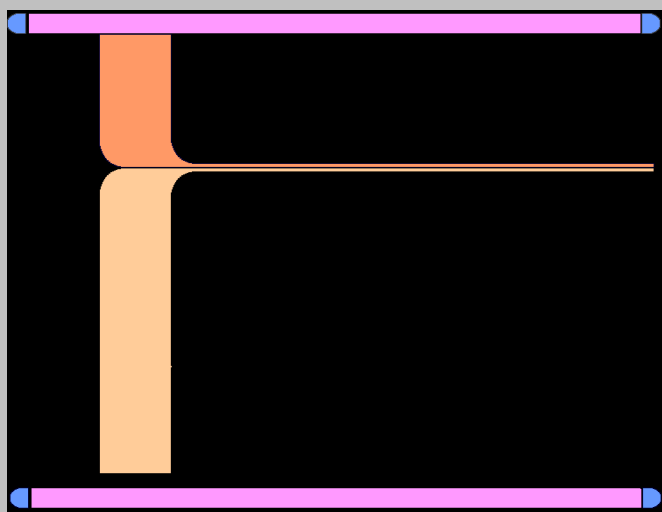


Fleet Channels

Q3 2010

Volume 19, No 3 September 2010

The Newsletter Of Region 3



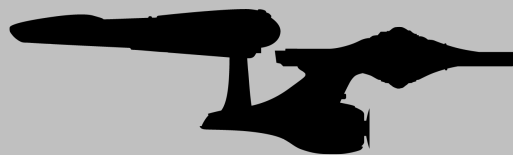
What did Marian Murphy get that has her so speechless? Pg 14



DJ Steve-G streaming during IC 2010 in Wagoner, OK
July 31, 2010. More from TJ and Steve's trip inside.

STARFLEET

The International *Star Trek* Fan Association, Inc.



www.sfi.org

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Address corrections, Letters to the Editor, articles and/or artwork are strongly encouraged and should be sent to *Fleet Channels*, P.O. Box 1885, Round Rock, TX 78680-1885. Unsolicited submissions will not be returned unless accompanied by a S.A.S.E.

Deadline for submissions is the Friday of the first week of the last month of the quarter. Late submissions are used at the discretion of the Region Communications Chief.

Submissions are respectfully requested to be sent via the INTERNET to the Region Communications Officer. Articles are accepted in the form of an ASCII Text file, Word doc, or Works wps formats only. Please do not send pdf files in. Pictures and other items need to be sent to the communications chief directly.

Reports and/or submissions need to be between 200 and 500 words.

Published items become the property of *Fleet Channels* and Region 3.



This issue of *Fleet Channels* is produced by Regulator Holonet Services.

If you're not having fun, you're not doing it right!

Region Officers

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Fleet Captain Reed L Bates

VICE-REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Lieutenant General Aaron Murphy

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chief of Staff: Commodore Beau Thacker

Zone 1 Leader: RADM Marian L Murphy

Zone 2 Leader: Commodore Trisha Tunis

Zone 3 Leader: Commodore Robert Graham

Zone 4 Leader: Jeff Webb, Rear Admiral...no, SGM...no, MGN...oh, something above the grade of O-1 anyway :)

Zone 5 Leader: Brigadier John Johnston

Chief of Operations: Rear Admiral Lisa Pruitt

Interim Communications Geek: Brigadier General Mark West

Computer Operations: LGN Aaron Murphy

Finance Officer: Lieutenant Sydney Le June

Senior Enlisted Advisor: Master Chief Petty Officer Jesse Gutierrez

REGIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

Shuttle Operations: Marine Captain Michael Tolleson

Awards Coordinator: Open

Quartermaster: Open

REGIONAL MAILING LISTS

There are currently two mailing lists: The Region 3 List, the general information list for Region 3 and The Region 3 ShoC list, for all prospective and current vessels taking part in STARFLEET's Shakedown Operations.

Information to subscribe can be found at the Region 3 Web Page (<http://www.region3.org>).



From the RC to You

[ECAPT Reed Bates](#)

[Regional Coordinator](#)

Status of the Region

Due to an injury in my back, I will be as brief as possible. Things are looking good in our Region. We have some new people and a resurgence of some old school vets. Summit 2011 is lined up, our Joint Summit with Region 2 in 2012 is in the early stages, we are bringing back Region 3 Game Day, and I am looking forward to our Regional Fall Trip to Star Trek Fan Days in Plano. Please review our website for all these things, at the very least review the Region 3 Calendar from time to time.



Reed showing off for Lisa and the Camera

Fleet's Documents

As some of you know, as an Admiralty Board Member, I am on the Bylaws Committee, which was tasked with re-writing the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (currently called our Constitution) for STARFLEET. The state of the current Articles of Incorporation is in my opinion a mess, and the same goes for our Constitution. As it was explain to us last year, when the Constitution was written, one person took one section, one person took another, and so on, then they stuck them all together but did not find out if they all wrote the same thing, i.e. there are many conflicts in there. So, in 2009, the

AB decided to form a committee to revise them. Both of those documents have been drafted and have been approved by the Admiralty Board for presentation to You, the Members, for a vote. You can read the documents when you get them in the mail with the Ballots or you can read them now at:

http://www.sfi.org/portal/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=493

I believe these documents will do a world of good for this organization and I beg everyone to please vote "YES" to approve the new Articles of Incorporation and the new Bylaws.

Reinstatement of the City of Charter

Apparently, a Resolution past back in 1995 inadvertently was overwritten by a handbook modification and the Admiralty Board voted in favor of reaffirming AB95-011 to allow for a chapter to designate a city of charter. This means a meeting chapter doesn't have to move if they have a new CO who lives in another city. The Chapter can decide where their chapter resides. This issue was brought up because of a chapter that is in a border city along the lines of a Region. The new CO lived on the other side of the Region line in another town not far away. The Chapter did not want to have to switch, not only cities, but also switch to another Region. I voted for this Resolution as I felt it is best that a chapter pick one city to be "located" in without worry of having to change it each year or however often the CO might change. This amendment, however, does not affect a correspondence chapter, where the city will still move with the CO.

