



FLEET CHANNELS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY '09 A VOLUME 18, NO. 1

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

MAJEL BARRET-RODDENBERRY

1932-2008

&

RICARDO MONTALBAN

1920 - 2009



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THE NEWSLETTER FOR REGION THREE

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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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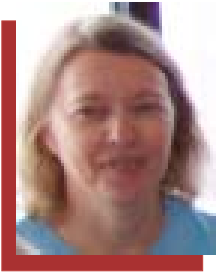
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If you cannot e-mail the file then send it to Mark A. Vinson, 1047 Cottonwood Trl., Benbrook, TX. 76126 on a Compact Disc or carefully typed on white paper with at least one and one-half spaces between the lines in a san-serif font (i.e.: Arial). If 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,

Hope all had a great holiday and are enjoying a good 2009. Has it been a year since I started this gig? I did not I would be understanding sales tax or the finer points of Robert's Rules of Order so well. I know I would be interacting with good members of Three, which is the fun part to education I have received.

We had three groups interested in Summit 2010: the USS *Bexar*, USS *Gunslinger* and USS *Thunderwolf*. The first two decided to wave off and organize for a later year. The *Thunderwolf* when checking with their hotel disclosed the room rates were going to be much higher than first researched. So they regrouped and came up with a new venue, Lake Lewisville and camping. I think we all thought this was fun and different for the region, but in the summer, there were few takers. We have asked them to look at it for the region as another event, in cooler times. So I have been talking to Trisha Tunis about the region attending Babel Con. We have not been able to visit Louisiana as a large group and I would love to see more of the state. There are also other cons such as Apollo Con we might look at. My thanks to the three chapters who thought about Summit 2010.

For the travel calendar: Region Three Vacation is Summit 2009 June 5 – June 7, 2009 Six Flags Arlington. And yes the Marines will Muster there. For Retreat, Aggie Con March 26th-29th, 2009 I have heard from Kris Dobie that it might not be at the same spot as usual, so we are checking to see where on campus. The North is also looking at hosting a trip to see King Tut.

We continue using the Congress list to

gather opinions on the pressing issues of the Admiralty Board. Ask the CO's what I have been throwing at them. We had a busy December and January is no different. I have learned webmail is our friend for attachments – NOT. <G> Every chapter is giving a lot of thought to each issue and with some of them, it is not easy.

Congratulations to following groups who had birthdays.

USS *Ark Angel* - January 1st
USS *Firebird* - December 31st
USS *Joan of Arc* - January 6th
USS *Tejas* - December 31st

May each of you have many more years filled with adventures.

Congratulations to Robert Graham, CO of the *Spiritwolf*, as our new Vice-Regional Coordinator — South. I look forward to his working on the regional staff.

We started last year a chapter care plan with our Ops and our Vices. Ops and Vices, sounds like a new best seller. Any way Stephi, Robyn, and John along with Mark will be keeping groups up to date when they have low numbers, reporting and CO/XO issues. I have been handling South until Robert gets up to speed.

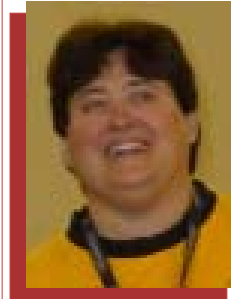
And please work with Mark about updating your information. I see one thing in the database VR, another in my files. And when you change chapter contact information, we need it to stay in contact with your group.

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 here in the North we've survived the holidays. Though we aren't sure what time of year it is. Some days you'd think it was spring with temps in the 70's and then the temps

are in the 20's and there's ice on the ground. But matter the weather the North is busy as the Convention season begins.

Members of the North helped out with the Dallas Comicon and we'd like thank Beau Thacker and members of the USS *Azrael* who came to help out. Beau has recently moved into the Sheveport/Boosier area and it's nice to have friend face over in Sector 2. We've begun talks to do an away mission with Beau and his folks. There's a great science museum call Sci-Port in the area. We're also looking to some fun to be had at the various hotels in the area as well.

Much closer in the time line is our Walk like an Egyptian tour! The King Tut Exhibit is in the Dallas area until May and I'll be sending out information via the CCO list to look for a regional weekend to visit. Group tours are a reasonable \$15. So grab your Bangles and your best Steve Martin Impression and join us for a good time.

ConDFW will be February 20-22. Their Guests of Honor for the weekend are David Weber (Honor Harrington series). Jim Butcher (Dresden Files) and Jamation Studios(Quantum of Solace the game).

Sector 1 is looking towards a fun 2009 with Picnics, movie premiers (*Star Trek*

continued on next page

SOUTHERN SPACEDOCK

Vice-Regional Coordinator, South
by: OPEN AT THIS TIME
vrco@region3.org



Hello everyone,

As the new VRC-South it's difficult to come up with a topic for my first column. I would like to extend my thanks to Jeff Webb & Michelle Fanelli. Both of them

did a great job as my predecessors in the position I now serve. I also want to thank all the southern CO's for participating in the election which resulted in my confirmation.

There is a lot of work ahead in order to keep the Southern sector as well as the rest of Region Three the strongest & most fun in STARFLEET. With the new movie coming out in a little over three months, now is the best time for all the chapters to start recruiting. I hope to be re-introducing the Southern Flyer by the time Region Three Retreat comes around. An e-mail will be going out to all the Southern CO's requesting the chapter info needed to put the flyer together.

Thank you all for your support and I hope to see all of you very soon.

In Service to the Region,

Robert C. Graham

COMM Robert C. Graham
Vice Regional Coordinator-South

GO WEST YOUNG MAN!

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



Greetings to all!

Well, for those who do not know, I have been on a special assignment with the Texas Military Forces for the past couple of weeks. So far, things are going good, and I hope to be finished with this assignment by the 15th of February, so I can return to some form of normalcy... Normal? Me? Perish the thought! :-P

Things are running good in the West. No major emergencies to report, other than a bad Gagh incident that does not bear repeating in the Gunslinger's galley.

As for me, I have been doing my best to stay in contact with folks while on the road. Fortunately, my cell phone and internet have been working well in these "One-horse" towns.

I'm looking forward to the USS *Lone Star* / USS *Gunslinger* Anniversary Party, which is tentatively planned for mid-March in Lubbock. If there are any other Western events that pop up on the Sensors, I'll let you all know.

Well, that's it for me. Time to get back to the tumbleweeds and tarantulas...

COL John Johnston
VRC-West, R3

Chiefly Yours...

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



Greetings All!

We are still looking for a Regional Finance Officer, Communications Officer, 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.

Plans are continuing on the Region Three Vacation/Summit 2009. If you will remember from last month's report 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!"

Remember that we will have a dinner on Friday night the 5th for those who get in town that day. Saturday morning we will gather at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington and pretend we are all kids again! We will presnet awards and promotions at lunch time in the picnic area of the park then go back into the park and enjoy the rest of the day!

Sunday morning we will meet at my Father's Elk Lodge for a traditional bacon and egg breakfast (for \$7 a head) then we will have our Congress meeting and planning sessions.

More information (specific times and a list of hotels) will follow in the months to come. I have confirmed Sunday the 7th of June as our breakfast/Congress meeting at the Elk's Lodge and Reed Bates is working on getting prices on t-shirts so we can all identify ourselves when we invade Six Flags.

ATTENTION CO's!! Once upon a time we used to keep and maintain a Regional Contact Point/Database list of all CO's,

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VRC-S -- continued from previous page

the Movie), many more conventions, bowling outings and much, much more.

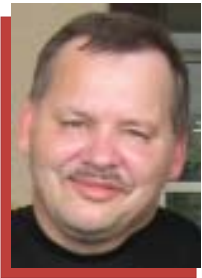
Keep your feet on the ground while reaching for those stars.

Robert A. Winson

Rear Admiral Robyn, VRC-North Region Three

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

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



Greetings!

