *Joan of Arc* and Jim's relatives. We had grilled hot dogs and sausage, beans, chips, dips, drinks and Birthday cake, complete with a Batman figurine for Christopher Van Cleave.

Returning to the hotel, the charity Auction was underway with great gusto. Later, upon the conclusion of the payment and claiming of, the Pirate Battles began. The three Marines of the *Lady J* formed a group and thoroughly whacked all challenging teams. Then they looked around for other Pirates to battle! Yea for our newest members!

This year was also the first time that the club hosted a room party courtesy of the Marines. It was a resounding success even if each person who attended was age/ID'd before consuming any nefarious beverages! The crowd ebbed & flowed thru the evening into the early morning hours, some a 'wee bit' more relaxed than others!!!

Sunday had Closing Ceremonies, socializing and plans for next year. The *Joan* convoy headed out toward Mathis about 1 P.M. but had to make frequent stops due to the bug Robin picked up from an unknown source. It was a tired group that finally returned to home base much later Sunday night.

The *USS Joan of Arc* is spending most of August preparing for a con down here! The first weekend of Sept is RealmsCon. Come down and play with us.

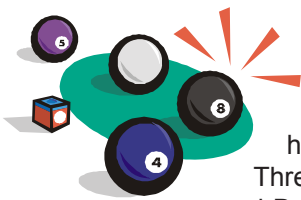
P.S.: John Johnson there are tails of an extra Large Cat & Mouse from S.A. showing up.

FCPT Kris Dobie

***MAN THIS GUY GETS AROUND!  
Dixie Hill, Kat Sweeney,  
Robert Graham & John Johnston  
at Sumitt '08***

# Let's Play!

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



On Saturday, September 13th we will once again have our Region Three Annual Pool and Dart's Sector vs.

Sector Parrises Squares Tournament in Harker Heights TX.! As in years past this has been one of the best loved and most looked forward to events. After a few years off we invaded the Kileen/Harker Heights Moose Lodge (125 West Veterans Memorial Blvd., Harker Heights, TX. 76548) last year. Once again we will enjoy the cash bar and steak dinners. Oh, and we will throw darts and shoot pool too. Come one, come all and let make some more memories!

Here is the Schedule:

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

\* Normally the third Saturday of each month is the Moose Lodge's Steak dinner night and it is open to everyone attending our Pool and Darts Tournament. This year because of things at the National level they have had to shift September's Steak Day to the second Saturday. The meal includes a steak grilled the way you like it, a baked potato, a salad and a dessert. Cost is \$8.00 per dinner.

Those of you interested in taking advantage of this GREAT meal need to e-mail R3RC Shell Fanelli at (mrbasil@flash.net) NO later than Sept. 8th so the Lodge has an idea on how many of us will be eating that evening.

## Pool and Darts Tournament

### Rules

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

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

## Elimination events

### Darts



to throw in the cricket game.

3. A tie breaking game will consist of a

team 801 game in which all four team members throw.

4. Example: Sector 1 wins the cricket game; sector 3 wins the 501 game. The two teams will then play a tie breaker game of 801.

5. All darts will be thrown from behind the throw lines in place already.

6. Scoring is as follows: outer ring is Double value, big sections are single value, inner ring is triple value and bulls are outer ring single inner circles double.

7. To close a number you must hit that number with either three (3) different darts or with a double and single or just a triple.
8. Remember ... the SCORE KEEPER in each game is NOT a target!

### Pool



1. Pool tournament will be played with a two (2) person team for the 8 ball game and a two (2) person team for the 9 ball game.

2. If a third game is needed, it will be decided on by a flip of the coin.

### Final Rule

Come out and ENJOY

Recommend Hotel (just a few blocks from the Lodge):

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

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

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



## Summit 2008: Make It So Ye Scurvy Dogs!

by: Mark A. Vinson, Jeff Webb  
& Jeff Schnoor

Region Three held its Twelfth Annual Summit July 18th -20th at the Clarion Inn in Waco, Texas. This year's theme was Pirates and the mantra was "Make It So Ye Scurvy Dogs!"

The "Region" hosted this event with the USS *Ark Angel*, USS *Rhyanna* and USS *Serenity* doing the lion's share of the work. In addition to the Usual Regional Suspects (some whom now hold Fleet Level positions) that were in attendance, Matt Moyer STARFLEET's Chief of Computer Operations was present.

One of the things we do each year is recognize the hard work and dedication of our membership. It is for that reason that we spend the lion's share of Opening Ceremonies each year on announcing those who have earned the distinction of Regional awards.

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

Congratulations to all winners.

### REGION THREE COMMENDATION

(Individual)

Adam Andrews - USS *Ark Angel*  
Barbara Baker - USS *Ark Angel*  
Trenton Baum - USS *Ark Angel*  
Joshua Earl - USS *Ark Angel*  
Raymond Ford - USS *Ark Angel*  
Howard Bushey - USS *Azrael*

(Vessel)

USS *Ark Angel*  
USS *Aurora Vulcanus*  
USS *Azrael*  
USS *Bexar*  
USS *Corsair*  
SS *Freedom III*  
USS *Gunslinger*  
SS *Maverick*

USS *Rhyanna*  
USS *Serenity*  
USS *Spirit Wolf*  
USS *Tejas*  
ISS *Thunderwolf*  
USS *Victory*

### PURPLE HEART

Beau Thacker - USS *Azrael*  
Dawne Franks - SS *Maverick*

### IRON STAR

Justin Earl - USS *Ark Angel*  
Kris Murphy - USS *Ark Angel*  
Tina Short - USS *Ark Angel*  
Rick South - USS *Ark Angel*  
Tony Walker - USS *Ark Angel*  
David Bailey - USS *Azrael*  
Louis Everett - USS *Azrael*  
Diana Beets - USS *Joan of Arc*  
Mark West - USS *Regulator*  
Don Williams - USS *Regulator*  
Rhonda Dobrovoski - USS *Serenity*

### SILVER PILLAR

Elizabeth Beale - USS *Ark Angel*  
Randi South - USS *Ark Angel*  
Mary Webb - USS *Ark Angel*  
Elizabeth Kell - USS *Gunslinger*  
Cindy Norris - USS *Gunslinger*  
Margaret Branstetter - USS *Joan of Arc*  
Matt Brinkley - USS *Regulator*  
Allan Goulet - USS *Regulator*  
Elizabeth Goulet - USS *Regulator*  
Kyle Schugart - USS *Regulator*  
Jessica Hench - USS *Rhyanna*  
Brent Chapman - USS *Tejas*  
Karon McLain - USS *Tejas*

### LEGION OF MERIT

Robert Shaver - USS *Joan of Arc*  
Robert Graham - USS *Spirit Wolf*

### GOLD PILLAR

Dixie Hill - USS *Ark Angel*  
Trisha Tunis - USS *Corsair*  
Tahnya Abbott - USS *Joan of Arc*  
Kris Dobie - USS *Joan of Arc*  
Kyle Schugart - USS *Regulator*  
Chyrlon Stroud - USS *Tejas*



### CRYSTAL STAR

Aaron Murphy - USS *Ark Angel*  
Billie Clifton - USS *Serenity*

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Robin Grace - USS *Ark Angel*  
Clint Hill - USS *Ark Angel*  
John Halliday - USS *Ark Angel*

### SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Amanda Murphy - USS *Ark Angel*  
Chris Bailey - USS *Azrael*  
Cody Thacker - USS *Azrael*  
Caleb Tutt - USS *Corsair*  
Taysha Tutt - USS *Corsair*  
Veronica De La Rosa - USS *Gunslinger*  
Jonathan Hogan - SS *Maverick*  
Mackenzie O'Neill - SS *Maverick*  
Remington Schugart - USS *Regulator*  
Alexis Williams - USS *Regulator*  
Chris Battle - USS *Rhyanna*  
Grace Ford - USS *Rhyanna*  
Nick Jacobson - USS *Rhyanna*  
Tegan Jacobson - USS *Rhyanna*  
Dayton Spradling - USS *Rhyanna*  
Justin Spradling - USS *Rhyanna*  
Tabitha Tracy - USS *Serenity*

### VOLUNTEER AWARD

Beau Thacker - USS *Azrael*  
Gail Perrin - USS *Corsair*  
Danny Tutt - USS *Corsair*  
Danyele Tutt - USS *Corsair*  
Rudolph Ault - USS *Gunslinger*  
John Johnston - USS *Gunslinger*  
Elizabeth Kell - USS *Gunslinger*  
Harvey Mattern, II - USS *Gunslinger*  
Cindy Norris - USS *Gunslinger*

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**Awards -- continued on previous page**

Kenneth Norris - USS *Gunslinger*  
 Kris Dobie - USS *Joan of Arc*  
 Robert Shaver - USS *Joan of Arc*  
 Dawne Franks - SS *Maverick*  
 Remington Schugart - USS *Regulator*  
 Billie Clifton - USS *Serenity*  
 David Clifton - USS *Serenity*  
 Stephanie Izard - USS *Serenity*  
 Brent Chapman - USS *Tejas*  
 Karon McLain - USS *Tejas*  
 Chyrlon Stroug - USS *Tejas*

## ANNUAL AWARDS

**NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR**  
 USS *Regulator*

**JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
 Adam Andrews, USS *Ark Angel*

**ENLISTED MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
 Jeanette Drzymala, USS *Ark Angel*

**MOTHERSHIP OF THE YEAR**  
 USS *Aurora Vulcanus*  
 (STARFLEET Winner too!)

**SHUTTLE OF THE YEAR**  
 USS *Corsair*  
 (STARFLEET Winner too)

**CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**  
 USS *Joan of Arc*

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
 Robin Van Cleave, USS *Joan of Arc*

**MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
 Jeff Webb, USS *Ark Angel*

Also this year, VADM Sam Black and COMM Matt Moyer made our closing ceremonies an historic occasion by issuing the first instances of awards from Starfleet's Individual Awards program. These awards have been on the books previously, but according to COMM Moyer have never been awarded before. It was the honor of members of Region Three to receive these first awards, setting a precedent for the Fleet to recognize members for participation and dedication much as our own Region Three

awards program does. Below is the list of awards issued, and their recipients.

## THE ORDER OF SURAK

Amanda Murphy - USS *Ark Angel*  
 Chris Bailey - USS *Azrael*  
 Cody Thacker - USS *Azrael*  
 Caleb Tutt - USS *Corsair*  
 Taysha Tutt - USS *Corsair*  
 Veronica De La Rosa - USS *Gunslinger*  
 Jonathan Hogan - USS *Maverick*  
 Mackenzie O'Neill - USS *Maverick*  
 Remington Schugart - USS *Regulator*  
 Alexis Williams - USS *Regulator*  
 Chris Battle - USS *Rhyanna*  
 Grace Ford - USS *Rhyanna*  
 Nick Jacobson - USS *Rhyanna*  
 Tegan Jacobson - USS *Rhyanna*  
 Dayton Spradling - USS *Rhyanna*  
 Justin Spradling - USS *Rhyanna*  
 Tabitha Tracy - USS *Serenity*

## THE ORDER OF DIONYSUS

Jessica Hench - USS *Rhyanna*

## THE ORDER OF DARMOK AND JALAD

Clint Hill - USS *Ark Angel*  
 Tony Walker - USS *Ark Angel*

## GRANKITE ORDER OF TACTICS

Jeffrey Webb - USS *Ark Angel*

## ORDER OF THE KOBAYASHI MARU

Aaron Murphy - USS *Ark Angel*  
 Rick South - USS *Ark Angel*  
 Cory Matt - USS *Ark Angel*  
 James Post - USS *Ark Angel*

## SFMC ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Also at Summit each year we have a Marine Muster. Here is a list of awards presented at the 2008 Marine Muster during.

## VALOR AWARDS

## Cross of Valor

Joy Fink 321st MSG

## Sword of Valor

Bill Downs 321st MSG

## Shield of Valor

Kenneth Norris 308th MSG

## Star of Valor

Adam Andrews 342nd MSG

## Legion of Valor

308th MSG

## SFMC Youth Cross of Valor

Adam Andrews 342nd MSG

## SFMC Legion of Valor

342nd Youth Marines

The Sword was awarded to the most active unit in the community to the 308th MSG

## Brigade Service Commendations

John Johnston	308th MSG
Daniel Dreesbach	348th MSG
Adam Andrews	342nd MSG
Jeff Webb	342nd MSG

## Brigade Achievement Award

Joy Flynt	347th MSG
Daniel Dreesbach	348th MSG
Cindy Norris	308th MSG
Kenneth Norris	308th MSG

## Comet Award

Adam Andrew, James Post, Aaron Murphy, Matt Hill, Corey Matt, Barbara Baker and Tony Walker all of the 342nd MSG

## Community Service

Christopher Obannon	314th MSG
Cathey Osbourne	314th MSG
Conell Osbourne	314th MSG
Nikki Green	314th MSG
Cami Dutton	314th MSG
Tommy Holman	303th MSG
Kenneth Norris	308th MSG

*continued on next page*

**Marine Awards -- continued on previous page**

Cindy Morris	308th MSG
John Johnston	308th MSG
Elizabeth Kell	308th MSG
Kathy Norris	308th MSG
Rudolph Ault	308th MSG
David Bailey	345th MSG
Christian Griffiths	345th MSG
Bill Downs	321st MSG
Angelita Schnoor	347th MSG
Norma Ybarra	347th MSG

**Honor Guard Duty**

USS *KIDD* Baton Rouge, LA

Adam Andrews, Tina Clevenger (Short), Joshua Earl, Justin Earl, Jessica Hench, Jeff Webb, Tony Walker and Cody Wyatt of the 342nd MSG

Great Barrier Expedition - Baton Rouge, LA.

Adam Andrews, Tina Clevenger (Short), Joshua Earl, Justin Earl, Jessica Hench, Jay Takahashi, Randi South, Jeff Webb, Tony Walker and Cody Wyatt of the 342nd MSG

**Naval Citations**

Clint and Dixie Hill of the USS *Ark Angel*  
The USS *Aurora Vulcanus*  
The USS *Joan of Arc*

**PROMOTIONS**

We also use the summit to promote individuals for their service to their chapter, the Region and Starfleet. Here is the list of promotions at Summit 2008.

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL**

Aaron Murphy

**REAR ADMIRAL**

Robyn Winans, Jeffrey Webb

**CAPTAIN/ COLONEL**

Reed Bates, John Johnston

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER**

John Halliday

**ENSIGN**

Jennifer Hench

**PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS**

Elizabeth Beale  
(Mass Communications Specialist)

**PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS**

Robin Grace  
(Mess Management Specialist)

We also had two promotions at the IC.