Let me know what you think about this and I will be glad to discuss it with you and possibly make a modification to this rule.

At the Annual ECAB Meeting

One of the motions that passed at the EC/AB meeting in Oklahoma on July 30, 2010 was a change to the Promotion Criteria where the promotions for certain positions within STARFLEET will be offered and will not be automatic any longer. The person being offered the promotion may decline that promotion. There has been a great renaissance in Fleet where the enlisted members do not want to be promoted in one fell swoop just because they have a higher place in their Region or in Starfleet. They wish to stay enlisted and earn their promotions, not just have them handed to them. Since our rank is supposed to be membership recognition any way, the AB Members felt that this was reasonable. So, most everywhere in the Promotions Criteria where it says, "will be promoted to," it was changed to say, "will be offered a promotion to." One of the new AB Members, the Acting Regional Coordinator from Region 20, Marie "M" Wilson wishes to remain a Sergeant Major. Ask your CO's about this as well as some discussion is going on the CCO email list right at the time of this writing

Reed L. Bates, Fleet Captain
Regional Coordinator, Third Fleet
rc@region3.org

From Behind the Keyboard

LGN Aaron Murphy

Vice Regional Coordinator



MECHA Kitty mounting up to look for the VRC's Articles.

Due to being extremely busy, the Articles for the VRC, Region 3 Computer Operations, Commanding Officer, Forces Command for the STARFLEET Marine Corps, and 3rd Brigade S-6 Officer have been lost in transit. Aaron has been searching diligently, but alas has not found it at the time of publication.

I am told there is a 500 Quatloo reward for information leading to the recovery of these articles. Another 1000 Quatloos is also offered by Molari Spoo Ranches Inc. for their safe return.



Can ya help a fellow R3 member out here?



Stylin at IC 2010



Pumped about Game Day returning? Want more than you can find here?

Visit www.region3.org/wordpress/?page_id-7

Ready to play?

www.region3.org/gameday/regpage/

Across The Zones

Zone 1

RADM Marian L Murphy

The Zone 1 meeting was held on Saturday, August 14th, 2010 at the Weatherford Public Library. Lunch was provided. Chapters present were the Regulator, Rachel Garrett, Space Station Freedom III, and Trinity River. RC Reed Bates attended also CO Lisa Pruitt of the Lone Star and COS Sam Black were in attendance.

After lunch, calendar events were exchanged. The Dallas Comic Con is to be held at in Richardson on the 28th and 29th of August. Game game will be September 25th in Round Rock. Admission is \$10.00. Be sure to mark your calendar for October 23rd and 24th, for the Star Trek Fan Days. Aaron Murphy will have further information. See the Regional Calendar for a full listing of these.

A discussion was held on the possibility of Zone 1 putting in a bid for the 2013 International Conference. It was decided that the Commanding Officers of each chapter should see how their chapter felt as this would be a joint venture, each chapter helping in any way that might be.

The next zone meeting will be in November, date to be announced later.

Marian L. Murphy
Zone 1

Zone 2

COMM Trisha Tunis

Greetings,

Louisiana has been hopping with activities the past few months. We, of course, had the Region 3 Summit in Lake Charles to attend, Con Du Lac Convention, Star Wars vs. Star Trek bowling, excursion to New Orleans. Too much to summarize in one brief report. Kudos to the USS Azrael, USS Lafitte and USS Corsair for having a lot of interesting activities to keep their memberships engaged.

Reminder, there is a Zone 2 Listserv that I encourage everyone in Louisiana to sign up for at <http://lists.region3.org/listinfo.cgi/zone2-l-region3.org>. I would like to ask Chapter Commanding Officers or a designated representatives to utilize it to let us know what is going on in their areas-especially if there is an event that everyone can participate in.

We're going to be doing more activities in New Orleans by popular request and we're looking at road trips to Lafayette.

For those long range planners, there is a convention in New Orleans in November 2011, CONtraflow. I've already secured a fan table, and they are looking for volunteers and panelists. If anyone is interested please contact me, and I'll put you in touch with the organizers.

There are a lot of plans to drive out to Plano, Texas for Star Trek Fan Days. And yes, we'll bring along King Cake.

Until then..Geaux Trek!

COMM Trisha Tunis
Zone 2 Leader

Zone 3

COMM Robert Graham

As we prepare to close out the summer of 2010, we should reflect on what was achieved so far this year. The Region had its first ever Region 3 Summit outside the state of Texas. Many new friends were made that weekend. For those who didn't attend Summit you missed out on a fun as well as history making weekend. Although it was my first Regional function in two years due to either work or health problems as well as my first as a Regional Staff member I had a great time. Zone 3 was well represented at events over the summer such as Trek Expo as well as Apollo Con. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you once again at Region 3 Game Day next month.

In Service To The Region,
Commodore Robert C. Graham
USS SpiritWolf DN-74300
spiritwolf at region3.org

Zone 4

MAJ Jeffrey Webb

Greetings, Region 3.

Zone Four. The Final Frontier. This is my first report since accepting the post of Zone Leader, and I'm afraid I'm still taking stock and getting my feet under me. We have two metro areas with multiple chapters in Zone Four, those being Austin and San Antonio. My first order of business will be to try to visit the Austin chapters and see what their status is, followed by a jaunt to good old San Antonio to see what's shaking there. In the meantime, I'm a member of the Game Day staff, so my sights are set on event coordination along with our Game Day Chair, CAPT Lloyd Bates. I think we've got a great event for you this year, and there's even a couple of surprise Game Masters that I'm happy to see volunteering.