I am glad to announce the *Azrael* will have a new baby soon! My Executive officer, LTC David Bailey, has decided to start a new chapter in Minden, La called the USS

Broadsword. The *Broadsword* will be an Akira class ship. He has his crew and will be sending in the VRR real soon.

We have an Away Team in Lake Charles, La that is still looking good and working on members and the duties of starting a chapter.

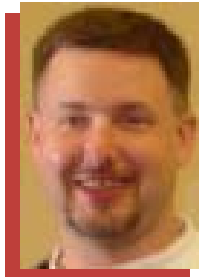
Texas where are you? With the *Serenity* commissioning soon there will be no, new chapters in Texas!

One thing I am trying to do is get a school chapter. I know of a school that has a Sci-fi club and I'm going to try to work them into making a Cadet ship. Let's go team!

FCPT Beau Thacker,
Regional SHoC

**AT THE
KEYBOARD**

Regional Computer Operations Report
by: LGN Aaron Murphy
CompOps@region3.org



Greetings,

I wanted to chime in and let you know what was going on with region3.org. Updates have not been going up as frequently as I would have liked, but that should be changing

now that the holiday season is behind us and work is not shipping me out of town as often.

Work continues to progress on the site as a whole. In the coming months, I am going to be experimenting with new site designs, so periodically the look of the site (well, at least the homepage) may change. I am also working on implementing a calendar system that I am happy with. If there are features that you would like to see on the site, feel free to e-mail me and we can discuss the challenges and benefits of the proposals.

I'd like to take time in each article to focus on a different page on the site. For this issue, I'll start with <http://www.region3.org/cons.php>. This page lists conventions of possible interest in Louisiana and Texas. The cons presented on this page are populated by Blair Learn (Fanboy's Convention List - <http://dactylmanor.org/fanboy/>). It is by no means all-inclusive. But he does have a method available for getting conventions added to the list. He sends out updates monthly or bi-monthly and I try to get those updates online within a week or so of him sending them to me.

In Service to the Region,

LGN Aaron Murphy,
Chief of Computer Operations
Third Fleet, STARFLEET

CoS -- continued from previous page

XO's, RVA's and at least one other member of each chapter. We also kept track of pertinent chapter information. This information, along with that information provided in your MSR's has been used to keep the website up-to-date.

I kinda let things slide on my end since we no longer mail the regional newsletter but Shell has noted that when a group changes CO's, XO's, RVA's, they don't always provide info to her or to CompOps.

So, here is the call for all to take a few minutes and provide the following information on their chapters. Once the information is updated these files will be available for download from the R3 site or sent to you in another electronic manner. So, if you would please, fill out the following and send it back to me ASAP:

SHIP NAME, NCC # & SECTOR
TYPE OF SHIP (CLASS) & ERA
CHAPTER US MAILING ADDRESS:
CITY OF CHARTER:
CHAPTER WEB SITE:
CHAPTER E-MAIL:
CHAPTER NEWSLETTER:
SHUTTLE LAUNCH DATE:
CHAPTER MOTTO:
CHAPTER COMMISSIONING DATE:
CHAPTER CHARITY:

Please include the following information for the CO, XO, RVA and any other important "Mover and Shaker" on your chapter that you want listed in case of emergency or when the CO or XO are not available.

NAME
US MAILING ADDRESS INCLUDING
CITY, STATE & ZIP
HOME PHONE
WORK PHONE
CELL PHONE
E-MAIL ADDRESS

Til Next Time, LLAP

ADM Mark A. Vinson,
Region Three Chief of Staff and
Acting Region Three Communications
Officer



USS Ark Angel, NCC-1889
Sector 5 -- Round Rock, TX.
CO -- COMM Jeffrey Webb
arkangel@region3.org

XO -- CAPT Randi South

Commissioning Date: January 1, 2001

Motto: *"The Price of Freedom
is Eternal Vigilance"*-- JFK

Hello again from the USS Ark Angel!

We had our joint Christmas Party with the USS *Ryhanna* in December and relearned the fun of a "White Elephant" gift exchange.

At our January meeting, we talked about all the exciting things going on this year, including Retreat at AggieCon, Millenium Con, camping trips, upcoming paintball events, the Sci-Fi Expos, and Summit at Six Flags. We also discussed being a lot more hands-on with our chapter charity this year.

After the meeting, we all adjourned to the One-Eyed Ogre where we had a double elimination Battletech Tournament. The Battletech tournament ended in a husband versus wife bout between Rick and Randi South, with Rick once again showing he was king of the battle map. We also watched *"Space Seed"* and *"Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan"* in honor of Ricardo Montalban's passing.

MCPO Clint Hill, RVA



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 returning to *The Old AV* after holiday shore leave. Many of our Texas members enjoyed the snow. Santa was listening.

We finished up coupon clipping with a total of \$9,896.89 for the year. Already cutting and mailing for 2009.

AG #4 went out to the membership. Our special Holiday addition had seasonal safety tips and recipes. Finished up the MRE reviews by The Catt. They were a hit with the crew. We do like our sick humor. Writers were busy over the holiday penning their next creative adventures. We already have some fine submissions for the newsletter.

Crew also working on personal projects. Jared Fielder is working on model builder handout. It might be an avenue for the newsletter to explore on what hobbies we enjoy.

Command is playing spring cleaning with the paper pile of the chapter. Both roster and history booklet were updated during January. Now turning to the Yahoo! site.

Houston Marathon supported by David Fanelli as part of the hams providing communications. Dave was in the lead police car swapping Blue Brothers lines with the Officer. Serious work. <G>

We had several members finish up Starfleet Academy courses for 2008. The



USS Joan of Arc, NCC-73289
Sector 6 -- Corpus Christi, TX.
CO -- FCPT Robin Van Cleave

joanofarc@region3.org

XO -- LCDR Tahnnya Abbott

Commissioning Date: January 6, 1994

Motto: *"Legends Endure"*

We have several new things to announce from the JOA. We have received our first box from the *Trek* Book Project and are looking to getting another later in the year. When the club members are finished reading the selections in the current box, they will be donated to the Half Pint Library at the local children's hospital. This year was our 2nd highest total for collecting OCP's. The years total was \$12,344.45 dollars.

Thirdly, we have started a program called Cadets in Education Excellence. This is where all the school age cadets are recognized for their work at maintaining high standards in school. Here in Corpus Christi number grades are given starting with the second reporting period in First Grade. Christopher Van Cleave made the ALL A List on his first reporting period and is in the advanced First grade program; Alex Kearney made the A-B list and is in 7th grade; Isabo Turner, who attends Flour Bluff Independent School system, also made the A-B list only this time she is in the 3rd grade. We have one more Cadet, William Turner, but as he is still in pre-k, he only receives letter grades (S, G, N, &U). We are hoping to see great things from him in the future.

Our last meeting of 2008 was supposed to take at CJ'S, our new meeting place, but on Dec. 6th, 2008 when we arrive we four them permanently CLOSED!! Even the tables, chairs and kitchen equipment were gone! Fortunately Jim Van Cleave

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USS Regulator, NCC-73337
Sector 1 -- Fort Worth, TX.
CO -- BDR Mark West
regulators@region3.org
XO -- LTC Kyle Schugart

Commissioning Date: October 1, 1992
Motto: "Defending the Final Frontier"

Now that we have gotten over our winter weather -- hopefully, we can get started on the New Year. To kick things off, we are having a pot luck supper in March instead of our monthly meeting. Our resident chef, Don Williams has volunteered his home for this gathering. Everyone will bring something to eat and also can bring their favorite games or movies. It promises to be a memorable get-together.

Late in the year, we hope to have a picnic and maybe do some sight seeing of some of the museums and parks in the immediate area.

Of course we hope to see everyone up here at Summit Vacation later this year.

Everyone stay warm and it will get better -- in Texas that is a fact you can take to the bank.

Liz Goulet, FCPT
Communications Officer,
USS Regulator



AV -- continued from previous page

total for each was outstanding.

