



FLEET CHANNELS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER '08 ♫ VOLUME 17, NO. 6

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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CHRIS PINE AS JAMES T. KIRK

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@lists.region3.org, the general information list for Region Three and shoclist@lists.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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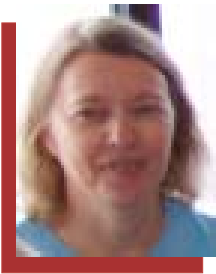
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If you cannot e-mail the file then send it to Mark A. Vinson, 1047 Cottonwood Trl., Benbrook, TX. 76126 on a Compact Disc or carefully typed on white paper with at least one and one-half spaces between the lines in a san-serif font (i.e.: Arial). If you cannot type then carefully hand print -- incursive will not be accepted under any circumstances!

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REGIONAL MERCHANDISE

<http://www.cafepress.com/region3>
http://home.grandecom.net/~razcer/index_files/page0008.htm



Confessions of an RC

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

Howdy All:

At summit we discussed doing Summit 2009 at FenCon. We had quite a few negotiations with them with and a draft contract was submitted for our approval. The REC voted on it, with a deadlock of 4 to 4, so the motion did not pass. The major concern was the cost of bringing in a *Trek* guest and whether or not we wanted to commit that much money. We now know what needs to be in place should the REC or a chapter decide to look at the Summit at a Con down the road. Under different conditions it might be a wonderful idea. My thanks to Robyn Winans for her hard work with the research.

Our idea/theme for Summit 2009 will be a Region Three Vacation. Ok the Griswolds and the song Holiday Road on stand by. This way we will have more control over funds and we will not have to guarantee attendance numbers. Mark Vinson has looked at getting his father's Elk lodge for reasonable meeting space on Sunday for a CO/XO breakfast and Congress meeting, so we can combo a nice trip to Six Flags in the Arlington area in June. Mark has found us a fun pizza place to meet Friday night comers and the area offers other things to explore if you don't want Six Flags.

For Retreat, we will return to our roots of Aggie Con for a spring outing. I have gotten a list from Jim Wilson for restaurants and meeting areas in College Station. The con is March 26th-29th, 2009 and

you check it out at <http://aggiecon.tamu.edu/>.

When you are traveling you can use Fleet's program with Choice Hotels. You can use their ID: 00711585 to get a discount. Their total free number is - 800-258-2847 (SENIORS - 800-424-6423)

The handbook committee is working well hunting down corrections and improvements. I did e-mail John some of the suggestions folks have been batting about.

I love the idea of using Regional Special Projects for recruiting. John is doing a fine job managing this project.

Speaking of recruiting, I have Alvina Bryant of the *Victory*, making a list of places and websites to hit for regional. I thank her for volunteering to be our leg person.

We are also using the Congress list to gather opinions on the pressing issues of the Admiralty Board. We did this for the Academy cheating policy and the moderator rules for Fleet's official list. I am trying to do this as much as possible. I really thank the chapters for giving their views on the various subjects.

Summit 2010 bids will coming in November 30. I have heard from a few who are looking at hosting one, if not for 2010, down the road. The biggest issue falls into the category of manpower. Your group does not have to do it alone. You can see if other chapters are willing to team up and regional helps where we

can. We also are not looking for these to be as big as they were in the past. Scaling down due to cost and manpower is the game plan for the future.

Also think about the small things, getting the word out to attend a con or a meeting. It does not have to be huge; we are getting together for the friendship.

My thanks to Mark, Robyn, Aaron, and Brad for being social when The Catt and I were up in Dallas. After Ike, it was so good for us just to have some fun. I am happy to say Brad finally received his retirement gifts. Thanks to donations, Region Three gave him a watch, engraved glass with the regional logo, and cross stitch signed by the membership. Brad says a big thank you to everyone.

We had Clint Hill retire from the Enlisted slot for the region in the fall. I thank him for the hard work and wish him the best. We have several slots open in the region and if you wish to help out, this is your chance.

Congratulations to the new command team of the *Ark Angel* Aaron Murphy and Dixie Hill. USS *Azrael* recently moved to Sector Two due to Beau Thacker's move. Also need to send well wishes to the *Joan of Arc*'s CO Robin Van Cleave. We hope she is on the mend.

Yes the holidays are upon us. I know we all have our pet projects for charity this time of year. I love to see all of the different avenues our members choose to give to. My personals favorites are Toys for Tots (I am still waiting for my free Marine) and the Kettle. This year with the economy and the storms, it will really make a difference.

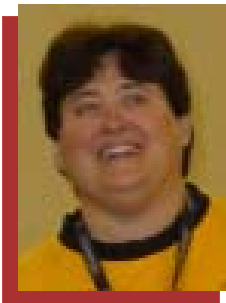
I hope that everyone has a great and safe holiday. May the season be filled with peace and joy, plus a few special gifts. We will see you in 2009.

And may the good news be yours.

Admiral Michelle Fanelli
Regional Coordinator

NORTHERN LIGHTS

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



Well it's been another year and 2009 is just around the corner. I hope that everyone has had a good Thanksgiving. The Region thanks you for your volunteer services. We are thankful that so many of our members serve all year long.

Thank you for your help during the hurricane's, the floods, for volunteering for many charity organizations that just need a helping hand thorough out the year. Thank you all for your extra giving during the holiday seasons. Many organizations are feeling the strain this season due to all the good work they've done all year and will appreciate your help.

Here in the north we are gearing up for 2009. There will be Regional events, conventions to attend, anniversaries to celebrate and many other activities including a new *Star Trek* Movie set for May.

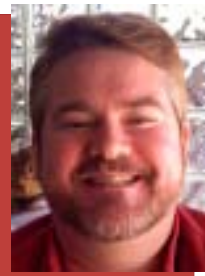
Happy holidays and keep those feet on the ground while reaching for the stars.

Robyn



Chiefly Yours...

Chief-of-Staff Report
by: ADM Mark A. Vinson
cos@region3.org



Merry Christmas Fellow Trekkers!

Well, here it is the last issue of 2008: Down and dirty and quickly put together -- sorry about that -- "Retail Hell" is no fun.