As an upcoming event I'd like the Zone 4 personnel to be aware of, the USS Ark Angel has planned a trip to the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX on Saturday, 4 September 2010. There is a living history reenactment at 1300 that day, featuring Pacific War tactics and equipment - including a working WWII-vintage flamethrower! The Austin caravan will be leaving out of Round Rock at 0900 from the Whataburger on IH-35 in Round Rock next to Outback Steakhouse. We'll arrive in Fredericksburg in time for lunch at Der Auslander, and then off to the reenactment. There's a whole new wing that's been added to the museum, so this promises to be very, very cool.

As we've been reminding you constantly, Game Day is coming up on **Saturday, 24 September 2010**. It's only \$10, and it will be a LOT of fun. I am running some events personally, as are many of our experienced and established Game Masters, so come on out and see if we've got an adventure to suit you. We may also be having a classic video-game tournament on the Atari 2600 or MAME arcade emulator, so let us know if you're interested! See you all around the Zone!

JEFFREY A. WEBB
Major
Royal Dragoon Guards
Zone 4 Leader

Zone 5
BDR John Johnston

Red 5, Standing By

Greetings, Third Fleeters!

Zone 5 congratulates Lloyd Bates and Jeff Webb for bringing back the Region 3 Game Day! I hope that everyone that goes has a great time on the weekend of September 25th!

Zone 5 is gearing up for the El Paso Comic Con, which will take place on September 11-12. The Zone is excited to be able to be a part of one of the first comic conventions in the El Paso area in several years. It will be very cool to see Spider-man mingling with Batman, mingling with Witchblade, mingling with the Klingons.

As a reminder, get your tickets now for the 2011 Summit in Lubbock, hosted by the USS Lone Star! The earlier you buy them, the cheaper the admission will be!

I am looking forward to seeing Star Trek Days in Plano on October 23-24! I encourage you all to attend, if you are able to! That's all I have for now. Be seeing you!

BDR John Johnston
Zone 5 Leader, Region 3



R2D2 looking for where that danged X-Wing and pilot went.

Staff Reports

Chief of Staff's Report Commodore Beau T Thacker

Greetings Region 3

The Region has been very busy, these last few months with both Summit and IC 2010.

Add in all the individual Chapter activities and Wow that's an over load... of Fun, Friendship and Fellowship. Just what I'd expect from the best Region in Fleet.

The Staff and zone leaders all have worked hard and I want to thank them for their hard work.

The Region itself is doing some nicely growth with 5 Chapters in Shakedown. The Rachael Garret commissioned at IC 2010, and the party was on...

Upcoming events are Game day and the fall trip to Trek Fan days.

Two more Regional fun trips and I'd like to see more of you there. With the ongoing growth in Chapters and members, we can really make our presence felt in the Sci-Fi world and Fleet.

Next year's Summit is going to be really fun, so plan your calendars and remember the early bird special. BTW I'm doing a panel on Anime... so join me there. Go to the Region3.org site for more information on Summit and more. Contact me for anything
Commodore Beau T Thacker
Region 3 Chief of Staff

The Commo Geek Speaks

BGN Mark West

Hello Everyone,

This is my first foray into the Region functionings and the first newsletter I have produced in some time, so please forgive the rough edges in production. However, the roughest newsletter I produce is only as good as the contributions I receive from the members of the Region. I can only process what I receive.

The filler in place where you will see your chapter listed is all in fun, but it exposes something that bothers me greatly: why aren't the chapters of the region talking? Why aren't they doing anything worth telling about?

Easily asked questions with no easy answers. The economy takes its toll on us all, and unfortunately fandom has to be one of the first things cut down on financially. Entertainment is the first cut made. Its understandable. We all do what we have to do. Even if you can't go to all the Region Functions, Conventions, and all that, what do you and your crews do? Chances are that they are in similar situations, so instead of everyone going to the new release at the theater, do a movie nite at one members house. The key here is to maintain the fellowship. It doesn't matter what you do, just the fact that you do something and let us know. If it works for you, then maybe someone else's chapter can use it too. Fleet Channels is to tell us what you do so in return, we can tell and maybe help someone else in the Region. Besides, we WANT to hear about you.

As the interim Communications Chief, it is my job to facilitate communications between the members of the Region, so yes I will be a pest in the future to get you to communicate with us. I intend to contact the various Chapter Commanding Officers to find out what is going happening with your clubs, issues, and what we can do for you. I will do everything I can to help. Facilitating communications in the Region is one of my jobs, and it is my hope that all of you are willing to join me in this task.

So, what can I do to help?

The next step is up to you.

Trying to break the communication interference in my own way,

Mark West
Region 3 Interim Commo Geek

ShoC-ed Report MCPT Michael Tolleson

Greetings from ShOC,
Hope everybody is doing good after the Summit. I enjoyed it a lot.

Shakedown Breakdown:

Okay, we have several things going on. The Rachel Garrett is due to commission at IC. Congrats to Marian and the whole crew. Good luck!

The Navras is doing great. They are moving along very well; still on schedule.

The Thunderwolf , I'm working with the COS and the CO of the ship to get some new members and other options going for the chapter.

And then the Palo Duro. After a hacked communications line the CO of the Palo Duro, the CoS and I are working towards moving the chapter from dry dock, to active status. The CoS and I are in direct contact with this chapter providing any assistance needed.

We also have a new ship that has just launched. The ship is:

USS Battle Born
NX/NCC 69607
Nebula class light cruiser

CO - Jeremy Carsten
XO - John Considine

Congrats to Jeremy and John good luck on the shakedown. Any ship in the area that can give helpful advice let them know. I'm working with the Zone leaders and putting together a list for every zone in the region. Then they can contact the unassigned in there zone with any help needed to get the list down to zero. That's all for now, until next time.