Bill Downs - 28

Jared Fielder - 52

Joyce Fink - 14

Sabino Pintor - 12

Douglas Smith - 11

Lee Vitasek - 78

Great work by all. Lee Vitasek was awarded a Silver Boothby in December.

We are welcoming back Robin Woodell to the fleet.

Until Next Time,
Major Jared K. Fielder

JofA -- continued from previous page

found an EMERGENCY meeting place for us that day! We are hoping to find a permanent place by our Feb. crew meeting, more on that when it happens.

The main event of December was of course the annual Christmas Party. This year it was held on Dec. 20th, 2008 at the Sirlain Stockade here in C.C. Dinner & socializing happened from 6-7:30pm ish. We used an extra 30 minutes here to visit with the out of town visitors. Klingon Robert brought his mother, Ruth from Aransas Pass; James West drove down from S.A.; and Amy's mother was here to spend the holidays with the Turners. After dinner, Robin made a few opening remarks then turned the party over to Margaret Branstetter Who read this years version of "The Night Before Christmas Poem" The original poem has been 'customized' to show a more *Star Trek* storyline.... Now it was time for the greatly anticipated gift exchange er-swap, er-stealing frenzy!!! The rules are similar to a white elephant exchange but with a *Trek* twist. The top 3 hot gifts were: a complete, unopened Pez classic *Trek* Bridge set; a talking *Star Wars* trivia book; & hottest of all was a Leather Dragon to perch on your shoulder while you walked around the party. Most of the adults had the dragon at least long enough to get a photo. Margaret B. was the lucky winner.

Two of the older Cadets joined the gift exchange as adults. They were as ruth-

less in stealing gifts as were some of the actual grown ups!! Each showed good manners not to fuss if their current gift was stolen. A separate exchange was held for the younger two (both under 7 years) where there was NO STEALING OR SWAPPING. When at last the exchange was finished, Robin wished the entire crew a Safe & Happy Holiday Season. Shore Leave was declared until January 2, 2009. Thus ended 2008.

January 3rd marked the beginning of the clubs' 16th year WOW!!! This auspicious occasion was marked by a formal uniform dinner at the restaurant 'Joe's Crab Shack on the Bay'. Here Robin awarded promotions, and awards after an unusual seafood meal. Unfortunately we will NOT be returning to 'Joe's' in '09!!!! Marine awards were next. This was 'serious stuff' NO SMILING 'until one marine executed an about face, tripped on a dropped napkin, and caught himself all with a straight face! The rest of us were laughing loudly. The Science department headed by Margaret Branstetter awarded the two crew members with the highest totals the Golden Scissor Award, then urged the rest of the crew to try to better our total for '09. Those crewmen were Amy Turner and myself. The two highest awards are the Standard Bearer & Ambassador of the Year. The Standard Bearer is the crew member who has served above the call of duty. John was voted by the crew for this award in '09. The Ambassador of the Year is an honorary position connecting the Club with the community. Daniel and Sonia Velasquez were named to fill this position for '09. This couple has been the promoters of the anime convention "REALMS CON" for the past 4 years. Stay tuned here for updates on this years dates. Jan. 17th also saw a movie night hosted at the Van Cleave home. Each crew member brought a dish while we laughed our selves silly with the Jeff Dunham Very Merry Christmas DVD. The month isn't over yet so check back next issue for the Joan escapades too find out what happens the rest of the month.....

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

F
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CE
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S

STAR TREK BEAMS BATON ROUGE FANS INTO SOCIALIZING SETTINGS

by: Steven Ward, Advocate staff writer
Jan 27, 2009

Don't call them Trekkies.

Nerds or geeks, they don't mind so much.

Sure, a group of Baton Rouge residents meets once a month to discuss the 1960s science fiction television show "*Star Trek*," but that's just a launching pad for casual conversation about all kinds of pop culture and much more about socializing.

"I'm not a Trekkie. I don't know much about '*Star Trek*.' I'm a nerd. This group is a big family. It's a support group," 39-year-old Leanne Allen said recently at the first gathering of the *Star Trek* Meet Up Group this year, which attracted 15 members.

Member Sydney Lejeune said the group is a social club more than anything.

"*Star Trek* is not our lives. It's more of a conversation starter," Lejeune said.

In fact, members talked more about planning movie nights out and a group trip to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival later this year than Capt. James T. Kirk or Mr. Spock.

The Baton Rouge *Star Trek* Meet Up Group, which formed in August 2006, is the brainchild of Edward and Trisha Tunis.

The northern transplants — Edward Tunis is from New Jersey and Trisha Tunis is from Pennsylvania — started the group as an arm of the bigger "*Star Trek*" fan

club they started in Baton Rouge known as the USS *Corsair*.

The USS *Corsair* is an active fan club chapter of STARFLEET, the international "*Star Trek*" fan association, Trisha Tunis said.

Trisha Tunis and Allen both said members of the Baton Rouge club socialize with New Orleans residents who belong to science fiction fan clubs there.

That connection was crucial after Hurricane Katrina when New Orleans residents had to evacuate and could stay with fellow science fiction fans in Baton Rouge.

Although the storm hit before Trisha and Edward Tunis started their club, other members of the Baton Rouge *Star Trek* Meet Up Group, including Allen, were already in Baton Rouge and were members of Area 504, a science fiction fan club based out of New Orleans.

The two clubs now share members.

Trisha Tunis also said the group participates in community service projects.

Members have volunteered at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, cleaned cat cages for the Capital Area Animal Welfare Society and raised money for the Denham Springs Animal Shelter and the American Cancer Society.

A Baton Rouge *Star Trek* Meet Up gathering looks like a meeting of any other club.

The group's first meeting this year featured as many women as men and a couple of families that took along their children. No one was dressed as a Vulcan.

The group did briefly discuss the upcoming big screen remake of "*Star Trek*" that



Trisha Tunis, left, listens on as Baton Rouge author Randy Richards pretends his cell phone is a communicator

will be released May 8.

"The movie better be good," Edward Tunis said just before the meeting ended.

MONEY MATTERS

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli, R3RC

Not much to report in the money world. We paid the sale tax to the state on January 15 with Check #2008. Reed Bates was great and right on target with her calculating what we needed to charge. We owed \$40.18.

The mid-January balances stand at \$1,129.21 for the Checking account, \$1,213.78 for the Savings account and \$80.08 in the Pay Pal account. I hope to transfer the majority of the Pay Pal money into the savings account this month since these funds are not FDIC insured.

We did pretty well with the funds last year. Looking at what we took in and went out, after wrapping up the 2007 items, we were about .97 in the red. That does not include

continued on next page

COME SEE TUT AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE PHARAOHS OF EGYPT

by: RADM Robyn Winans, VRC-North

The North would like to invite you a fun filled weekend of visiting the Tombs of the Pharaohs of Egypt! Ok its just one Pharaoh but its King Tut!



The King Tut Exhibit will be in Dallas at the Dallas Museum of Art until the middle of May.

Group tickets can be had for \$15 for a group of 10+ people. The Golden Ticket costs \$26 which includes a 3-D Movie and Audio.

The tickets for the group can be mixed and matching. For example the Exhibit and the Audio would be \$21.

Exhibit ticket \$15
Audio Tour \$6
Movie \$5

The north would like to propose the following Saturdays for a region wide event. First tours of the day start at 9 am. The weekends of February 28th, March 7th, March 14th or March 21st are the best choices as the weekends of March 29th, April 4th and April 11th already have events happening on them (Regional Retreat at AggieCon, Scarborough Faire opening weekend and Easter weekend).

E-mail Robyn at vrncn@region3.org with your thoughts. More information to follow.

Regional Reporting

by: ADM Michelle Fanelli, R3RC

November 2008

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

December 2008

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

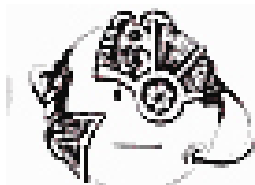
We are doing better, most are reporting in and by the 5th of month. Many thanks. They now have a standard reporting form for the regions and the extra few days really helps out.