We are still looking for a Regional Finance Officer, Communications Officer, JAG, Senior Enlisted Advisor and a Special Operations Officer. CO's please canvas your members and encourage them to apply for these positions. It is a great way to advance their career while helping out the Region.

We are going to try something different for Summit in 2009. The weekend of June 5th - 7th we will have our first "Region Three Vacation!" Depending on our numbers we will meet for dinner at a local Gourmet Pizza house in Fort Worth, Mama's Pizza, or we will invade my favorite Beer and Bar-B-Que joint, Angelo's. Either place is good for kids and both are great to gather and just be ourselves.

Saturday morning we will gather at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington and pretend we are all kids again (we will try to get discounted tickets)! If you are too old or stuck in the mud Fort Worth does offer some wonderful museums and, of course, there is the new Dallas Cowboys' stadium so you can take a tour. There are also several malls to shop 'til you drop!

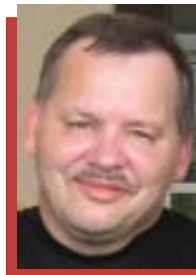
At lunch time we will meet in the picnic area of the park and give out our Yearly Awards and Promotions then go back in the park and enjoy the rest of the day!

On Sunday morning we will meet at my Father's Elk's lodge for a traditional ba-

continued on next page

S.C.O.P.E. SHAKEDOWN OPERATIONS

Regional ShOC Report
by: FCPT Beau Thacker
ShuttleOperations@region3.org



Currently the USS *Serenity* is our only starship-in-training and they will commission in the upcoming months leaving us with a void. Why a void you say? Because, there are others out there and we all need to boldly go and seek them out.

Polish the brass, iron the uniform and get ready to explode into *Trek* sensation in 2009. I already know the Louisiana ships are planning on attending a last minute convention in New Orleans with Chase Matterson and also there are a few conventions in Dallas before the new movie comes out. I think we, as a region, can really make a difference if we plan some really creative recruiting. There are some away teams still trying to form in Louisiana. I'm hoping to see several new chapters or members join the region. With the new movie — which looks promising from the trailer — we need to use this as an important recruiting tool.

Speaking of recruiting and regional ships, we have four chapters that are low on members and need there Sector Leader's help, there friend's help, there enemy's help to get back to speed. A starship/chapter runs with a crew, and one that doesn't have enough members can't run effectively. Recruiting is not easy, but it must be done. Mr. Scott did not rewire ships like the *Enterprise* by himself and a chimpanzee and two recruits can't run it by themselves.

FCPT Beau Thacker,
Shakedown Operations Chief



REED'S SHOP ON THE PROMENADE

Regional Quartermaster Report
by: CAPT Reed L. Bates



I'm writing from the Trenches, literally, the garden trenches Lloyd and I have been digging over the last two weeks. My fingers and hand have healed,

mostly, and no longer numb and tingly, so we had to get our front beds in order and mulched. We did it just in time to get a letter from our bleeping bleep bleep homeowners' association and they were going to start fining us \$100 per day because we had a few weeds in our beds. Oh horror of horrors, we have some weeds. Geesh! You'd think we had held someone hostage by the way we are treated. I seriously, we really didn't have that many weeds. It's cold outside and most of anything are dead anyway. What we did have was grass and lot's of it. But, we got it done today, the last day of November. Our front beds and yard now look terrific and I'm sure our HOA will agree. Plus, we shouldn't have to worry about weeds for quite some time. We used landscape fabric as well as piles of mulch so the weeds will not have a chance to revive themselves.

Enough about me. Back to the duties of my office. I may put in an extra order for summit shirts, if we have enough interest. Hopefully, by the time this has been printed, we should be in full swing of that process. The only draw back is having to charge for postage, but since we apparently won't be getting together any time soon, that's just going to have to be the way it is. Although, with the price of gas being so low, I make try to make a trip to some meetings, maybe as far away as Lubbock. Yes, I said Lubbock. My son, Matthew "Zuul" Wabindato, moved there recently so I might have to make a trip to make sure he's alright. Thinking about doing that right after Christmas, but

that's still up in the air. Don't know yet.

Again, I have swayed off the report and going into more about myself and my family. But, the point is that we can figure out a way to get the merchandise to you even if we do not meet in person. We made some money, a bit, at Summit and sold quite a few items. We still have plenty of items in stock though, so buy Region Three Merchandise. Tell all your friends. <smile>

Summit Shirt Sales were \$294.44 with \$22.44 being paid as state sales tax and less the cost of the shirts of \$227.20, the Region made a profit of \$44.80 on the specially designed shirts for this event. For the rest of the Region Three Merchandise, we sold \$235.33 in sales with \$17.94 being paid as state sales tax. We're not too clear what the costs of the items were, so we can only count that \$217.39 of the total sales is for the Region's account. The total Sales Tax for the event is \$40.38. Our illustrious Regional Coordinator has paid that to the state of Texas.

Does anyone really care about the job of Quartermaster? I hope so, but during this time of the Region's history, it seems that no one wants to get together, no one can get together (financially/time wise), or we're just not getting along. Something. We need to do something soon, to get this group back together. That's my opinion though. Maybe we had too much togetherness and we need this break? What do you all think? I love going to Summits. Don't know if we really need Retreat. I love the other times of the year we got together—Game Day, Pool & Darts, NASA, Fort Worth Zoo—and some others that I hadn't yet participated but had planned on doing so some day, like the RenFest. But, were we doing too much? These are all questions to think about, for sure. I do know that I have fun at these events and love seeing all you whacky, interesting, and fun people.

Can the Quartermaster continue to the job if we do not meet? Only time will tell. Please visit the Quartermaster's website—there's a link on the R3 site to

it as well—and see if there's not something you'd like to order. Some items we have in stock now and I can ship for a reasonable amount of change. Some like Shirts, hats and Polos, we are not going to keep in stock, but we can order as long as I have 4 of an item or combination of items. We can also do medical apparel and briefcases. So, pay attention to the R3 General Discussion List because I may start sending emails when an item from our source is on sale. We'd have to act fast in those situations. Or, just check my website. Starting soon, I plan on modifying it weekly, so maybe check it every Monday for any updates or specials.