V/R
Michael Tolleson, MCPT SFMC
Region 3 ShOC

Commissioning Orders

To: All Stations, All Commands -- Attention To Orders.
From: STARFLEET Headquarters, Office of VADM Jerry Tien, STARFLEET Chief of Operations
CC: RADM Warren Price, Chief of Shakedown Operations Command
Re: Commissioning of USS Rachel Garrett • NCC-71819

To FCAPT Reed Bates, Third Fleet: You are hereby directed

and required to deliver USS Rachel Garrett, Galaxy II-Class Large Exploratory Cruiser, STARFLEET NCC-71819, into commission as of this date as a STARFLEET Ship of the Line.

This starship is based in Weatherford, TX.

To RADM Marion Murphy, Herein appointed Commanding Officer of USS Rachel Garrett: You are hereby directed and required to repair forthwith on board of the said ship and take upon you the charge and command of Captain of her accordingly; and all the officers and company of said ship subordinate to you are further charged and commanded to behave themselves jointly and severally in their respective employments with all due respect and obedience to you, their Captain.

To CMDR William Trimble, Herein appointed Executive Officer of USS Rachel Garrett: You are hereby directed and required to repair forthwith on board of the said ship and take upon you the charge and command of Executive Officer of her accordingly; and all the officers and company of said ship subordinate to you are further charged and commanded to behave themselves jointly and severally in their respective employments with all due respect and obedience to you, their Executive Officer.

The Commissioning of a new Starship is the proudest duty that I have as Chief of STARFLEET Operations. Your official orders for the Ship's records will be forthcoming via regular STARFLEET dispatch.

On behalf of STARFLEET Operations, Good Luck and God Speed in your STARFLEET journey.

Given under my hand and the seal of STARFLEET Command, Stardate 11007.31.

VADM Jerry Tien
Chief of Operations
STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc.
ops@sfi.org

Operations Update RADM Lisa Pruitt

Summit 2010 is in the record books and all the final strings are knotted off. Lake Charles was lots of fun and many new friends were made across the region. I hope many of us will meet up throughout the year at chapter, zone, region, other Trek related events, and especially Summit 2011.

In case you haven't heard, June 10-12 at the Radisson Hotel in Lubbock, Texas. Theme for the event is World War II and the 1940's. Look for Saturday evening to

feature a USO Cantina and Show with live entertainment.

There will be special activities for the cadets including fun meals and supervised swimming. A lot more is still in the planning stages and as things are finalized, announcements will be made and the web site will be updated.

Remember if you need any assistance with a chapter or zone event, contact me and I am always ready to lend a helping hand regardless of how large or small the request may be.

All for now and hope to see everyone at Game day September 25th!

Region 3 Financial Summary LT Sydney Le Jeune

At the end of third quarter we had

\$5002.07 checking/savings

Some expenditures included \$749.81 for travel to IC for Reed Bates and Aaron Murphy.

Reed will submit a complete summary of Summit finances once all the bills are settled.

Sydney Le Jeune

Senior Enlisted Advisor Report MCPO Jesse Gutierrez

As of August 5, 2010 no enlisted personnel have contacted with any requests for service. I have sent a request through FLEET channels for enlisted personnel to send me ideas on how their voices can be heard by Region Staff. As of this time, I have received no ideas from enlisted members.

I was unable to attend the IC in Oklahoma.

Again, I am reaching out to enlisted staff across the region. Lets make this region the premier region in FLEET. Send me ideas on what enlisted personnel would like done through STAFF. Remember, If you don't talk about your ideas or complaints, How are you to expect anything to get done? Let's hear your voices!

I can be contacted at searegion3@gmail.com

This is a new email address as of July 6, 2010. If anyone has attempted contact with this office in the past please use this new email address. Thank everyone for their help on this matter.

I did put out an email to the CO and XO list asking that the staff talk with their membership on how their enlisted

personnel can make a difference in the FLEET. As of this date I have received no input on this matter from the list.

Jesse Gutierrez
MCPO
SEA Region 3
XO USS Bexar

Chapter Reports

Commodore Beau T Thacker USS Azrael

The Azrael has been very busy with activities and more. Azrael had 5 members at Summit and 2 members at IC 2010. Both events were very fun, and after our reports, some wished they had attended some fun events. Currently we are the support Chapter for the Battle Born and the old Thunderwolf.

We gained quite a few new members to bring us up to 28 members on board the Azrael. We have 15 in Southern Louisiana and the rest up North. Several new members went to a Studio tour where several Sci-Fi movies were filmed and if you didn't know it, Louisiana has become home to a lot of new films. Several top stars have made and are coming back to make films here. Also members went to Mechcon in New Orleans and Shore leave in Baltimore.

Next month we are looking forward to game day and then Trek Fan days in October. Last month we gave \$100.00 to charity and also dumped 5 bags of cans to the fuller house. I have started a face book for the Azrael where we are gaining friends, so come be a friend.



Can you say paintball, yes our team is growing and we are doing pretty good. We also got T-shirts designed by my Chief of Commo Lt Jg Patterson. See our Newsletter the Dark Angel for more pictures.

Bexar Happenings MCPO Jesse Gutierrez USS Bexar

Greetings Region 3!

We have just attended the Summit for the Region in Louisiana. A great time was to be had by all!

I've noticed like many others have noticed that hurricane season has started and we have already had a small hurricane come through the southern most part of Texas. This storm names Alex brought rain to most of South, Central, and West Texas. That leaves me to wonder, are we ready for emergencies that may happen?