Since Jerry Tien became Chief of Ops, they are doing great with the emailed msrs. They are showing up within a day or two in the database. They still have to correct the missing ones from over the summer. I sent them a spreadsheet for the affected groups and am waiting to hear when they need the copies of the msrs.

Also I have been asked that chapters using email please use msr-submit@sfi.org only. The ops@sfi.org address is not for submitting msrs.

The database started sending out a few more of the msrs, but you should export your msr and save it into your machine, if you want a copy for your records. I do that for my chapter.

Again my thanks for reporting and keep it up.



FORMER R3 MEMBER IN HOSPITAL

by: Mark Vinson with information from Dave Blaser via SFI-L



Dustin at Summit 2000

On January 28th, former Region Three member and current SFI member, Dustin Williams, collapsed at home and lost consciousness. His roommates took him to Ogden Regional Medical Center where he was admitted to the I.C.U. with partial paralysis in his legs. He has been in and out of the hospital a few times since January 28th.

Because of the paralysis he is having problems standing and sitting up for long periods. The diagnosis so far is leaning towards MS. Dustin is a little shaken by it but seems to be in high enough spirits to try and tackle the new obstacles ahead.

Please keep Dustin and his family in your hearts and thoughts during these difficult times. Send him a note at djw129@hotmail.com. Dustin appreciates all the kind notes and best wishes that he has already received from everyone but more never hurt!

Money -- continued from previous page

the small interest from the accounts. Not too bad. I figured last year at this time, we would be about \$300 in the hole. Two things came into play: On the big ticket side, we paid three years on the server, which is a long term benefit. The other side, the Howard Johnson's never charged us for Retreat 2008. So I will take it. I hope we can continue to collect enough over the year, so we don't have to use a lot from what was left over from Brad's time.

DATELINE: STARFLEET

"Star Trek" Creator's Spouse, Actress Dead at 76

Thursday, Dec 18., 2008, Los Angeles



Majel Barrett Roddenberry, wife of "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry and the actress

who portrayed Nurse Chapel on the original science-fiction television series, died Thursday of leukemia, according to the family.

Roddenberry, 76, died at her home in Bel Air with her son, Eugene "Rod" Roddenberry, at her side, according to a family statement.

She began her acting career in the 1950s, appearing on shows such as "Bonanza," "The Untouchables" and "The Lucy Show." But she became a cult favorite on the original "Star Trek" series as Nurse Christine Chapel, the soft-spoken USS *Enterprise* medical assistant who adeptly aided Dr. McCoy and harbored a usually unspoken, unrequited love for Leonard Nimoy's Vulcan character, Mr. Spock.

Avid "Trek" fans also knew Chapel as the female voice of the *Enterprise* computer in virtually every television and movie incarnation of the series. She also voiced the ship's computer in the latest "Star Trek" film, which is due out next year.

Gene Roddenberry cast Majel Barrett — whom he was dating at the time — in the original pilot episode of "Star Trek" as the *Enterprise*'s first officer, with her character

known only as Number One. The pilot featured actor Jeffrey Hunter as captain of the *Enterprise* and a young Nimoy as Spock.

Most of the crew was re-cast after the pilot episode, with William Shatner coming aboard as Capt. James T. Kirk. The Number One character was eliminated, and Barrett took on the role of Nurse Chapel — along with ship's computer voice.

She and Gene Roddenberry were married on Aug. 6, 1969, after the original series was canceled, earning her the crown of "First Lady of *Star Trek*" among many Trekkies.

Gene Roddenberry died in 1991.

"Over the course of their more-than quarter-century love affair, she became not only Gene's partner, but also his creative muse," according to the family's statement. (Majel) Roddenberry helped Gene expand the 'Star Trek' universe and was an integral part of its continued legacy after his death."

Roddenberry is survived by her son, Eugene. Funeral arrangements were pending, and a public memorial was expected to be held after Christmas or in early 2009.

According to the family, donations in Roddenberry's memory can be sent to Precious Paws, 18034 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 430, Encino, 91316; or C.A.R.E., P.O. Box 56631, Sherman Oaks, 91403.

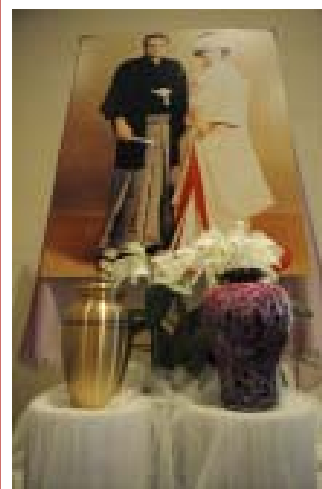
Star Trek Fans and Colleagues Say Goodbye At Barrett-Roddenberry Public Memorial

January 4, 2009
by: Anthony Pascale



On Sunday the family, friends and fans of Majel Barrett Roddenberry came to Forest Lawn in the Hollywood Hills to pay their final respects to the *First Lady of Star Trek*. A large crowd, including many *Star Trek* luminaries gathered to for the official memorial.

Majel Barrett Roddenberry passed away on December 18th and there was a small private funeral for the closest friends and family in late December. Today the



Roddenberry family held a public memorial for the veteran *Trek* actress and widow of Gene Roddenberry at The Hall of Liberty at the Forest Lawn.

The crowd of

continued on next page

**Memorial -- continued from
previous page**

around 300 was a mix of friends, family, colleagues and *Trek* fans, some of whom came in costume. Majel's Original Series co-stars Nichelle Nichols, Walter Koenig, and George Takei were on hand, as well as many of the lead actors from TNG and subsequent series including Brent Spiner, Marina Sirtis, Wil Wheaton, Anthony Montgomery, Robert Picardo, Ethan Phillips, Armin Shimerman, and Garret Wang. Many notable *Trek* guest stars were also in attendance, including Arlene Martel, Vaughn Armstrong, Max Grodenchik, John DeLancie, Gary Graham and Chase Masterson. Also paying their respects were a number of *Star Trek* veterans from behind the camera including Ira Steven Behr, Rick Berman, David Gerrold, Michael Westmore, Dave Rossi, DC Fontana, and Mike & Denise Okuda.

The memorial itself was conducted by a number of speakers who were close to Barrett Roddenberry, each coming up to a stage ringed by flowers and large images of Barrett Roddenberry. The brief speeches were often funny and always and all very touching, with most speakers getting emotional. One of the common themes throughout was touching on Majel's generosity, especially her love for animals and how she was constantly bringing more and more pets and strays into the family. Most also noted Barrett Roddenberry's boisterous spirit, her parties and her frequent use of 'colorful metaphors.' Regular golf companion Sue Anderson got a laugh from the crowd when she noted the first time she met Roddenberry at the Bel Air Club and how

she "had never heard a lady speak that way on a golf course before."

Most of the stories were of a personal nature, but former assistant to Gene Roddenberry Richard Arnold recounted stories of *Star Trek* past, including how Majel and Gene would fight over her getting a role on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and how when Tracy Torme created the character of Lwaxana Troi for the episode "Haven," Gene told him "you've saved my marriage" and Gene told Majel "we have the perfect part for you...and you won't even have to act." Arnold, who works closely with many of the *Trek* actors at events, talked about how much Majel loved to attend the *Trek* conventions, especially after Gene's passing, and noted



**Nichelle Nichols arrives
at Majel's Memorial**

what a passionate "champion of the fans" she was even taking specific fan causes to Paramount, like keeping a fan club from being shut down in Australia. Arnold, who was on hand when Majel visited the set of J.J. Abrams' new *Star Trek* movie, recounted the event saying:

"It was a really interesting moment. I was waiting outside of Stage 18 at Paramount. She came through the old Bronson Gate in an electric cart up to the front door. She stepped off the cart and they brought her in while JJ finished the scene he was directing and she watched and asked a lot of questions. J.J. came over and stopped production and had everyone gather around in a semi-circle and introduced her as the woman whose husband created the show that none of them would have jobs if it weren't for him. She got a big round of applause and was a little embarrassed by



**Nichelle Nichols (back to camera),
Chase Masterson and Walter Koenig**

it. Later he came over and was chatting with us and she said 'you are really wonderful with your actors and I love what you are doing here' and he said 'it's not me, it is wonderful directors and costumers' and Majel and I just looked at each other and smiled. He said 'what?' and I said 'it is the Gene speech...Gene always blamed everyone else for the success of *Star Trek*, but it really is you.' And I think it was wonderful that did not only did Majel know that *Star Trek* was in the right hands, but she got to do the voice one last time just a few weeks ago."