**FLEET CAPTAIN**

Beau Thacker

**REAR ADMIRAL**

Lisa Pruitt

***MONEY MATTERS***

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli, R3RC

We had some major activity in the money accounts due to summit. These are general totals. I do not have the final body count for the event, so I am going by what funds were collected before the event and at the door.

Checks mailed – \$470.00  
Checks at the door – \$138.00  
Cash registrations - \$108.00  
Cash at the door – \$420.00  
Pay Pal payments – \$681.60

For a grand total of \$1,679.60 for summit registration.

Originally the *Ark Angel* and the *Rhyanna* offered to pay for the Friday night meeting space to help out the region but I never felt comfortable with this arrangement. The Region should be paying for those ourselves, not the chapters. I had been thinking, as the memberships rolled in, to modify the agreement when Jeff Webb asked could the Region pick up Friday night (they had more out of pocket expenses than first planned). I spoke with Robyn Winans and John Johnston and the rest of the staff at the REC summit meeting and we decided that was the fair thing to do. So, we announced in the congress meeting, that the Region would pay for the whole space. I knew the amount \$1,563.50 ahead of the event and

had transferred the funds from both the savings and PayPal accounts to cover the weekend. I Thank both groups for helping us out.

Subtracting the hotel bill from the funds collected for membership, we were left with \$116.10. I still have to hear from Registration to see how we owe them for the weekend and we have one membership still in question.

We also sold summit T-shirts and I am awaiting the final total from Reed Bates. We had some problems with the vendor and had to refigure the sales taxes, so we might have made a few dollars, but not much. Reed also sold Quartermaster items.

The other summit bill was the awards. Billie Clifton really gave us a break (Thank You gal); we owe her \$42.18, which will be taken from the funds left over from the transition.

The Charity fund looks great. We had a lot of fun Saturday night and 100% raised will be going to Child's Play.

Drink of Region - \$61.21. Coke was your winner.  
Cash Donation from Alan Goulet - \$20.00  
The Fights – \$184.23  
Charity Auction - \$884.00

For an announced total of \$1,149.44.

I say "announced" because counting it up at home I got a slightly higher total and am checking with Stephanie Izard. Hey it was Saturday night when we counted. A big thank you for everyone who spent money; it is going to a great charity.

So the piggy bank action -- Checking \$2,493.27 with the charity money waiting to be paid. The hotel bill has already been processed. The Pay Pal account currently has \$530; part of which will be going into the savings account to help build that back up. The saving is riding low at \$353.76.

Next time I will update you on any changes and give you final totals.





## PIX FROM SUMMIT 2008



Photos submitted by Evan Richards,  
Jess Naumann and Dixie Hill

# PIX FROM SUMMIT 2008



Photos submitted by Evan Richards,  
Jess Naumann, Jim Van Cleave and Dixie Hill



## REGION THREE CHAPTER REPORTING

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli

### May 2008

CHAPTER INFORMATION: *Ark Angel, Aurora Vulcanus, Bexar, Corsair, Firebird, Freedom III (Station), Gunslinger, Joan of Arc, Maverick (Station), Lone Star, Regulator, Rhyanna, SpiritWolf, Palo Duro, Tejas, Thunderwolf, Trinity River, Victory*

Chapters In Training: *Azrael, Corsair, Serenity*

### June 2008

CHAPTER INFORMATION: *Ark Angel, Aurora Vulcanus, Bexar, Corsair, Firebird, Freedom III (Station), Gunslinger, Joan of Arc, Lone Star, Maverick (Station), Renaissance, Rhyanna, SpiritWolf, Tejas, Thunderwolf, Victory*

Chapters In Training: *Azrael, Serenity*

The *Laredo* has missed five reports and no one has renewed from the group. I have asked Operations to start the de-commission process. The *Azrael's* paperwork for commissioning is on its way to SHoC.

My thanks to all who have reported each cycle. Fleet is really stressing 100% on time, so I hope we can do better in the next few months. If you want to be considered as reporting on time, Operations needs your msr by the 5th of each month.

If you are not using the database and wish Operations to receive your report, you must use [msr-submit@sfi.org](mailto:msr-submit@sfi.org). With e-mailing them there might be a delay from the time you send them in until the time it is seen in the database. It can take a few days for Operations to input them in. I do keep an eye to ensure the total reflects correctly for each month and include this information in my RC report.

## VCS STARFLEET Military and Veterans Program

by: BDR Jeff Schnoor  
STARFLEET, Fleet Resources  
Center Director

On behalf of the Office of the VCS, and the Office of STARFLEET RESOURCE Center, I am pleased to announce the VCS STARFLEET Military and Veterans Program. This is a new program and service for the VETERANS of the Fleet and SFMC. We are also dedicating this program to a recently fallen Veteran and Fleet Member who desired a program such as this, Deb Kern of Region 1. We have tested the program in a few regions and have found it to be greatly accepted.

This program is open to all Military Veterans and currently serving military personnel. The Director and his staff along with the many members that have served in Fleet and the SFMC that have joined can have an open forum to discuss Veteran or Military related programs or services. Also a depot for information that veterans can help other veterans with information, Suggestions, and Services that can be helpful for others retired, veterans, or those currently serving.

This is a forum for Veterans and not to bash current Military efforts or political endeavors. This program is to help those who are serving or have served to get information and discover further resources. If you are interested in joining and becoming a Member of this group, or if you're the spouse or dependent of someone in the military or a veteran please contact the director, Brigadier General Byron Flynt at [sfmvg@gmail.com](mailto:sfmvg@gmail.com).

If you have served in the REAL Military in any country that STARFLEET has a chapter based in you are welcome.

I feel it is time we honor the members in the Fleet that have and are now serving in the Military. If you would like to join, all we need is the following information: Name, SCC #, Rank in Fleet, Chapter, E-mail Address, Rank in the Military,

Timeframe of service, and the branch they served in: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Reserves or State Guards

## SECTOR THREE LEADER CHOSEN

by: RADM Jeffrey A. Webb  
Vice-Regional Coordinator, South



**FCPT Trish Tunis**  
*Photo provided  
by Beau Thacker*

Officers, Crew and Marines of the Third Fleet,

In my capacity as Vice-Regional Coordinator South it gives me great pleasure to announce that Fleet Captain Trisha Tunis of the USS *Corsair* has been appointed Sector

Leader for the Louisiana chapters. This announcement was made at Summit, but it was recently brought to my attention that my global post must have bounced and never made it out to the list. So here we go.

Congratulations, Fleet Captain Tunis, it was a hard decision to choose which of the hard-chargers from Louisiana to place in this post, but after some discussion with the applicants I do believe we've found that there's more than enough work to go 'round in our fastest growing section of the Third Fleet. I am expecting that we will be seeing great things...

Carry on.



***The Top Ladies of R3!***



# DATELINE: STARFLEET

## First Cut of *Star Trek* Complete Paramount Preview Goes Well

by: Anthony Pascale, StarTrekMovie.com  
August 4, 2008

Four months after wrapping principal photography J.J. Abrams and his editors Mary Jo Markey and Maryann Brandon have finished their first cut for *Star Trek*. Late last week Abrams screened this cut for studio boss Brad Grey and other big shots at Paramount and according to sources it went very well.