We must be ready at a moments notice to protect ourselves and our families in a time of crisis. For instance, when at work, next to my patrol bag I carry a bag called the bail out bag. In this bag is some food, water, a first aid kit, a trauma kit, a personal comfort kit and extra ammunition for my duty weapons. This bag has me covered in the case I must leave my vehicle for an extended amount of time and am unable to get back to the comforts that I have been carrying in the vehicle. In this comfort kit, I have something to help wipe up if I get dirty and something to mop up sweat if needed. There is a small amount of shelf stable food and water in case I need a meal to keep me going. If bugs are bothering me, in my first aid kit I have something to keep bugs away.

A small amount of planning can help keep you comfortable so that you can think clearly and stay positive.

Is your family ready to leave the area in the event of an emergency. You might consider making a Bug out Bag for your and your family just in case it is needed. This bag is huge. It contains the minimum of 3 days of food and water for all of you. In this kit you should have a good first aid kit, any medications your family usually uses, a kit to cook outdoors and tools to help you start a fire, stay warm, and a change of clothing. Many types of kits of this kind can be found on the internet for a tidy sum of money.

One website to help you get information is: www.texasprepares.org.

This site help you prepare by giving tips on what to bring, and it has check sheets you can use to get ready my making emergency kits.

Another website with helpful information is:

www.readysouthtexas.gov

This site also has helpful tools and tips to help you prepare for emergencies. There is a link for a pocket guide on preparing called Ready South Texas Brochure.

Be Safe and Prepared!

The USS Bexar has its monthly meeting on August 14, 2010 at the Atomic Comics on Broadway.

The decided to do a Mission Walk on September 18, 2010. The Mission Walk is a hike and bike trail running on the historic Spanish missions within this city. We also decided to go see The Expendables sometime in September and Thor when it comes out.

It was announced that the Team Federation Guard will be at the August 21 game at tactical paintball in support of our sponsor BT for the BT world game.

Lt. Cmdr. and XO Jesse Gutierrez as promoted to Cmdr. and OPS Officer Marian Gutierrez was promoted to Lt. Cmdr.

Robert Ybarra mentioned that the new Star Trek film will begin filming in 2011. Pictures were brought in and shown from a member who went to the Las Vegas Trek convention recently.

Congratulations were given to Maria and Edward Thomas who were recently married.

Paintball anyone? The Overview of Team Federation Guard is further on.

USS Victory (Brevet) CAPT Alvina Bryant

The USS Victory is setting it's sites on IC 2010 in Oklahoma. The Victory was represented by Sharon Lambert, Steven Gordon, & T.J. Arizmendi-Gordon. We came away winning with a lot of awards. Steven Gordon was given the "Communications Service Award" from the Starfleet Marine Corps for his efforts in keep video streaming working during IC 2010. The Victory will have it's monthly meeting on Aug 21st. At that time we will be discussing a future trip to NASA later this year. We also gain a new member, her name is Sue McCoslin, mother of my Chief Medical Officer Michael McCoslin. I and my officers welcome her aboard.

Alvina Bryant, Lt Commander(Brevet Captain)
CO, USS Victory NCC 74208
OIC 324th MSG, SFMC

USS Joan of Arc RVA FCAPT Kris Dobie

The July birthday usually signals the end of Summer Shore Leave but this year there were some members who were STILL in vacation mode. Alex was on a month long trip to see most of his relatives in the mid-west. Some of the crew gathered at the Portland city Aquatics Center. They have two WELL maintained pools, one for non-swimmers, beginners, & families. The other is for the more serious

swimmer. This pool starts at 5ft then reaching depths of 10 feet. the diving area is even deeper. There is a sea serpent & alligator anchored in the swimming part of the Adult pool for older 'kids' (teens+) to play on Naturally Christopher wanted to 'ride the Sea serpent. It took both Robin & Jim to get him up on the figure. VERY quickly Chris decided he would have more fun in the 'families pool' where he could touch bottom over a greater area. Lunch followed at the Portland DQ. Instead of Cake everybody had a blizzard in their own favorite flavor. YUM!!! When everyone had finished eating the Club birthday gifts were given out to all 3 July birthday boys & I snapped a few photos. Must have at least a couple of photos!!!

The next event was held at the Van Cleave's house. Every month that has a fifth Saturday we try to have a different gathering, something we haven't done in a while. This time Poker night was the winner. We raised a little over 55 dollars for the Club treasury. Each club member usually brings a side dish large enough to feed 10+ people to accompany the main dish. Robin fixed '10 can chili'. You could really smell it when you walked into her house YUMMY!!!

Each person also brought a few choice items to increase their stake in the game. These thing would be auctioned off after the actual card playing period. Since there wasn't enough to have 2 tables everyone played together alternating guppy (beginner) games & shark (experienced) games to keep most players happy. Jim was auctioneer & used the honor system for all members to put the correct credits in the bank bucket. Tahnya brought some dragon figurines from her home store inventory. When one member wanted a piece, they would drop a LARGE bid unless another member desired that same dragon then the WAR was on!!! After all prizes were claimed, the group broke up to their various homes happy with their new treasures.

August started with a general crew at the Butter Churn in Sinton where several more months meetings & events were discussed. Stay tuned to discover what's up down Corpus Christi way with the USS Joan of Arc.

FCPT Kris Dobie
RVA, & Chief of Sciences
USS Joan of Arc 73289

USS Regulator RVA COMM Liz Goulet

The 3 of us who attended the Summit 2010, generally enjoyed ourselves. We got home okay and are now started to work on this here.

First off, we are hosting a table at the Dallas Comic Con on August 23-24 at the Richardson Civic Center. Saturday 11-6 and Sunday 12-4. Hopefully we can recruit some new people.

Second, we are planning on attending the Star Trek Days at Plano Civic Center on Oct 23-24.

Third, we are participating in the Step Out - Walk to Fight Diabetes on Oct 30 at Ranger's Ballpark in Arlington. Quite a few of our members are participating and if you think you'd be interested in walking or sponsoring one of our members, you can get a hold of Mike Tolleson or Tank Clark.