Captain Reed L. Bates
R3 Quartermaster
SS Freedom III

Security Alert!

Regional Security Department Report
by: FCPT Beau Thacker
security@region3.org

Other than, an attempt to steal a shuttle for his own fun, all security concerns in Region Three are normal, no fatalities although the RC, I think, has shuttle lag.

On a serious note the holidays are here and even today I saw a bad accident on the freeway from a person falling asleep at the wheel. Remember to keep your minds in the game, be safe and have a great holiday

FCPT Beau Thacker,
Security Chief Region Three

CoS -- continued from previous page

con and egg breakfast (for \$7 a head) then we will have our Congress meeting and planning sessions. After that everyone will be free to go home, hopefully refreshed and happy to have played with their friends. More information (specific times and a list of hotels) to follow.

Happy New Year!

Mark A. Vinson
ADM Mark A. Vinson
Region Three Chief-of-Staff



USS Ark Angel, NCC-1889
Sector 5 -- Round Rock, TX.
CO -- RADM Aaron Murphy
arkangel@region3.org
XO -- LCDR Dixie Hill

Commissioning Date: January 1, 2001
Motto: *"The Price of Freedom
is Eternal Vigilance"*-- JFK

November has been a busy month for the USS *Ark Angel*. After coming out of our annual elections and enjoying the Plano Comic Con in October, we spent a week-end doing what we love best (gaming) at Millennium Con here in Round Rock. We were introduced to 4th edition Dungeons and Dragons, which anyone who plays fantasy computers games will enjoy. We took up the challenge of a Battletech tournament, painted miniatures, and piloted a chariot for Circus Maximus.

On November 20th, we had our official Change of Command at El Matador. The food was good and the company better. Before dinner, we engaged in a Battletech game and played Rock Band 2. At dinner, the incoming and outgoing staff presented Jeff and Mary Webb with a gift certificate for their unwavering support of the chapter, including letting us invade their home several times a month. Matthew Hill reminded us that it was the 4th anniversary of his stroke and thanked everyone for their support and announced that he would be driving soon. We decided to have a joint Christmas party with the USS *Rhyanna* in December. Several members brought toys for Toys for Tots, a charity we enjoy supporting.

LCDR Dixie Hill, Executive Officer
USS *Ark Angel*



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

Members worked and attended the Wings over Houston air show. They report the Thunderbirds were awesome. During the fall several away teams journeyed to the Texas RenFest. XO reports Halloween weekend had several Elvis sightings. Well, he was The King.

Our Rabbi, Foster Kawaler was an extra in a major motion picture "Leaves of Grass." Yes, a star is born.

Coupon clipping continues with a total so far of \$7,332.24. They are working on a big mailing over the holiday season.

AG went out as our Ike Addition. Hurricane logo on the cover page, updates on members' adventures and hurricane humor. The highlight was the Catt's review of MREs. We are playing with the layout again. Holiday issue is being worked on for a Christmas Eve mailing.

Major Jared Fielder is the 2nd Battalion OIC for the Third 3rd Brigade. The VCS Fleet Resource Center announced their Alternate Universe Coordinator, as Captain Lee Vitasek is now the director of the Andorian College. Congratulations to both.

Our members have been taking many courses with the Academy. So far between Bill Downs, Jared Fielder, Joyce Fink, Sabino Pintor, Douglas Smith, and Lee Vitasek, they racked up 138. Way to go gang.

continued on page 7



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

October also began as a calm month with a meeting and event scheduled. In mid-October the club held a two day garage sale on Robin's front yard. There were all manner of items available. Funds from the sale were used to finance a thank you Bar-B-Que also held at the Van Cleave's in early-November. Most of the club celebrated Halloween at different places.

The *Joan* now has a reformatted and printed news letter, which can be handed out for membership promotion. It gives the club more visibility plus serving as a reminder of upcoming events. This same schedule can be seen at www.ussjoanofarc.org.

We had been considering a change of meeting location for several reasons so the November meeting at IHOP was the final one. We will begin meeting at CJ's Dinner on December 6th, more on that later. Plans for both the Christmas and the Anniversary Parties. Suggestions for events in the first three months of 2009 were purposed, discussed and voted on. The New Year promises to be full of opportunities for club membership growth and fun. Come explore this New Year with us!!

Next edition will have an update on both remaining '08 events. See you then.

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



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"

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! We have had an interesting year and as this one comes to a close, the next looks even more interesting with the way the country is going. From what I am told, we had a pretty good turn out at the Halloween /Pirate Party and fun was had by all. We will be having a Christmas/New Year's Eve party the end of December for the ship and the Sector 1 ships. The various crews will be notified after the first of the month as to where the celebrations will be held.

We've had some ups and downs this year. The Captain has been ill and unable to work but is now coming along nicely. Several other crew members struggled through illness and surgeries but are all on the mend as of this writing. Our own Don Williams has worked hard and looks to complete his college courses on time. The junior crew members are all reporting high marks in their various school courses and we are proud of all of them.

So as this year comes to a close, we of the USS Regulator want to wish all the ships of Region Three a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all and may the New Year be better than the last.

FCPT Liz Goulet,
USS Regulator Communications Officer



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!"

There have only been a few items of interest happening on our ship. Of course, both items are incredibly anticipated and bringing a lot of merriment and joy. I refer, of course, to our CO's pregnancy. Twins, both a boy and a girl (they think) and are we having fun teasing Heather about it! The news caught everyone by surprise but luckily Grace is ready for the role of big sister. She may be the only family member that is ready, but there is still time before the birth in April. Heather will need more time off than usual, both at the end of the pregnancy and for recovery, but Kathy Hench is ready as XO to step in and help.

Other than that things have been quiet on board. We are scheduled to have our Christmas festivities December 13 and just recently the *Ark Angel* command staff and crew decided to join us. We are looking forward to a LARGE party with lots of good food and a fun round-robin gift exchange.