The Paramount buzz on *Star Trek* went into high gear last week. One source tells TrekMovie.com that first cut showing was "a hit." Another old studio hand who isn't even working on the projects called the cut "very impressive." And yet another source said that the reaction in the screening room was "far beyond expectations" and as we know expectations have been high at the studio since the powers that be decided to move it from a Christmas 2008 release to their first summer tent pole of 2009.

Of course we are still nine months away from release, but Abrams is determined to stick with his original schedule, although due to the large number of effects

shots needed this may slip a little to save some money on overtime. There is still a lot of post-production to be done on the film, with the visual effects from ILM being the biggest element that needs completing (so far only a few of the 1300+ shots are considered 'finished').

Another major task yet to be done is the music by Michael Giacchino, but sources say the composer is already at work and that scoring sessions should get underway in the Fall.

The next major step for *Star Trek* is likely to be the release of the first theatrical trailer. The trailer itself is edited already, but apparently the effects are not finalized. Unlike the first teaser, this trailer will include live action shots from the film itself. No word yet

on when this will be released, but it is expected (but not guaranteed) sometime in 2008. Other promotional milestones include official movie poster (and tagline), release of full picture of the *Enterprise*, and additional viral campaigns.



## Star Trek Movie Uniform Spoilers

by: Anthony Pascale, TrekMovie.com  
July 31, 2008

With J.J. Abrams movie being a prequel and involving a whole new team, fans know that things are not going to look exactly like they did with *The Original Series*. One area of keen interest is the uniforms, especially the uniforms of the main cast worn on board the USS *Enterprise*.

For people who have been paying close attention to the various hints and comments from the cast, it should come as no surprise that the uniforms worn on board the *Enterprise* in the film follow the same color standard as *The Original Series*. The latest comment on this comes from the new James T. Kirk himself, Chris Pine, who confirmed with Hollywood Outbreak he would be wearing command gold. In the past Zoe Saldana (Uhura) has talked about her short skirt, and Anton Yelchin (Chekov) has also commented about how the crew will be wearing red, blue and gold. And the new *Star Trek* poster also gives some clues to the uniforms as well.

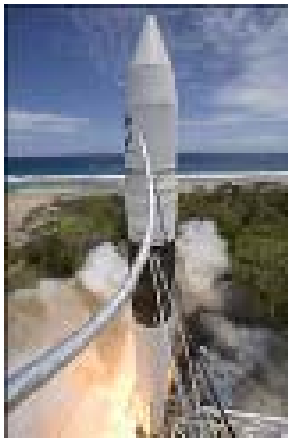
TrekMovie has talked about the uniforms with multiple sources and has confirmed that, just like on *The Original Series*, Scotty (Simon Pegg) and Uhura (Zoe Saldana) will be wearing red as will other actors and extras in engineering, security and communications. Spock (Zachary Quinto) and Bones (Karl Urban) will be in Blue, as will others in science and medical. And Sulu (John Cho), Chekov (Anton Yelchin) will join Kirk (Pine) in command gold.

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## No Space Funeral for "Scotty"

Low-cost rocket lost, along with three satellites (and Scotty's ashes)

by: Tariq Malik  
Aug. 6, 2008



Actor James Doohan, best known in life for his role as "Scotty" on *Star Trek*, requested a "space funeral" in his will. That wish has not yet been fulfilled, despite repeated at-

tempts.

Doohan's family provided a portion of his ashes to Celestis, Inc., a subdivision of the Houston-based company Space Services which offers "post-cremation memorial spaceflights." On Saturday, August 2, 2008, those remains were part of the payload for a SpaceX rocket that didn't make it into orbit because of technical problems.

Based in Hawthorne, Calif., SpaceX — short for Space Exploration Technologies — launched its third Falcon 1 rocket late Saturday from the U.S. Army's Reagan Missile Test Site on Omelek Island in Kwajalein Atoll, which sits about 2,500 miles (4,023 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii in the central Pacific Ocean.

A timing error that caused two segments of a privately built Falcon 1 rocket to collide after liftoff doomed the booster's third flight test by the California-based firm SpaceX, the company's chief said Wednesday.

SpaceX's chief executive officer, Elon Musk, said his engineers have traced the cause of the Aug. 2 launch failure to a timing error between the shutdown of the low-cost Falcon 1 rocket's first-stage en-

gine and the separation of its upper stage, causing the two segments to bump into one another instead of separating harmlessly.

"We have quite a definitive understanding of what went wrong on the last flight," Musk told reporters during a teleconference, adding that the timing error was on the order of seconds. "If we were to increase that gap by even a second or two, this problem would not have arisen."

Musk said SpaceX would be releasing video of the staging event that clearly shows the first and second stages separating as planned about 2 minutes and 20 seconds into the flight. The video also shows that unanticipated residual thrust from the redesigned Merlin engine caused the first stage to bump the second stage just as it began to fire, he said.

Both halves of the rocket then fell into the Pacific Ocean, well east of the Marshall Islands, and were destroyed along with its payload of two small NASA satellites and the Trailblazer demonstration satellite for the Pentagon.

There have been previous attempts to send Doohan posthumously to the stars, one of which ended with the eventual recovery of the rocket's payload, including those ashes. The remains of astronaut Gordon Cooper were also destined for this same service. I understand that both Cooper and Doohan's surviving kin are receiving the memorial services as a gift, but the company has paying customers, too.

Space is tough. Of all the unusual and technically-specific ways to memorialize a loved one (you can mix it with concrete to seed a coral reef among others choices), ascending to orbit is probably the most complicated, and the most vulnerable to technical unknowns. The human remains, you could say, are just another payload. The odds for getting any new kind of craft into space are hard. Historically, there is much failure before there is success.

## For Want of a Transporter

Words From His Son, Chris Doohan

My father loved engineering. Anything he could do to visit NASA, an aircraft carrier, a submarine, he'd do it. There was no end to the enjoyment he received when



people would come up to him and say, "I'm an engineer because of you." So when a company in Texas offered to launch his remains into orbit, we could only accept.

It's been just over 3 years since my dad, James Doohan, passed on. In that time, there have been many memorials, the most recent of which to commemorate Linlithgow, Scotland, as the future birthplace of Scotty. But his launch into space was the most publicized, and it was to be the most significant.

There have been many attempts to send my father on his way. On Saturday, the latest launch attempt by SpaceX, with a portion of my father's remains aboard, failed to achieve orbit. While there are many complicated reasons why this is a disappointment, mine is simple: I'd like to finish saying goodbye.

Every launch attempt is like reliving his funeral. There's a lot of pomp and ceremony, and a retelling of his deeds in life. But at the end of these funerals, something goes awry, the body doesn't get buried, and you know you're going to have to come back to do it over again.

I'm not laying blame on anyone for the delays. It's difficult, living on the cusp of technology. Where most of us lament the premature obsolescence of our cell phones, there are those few of us who've pinned the memories of our family mem-

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# Star Trek Memories

Taken from the Region Three ListServe

## My Star Trek Memory

by: RADM Jeffrey A. Webb, VRC-S  
USS *Ark Angel*

Once a week, my wife and I have "Date night". With both of us leading busy lives, and things like Summit just 'round the corner - it's important for us to MAKE time to spend just the two of us, quiet and cuddly. I make dinner; we snuggle up and watch a movie. We take turns choosing what to watch - so last date night, Mary and I watched *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*.