And speaking of that voice, the memorial was actually the first public 'viewing' of her new voice performance. The event concluded with a tribute video which included a number of images and scenes from Barrett Roddenberry's long career from TV commercials in the 60s through all the various *Star Trek* series, to *Earth: Final Conflict*. And capping off a number of scenes showing her work as the computer voice on various *Trek* shows was a short clip from the new *Star Trek* feature film. This was from the 'second scene' shown in the 20 minute press preview where Chekov was struggling to communicate with the ship's computer. What was different is now the voice was Majel's. Like seeing Nimoy say 'live long and prosper,' hearing Majel's voice as the computer will melt the heart of any Trekkie.

The final speaker was Majel's and Gene's son Rod, who spoke very frankly about his sometimes trouble relationship with his mother and how he was even surprised to hear her friends talk about how proud she

continued on next page



**Marina Sirtis, Paramount exec
A.C. Lyles & George Takei**

*Memorial -- continued from
previous page*

was of him. Rod said that he grew much closer to her in her final years and especially as she became ill and was there with her when she died. Rod ended his remarks by reading a very moving letter he wrote to both of his parents.

In addition to his comments Rod also made a couple of announcement of special memorials for his mother. Firstly, in honor of Majel's love for animals, the family is making a contribution to the San Diego Zoo for what will become the 'Majel Barrett-Roddenberry Tiger Maternity Ward.' In addition, the Celestis Memorial Spaceflights will be flying Gene and Majel's ashes into space in 2012.

The event ended with attendees offered the chance to walk by the two urns of Majel and Gene Roddenberry, which were set up at the side of the hall in front of a life-sized wedding photo of the couple, and pay their final respects and leave any flowers or other offerings they had brought along.

All in all the inclusive event was a fitting memorial to Barrett Roddenberry filled laughing, crying, drama and *Star Trek*. Although it is hard to say goodbye to Majel, for those in attendance, it should be a bit easier.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family requests that a donation in Majel's name be made to one of the two following organizations, who share Majel's love for animals and dedication to animal rescue.

Precious Paws
18034 Ventura Blvd., #430
Encino, CA 91316
www.preciouspaws.org
(818) 304-5595

C.A.R.E.
P.O. Box 56631
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
www.care4pets.org
(818) 685-9980

Memories of Majel

Stories from Members of Region Three



From Karon McLain of
the USS *Tejas*:

I got to meet Majel at a con in Plano, as I am sure many others in the Region did. I was struck by her generosity and genuine caring for people. She was beautiful, friendly and gracious. *Trek* was lucky to have her.

From FCPT Kris Dobie of the USS *Joan of Arc*

It was a sad day in 'Trekdom' on Dec. 18th, 2008. Early that morning, Majel re-joined her beloved husband Gene. She died from complications resulting from the last stages of Leukemia, surrounded by family and long time friends at her home in California. It has been rumored that much of what we know as the current world of *Star Trek*, was due to Majel's tireless efforts and devotion to Gene's vision of the future.

She had various roles on most of the series, movies included. Besides playing Nurse Chapel in the Original Series, Majel consistently served as the 'voice' of the starship '*Enterprise*'s computer'. Only a scant 10-12 days prior to her passing, did she finish again voicing for the new *Trek* movie due in theaters on May 8th, 2009. Majel also believed that it was possible to enjoy more than just "*Trek*" as a sci-fi type show. She appeared on *Babylon 5* as a Centauri Seer (a type of visionary) in a role specifically developed for her by *Babylon 5*'s author John Michael Straczynski.

I first met Majel way back in 1995 when she was the featured guest on a small convention here in Corpus Christi!!! She was the first true 'Major Star' I had ever seen. The *Joan of Arc* was doing security for the event so when she was on stage

our group was the only people allowed to tend her autograph and jewelry table. Majel was totally involved providing sincere one-on-one interaction to all the fans who visited her table. Since the club WAS working security, each member would get their photo with her as their duties allowed. After the fourth or fifth person had their shot, Majel asked if I was the official club photographer???

Later toward the end of the con she posed with me personally having her assistant snap the photo so that I would not be left out myself. I will always remember the genuine smile she gave each fan. I was to learn after attending many other Conventions just how rare this type of fan interaction truly was.

The next time I saw her was in 2002 in Tulsa Ok., at a convention called *Trek Expo*. Majel's plane was delayed so she had to come straight from the plane to the Con site with no break. Only an actress of her caliber could have carried that appearance off graciously. On stage Majel told the audience she was amazed that so many people STILL wanted to visit her table. She looked tired but continued to be as personable as I remembered earlier.

Majel will be missed by legions of adoring fans around the world. Thank you both, Majel & Gene, for creating the *Star Trek* universe for us to inhabit and showing us hope for the future.

From FCPT Jess Naumann of the SS *Freedom III*

When I met Majel

I met Majel at a Creation Con in San Antonio either in the spring or summer of 1992 and it was a bright sunny Saturday; it was shortly after Gene Roddenberry's passing. It was a "Mother and Daughter" tour in that Marina Sirtis was there as well. I was with the USS *Rhyanna* at the time, and we joined with the USS *Bexar* to help with convention security at the Henry B.

continued on next page

*Memories -- continued from
previous page*

Gonzalez Convention Center.

At one point, I was at a post when two ladies from the *Bexar* came to me and said "we need you to do something for Majel." I shrugged and said "Sure, lead the way." We came up to a table where I met her, and the thing I remember the most was her sparkling blue eyes. She smiled graciously as I was introduced to her and one of the two ladies that asked for my help said "He can give you a hand." Of course, I had no idea what was required, but was willing to help in any case. Majel then told me she needed some help carrying a case across the street from the hotel. My first thought jokingly was "Mr. Homn took the day off?" but I said "Sure, let's go." So we went to the hotel which was literally on the other side of the street. During that time, I took a moment and gave her my condolences which she appreciated. I mentioned that I had previously lost my mother to cancer a year before and said "even when you see it coming, it's never easy. But you get used to it after a while." She thanked me for saying that.

When we got there, a bellhop was there with his trolley which had a large suitcase (2x3ft) on it. I thought "That's it? Piece of cake." Wrong! I started to pick it up and realized it easily weighed about 80 pounds. I said to Majel as I decided to carry it on my shoulder "I guess Mr. Homn makes it look easy when he does this!" She laughed and asked if I could handle it, and I said (more like a grunt) "Yeah, no problem, shall we?" indicating the door.

We managed to get across the street thanks to a few well-placed glares at traffic who let us cross. We got to her table without incident and imagine my surprise when she opened the case up; it was full of books and scripts. The two ladies who asked me to assist her said "Oh yeah, we forgot to tell you, she travels heavy!" Majel thanked me graciously. So now I can say I filled in for Mr. Homn that day.