I usually host the party but decided to take a year off because I will be accompanying the Grisham Middle School Band to Chicago from the 17th to the 21st. My son, Chris, and his band were selected to play at the Midwest Conference and Clinic as one of three middle school bands. They have been working very hard since this summer on seven selections. We have had to pay a lot of money for our individual accounts and help the band raise more money for the common expenses. Tubas don't fit

under the plane seats and neither do tympani drums, so one big expense is the rental truck that will have to drive up the week before with all the really big instruments. But we are almost ready and really looking forward to it. I will be with the band as an adult chaperon, which just thrilled Chris no end! If you want more information on the event, their web page is at MidwestClinic.com.

So who will host the annual party? Why, Mama Ford of course!! We made the plans before she discovered she was pregnant and she insists that she is still up to it. We all hope! Meanwhile, we here in Austin wish everyone a happy holiday season and hope everyone stays safe.

Merry Christmas,

Gigi Jacobson, USS Rhyanna



**Aurora Vulcanus -- continued
from page 6**

Chapter is looking at getting involved with the book reviews for the Thirty Day project. We are always hunting for ways to help the troops and generate material for the newsletter.

The crew sends out well wishes to Joyce Fink and her family. Her brother had a stroke in the fall and is trying to recover.

The Old AV is planning to enjoy the holiday season and sends out best wishes to all. We will see you in the New Year.

Until Next Time,
Major Jared K. Fielder
(PS: Santa, if you read this do you think you could help us out on a "white Christmas?")

VCS Selection

by: FADM Sal Lizard
10-09 & 10-28-08

A process was started a few weeks ago when Vice Commander, STARFLEET VADM Garrick Halverson announced his new real-life job and that it would be taking much more time than he would have liked and is being forced to step down as a member of this administration. And, as much as I hate to lose Gary, I wish him well in his professional endeavors.

But, as one door closes, another opens.

I put a call out for applications for those who might be interested in stepping up to the plate and taking on the daunting task of becoming the next Vice Commander, STARFLEET.

Eleven answered the call.

Two withdrew their applications for personal reasons.

Two could not participate consistently with the process we had established.

Seven were interviewed.

The field was narrowed.

I want to express my deepest personal appreciation for all eleven members who willingly put themselves out there and on the line by applying for this position.

But, as we all know, there can be only one.

As such, after some difficult deliberation, I have made my decision. And, it wasn't an easy one, to say the least.

I'm proud and honored to present my

choice for the next Vice Commander, STARFLEET: Vice Admiral Dave Blaser

I look forward to the Admiralty Board's quick confirmation of Vice Admiral Blaser so that Dave can start while Gary's still available for the turnover.

As of 28 October, 2008, I have received word from the interim Inspector General, STARFLEET Lt General Wade Hoover that, in the matter of the my selection of Vice-Admiral Dave Blaser as the next Vice Commander STARFLEET, the Admiralty Board has confirmed his selection.

So, in accordance with STARFLEET rules, Vice-Admiral Blaser is hereby recognized as the incoming VCS upon the resignation of current VCS Vice-Admiral Garrick Halverson and the termination of his position as the Regional Coordinator of Region 13.

I look forward to working with Dave for the betterment of STARFLEET and his council and ideas to improve on our service to you. I also wish to thank Gary for his service to STARFLEET as the VCS. Good luck in your future endeavors, my friend. And welcome to the EC, Dave!

Appointment of Computer Operations Chief

by: FADM Sal Lizard
12-03-08

I began this administration with full confidence in all the team members who came aboard at the Executive Committee level. Computer Operations began the year under Matt Moyer's guidance. Matt brought a fresh set of eyes and great enthusiasm to CompOps and to the EC. He put forth some good ideas and programs that are still coming to fruition.

However, over the course of the past couple of months, Matt's experienced what I warned my team about from the beginning. He experienced a major upswing in real-life job requirements and he didn't have the staff in CompOps to hold up the department while he was required to be away. Add to that his personal family tragedy a few weeks ago and a problematic situation quickly escalates into one that can completely overwhelm.

As many know, Matt Moyer has been a good friend but that friendship is secondary to the needs of STARFLEET and it is with heavy heart that I announce that I am relieving Matt Moyer of his duties as Chief of Computer Operations effective immediately.

I am appointing John Halliday, serving aboard the USS *Ark Angel* in Region Three, as the new Chief of Computer Operations. John has presented some good ideas and is ready to jump into the fray to turn CompOps around and clear up some of those issues that Matt hasn't been able to address.

Welcome aboard, John. I look forward to your participation in the Executive Committee.



MONEY MATTERS

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli, R3RC

Quartermaster Reed Bates was busy reporting summit activities. We sold sixteen Summit shirts and took in \$294.44. The cost of the shirts was \$272.00 and sales tax collected for the state was \$22.44. The profit for the region was \$44.80. Reed was nice enough to write a check to the T-shirt company, which Regional reimbursed her with check #2006 for \$227.20.

She also sold some other items at summit. \$235.33 was on-site sales. \$217.39 with \$17.94 in tax. I really thank her for the break down. It is going to make things easier when we file the sales taxes in January. Yes, they have already sent me the forms.

We also paid the server for another three years. We got a great deal with Dreamhost for \$281.49. Aaron Murphy did his homework, and then I got the opinion of Robyn Winans and Mark Vinson. All agreed the expense was worth it. That debit charge was processed in November.

The charity for Summit 2008, Child's Play was taken care of. They cashed the check for \$1225.80 in November. This is a higher total than was first reported. Nice to say. Big thank you for the generous giving's at summit.

We also now have PayPal in my name. It took us two rounds with them to get the contact person from Brad Pense to me. I am in the process of checking the account to make sure everything is plugged in. For someone who never saw a PayPal account before this year, I have learned much. And no I still don't have a personal one.

We did experience some fees with the savings account for low balance, which was covered with some of the PayPal interest. The savings is now at the level of no charges.

With the handbook discussions, it was

pointed out we needed more checks and balances with the money. Brad did have a system in place for larger expenses to get the approval of two other REC members. I have been following this example with both the *Ark Angel/Rhyanna* summit space waiver and the server decision. When we get a Regional Financial Officer, they will be part of the call with one other REC member. I hope we can codify the procedure and use it for \$150 and over.

The end of November balances stand at Checking \$1,169.39, Saving \$1,213.40, and PayPal \$52.38.