Fourth - we are also planning on having a Formal Dinner and Celebration March 19, 2011. We haven't finalized this event yet. But if you think you would be interested and don't live in the area, we do have several nice hotels you can stay in. Or make arrangements with other members in the area. If you are interested, email me at siskoturbo@att.net and I'll keep you in the loop. We haven't decided if we want to have a dinner at a local restaurant or do the cooking ourselves. If the restaurant, we would choose from a select menu and the price would depend on how many participate. With the home cooked meal, it will depend on participate and we will choose before hand what to serve. At this time we have narrowed the selection down to Lasagna, Enchilada or Quiche. (Most are leaning toward Lasagna if we go this route.) Hope to hear from several of you.

That covers just about everything for now. Talk to you later.

Liz Goulet, Commodore
Communications Officer/RVA
USS Regulator



From the Panhandle...

USS Lone Star
ADM Sam Black

The Lone Star has had quite the busy summer. June had the crew prepping for the trek to the land of Louisiana along with the last minute redressing of our full-sized shuttle as an amphibious craft. More on that later.

In addition to our regular normal game nights and movie nights, the Lone Star had 14 members make the 12-hour road trip from Lubbock all the way to Lake Charles, LA, for the Region 3 Summit. It was a great time. Lots of new friendships were made and old one renewed. We were honored to have member not only part of the regional color guard, but to also have had the opportunity to be part of the inaugural Final Mission Ceremony. We were proud to have been able to obtain a flag which was flown over the US Capitol building in honor of Sean Caughman for this and future Final Mission Ceremonies. Sean will be remembered through all the missions of the future.

Upon our return from this year's summit, we found home port transformed into the subtropical water planet, Aquadelirium. By the time of the annual 4th on Broadway parade here in Lubbock, on July 3rd, for those of you keeping score, we were about 0.05" away from the wettest July on record. Everyone wondered if the parade would be canceled/postponed/modified/anything to keep us from drowning mid-route. Our crew compliment, which normally walks the 2-mile route, made the safety decision to man the shuttlecraft – that was 12 members inside, riding and waving to the moderate crowd who turned out for the parade. The only casualty from the event was our captain losing her footing during disembarkation and breaking 4 toes.

At the end of July, 6 of our crew made the journey just past the middle of nowhere Oklahoma to the resort at Sequoia State Park for this year's International Conference and International Muster. It was hot but it was also a great opportunity to see old friends and make even more new ones. It was a great honor to get to meet another former Fleet Admiral, Adeline Longshaw, as well as having the first R12 RC in attendance.

We are already making preparations for our crew to attend the Return of Game Day, with some of our crew already stepping up to help run games. Also, we are looking forward to the Star Trek Convention in Dallas coming up in October, in addition to all our other upcoming events (volunteering with the annual MDA telethon, end of summer cookout, among our other regular gatherings). Anyone who happens to be in our area, drop us a line – we've always got something going on!

Sam Black
Communications Officer

Get Yer Guns!
USS Gunslinger
BDR John Johnston

The USS Gunslinger has had a very interesting summer. Some big changes blew in, like those infamous West Texas winds, keeping things from being completely dull.

In July, the USS Gunslinger got the opportunity to wish COL Ken Norris a very happy birthday (Quch qoS). Lots of Klingon foods and drinks were available for all who attended, along with gallons of Pepto Bismol for those who could not handle Gagh and Blood Wine. After the feast, war stories were told and party games were played.

In August, the USS Gunslinger had to say goodbye to two of her members. COL Jack Kern transferred to Region 17 to serve on the USS Independence. MAJ Nathan Conlon moved to Austin to find better opportunities. The crew of the Gunslinger wishes both officers the best of luck in their endeavors.

In September, the USS Gunslinger will be gearing up for the El Paso Comic Con, which will take place on September 11-12. The crew is excited to be able to be a part of one of the first comic conventions in the El Paso area in several years. However, due to the amount of youngsters that are expected to be at this event, no Blood Wine will be available.

BDR John Johnston
CO, USS Gunslinger

Let Freedom Ring
FCPT Reed Bates
Space Station Freedom III

Greetings Region 3!

Our CO, Fleet Captain Evan Richards, has been taking some personal time, not on Risa, unfortunately. While he was attending to duties, he put Captain Lloyd Bates in charge temporarily of the Freedom III.

Lloyd represented the chapter well at the CCO Meeting held during Summit in Lake Charles at the end of June.

We hear Evan is on a comeback and we will be in contact with him soon. Our XO, FCPT Reed Bates is still hard at work being the RC for the Region and has established communications with the Freedom III newest members.

Each month the roster is checked and then emails are sent. She has also been in touch with several of the crew who are planning to do a newsletter for the Chapter. She also has plans to update

the F3's Member Handbook and some other documents of the Chapter, and especially have a special place on the website for old F3's crew pictures.

Operations Officer, Captain Lloyd Bates, has been working hard to update and revamp the Freedom III's website, which is/was woefully out dated. Visit it at: <http://www.ssfreedom3.org/>.

In August, XO FCPT Reed Bates attended the Zone 1 Meeting held in Weatherford. It is always good to see what the chapters in our neck of the woods are planning to do. Many of the meeting chapters have lots of fun things to do and members of the Freedom III are encouraged to visit if one of them is nearby. Members of the Freedom III are looking forward to upcoming Game Day and also Star Trek Fan Days. Some of the members of the Freedom III are even working at one or both of these events as volunteers.

FCPT Reed Bates
XO, SS Freedom III

Victory Pics



Various members of the USS Victory, awards, and presenter FADM Sal Lizard, Current Commander STARFLEET, Dave Blazer, Vice Commander STARFLEET, and others in the back.