Recently, *Star Trek* just hasn't been the draw it had been in the past. It's gotten ho-hum, old hat, and nothing new in years plus the latest material according to many critics was just not up to the standard of the older *Star Trek* series like *TOS* and *TNG*. I've even got a couple of younger members who don't even profess to like *Trek* at all -- they're here for the fellowship and activities.

I'm younger than some of you, but older than a good many as well. I'm old enough to remember when *Star Trek* meant Captain Kirk and the USS *Enterprise* ... no bloody A, B, C or D or E. Or NX. I remember when *Star Trek* fandom was largely driven by the fans. We got a new film every couple of years or so, true... But it was folks like Shane Johnson, Diane Carey, John M. Ford and others who kept us going with books and manuals -- and members like you and me that made STARFLEET tick. We made our own *Trek*, and life was good.

I miss those days. My friends and I had copies of the old FASA *Star Trek* role-playing game. We took our characters through many adventures using three little 64-page booklets and some dice writing our own fabric into the history of *Trek*. We'd watch re-runs in black and white on my little TV on Channel 24, and wear out VHS copies of *Wrath of Khan* and

*Search for Spock*. Then *Star Trek IV* came out -- and we clamored for that on cassette so we could memorize it as well. We went to *Star Trek* conventions where the thrill was seeing one of the legendary Seven. We chased down Creation personnel to find out what room Walter Koenig was staying in...

I remember devouring ship manuals, Star Fleet Line Officer Requirements, the old Black technical manual from Franz Josef. We made a huge computer file on the Apple IIe containing all the NCC numbers we could find. We made pictures of starships using ASCII characters.

I remember when *TNG* premiered. I remember making fun of the bald Captain, the spandex uniforms, and the *Enterprise* that looked like someone had sat on it. I don't remember when (probably Season Three, actually) Picard became the leader I'd love to follow, the *Galaxy Class* became a thing of beauty, and *TNG* became a worthy successor to the *Star Trek* name.

Mostly, I remember loving *Star Trek*. And I realize that I haven't felt that way in a long time. Something about sitting on the couch with my wife in my arms, my kitties arrayed in their movie-watching posts, the lights down, the surround-sound up, and James Horner's score swelling, and then fading into the now rather plain but still somehow beautiful bridge of the refit USS *Enterprise* stirred something. Something that had faded under the weight of *BSG*, *B5*, *Star Wars* Prequels, *SG-1*, and a number of other sci-fi offerings that had inundated it in the last two decades.

*Star Trek*, my friends; Pure, unadulterated *Star Trek*. James T. Kirk, Mr. Spock, Dr. McCoy, Scotty, Sulu, Checkov, Uhura. "These were the voyages..." This was my childhood. Sure, I loved GI Joe, the Transformers, and who didn't want to be Han Solo when they grew up... But one thing that was always constant, always endured was *Star Trek*.

I'd kinda lost sight of that. I'd kinda forgotten why I joined STARFLEET in the first place -- and from some of the con-

versations I've been in lately I can tell that's not all that uncommon an occurrence.

So do me a favor. Pop in your favorite movie, episode, or grab your dusty copy of "The Final Reflection" or "Uhura's Song", or even your old Peter Pan story records on LP. Stop for a moment to remember what made you love *Trek*, and maybe share a memory or two with the list.

## My Star Trek Memory

ADM Shell Fanelli, R3RC  
USS *Aurora Vulcanus*

As we sing 'Memories'. <G>

How many out in the audience started this ride when NBC was showing *Star Trek*? Raise your hand proudly.

The chat takes me back to the dark times, before *Trek* returned; the fun, the rumors, the friends. When the con would have Redshirt number 8 in scene 11 and was treated like a star; crowding into a room with twenty of your newest pals to watch that bootleg reel. Did it matter it was BW with no sound, we all knew the words. Wearing your classic uniform and having some guy think you were the hotel parking attendant. Those were the days.

To me the *Trek* experience is about the sharing and the friendship. It didn't matter which version, it would always open the door for someone who when they found out you shared the same love, they were another addition to your live. It does not matter whether I was the kid in high school or the supposed grown up, it still works. I don't know how many creative offerings can do that. Personally I am glad *Trek* does.

## My Star Trek Memory

RADM Robyn Winans, VRC-N  
USS *Trinity River*

I am never without *Star Trek*. I am the Sci-Fi Geek girl at the office. I've a variety of memorabilia in my office of all kinds of fandom. There are my Minia-

*continued on next page*



## STAR TREK: THE EXPERIENCE

## CLOSING IN VEGAS

by: John Scott Lewinski  
July 06, 2008



Offering a sad commentary on the state of the *Star Trek* franchise, the Hilton

Hotel in Las Vegas will shut down *Star Trek: The Experience* this fall.

Part simulator, part environment, part museum and (of course) part gift shop/restaurant, *The Experience* opened 10 years ago during the height of popularity for the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* movies. The exhibit gave fans a chance to examine a *Trek* time line with a collection of sci-fi relics. Then visitors could talk to a Klingon over a drink after strolling across the bridge of the *Enterprise*.

But, the exhibit isn't drawing the fans it once did — just as the franchise is fading off the public radar. While J.J. Abrams is hustling to save *Star Trek* on the big screen, it's too late to save it in Vegas.

The collection of props, costumed "aliens" and adventure simulators was a welcome, nerd-friendly escape from the hustling sleaze and nonstop ping-pong of slot machines filling the rest of the town. There's no word what will be done with the emptied retail space in the Hilton, but the museum props, ship mock-ups and other bits of *Trek* history will be returned to Paramount.

CBS/Paramount statements indicate the search is on for *The Experience*'s new home.

### Star Trek XI Uniforms -- continued from page 14

According to TrekMovie sources, the Starfleet uniforms on the *Enterprise* are the element of this film closest to *The Original Series* in design. They are com-

prised of very dark grey (almost black) pants and boots for the men and mini skirts and boots for the women along with the previously mentioned shirts. For the women's outfits, the mini-skirts are a bit longer than *TOS* and they have both short-sleeved and long-sleeved versions, and at least one female member of the crew will be wearing pants. The biggest difference with the tops is that they are comprised of two pieces, with a very dark grey (almost black) undershirt and the over shirt of the appropriate color, with a slight v-neck. The undershirt forms what looks like a black collar, similar to the *TOS* uniforms. As TrekMovie's closer look at the new poster reveals (above), the colored uniform blouses have small 'delta shield' emblems woven into the fabric (this is most apparent on Saldana's). Also, the shirt Chris Pine is wearing in the new poster appears to be uniform undershirt. Another change is the rank insignia which is said to be similar but more simplified in design. Lastly, the delta shield emblem is actually a pin instead of being sewn into the top, but still retains the department variations on the design. Regardless of the few differences, from a distance the new uniforms are almost indistinguishable from those of *The Original Series*.

Another important note, however, is that the main uniforms are only a portion of the overall wardrobe to be seen in the film. Most past films in the franchise have very little variety of wardrobe, but this new film has the biggest set of wardrobe of any *Trek* film, even more than *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. Many of the characters will be seen in both their Starfleet uniforms as well as civilian clothes. There are also Starfleet uniform variations including Academy uniforms, pressure suits, and apparently different versions of the Starfleet uniforms for some scenes set on another starship.

So the bottom line is that on one hand the new *Star Trek* film will give a nod to *TOS* with a fairly close match, but on other hand provide a whole new set of new and interesting outfits to see our heroes save the galaxy in.