REPORTS FROM REGION THREE

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli, R3RC

September 2008

Ark Angel, Aurora Vulcanus, Azrael, Bexar, Corsair, Firebird, Freedom III, Gunslinger, Joan of Arc, Maverick, Lone Star, Regulator, Rhyanna, Serenity, SpiritWolf, Palo Duro, Tejas, Thunderwolf and Victory

October 2008

Ark Angel, Aurora Vulcanus, Azrael, Bexar, Corsair, Firebird, Freedom III, Gunslinger, Lone Star, Maverick, Rhyanna, Serenity, SpiritWolf, Tejas, Thunderwolf and Victory

My thanks to the groups that continue reporting in. Our track record has been up and down the last two cycles. Some of it is because of late reporting. If you want to being considered as reporting on time, Operations needs your MSR by the 5th of each month. Should you report after the 10th it might count for the next reporting cycle (as a few did when Ops was changing staff).

Also the database continues to send out MSR's by the hit and miss method. Several have asked about not getting a copy after they have reported in. If you need a copy, you will have to export your MSR

and save it into your machine.

If you cannot report in, please designate someone as a back up. This way you still check in and we know if there are problems.

Again my thanks for reporting and keep it up.

TREKKIES ON PARADE.....

by: John Johnston

The crew of the *USS Gunslinger* has been invited to a truly rare opportunity. The El Paso Lions Club and Western Refinery has assembled a *Star Trek* themed float for the Sun Bowl Parade, Thanksgiving Day at 11AM Central, to honor famous El Pasoan, Gene Roddenberry. Through contact with the Gene Roddenberry Planetarium, the *USS Gunslinger* has been asked to ride on the float in full uniform! Here is an article from the El Paso Times, with a picture of the float as it is being constructed:



Fleet Channels 2009 Deadlines

Jan./Feb. Issue -- Jan. 26, 2009
Mar./Apr. Issue -- Mar. 30, 2009
May/June Issue -- June 1, 2009
July/Aug Issue -- July 27, 2009
Sep./Oct. Issue -- Sep. 28, 2009
Nov./Dec. Issue -- Nov. 30, 2009

ALL e-mail submissions should be sent to: fleetchannels@region3.org. Reminders of approaching deadlines will be posted on the R3 list.

DATELINE: STARFLEET

STAR TREK ATTRACTION MAY FIND NEW HOME AT NEONOPOLIS

by: Benjamin Spillman, Las Vegas
Review-Journal
October 16, 2008

Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman and Neonopolis developer Rohit Joshi say the defunct *Star Trek: The Experience* attraction at the Hilton is moving downtown.

If it works it would be the biggest resurrection since the *Enterprise* crew found Mr. Spock's coffin on the Genesis planet — both for the *Experience* show and the troubled Neonopolis development.

Goodman let the news slip Thursday morning during a chat with reporters at City Hall.

Later Joshi, developer for the struggling Neonopolis mall on Fremont Street, confirmed a deal was close.

But he clearly wasn't prepared for the news to leak.

"You kind of shocked me," Joshi said when asked about the potential deal. "I don't know how to respond to that."

He continued: "We are in very serious negotiations. We think it would be a fantastic addition to downtown."

Joshi also produced a bound agreement with CBS Consumer Products, the licensing division of the media giant that owns the rights to the *Star Trek* name, dated Monday.

Leslie Ryan of CBS said the company had

no statement on the potential move.

CBS owns the costumes, rides and other hardware and intellectual property that make up *The Experience*.

It licensed the material to Cedar Fair Entertainment Co., to operate the Experience at Las Vegas Hilton. But that agreement ended when the show closed at the Hilton, leaving CBS free to license the material to someone else.

Cedar Fair spokeswoman Stacy Frole said the company had no involvement with the move downtown.

If Joshi is able to revive it downtown he will be operating an attraction that lured millions of people to Las Vegas for *Star Trek* rides, themed food, a museum and even weddings.

"We don't have volcanos, we don't have fountains, we have got to create attractions," Joshi said.

Reviving the attraction won't be easy, though.

In addition to retrofitting space on the first floor of the mall to accommodate the rides, restaurant, museum and other show elements, Joshi would need to bring back the audience.

Even hard-core *Star Trek* fans say that by the end of its run at the Hilton the attraction was getting stale and needed an update.

And a new *Star Trek* movie scheduled for release in May would make the old props look even more dated by comparison.

"I think it is a mistake to take what was there and recreate it," said Anthony Pascale, editor of the Web site TrekMovie.com. "It was getting a little

long-in-the-tooth."

Pascale said the version at the Hilton was aimed at a generation of *Star Trek* fans tuned into the series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

"That is just part of *Star Trek*, not all of *Star Trek*," Pascale said.

He suggested a revived Experience would need to incorporate the new movie and more of the original 1960s television series which later spawned several movies including *The Search For Spock*, a film that included the resurrection of Mr. Spock, perhaps the most renown *Star Trek* character in popular culture.

No matter how a new *Experience* unfolds, Goodman was clearly excited by the prospect of Neonopolis living up to its promise to attract new blood downtown, even if it becomes Nerdopolis in the process.

Neonopolis has long been viewed as a black hole in terms of development downtown.

The complex is between the east end of the Fremont Street Experience canopy and the west end of Fremont East, a bar and entertainment district that includes the El Cortez hotel-casino.

The mall has struggled to attract tenants and its lack of life has been blamed for reducing foot traffic between the canopy and Fremont East.

"It would be ironic," Goodman said of the potential for landing *Star Trek*. "Perhaps the most successful place downtown could be Neonopolis, even though it has been an albatross around my neck all these years."

Scientists say Copernicus' remains found

AP 11-20-08

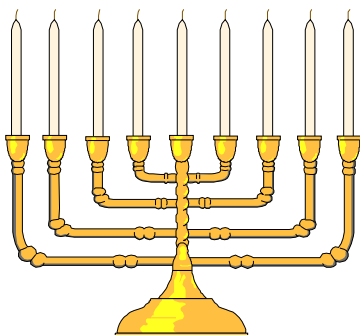


WARSAW, Poland – Researchers believe they have identified the remains of Nicolaus Copernicus by comparing DNA from a skeleton they have found with that of hair retrieved from one of the 16th-century astronomer's books.