Steve and TJ's Trip to IC 2010

Steve Gordon
USS Victory
Region 3 DJ

Our Oklahoma/Arkansas adventure began very early on the morning of July 29, at 3AM. I got about six hours of sleep and TJ stayed awake to pack, we began loading the Vitara. We loaded TJ's Suzuki Vitara full with the DJ equipment, luggage, cooler, snacks and various supplies, then departed and took to the road. After turning around and going back home to retrieve a few forgotten items, we were officially on the road to another IC adventure, this time in Wagoner, Oklahoma. We also had planned a side trip to the Crater of diamonds near Murfreesboro, Arkansas. We saw on the Travel Channel about this little place that was becoming very popular with fortune seekers. But first, we wanted to hang out with our Fleet friends. We had already planned to go to IC, but a chance email from IC Chair Greg Trotter made the deal even better: I would get the chance to DJ again for Fleet!

TJ and I left and were on the road about 3:30 AM. After a stop in West, Texas for a breakfast of delicious Czech kolaches and coffee, we made it to Ft. Worth for a potty and fuel stop. Back on the road. Stop at the Oklahoma welcome center and directions to our next stop. We already had planned to stop and let TJ reminisce of her youthful days in and around Tinker AFB, near OKC. But first, I wanted to stop and pay my respects to those who lost their lives on that fateful April morning at the former Murrah Federal Building. The monument is very moving; the outside memorial "frames" the exact moment of 9:02 AM, with the gates to the outside memorial being 9:01 AM and 9:03 AM. Empty chairs represent each person who perished in the bombing. The reflecting pool is a silent yet fitting testimony to those who stand for freedom in the face of violence and domestic terrorism. We did not visit the Museum located adjacent to the memorial; perhaps we shall visit in the future.

After about an hour at the memorial, and some time wandering the streets of Midwest City, just at the Tinker AFB gates to allow TJ to remember her youth, we were back on the road again, this time east on I-40 towards Wagoner and Sequoya. Turning north on US Highway 69 (!) we traveled through the rolling Oklahoma hills, and through the town made famous by Merle Haggard, Muskogee. We sailed on to Wagoner, where we made a late lunch stop at the Braum's there (TJ grew up on Braum's) and to the Walmart to get a few items. Then, on to the park. We got to Western Hills about 4PM and greeted the few Fleet members who were there, unloaded in the HOT Oklahoma heat and crashed in the room. We spent the remainder of the day hanging around and relaxing with fellow Fleeters.

Friday saw the first real full day of IC activities. Various

Fleeters from around the country arrived. TJ and I got up, had breakfast, and welcome Fleet and get ready for Saturday activities. I went and arranged for a rental boat to go out as I had planned to fish through the entire day. Well, the Oklahoma heat decided that it just wasn't meant for me to fish all day. I spaced out my fishing from mid-morning to the late afternoon and early evening. I myself just wandered around the hotel part of the day, and went fishing about 10:30 AM. After giving up because at 11 AM the temp was already at 95 degrees, I went back to the room to take a nap. TJ came to the room to nap also. We woke later that afternoon and decided to rejoin IC activities in progress. I gathered up the small group who wanted to go on the boat with me: Darrell and Alice Carey from the Lone Star; William and Michael Massailo from R15.

Michael is the Officer of the Year for STARFLEET, and William is a wheelchair-bound gentleman whom I just made a new friend. We spent a couple of hours wandering around Ft. Gibson Reservoir and dropping my fishing pole into the waters. Our craft, a party barge with a 90-horse outboard motor, supplied plenty of power to make even Mr. Scott happy. The craft was as fine a vessel as ever sailed the bounding main!. After dropping the Careys off at the marina, William, Michael and I continued the voyage on the water. After deciding that the fish just did not want to bite, we decided to just cruise around the lake. After returning the boat to the marina and refueling, we left and returned to the hotel.

TJ and I decided to grill out for our dinner, but it proved nearly impossible because of a stiff breeze off of the lake, and the strange configuration of the grill. After about two hours, and with the help of the grill gods (and Lloyd Bates), we finally got dinner finished and ate in our room. We went back down to the lobby to mingle with other Fleet members and to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

Saturday: General Session. Oh, what fun. Not only do I get to provide some of the music, I also get to provide the computer for Roll Call video presentation. TJ and Sharon are in the audience watching all of this as I try to make sure that all this goes down without a hitch. Not to be. The video presentations won't work; the DVD that Warren Price provides for announcing IC '12 in Memphis starts late, but everything works out. The Victory members receive numerous Fleet awards for service and contributions. The GS lasts well over two hours, and I do not get to officially dedicate the STARFLEET Anthem. That will come later, promises Sal.

We break up and head outside in the 102 degree Oklahoma heat for lunch. Hamburgers and hot dogs!

And Bob Voessler in his STARFLEET swim suit! (Who **was** that in the full Monster Maroons---in the scorching OK heat? And not even breaking a sweat?) During lunch, we were treated to a wonderful display of some of the animals from the exotic wildlife sanctuary. I got a chance to interact with a beautiful and friendly Sphinx cat, and a turtle/tortoise. After

lunch which was enjoyed by all save for the summertime heat, we headed back inside to cooler environs. I participated and assisted with the sound for the Meet the CS Candidates panel. Emmett Plant/Alex Rosenzweig and Dave Blaser/Bran Stimpson provided lively discussion of topics and presented their platforms for the upcoming CS elections. All CS candidates took about an hour discussing hot election topics and answering questions from the audience. The candidates provided lively discussion and answered each question to the best of their ability. After the panel was over, I retreated to the room to get another nap and refresh myself for the evening.