### Scotty -- continued from page 16

bers on a rocket, hoping it will touch the sky.

My dad believed in human ingenuity, and he believed in mankind's destiny beyond the exosphere. That it would take several attempts in these early stages to successfully achieve orbit would not have phased him. I can accept this, because of who he was, and because he knew it was all a part of progress.

For those reasons, I know that his spirit will persevere, and others will keep those launch attempts coming. The act of sending a loved one's remains into space will someday be commonplace, even if we have to book a space flight ourselves to make it happen. That's the kind of progress my father believed in.

But I'm not sure I can hang on until then. Grieving can't wait for the pace of progress, and I have to say goodbye now. So when news of the next launch rolls around, please don't ask me about it; I won't be paying attention.

If my father has anything to do with it, though, I'm sure that ship will get where it's going.

### Trek Memories -- continued on previous page

ture Ornaments, my *TNG* Shuttle Radio, my photo of *TOS* and my photo from *Enterprise* from *The Experience*.

Over the years I've taken off my blinders and widened my horizons of fandom. There are more people like me out there. Yea! I have this Sci-Fi T-shirt collection that people just can't believe. My favorite proudly states that "I am a Sci-Fi fan". You may have read my chest at summit this year!

The saddest thing I ever heard at a media con was a guy in a *Star Trek* uniform with his gadgets saying he didn't read! I was stunned. I've lived in areas where *Star Trek* wasn't always in syndication, I

continued on next page

### **Trek Memories -- continued on previous page**

didn't have cable and I wasn't a social butterfly. Books were my friends. I could learn about the past of Kirk and I could read how *Spock's World* developed. I could read about the time McCoy got to take over the bridge. I still read and many are other types of Science Fiction and Fantasy and I've even found the non-mainstream. "Houston We Have Bubba", a hilarious collection of Rednecks in space.

It's not a bad thing if you don't read but try it you might just like it. If Kirk and Crew say 'Reading is fundamental' it's worth giving a try isn't it? Wouldn't it be nice to see if Scotty has life after *Relics*. Read about the all the adventures for *Voyager* that didn't show in TV. Read about the *Klingon Bloodlines* and *Day of Honor* and get to know them better. Check out a whole new Captain and Crew of old and new favorites in Captain Calhoun and the *New Frontier*.

Without reading that poor fellow is just stuck with his video memories!

The TOS movies still give me chills when I watch them and *Enterprise* is shown in our area in HD now. I am still working to replace my VHS with DVDs.

### **My Star Trek Memory**

MSG Barbara Baker,  
USS *Ark Angel*

I guess I have to put in my two cents worth on this subject.

I can remember not going out to play or coming in early because I didn't want to miss *Flash Gordon*, *Buck Rogers* or *Lost in Space*.

These were the forerunners of *Star Trek* and becoming a fan of *Star Trek* was a natural move. And yes, I do know that I just gave away my age - but I know that there are more people than myself who remember these shows :)

### **My Star Trek Memory**

COL John Johnston  
*Star Trek* Enthusiast for 29 years  
USS *Gunslinger*

My first memory of *Star Trek* was going to watch the Motion Picture with my family at the new Four-screen Theater in Flagstaff, Arizona in 1979. The "Transporter Malfunction" scene freaked me out. The "Wormhole" scene was pretty weird and funny. The rest, I didn't really understand, but it looked really neat! Of course, I was only 6 years old at the time, and my sister was only 2.

But as I grew older, I began to appreciate *Star Trek* more and more, along with my appreciation for *Star Wars* and Bugs Bunny.

### **My Star Trek Memory**

LT Stephanie "Steecie" Morgan  
SS *Freedom III*

When I think of *Star Trek*, I can't help but think of my dad. It's the first thing we ever bonded over, and since mom couldn't give a hoot, it was ours and ours alone.

I don't remember exactly which episode was the first, but I do remember flipping through the channels and being so excited to find one I'd never seen before. Dad would exclaim, "You've never seen THIS one?" We'd then watch it fervently, for there would be a quiz later. Oh, it might be several months later, but invariably we would come across a snippet of it on TV, and would be asked, "What's the name of this one?" I was proud when I knew, and irritated when I didn't.

I never questioned the fact that the rocks on every single planet looked the same, or that the tear on Yeoman Barrows' uniform kept changing sides. It was the stories that I identified with. It wasn't about the look of anything; it was about the feelings. The stories dealt with love, hate, racism, joy, isolation, death, pleasure, choices and friendship. I was 8 years old, and knew of all that. I can only imagine how adults could relate to it. No wonder it became a hit.

When I got older (and a little more responsible), I was allowed to view "The Goods." Dad had eight *Star Trek* magazines which each folded out to be posters as big as I was! I was amazed and intrigued, and treated those posters better than I treated my Barbie's. Dad then showed me the best prize. While in high school drafting class, he created the blueprints for the entire *Enterprise*. I can still remember the faded blue paper and the even more faded labels written in pencil. I wish you could have seen them. Dad really should have been an architect. They were absolutely beautiful.

Of course, my appetite was whet, and I was thrilled when the younger versions of *Trek* came about, but they never gave me the same kind of wonder that the original *Trek* did. I just couldn't identify with them as well. Maybe it was because of the age difference in me. Maybe it was the budget or the new characters. Or maybe it was the fact that I just got tired of P.C. negotiations with the bad guys, and just wanted to see them get blown out of space.

Although Dad and I don't watch them like we used to, I am grateful to the *Star Trek* legacy, because it brought together a father and a daughter, and that relationship means more to me now than ever, as we are separated by distance. My dad was my first role model, and is one of my best friends. After all, he did introduce me to my first crush (Mr. Spock). I can never find the words to tell him how much I love him and appreciate him, or I always try and just end up crying, but we can always sit down together and watch an episode, and I'm that 8 year old girl again, and he's the smartest man in the world. That's what *Star Trek* has given me.

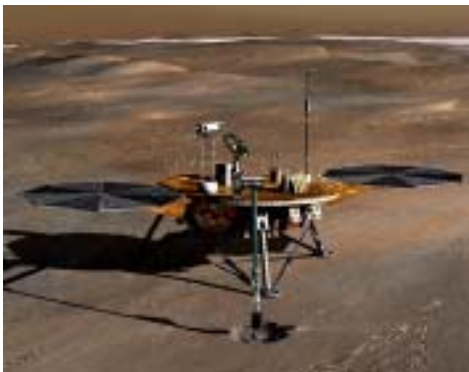
In addition to that, my continuing interest has allowed me to meet some of the most wonderful people I know -- you. You have helped me get through medical school, broken hearts, family conflicts -- too many things to list. I have met some of the best people I know, and the dearest.

Thanks, Dad.

# N A S A

## NASA SPACECRAFT CONFIRMS MARTIAN WATER, MISSION EXTENDED

From NASA.gov website  
07-31-08



TUCSON, Ariz. — Laboratory tests aboard NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander have identified water in a soil sample. The lander's robotic arm delivered the sample Wednesday to an instrument that identifies vapors produced by the heating of samples.

"We have water," said William Boynton of the University of Arizona, lead scientist for the Thermal and Evolved-Gas Analyzer, or TEGA. "We've seen evidence for this water ice before in observations by the Mars Odyssey orbiter and in disappearing chunks observed by Phoenix last month, but this is the first time Martian water has been touched and tasted."