Jerzy Gassowski, an academic at an archaeology school in Poland, also says facial reconstruction of the skull his team found buried in a cathedral in Poland closely resembles existing portraits of Copernicus, whose theories identified the Sun, not the Earth, as the center of the universe.

Gassowski and Marie Allen, a Swedish DNA expert, told reporters about their findings in Warsaw on Thursday.

Allen said DNA from the bones and teeth matches that of hair found in a book the Polish astronomer owned. It is in a library at Sweden's Uppsala University.



In Remembrance of Those We Have Lost in the Past Year

FROM THE WORLD OF STAR TREK

Alexander Courage
Composer, TOS Theme

Oliver Crawford
Writer, TOS episodes, including
"The Galileo Seven"

Robert H Justman
Supervising Producer, STNG
Associate Producer, TOS

Stanley Kamel
Guest Star, STNG,
"Where No One Has Gone Before"

Perry Lopez
Guest Star on TOS

Joseph Pevney
Director of TOS episodes, including
"The Trouble with Tribbles"

Leonard Rosenman
Composer, Musical Soundtrack,
"Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home"

Jud Taylor
Director, five TOS episodes, including
"Let This Be Your Last Battlefield"

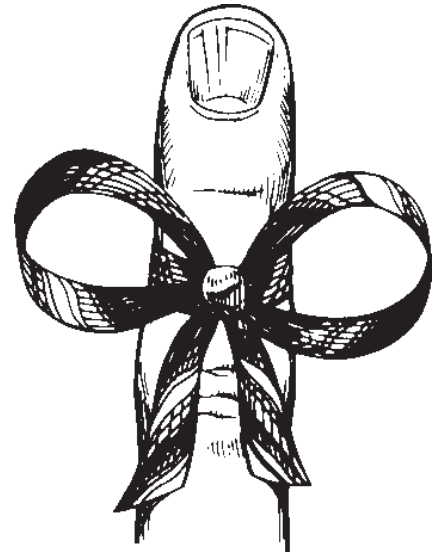
Joan Winston
One of the founders of the first
Star Trek Convention

FROM THE WORLD OF GENERAL SCIENCE FICTION

Forrest J. Ackerman
Writer-editor Who Coined "Sci-fi"

Bernie Brillstein
Executive Producer, "Ghostbusters"

Ben Chapman
Actor, Gill Man,
"The Creature From the Black Lagoon"



Sir Arthur C Clarke
Writer, "2001", "2010", and many others

Don S Davis
Actor, played General Hammond in
both Stargate series

Robert DoQui
Actor, all three Robocop movies

Neal Hefti
Composer, 1960's Batman series

Charlton Heston
Actor, Former President, NRA
"Planet of the Apes", "Soylent Green"

John Phillip Law
Actor,
"Barbarella"

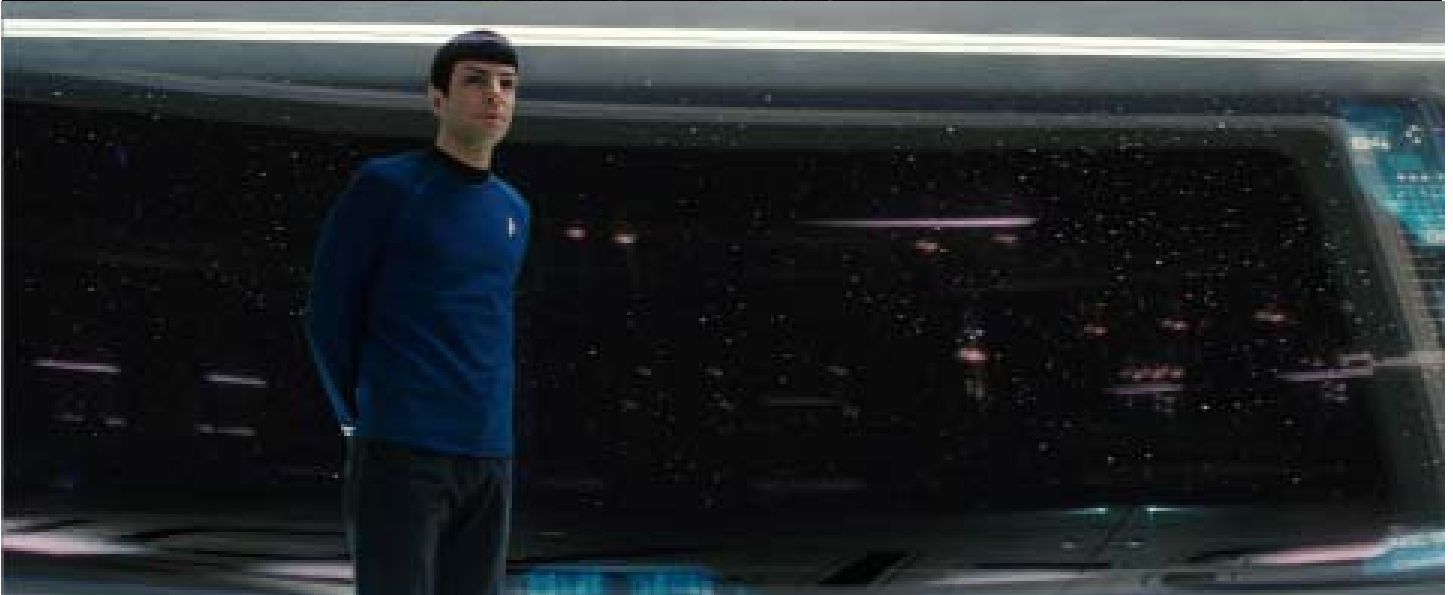
Heath Ledger
Actor, Joker in
"The Dark Knight"

Barry Morse
Actor,
"Space 1999"

Maila Numi
"Vampira"

Roy Scheider
Actor,
"Jaws", "2010" "Seaquest DSV"