MORE IMAGES FROM MAJEL'S MEMORIAL



Robert Picardo



Garrett Wang (L) and Anthony Montgomery (R)



Ira Steven Behr (L) & John DeLancie w/wife (back to the camera - R)



Vaughn Armstrong (L) and Larry Nemecek (R)



Rick Berman (L) & Brent Spiner (R) w/ Michael Westmore in background



Wil Wheaton and wife (L) speaking to Roddenberry.com's Trevor Roth (R)



David Gerrold & Dorothy Fontana

Ricardo Montalban Has Passed Away

by: Anthony Pascale
January 14, 2009



Ricardo Montalban, the 88-year old Mexican-born actor who portrayed Khan Noonien Singh on *Star Trek* and later as the wish-fulfilling Mr. Roarke in TV's *"Fantasy Island,"* died Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at his home, "Casa Montalban", in Los Angeles. Montalban's passing was announced by Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti. "The Ricardo Montalban Theatre in my Council District — where the next generations of performers participate in plays, musicals, and concerts — stands as a fitting tribute to this consummate performer," Garcetti said later in a written statement.

Emmy winner Montalban, who retained his Mexican citizenship throughout his nearly 60 years of stardom, passed peacefully away from "natural causes" with his daughter and nurses with him, Gilbert Smith, Montalban's son in law, told Radaronline.com. His wife of 63 years, Georgiana Young, preceded him in death last year.

Montalban began his career in Hollywood in the '40s, after moving to the US from his native Mexico. As an actor he appeared in dozens of films and television series over the last seven decades. Montalban is best known to the general public for his role as the enigmatic Mr. Roarke on *Fantasy Island* (1978-84). *Trek* fans remember Montalban as Khan from the Original Series episode *"Space Seed,"* and probably more notably, in the 1982 feature film *Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan*. Montalban's unforgettable performance has immortalized him as perhaps *Star*

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Trek's greatest villain, helping propel *Wrath of Khan* to the top of most fan and critics lists as the best of the *Star Trek* feature films.

Remembering Ricardo Montalban

by: John Tenuto, TrekMovie.com
January 18, 2009



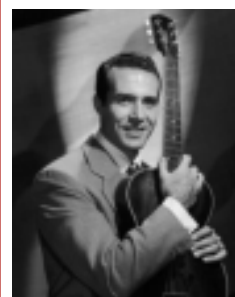
"Smiles everyone! Smiles! Smiles!" Each episode of the TV series *Fantasy Island* started with Ricardo Montalban's character Mr. Roarke cheering this quote. And smiles were what Ricardo Montalban brought

to television and film audiences from 50 years. Some celebrities feel like they've always been here, and always will be and Montalban was one of these kinds of actors. From his romantic films of the 1940s to the comedies of the 1990s, generations of film goers and television fans have experienced that Montalban magic. His blend of charm and sophistication, kindness and romance, talent and hard work made Montalban an entertainment constant. So many of his colleagues and fans who have met him use a single word -- "gentleman" -- to describe him.

Indeed, Montalban played many roles in Hollywood and in real life. He was an advocate for the Latino community, husband, father of four, and a person of religious faith. Through his many characters,



he influenced subsequent actors and fans. Genre fans are familiar with his science fiction roles, from Khan in *Star Trek* to Armando in the *Planet of the Apes* to Grandfather in *Spy Kids*, to Mr. Roarke in *Fantasy Island*. Younger fans know him from *Spy Kids*, middle aged fans from his Cordoba Commercials, *Fantasy Island*, and *Star Trek*, and fans who went to the cinemas of the 1940s and 1950s knew him as a romantic leading man. Ricardo Montalban was truly a multi-generational star, who created icons that spanned the decades.



Montalban's acting career began in the 1940s, with a group of very popular dancing and singing feature films costarring Esther Williams and Cyd Charisse. Here is one example of his

abilities, made all the amazing by the fact that Montalban suffered from spinal cord problems his entire life, and which were exaggerated after a horse riding accident in 1951. He was even featured on the cover of LIFE magazine in 1949 because of his talents.

After the 1950s, Montalban created other great genre characters both on television and in theaters. Most famous was his role as Mr. Roarke on *Fantasy Island*. My

continued on next page

*Remembering -- continued from
previous page*



family is honored to have a signed picture of Montalban as Mr. Roarke, and the kind words he wrote to us symbolize Montalban's charm and his genuine enthusiasm for his fans.

In his non-acting life, Montalban utilized his fame and talents to help others, especially through his work with Nosotros, an organization he co-created to help foster a more positive experience and presentation of Latinos and Latinas in the arts and entertainment. For his courage living with a disability and his contributions to the arts, Ricardo Montalban was awarded the first ever Easter Seals Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998. This half hour video includes tributes from William Shatner and Antonio Banderas, and discusses his amazing career and life.

Meyer remembers Montalban: "Ricardo Montalban was a role model for anyone wishing to live a life full of love and talent, compassion and honor."

Ricardo Montalban's character and contributions to our world were unique. His death punches a large hole in the lives of all who saw or knew him. He was a great artist and a swell gent, humorous, multi-talented, self-effacing and gallant. We will miss his company and his art.



Montalban's Theatre in Los Angeles

STAR TREK XI PROPS AT CES 2009

As part of its promotional partnership with J.J. Abrams' *Star Trek* reboot, computer manufacturer Lenovo (makers of the ThinkPad laptop line) displayed three original props from the film at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this last January. The props on display were Kirk's communicator, Uhura's communications unit and Dr. McCoy's medical tricorder.



*Lenovo's Star Trek Display at
CES 2009*



*Kirk's
Communicator*



*Uhura's
Communications
Unit*




*McCoy's
Medical Tricorder*

WHEN KLINGON'S GO BAD!

Man Wielding Bat'leth Robs
2 Colorado 7-11s

by: Anthony Pascale, TrekMovie.COM
February 4, 2009



Apparently the economy is so bad, that a Trekkie has turned to crime. According to multiple reports from the Colorado press, a man wielding a Klingon Bat'leth sword robbed two different 7-11 stores in Colorado Springs, CO this morning. So far no one was injured, but the crook has not yet been caught. More details and a video TV report below. [UPDATE: Image of Bat'leth Bandit released]

The robber, described as "a white man in his 20s, wearing a black jacket, blue jeans and wearing a mask" robbed the first 7-11 at 145 N Spruce Street in Colorado Springs at 1:50 AM. The robber demanded money and left after getting an undisclosed amount of cash. According to reports, the clerk recognized the weapon "from the *Star Trek* TV series." A half hour later the Bat'leth bandit struck again at a 7-11 at 2407 Union, but after the clerk refused to give him any money the robber (in a very un-Klingon-like move) fled the scene. Neither clerk was injured and the robber is still at large.

According to a report in the Colorado Springs Gazette, Police are taking this crime seriously. Police spokesman Lt. David Whitlock tells the paper:

"If this individual is arrested, the charge will be the same as if he carried a gun. It's considered a deadly weapon."

Whitlock also acknowledges that using this kind of weapon in a crime is unusual, noting he "can't imagine it's very easy to conceal."

Enterprise's Scott Bakula boldly guests on *Chuck*

by: Patrick Lee, SciFi Wire
01-27-09



Scott Bakula (*Star Trek: Enterprise*) will guest-star as Chuck (Zachary Levi) and Ellie's (Sarah Lancaster) estranged dad on NBC's action-comedy series *Chuck* in a multi-episode arc scheduled for

broadcast later this spring, NBC announced.

In the storyline, Chuck made a promise to his sister, Ellie that he was going to find their dad in time for her wedding. But when he does find him, Chuck discovers that his dad is not necessarily a guy who wants to be found. He's living in a trailer, he's disheveled, he's paranoid, and he's claiming constantly that Ted Roark (guest star Chevy Chase) — whom he used to work with — stole all his ideas from him. In addition, Ted Roark has now become a super-successful software billionaire while Chuck's dad has become an eccentric, living in the shadows.

THE KLINGON KEYBOARD

by: Jay Garmon
January 22, 2009



In a world where there are both custom keyboards for blondes and insanely over-devoted Trekkies, this was inevitable: the Klingon keyboard. British custom peripheral maker Cherry Keyboards offers a mod of its G83-6000 that sports Klingon characters where the standard Western alphabet keys usually reside.