With enticing results so far and the spacecraft in good shape, NASA also announced operational funding for the mission will extend through Sept. 30. The original prime mission of three months ends in late August. The mission extension adds five weeks to the 90 days of the prime mission.

"Phoenix is healthy and the projections for solar power look good, so we want to take full advantage of having this resource in one of the most interesting locations on Mars," said Michael Meyer, chief scientist for the Mars Exploration Program at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

The soil sample came from a trench approximately 2 inches deep. When the robotic arm first reached that depth, it hit a hard layer of frozen soil. Two attempts to deliver samples of icy soil on days when fresh material was exposed were foiled when the samples became stuck inside the scoop. Most of the material in Wednesday's sample had been exposed to the air for two days, letting some of the water in the sample vaporize away and making the soil easier to handle.

"Mars is giving us some surprises," said Phoenix principal investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona. "We're excited because surprises are where discoveries come from. One surprise is how the soil is behaving. The ice-rich layers stick to the scoop when poised in the sun above the deck, different from what we expected from all the Mars simulation testing we've done. That has presented challenges for delivering samples, but we're finding ways to work with it and we're gathering lots of information to help us understand this soil."

Since landing on May 25, Phoenix has been studying soil with a chemistry lab, TEGA, a microscope, a conductivity

probe and cameras. Besides confirming the 2002 finding from orbit of water ice near the surface and deciphering the newly observed stickiness, the science team is trying to determine whether the water ice ever thaws enough to be available for biology and if carbon-containing chemicals and other raw materials for life are present.

The mission is examining the sky as well as the ground. A Canadian instrument is using a laser beam to study dust and clouds overhead.

"It's a 30-watt light bulb giving us a laser show on Mars," said Victoria Hipkin of the Canadian Space Agency.

A full-circle, color panorama of Phoenix's surroundings also has been completed by the spacecraft.

"The details and patterns we see in the ground show an ice-dominated terrain as far as the eye can see," said Mark Lemmon of Texas A&M University, lead scientist for Phoenix's Surface Stereo Imager camera. "They help us plan measurements we're making within reach of the robotic arm and interpret those measurements on a wider scale."

The Phoenix mission is led by Smith at the University of Arizona with project management at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., and development partnership at Lockheed Martin in Denver. International contributions come from the Canadian Space Agency; the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland; the universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus in Denmark; the Max Planck Institute in Germany; and the Finnish Meteorological Institute.

For more about Phoenix, visit:  
<http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix>

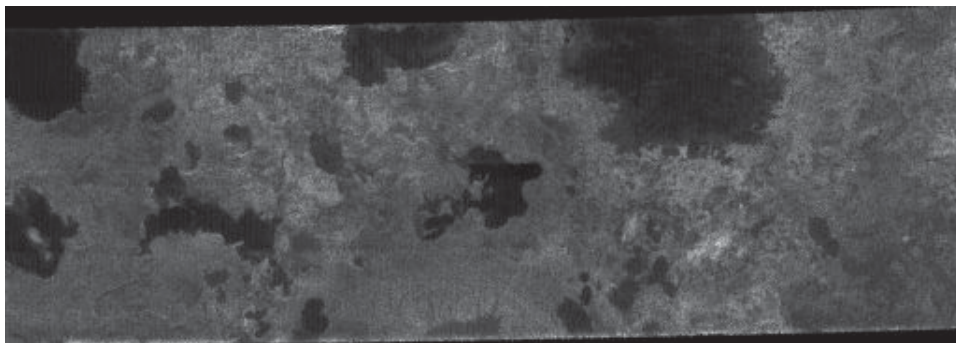


## THE LAGOONS OF TITAN:

Oily Liquid Confirmed on Saturn Moon

By: Alexis Madrigal

July 30, 2008



Earthlings might be scrambling to find liquid hydrocarbons buried in our planet, but Saturn's moon Titan has plenty to spare.

Scientists say that a dark, smooth surface feature spotted on the moon last year is definitely a lake filled primarily with liquid ethane, a simple hydrocarbon.

"This is the first observation that really pins down that Titan has a surface lake filled with liquid," said the paper's lead author, University of Arizona professor Robert Brown.

The new observations affirm that Titan is one of the likeliest places to look for life in our solar system. Some astrobiologists have speculated that life could develop in the moon's hydrocarbon lakes, although it would have to be substantially different from known life on Earth, which requires liquid water.

Mixed in solution with the ethane, the lake is also believed to contain nitrogen, methane, and a variety of other simple hydrocarbons.

The Cassini-Huygens probe determined the chemical composition of the liquid by the way it reflected light, a technique known as spectrometry that has provided most of our knowledge about other planets' atmospheric compositions.

"It was hard for us to accept the fact that the feature was so black when we first saw it," Brown said. "More than 99.9 percent of the light that reaches the lake

never gets out again. For it to be that dark, the surface has to be extremely quiescent, mirror smooth. No naturally produced solid could be that smooth."

Further, the scientists saw the specific absorption signature of ethane, which absorbs light at exactly 2-micron wavelengths.

These kinds of measurements are made more difficult by the hydrocarbon haze that engulfs the moon, making it hard to actually see the Titanian ground. Cassini scientists have to take advantage of narrow observation windows. One of these occurred in December 2007, which allowed them to catch this view of the lake, Ontario Lacus. At 7,800 square miles, it's slightly larger than the Earthbound Lake Ontario.

Ethane is the byproduct of a solar-energy-induced reaction that transforms atmospheric methane, aka natural gas. Scientists believe ultrafine particles of ethane fall from the atmosphere to the surface and fill the lake.

Here on earth, ethane is used to create ethylene, which is used as an all-purpose chemical precursor and is the world's most-produced organic compound.

Brown and his team will publish their results in the July 31 issue of the journal *Nature*.

## MOON-WALKER CLAIMS

### ALIEN CONTACT COVER-UP

July 24, 2008 12:01am

The Daily Telegraph

Former NASA astronaut and moon-walker Dr Edgar Mitchell -- a veteran of the Apollo 14 mission -- has stunningly claimed aliens exist.

And he says extra-terrestrials have visited Earth on several occasions -- but the alien contact has been repeatedly covered up by governments for six decades.

Dr. Mitchell, 77, said during a radio interview that sources at the space agency that had had contact with aliens described the beings as 'little people who look strange to us.'

He said supposedly real-life ET's were similar to the traditional image of a small frame, large eyes and head.

Chillingly, he claimed our technology is "not nearly as sophisticated" as theirs and "had they been hostile", he warned "we would be gone by now".

Dr. Mitchell, along with Apollo 14 commander Alan Shepard, holds the record for the longest ever moon walk, at nine hours and 17 minutes following their 1971 mission.

"I happen to have been privileged enough to be in on the fact that we've been visited on this planet and the UFO phenomena is real," Dr. Mitchell said.

"It's been well covered up by all our governments for the last 60 years or so, but slowly it's leaked out and some of us have been privileged to have been briefed on some of it.

"I've been in military and intelligence circles, who know that beneath the surface of what has been public knowledge, yes -- we have been visited. Reading the papers recently, it's been happening quite a bit."

*continued on page 20*

## Russian Manned Spaceship Design Unveiled

by: Paul Rincon  
Science reporter, BBC News

The first official image of a Russian-European manned spacecraft has been unveiled.