Stan Winston
Special Effects Master













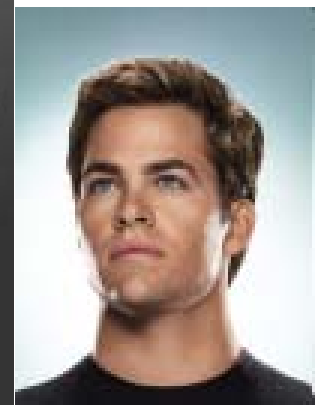
Richard Robau
 Born in Sagua La Grande, Cuba
 Starfleet Service Number: SA-476-2549-CM
 Captain



Michael Johnson
 Born in Seattle, Washington
 Starfleet Service Number: SA-731-1973-HF
 Helmsman



George Kirk
 Born in Riverside, Iowa
 Starfleet Service Number: SA-733-9624-AM
 First Officer



Alnschloss K'Bentayr
 Born on the planet Monchezke, Beta
 Quadrant
 Starfleet Service Number: SA-890-0404-DB
 Security Officer



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PROBE ENDS HISTORIC MARS MISSION

by: Jonathan Amos, BBC News

NASA says its Phoenix Lander on the surface of Mars has gone silent and is almost certainly dead.

Engineers have not heard from the craft since Sunday, November 2nd when it made a brief communication with Earth.

Phoenix, which landed on the planet's northern plains in May, had been struggling in the increasing cold and dark of an advancing winter.

The US space agency says it will continue to try to contact the craft but does not expect to hear from it.

"We are actually ceasing operations, declaring an end to operations at this point," Phoenix mission project manager Barry Goldstein said at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

"However, since we've been surprised by the robustness of this vehicle, we're going to keep listening. As the orbiters fly overhead every two hours, we'll constantly turn on the radio and try to hail Phoenix to see if it is alive."

Fiery plunge

Launched from Earth in August 2007, the robot arrived on Mars on 25 May, landing further north than any previous mission to the Martian surface.

To make it down, the probe had to survive a fiery plunge through the Red Planet's thin atmosphere, releasing a parachute and using thrusters to control its descent.

The mission was scheduled to last just three months on the surface, but continued to work for more than five months.

During its ground operations, the robot dug, scooped, baked, sniffed and tasted the Martian soil to test whether it has ever been capable of supporting life.

Phoenix's major achievement was in becoming the first mission to Mars to "touch water" in the form of the water-ice it found just centimeters below the topsoil. Chunks of ice were seen to vaporize before the Lander's cameras.

"This was quite a thrill for everybody and it has been the study of that ice that has kept us busy for the last five months," said Phoenix principal investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona in Tucson.

"We've excavated that ice, we know its depth, we know how it changes over the surface; we've seen different types of ice."

The spacecraft found the Martian soil to be mildly alkaline, quite different from the acidic soils seen by previous missions to other parts of the planet.

Other key results included the identification in the soil of calcium carbonate, which on Earth is a chief component of limestone rock.

Phoenix also detected sheet-like particles, which were probably clays of some kind.

The significance of both minerals is that they form only in the presence of liquid water - which could have supported life.

The Lander also detected perchlorate (an ion containing chlorine and oxygen) which is an oxidizing chemical and, on Earth, can sustain some microbes.

Phoenix even recorded snowfall; and took more than 25,000 pictures, from the panoramas of its Arctic landing site to the atomic scale images of dust grains delivered to its microscope.

"Right now at this epoch in Martian history it is certainly too cold for organisms to be alive, certainly in the sense of Earth organisms," said Peter Smith.

"But we do think that over time as the Mars climate changes that it can get warm enough that, perhaps, we are getting at least films of liquid water or dampness in the soil; and that could create an environment where life could exist. That would be in the last few million years; very recent in Mars history."

The Phoenix mission scientists have a mass of data that will keep them busy for decades. They have not yet given up hope of seeing a signature in the data for organics, the carbon-rich molecules that can be considered the "feedstock" of biochemistry.

One disappointment, however, from the final days of the mission was the failure to get a microphone on the Lander to work. This would have returned the first sounds of Mars.

Overall, though, the US space agency is delighted with the achievements of the mission.

"This is an Irish wake rather than a funeral," commented Doug McCuiston, director of the Mars exploration programme at NASA Headquarters in Washington DC.

"We should celebrate what Phoenix and the Phoenix team has done and where it is going to take us in the future. [There

continued on next page

**Probe -- continued from
previous page**



were] a lot of lessons learned in this mission for us that will feed forward to future missions. We learned a lot about handling of soils, soil consistency, and how difficult it can be."

Cracking up

Phoenix was never expected to be a long mission. At its high latitude (68 degrees North), it was always destined to be starved of light as the Arctic winter deepened.

In the end, though, the demise of Phoenix was hastened by a dust storm which obscured the Sun's precious rays still further.

With so little energy getting into its solar panels, the batteries on Phoenix were regularly going flat, preventing the robot from heating its systems in temperatures that were heading down to minus 100C.

Nevertheless, NASA says its Mars Reconnaissance and Odyssey satellites will continue to listen for Phoenix for a further three weeks, until Solar Conjunction, when Mars moves behind the Sun as viewed from Earth.

As winter progresses, Phoenix will be covered in a thick layer of carbon dioxide frost. As the ice builds up on the solar arrays, they are likely to crack and fall off. The electronics will also break up in the cold that could see temperatures go down to minus 180C.

Phoenix had risen from the ashes of two previous failures.

In September 1999, the Mars Climate Orbiter spacecraft crashed into the Red Planet following a navigation error caused when technicians mixed up "English" (im-

perial) and metric units.

A few months later, another NASA spacecraft, the Mars Polar Lander (MPL), was lost near the planet's South Pole.

Phoenix used hardware from an identical twin of MPL, the Mars Surveyor 2001 Lander, which was cancelled following the two consecutive failures.

NASA's robot rovers, Opportunity and Spirit, continue to work at their equatorial landing sites five years after arriving at the planet.

The next mission to the surface of Mars is due to leave Earth next year. The Mars Science Laboratory is a "smart" rover that will be dropped on to the surface of the Red Planet by a rocket-powered "skycrane".