SOME OF THE COOL BATTLESTAR STUFF BEING AUCTIONED OFF!

by: Todd Gilchrist, Sci-Fi Wire
01/27/09



Hundreds of items from the hit show, *Battlestar Galactica*, were sold to online and live bidders Jan. 17-18 at the Pasadena Convention Center as part of an ongoing charity auction benefitting

the United Way, while cast members designated specific items to benefit other charities.

Tricia Helfer's (Caprica Six) red dress was one of the biggest sellers going for \$13,000. Cast member Michael Hogan, meanwhile, supplied the auction with two of his character Saul Tigh's trademark liquor bottles, one of which went for \$1,900 and the other for \$1,100. Michael Trucco, who plays Sam Anders, designated a number of metal and plastic knives as well as holsters for sale; the highest bid for one of his items was \$900.

A number of larger items also went on sale. A full-sized Raptor sold last week, and panels from the *Galactica*'s CIC were also auctioned. Other items for sale include Apollo's Viper, the office furnishings from Adama's stateroom, pieces of the Colonial One set and dozens of weapons.

According to Auction Network, the initial auctions drew record numbers of registrants and bidders, with the total number of registered bidders at 2,067 (1,833 of these registrants were online bidders).

On Jan. 12, auctioneers offered 200 items through eBay, including some of Adm. Cain's books, Viper flight manuals and more panels from *Galactica*'s CIC. Last week, another 200 items were scheduled for auction on eBay, with additional items being added each Friday to coincide with the final episodes of *Battlestar Galactica*.

THE BOYS FROM THE DWARF ARE BACK!

New *Red Dwarf* Specials Confirmed
by: Patrick Lee
01/28/09

New specials? Proper information? After all the rumors? Oh smeg yes! reddwarf.co.uk has the facts. As announced by Robert Llewellyn for Grant Naylor Productions this week at the UKTV seasonal press launch, the project is a short series of brand new specials to celebrate the 21st birthday of *Red Dwarf*.

Doug Naylor will be masterminding the four half-hour installments, and the regular cast will all be reprising their iconic roles. They are being made by GNP for UKTV's free-to-air channel, Dave - our new best friends!

The BBC reported that the cult sci-fi comedy *Red Dwarf* will return to TV, 21 years after its initial launch, and will appear on the digital channel Dave in the United Kingdom for a two-part Easter-weekend special, and, if successful, could pave the way for further *Red Dwarf* TV projects. Thanks to movie and broadcaster wrangles, Grant Naylor haven't been in a position to produce new *Red Dwarf* since Series VIII went out to audiences of over eight million in 1999. This exciting development suggests a new and shiny future for everyone's favorite sci-fi comedy.

In the special, the cast finally return to Earth. Written and directed by *Red Dwarf* co-creator Doug Naylor, the new show reunites the original cast, including Craig Charles (Lister).

It's unclear when or where the special would air in North America.

The hit show ran for eight series on BBC Two between 1988 and 1999. Set 3 million years in the future, the show followed the exploits of Dave Lister, slovenly crew member of the mining ship *Red Dwarf* -- and the last man in the universe.

He was joined in his weekly attempts to make it back to Earth by a cast of oddballs



including human hologram Arnold Rimmer, mechanoid servant Kryten and Cat -- a preening half-man, half-animal who evolved from the ship's cat.

The new two-part series *Red Dwarf: Back to Earth* will be followed by a "no holds barred" episode without sets or special effects. The weekend will climax with *Red Dwarf: The Making of Back to Earth*, a behind-the-scenes special from the new episodes.

"It's very new news to me - I really only fully heard the details yesterday," Robert told comedian/host Michael McIntyre. "We're doing four new shows with the original cast. Two of them are going to be, like, proper episodes of *Red Dwarf*. One of them is so exciting I've been asked not to say anything about that because other people will steal the idea - and it is a great idea, quite challenging for us as performers. And the other one is a kind of behind-the-scenes-y... the truth. There's been so many rumors and gossip about *Red Dwarf*, about whether there's going to be a movie and whether we all get on, all those things... The downside for me, which is just dawning on me, now, is I've got to do the 'rubber' thing again, which I haven't done for ten years."

For the record, and direct from the makers, the details of the four shows right now -- while wholly subject to change -- are: Show One - The Making of The Specials A highly entertaining look at what goes on behind the scenes on a *Red Dwarf* production.

Show Two - *Red Dwarf* Special: Part One The cast get back into character, and costume, a decade on...

Show Three - *Red Dwarf* Special: Part Two The adventure continues...

Show Four - A Clip Show with a Serious Difference. The cast do it their way. *Red Dwarf* as you have never, ever seen it before!

To be kept in the loop as we cover the new production, register your email address with reddwarf.co.uk in the box at the bottom of the page.



WWW.REDDWARF.CO.UK

Playmates Star Trek Movie Toys

by: John Tenuto, TrekMovie.com
November 19, 2008

As James T. Kirk says in the new *Star Trek*, "Buckle up!" TrekMovie.com has the details on the first two waves of *Star Trek* film toys and figures from Playmates Toys, coming out in 2009. And even if you are not into collecting, there is some movie news for spoiler fans as well.

The new *Star Trek* movie will have some toys coming from Mattel and other companies will have movie products, but the main toy line is from the venerable Playmates Toys, whose 1990's *Star Trek* toys are a favorite of many fans.

There will be at least two wave of toys next year from Playmate Toys, with Wave 1 released in March and April before the film (an important marketing decision) and, hopefully, a Wave 2 in September, which may be timed to coincide with the probable autumn DVD release.

WAVE 1

Movie *Enterprise* Vehicle (Arriving March 2009) -- Authentic and detailed scaled model of the USS *Enterprise* featuring lights and sounds from the movie. Comes with display base that attaches to the ship's lower hull and allows you to change the ship's position. Approximately \$35.09

ACTION FIGURES (Available: April 2009) -- These will be in three versions, 3.75" (similar to *Star Wars* action figures), 6" (similar to the *DST Star Trek* action figures), and 12". These figures are designed for both younger fans to play with (especially the 3.75 and 6") and for discerning collectors (6" and 12"). Here are the details from each of the action figures. Approximately \$62.89

The 3.75" line has 10 initial figures in Wave 1, and the figures come with accessories such as phasers, communicators, and displays. [NOTE: playsets are sized for these action figures] Each figure in the set comes individually wrapped in its own

card. The ten figures included are: Kirk, Spock, Sulu, Uhura, Pike and Scotty in *Enterprise* outfit. McCoy and Chekov in cadet outfit. Nero and Original Spock (AKA Prime Spock which is Leonard Nimoy's version)

The 6" inch line will run between 8 and 10 action figures in the initial wave. Details of which characters are included are not yet finalized (although likely to be similar list as 3.75" line), and figures will include accessories such as phasers, communicators, and displays. Approximately \$86.84

The 12" line will include four figures, three of which are confirmed to be Kirk, Spock, and McCoy (the fourth is either Prime Spock or Scotty in 'frozen planet outfit'). Each figure features detailed likenesses, cloth costumes, and accessories. Approximately \$114.89

PLAYSETS (Available March 2009)

Enterprise Bridge Playset -- The *Enterprise* Bridge playset (sized for 3.75" figures) has electronic features, including lighting and sound effects from the film. The set includes a bonus Captain Kirk action figure. Approximately \$37.39

Transporter Room Playset -- The Transporter Room will allow the action figures to beam in and out, with appearing and disappearing effects after being placed in the Transporter cylinder. The set includes a bonus Scotty action figure, and features lighting and sound effects. Approximately \$33.79

ROLE PLAYING TOYS -- One of the biggest trends in toys are role playing sets and items. *Batman* and *Star Wars*, for example, both feature these kinds of items based on their characters. There are two waves of role playing items revealed. For March, there is the troika of the communicator, phaser, and tricorder. All feature movie lighting and sound effects.