It is designed to replace the Soyuz vehicle currently in use by Russia and will allow Europe to participate directly in crew transportation.

The reusable ship was conceived to carry four people towards the Moon, rivaling the US Ares/Orion system.

Unlike previous crewed vehicles, it will use thrusters to make a soft landing when it returns to Earth.

Russian aerospace writer and graphic designer Anatoly Zak has produced artist's renderings of the new craft based on a design released by Russian manufacturer RKK Energia at the Farnborough Air Show in the UK last week.

In some respects, the capsule resembles America's next-generation spacecraft Orion. The 18-to-20-ton Russian-European vehicle is designed to carry six crew into low-Earth orbit and four on missions to lunar orbit.

One of the most unusual features about the capsule appears to be the thrusters and landing gear on its underside. Mr. Zak said it would use these engines to soften its landing on Earth after the fiery re-entry through our atmosphere.

The European Space Agency (ESA) has been talking to its Russian counterpart Roscosmos about collaborating on the Crew Space Transportation System

(CSTS) since 2006.

### Launcher decision

"If ESA and the Russian Space Agency reach agreement, Europe will supply the service module of that co-operative spacecraft," Mr. Zak told BBC News.

This service module will use technology -- such as the propulsion systems -- developed for Europe's Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV), an unmanned freighter recently sent to re-supply the International Space Station (ISS).

Russia may provide the launcher for the new manned spacecraft. This might be an entirely new vehicle, or a modification of an existing rocket.



Mr. Zak said Russia was insisting in its negotiations with Europe that all future manned projects be based in Vostochny, the new

cosmodrome being developed in Russia's eastern Amur region. The Russian government wants to host its first manned launch from that site in 2018.

At the moment, all manned Soyuz launches take place from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Alternatively, the space agencies could opt to "man-rate" Europe's Ariane 5 launcher, which lifts off from Kourou in French Guiana. This would allow the rocket to carry humans into space.

This would involve making major modifications to Kourou spaceport, including the development of infrastructure to support a crew escape system in the event of an emergency.

It is quite possible that both launch sites would play a role in any collaborative program, which would necessitate the loft-

ing of cargo as well as human crew.

However, if this collaboration falls apart, Europe has another option for direct manned access to space.

### Other option

In May this year, European aerospace company EADS Astrium unveiled its own model of a crewed space vehicle, described as an "evolution" of the ATV, which was built by a consortium of European companies led by Astrium.

It would combine what is essentially the avionics and propulsion end of the ATV with a crew compartment taking the place of the current cargo section.

Berlin unveils 'crewed spaceship'

Mr. Zak commented: "I think the main roadmap is the agreement between the European and Russian space agencies. That is their Plan A. Their Plan B is the initiative made by EADS Astrium in Bremen."

But if the agencies want a manned craft capable of reaching the Moon, they will need to develop new, more powerful rockets than those on the drawing board today.

"This is an open question, there are no decisions on how to proceed," said Mr Zak.

The CSTS is also sometimes referred to as the Advanced Crew Transportation System (ACTS). ESA and Roscosmos started talks on the project after some ESA member states rejected further involvement in the development of another manned spacecraft called Kliper.

The proposals will go before a crucial meeting of space ministers from European member states in November this year.



## Branson Unveils Space-tourism Mothership

The Associated Press

MOJAVE, California (AP) — British billionaire Sir Richard Branson showed off a key piece of his fledgling commercial space program Monday, unveiling a carrier aircraft designed to launch a passenger-carrying spaceship.

A crowd of engineers, dignitaries and space enthusiasts gathered inside a Mojave Desert hangar for the unveiling countdown.

As the hangar door flew open, White Knight Two appeared outside under the sunny desert sky with Branson and American aerospace pioneer Burt Rutan waving from the cabin.

White Knight Two, billed as the world's largest all-carbon-composite aircraft, is "one of the most beautiful and extraordinary aviation vehicles ever developed," Branson said.

The public showing was the first concrete evidence of progress since the Rutan-designed SpaceShipOne became the first private, manned rocket to reach space in 2004. After the groundbreaking flights, Rutan and Branson partnered to commercialize on the success. Branson dubbed the venture Virgin Galactic.

Despite the buzz surrounding White Knight Two's debut, significant hurdles remain before customers can experience zero gravity for \$200,000 a ticket.

White Knight Two must undergo a rigorous flight testing program, beginning in the fall. Engineers still need to finish building SpaceShipOne's successor, SpaceShipTwo, which is now about 70 percent complete, according to Virgin Galactic.

The mothership is a white, four-engine jet with room between its twin fuselages where SpaceShipTwo will be mounted for

the flight to launch altitude. Virgin Galactic christened it Eve after Branson's mother, and the aircraft's side has a motif of a helmeted blond woman flying a Virgin flag.

White Knight Two has a 140-foot wingspan, about the same as a Boeing B-29 Superfortress, the World War II long-range heavy bomber. White Knight Two is designed to cradle SpaceShipTwo under its wing and release it at 50,000 feet in the air.

Once separated, SpaceShipTwo will fire its hybrid rocket and climb some 62 miles above Earth.

Matthew Upchurch, 46, who has reserved a future flight, said he felt goosebumps when he saw White Knight Two.

"It was very emotional for me," he said. "I thought, 'Oh my God, we're getting closer.'"

The mothership rollout also moved Rutan, who has made a career of designing unconventional aircraft.

"Even though this is a pretty weird airplane, we all expect it fly very well," said Rutan, who traded his usual leather jacket for a white button-down shirt with a Virgin Galactic logo.

Meanwhile, SpaceShipTwo, which is 70 percent complete, remained under wraps. It sat in a hangar several hundred feet away from White Knight Two shrouded in a black tarp. A sticker on it read "Coming Soon ... To A Spaceport Near You."

In the history of spaceflight, most astronauts have been in government programs. In recent years, a handful of wealthy people have paid about \$20 million each to ride Russian rockets to the international space station.

Virgin Galactic envisions a future where space voyages will become as common as airplane travel. It wants to fly 500 people into space in the first year for \$200,000 a head. If it succeeds, that would be on par with the same number



**Richard Branson, left, and aerospace pioneer Burt Rutan show off the White Knight Two**

of people who have gone up in 45 years of space travel.

So far, more than 250 wannabe astronauts have paid the full amount or put down a deposit to fly with Virgin Galactic, but when they will float in zero gravity is unknown. Rutan has declined to release a schedule. Virgin Galactic stopped predicting after it said in a 2004 press release that flights could begin in 2007.

### *Aliens -- continued from page 18*

Dr. Mitchell, who has a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering and a Doctor of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics claimed Roswell was real and similar alien visits continue to be investigated.

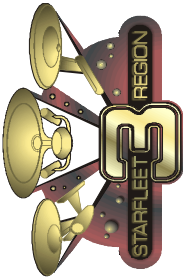
He told the astonished Kerrang! radio host Nick Margerrison: "This is really starting to open up. I think we're headed for real disclosure and some serious organizations are moving in that direction."

Mr. Margerrison said: "I thought I'd stumbled on some sort of astronaut humor but he was absolutely serious that aliens are definitely out there and there's no debating it."

Officials from NASA, however, were quick to play the comments down. In a statement, a spokesman said: "NASA does not track UFOs. NASA is not involved in any sort of cover up about alien life on this planet or anywhere in the universe."

'Dr. Mitchell is a great American, but we do not share his opinions on this issue.'





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