At almost three meters in length and weighing 850kg, MSL is considerably bigger than the current rovers.

NASA UNVEILS NEW LUNAR ROVER BUILT FOR ENDURANCE

by: Tim Gaynor, Reuters
Black Point, Arizona - Oct 24, 2008

NASA unveiled a new lunar rover on Friday which aims to transform space exploration by allowing astronauts to roam large distances without cumbersome spacesuits when they return to the moon by 2020.

A team of scientists is testing the Small Pressurized Rover Concept vehicle — which resembles a small, futuristic recreational vehicle mounted on six sets of wheels — 12 in all — in trials in a rocky, barren corner of northern Arizona, selected for its similarities to the surface of the moon.

"This is the next generation of lunar exploration," said Doug Craig, NASA program's manager, as an astronaut took the vehicle for a spin over a broad lava field framed by craggy mountains.

The battery powered rover travels at speeds of up to 6 mph. It is part of a range of systems and equipment being developed by the space agency for its planned return to the moon over the next decade.

NASA hopes to build a permanent manned base on the moon's surface as a prelude to subsequent exploration missions to Mars.

The new pressurized rover follows on from vehicles used by the Apollo series of moon shots in the early 1970s, when astronauts in spacesuits used rovers that looked like stripped-down jeeps to make short forays to gather rocks.

The new prototype has a pressurized cab and is fitted out with leather seats and bunks. It would allow a crew of two astronauts to take extended exploration trips for up to two weeks at a time, covering distances of up to 625 miles, Craig said.

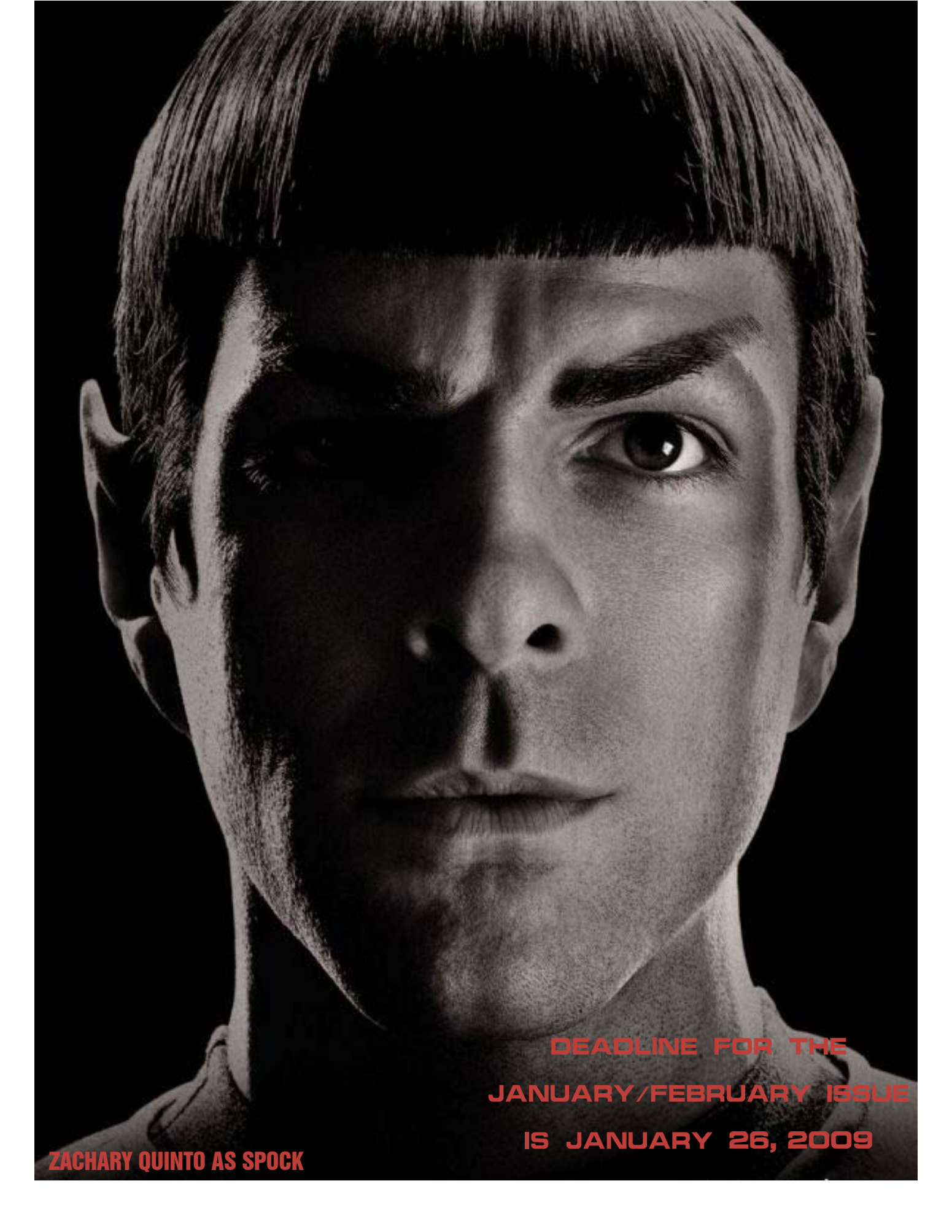
The crew would not wear spacesuits while in the vehicle, which is fitted with large windows offering extensive views of the terrain, but to step outside, they would slip into spacesuits mounted on the outside of the vehicle through special hatches in the rover, officials said.

"You are only in a spacesuit when you need to be on the surface picking up rocks," said astronaut Mike Gernhardt, a veteran of four shuttle missions and a pioneering spacewalk, as he took reporters for a spin in the rover.

"So all the time that you are doing observations ... you can be inside the pressurized environment in a comfortable warm shirt-sleeve environment instead of in a spacesuit," he added.

Aside from its increased range, Gernhardt said the vehicle is much safer and more comfortable than earlier rovers taken to the moon with the Apollo series.

"It really enables much more exploration, much more productivity, and frankly (it's) a lot safer than we had when we went on the Apollo program," he said. "This is the future."



**DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE
IS JANUARY 26, 2009**

ZACHARY QUINTO AS SPOCK