Electronic Communicator: features a flip open cover and two buttons to activate the electronic play. Approximately \$17.59

Electronic Phaser: has a pivoting nozzle (to switch from stun to kill). Approximately \$17.59

Electronic Tricorder: has spring activated top and front covers. Approximately \$17.59



**PLAYMATES
PHASER**



**PLAYMATES
TRICORDER**



**PLAYMATES
COMMUNICATOR**



PLAYMATES 12" ACTION FIGURES

PLAYMATES ENTERPRISE



NEW STAR TREK BARBIES



PLAYMATES 3.75" ACTION FIGURES



PLAYMATES BRIDGE PLAYSET



PLAYMATES TRANSPORTER PLAYSET



PLAYMATES 6" ACTION FIGURES

N A S A

MILKY WAY — THE GALAXY — NOT SNACK-SIZED ANYMORE

by: Seth Borenstein, AP Science Writer
Jan. 6, 2008

WASHINGTON — Take that, Andromeda! For decades, astronomers thought when it came to the major galaxies in Earth's cosmic neighborhood; our Milky Way was a weak sister to the larger Andromeda. Not anymore.

The Milky Way is considerably larger, bulkier and spinning faster than astronomers once thought, Andromeda's equal.

Scientists mapped the Milky Way in a more detailed, three-dimensional way and found that it's 15 percent larger in breadth. More important, it's denser, with 50 percent more mass, which is like weight. The new findings were presented Monday at the American Astronomical Society's convention in Long Beach, Calif.

That difference means a lot, said study author Mark Reid of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass. The slight 5-foot-5, 140-pound astrophysicist said it's the cosmic equivalent of him suddenly bulking up to the size of a 6-foot-3, 210-pound NFL linebacker.

"Previously we thought Andromeda was dominant, and that we were the little sister of Andromeda," Reid said. "But now it's more like we're fraternal twins."

That's not necessarily good news. A bigger Milky Way means that it could be crashing violently into the neighboring Andromeda galaxy sooner than predicted — though still billions of years from now.

Reid and his colleagues used a large system of 10 radio telescope antennas to measure the brightest newborn stars in the galaxy at different times in Earth's orbit

around the sun. They made a map of those stars, not just in the locations where they were first seen, but an additional dimension of time — something Reid said hasn't been done before.

With that, Reid was able to determine the speed at which the spiral-shaped Milky Way is spinning around its center. That speed — about 568,000 miles per hour — is faster than the 492,000 mph that scientists had been using for decades. That's about a 15 percent jump in spiral speed. The old number was based on less accurate measurements and this is based on actual observations, Reid said.

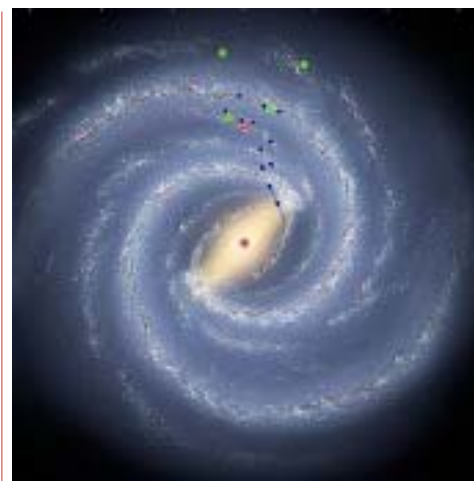
Once the speed of the galaxy's spin was determined, complex formulas that end up cubing the speed determined the mass of all the dark matter in the Milky Way. And the dark matter — the stuff we can't see — is by far the heaviest stuff in the universe. So that means the Milky Way is about one-and-a-half times the mass had astronomers previously calculated.

The paper makes sense, but isn't the final word on the size of the Milky Way, said Mark Morris, an astrophysicist at the University of California Los Angeles, who wasn't part of the study.

Being bigger means the gravity between the Milky Way and Andromeda is stronger.

So the long-forecast collision between the neighboring galaxies is likely to happen sooner and less likely to be a glancing blow, Reid said.

But don't worry. That's at least 2 to 3 billion years away, he said.



This undated hand out artist rendering provided by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics shows the latest view of the Milky Way's structure.

(AP Photo/Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Robert Hurt, Mark Reid)

Space Tourism Aircraft Makes Maiden Test Flight

Monday, December 22, 2008
by: Leonard David, Space.com

A carrier aircraft designed to be the first stage of a commercial space line system made its maiden test flight today at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California.

Designed by Scaled Composites, the huge and unique *White Knight Two* mothership rolled down the runway and muscled itself into the air using four Pratt and Whitney PW308A turbofan engines. The *White Knight Two* flew for about an hour, departing the runway at roughly 8:17 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, safely touching down at the Mojave Air and Space Port at approximately 9:17 a.m. PST.

continued on next page



Dec. 21: White Knight Two makes its maiden flight

**Tourism -- continued from
previous page**

"It's a big day," said Stuart Witt, general manager of Mojave Air and Space Port. "I think it's a real reflective time. When everybody's looking for a bailout, there are still people that are doing something for a much larger reason," he told SPACE.com.

After a number of shakeout flights, the *White Knight Two* is to be outfitted with the now-under-construction *Space Ship Two*. That rocket plane is also being built by Scaled Composites of Mojave, California. Ultimately *White Knight Two* is to carry the space plane to altitude, where it will then detach and head for suborbital space flights.

The *White Knight Two/Space Ship Two* combo is to serve as the backbone of Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic suborbital space line operations.

Virgin Galactic has on order five *Space Ship Two* rocket planes and two of the carrier craft, with options on more.

Given a progressive roster of test evaluations at the Mojave Air and Space Port, the space line system is to be commercially operated at the now-under-construction Spaceport America in New Mexico. The price tag per seat on the two pilot/six passenger suborbital *Space Ship Two* is \$200,000.

The hour-long test flight of *White Knight Two* made use of a minimum flight test

crew.

"And here we are on a Sunday morning...in a place out here in the middle of nowhere and really neat stuff is happening. It just looked beautiful," Witt said. "What brings people to this desolate landscape on a Sunday morning in December is more about what forced them here. Innovation by the private sector is a void being filled because NASA deserted 90 percent of the sandbox and left it open for us to fill."

A witness to the flight was Dick Rutan who in December 1986 piloted the Voyager aircraft around the world non-stop with the assistance of Jeana Yeager. He is brother of Burt Rutan, Chief Technology Officer and Chairman Emeritus of Scaled Composites.

"It all went well...all the big things worked well," Rutan told SPACE.com. "Overall, 99 percent on target and everybody is really happy. You get an airplane that's this weird and get it up and get it down...and it's safe on deck."

In 2004, a smaller *White Knight* carrier plane cradled *Space Ship One* – a launch system that made possible the first non-governmental piloted rocket ship to fly to the edge of space. Back-to-back flights of *Space Ship One* that year earned the Scaled Composites team, \$10 million in Ansari X Prize money.

On Dec. 15, the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA) announced that Space-

port America has received its Record of Decision and license for vertical and horizontal launch operations from the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation.

In related news, a few days later, the NMSA announced the selection of Gerald Martin Construction Management of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to oversee the construction of Spaceport America.

The governmental approvals and the selection of the construction firm are the next steps along the road to a fully operational commercial spaceport, noted NMSA Executive Director Steven Landeene. "We are on track to begin construction in the first quarter of 2009, and have our facility completed as quickly as possible," Landeene said in a press statement.

The NMSA is expected to have a signed lease agreement with Virgin Galactic later this month.

The NMSA currently projects vertical launch activity at Spaceport America to increase in 2009 and construction to also begin next year on the terminal and hangar facility to be utilized for Virgin Galactic operations. Those structures would be completed by late 2010.

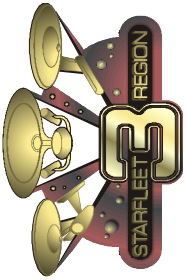
Fleet Channels Deadlines

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

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.

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



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