The banquet was excellent! Okies know how to make chicken fried steak! Also available was fish and chicken, with green beans, mashed potatoes and dessert. The CFS was awesome! I salute the catering folks at Western Hills. Awards next: annuals, etc. Several people that I did not know (including Michael, my friend on the boat) won an award (Michael for Officer of the Year). NOW, we get to present Helen with the Anthem! What a presentation! Well-received, all in attendance liked the Anthem, and Helen, at 84 years young, is still just as chipper and youthful as always. She is a true STARFLEET treasure!



Later that evening it was time for the dance. After the traditional STARFLEET Auction, pies were rendered unto FADM Sal and various other Fleet denizens...er, members. I was not paying much attention to either the auction or the pieing. I was actually surfing the Internet on the computer (nobody knows what I'm doing at my DJ table!) looking for various requested songs from Fleet members who could not attend. I make it a personal quest to play all requests, whether the members are there at the event or not. Scott Akers wanted Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir" and Jonathan "Gumby" Simmons wanted "The Ballad of Gumby". I made sure that I had both songs and played them. The dance started off slowly as Fleet members filed out for either room parties or their own rooms to rest. TJ actually corralled the Marines and brought them down to the ballroom after some of the guests complained that they were getting loud (what they refer to as "mundanes"; nobody likes a loud party, or so it seems). After getting the Marines down, the party really got going...it's funny to see Dave Blaser dance to "YMCA"

after he's had a few. Even John "Kiwi" Kane and a Dalmuti table got into a friendly argument over the volume of the music. I've noticed that a lot of Fleet members who like to drink enjoy country music while they drink. That's fine with me. I've developed a love of country, especially Texas country, over the past several years.

And, as I have learned over the years as a DJ, music makes people feel good, and it adds to the fun. The many wedding receptions that I have DJ-ed over the years have taught me that no matter what your age, religion or ethnicity, music is the universal language that everyone knows and understands.

Anyway, after playing until about 3:30 in the morning, the crowd dispersed (I think...) and we went to our rooms. After about five hours sleep, I rose early Sunday morning (I don't know how I did) and broke down the equipment. Closing Session at 10 AM and we said our goodbyes and went our separate ways. Only complaint: we really could have used a later checkout time, but the hotel had a large group coming in, so we really had to bust our collective buns to get stuff out and loaded. TJ and I loaded out and hit the road. This time our destination was the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

After about eight hours on the road and a beautiful drive through the Ouachita National Forest (winding country roads, rising mountains in the distance...beautiful!), TJ and I arrived at our lovely little temporary home at the Finder's Cottage on South Washington Street in Murfreesboro. We unloaded and took a few minutes to prepare dinner, which was the leftover grilled chicken from Friday night. TJ had thought to ask for a mini fridge at the hotel, and she grilled both packages of chicken that we had brought. And fortunately the cottage had a microwave. We warmed the chicken, and had dinner along with some potato salad and tea. After a good dinner, we relaxed in front of the TV as we got ready for a day of adventure (and hopefully finding a fortune!) at the Crater of Diamonds. After a great nights sleep (it's wonderful to sleep in an air conditioned windowless room!), we arose and headed out to CoD. We arrived about 8:30 AM, paid the admission and got our tools. We set forth to the diamond mine; a plowed field, roughly 5-6 acres (like a corn or other farm field), but slate gray and loaded with riches. The story is that a local farmer, John Huddleston, was walking with his horse while tending his field, and looked down and found a diamond. The rest is basically history. The farmer sold his field, and through several changes of ownership, the diamond-bearing field was eventually bought by the state of Arkansas and is now a state park. The Crater of Diamonds is the world's only public-accessible diamond mine, and one may keep whatever they find (well, obviously!). The park makes no money off of any diamonds; it receives funding via admissions, gift shop, restaurant sales, and a state of Arkansas 1/8 cent sales tax. The park is successful mostly due in part to national exposure on the Travel Channel and other shows dedicated to treasure hunting. Anyway, TJ and I

gathered a bucket of soil and started wet sifting. I really wanted to stay all day; however, Mother Nature had other plans.

At about 10:30 AM, the temperature had risen to 90 degrees. TJ and I were doing the wet sluice method sifting for diamonds. But even with our arms in the water, we were tired and hot. We packed up our tools and returned to the cottage. However, we forgot one of our tools, which we had left at the pavilion where we were wet sluicing. The park charges a rental fee plus a deposit on each tool. We were able to take our bucket, shovel, sifting screens and the finishing tool called a saruca (think a convex bowl with a screen). We left the saruca behind in the water. But the park would not allow us to take the wagon with us. So, with a full bucket of soil and all other tools except the saruca and wagon, we returned to the cottage for lunch and a nap. After about a five hour nap and lunch, we returned to the park. Fortunately, the good people who were at the same pavilion had remembered us and saved our saruca. So that was good fortune; the only one that day. Alas, we found no diamonds. But just a few days prior to our arrival at CoD (matter of fact, the Thursday before, as we had arrived at Western Hills), a woman found a 2.93 carat yellow diamond. Most people who find diamonds find small sub-carat diamonds. The woman sat down under a tree to rest, looked down, and there it was! Next time TJ and I go to CoD, we won't rent tools; we'll walk around the rows and look for diamonds. TJ and I turned in our equipment at the end of the day, washed off and headed back to the cottage for a night's rest to begin our journey home the next day.

The next morning we arose. I got coffee, packed the Vitara and TJ and I hit the road home. We hit the road, and after a brief stop in Mt. Vernon, TX, we went on to a stop in Dallas' Deep Ellum and the Mozzarella Company. TJ had previously been to Deep Ellum (I knew about Deep Ellum, but I had never been). The Mozzarella Company is, obviously, a cheese making factory which specializes in, well, mozzarella cheese. TJ and I learned about the art of cheese making) and TJ bought some artisan cheeses. I had never tried smoked mozzarella or even mozzarella with prosciutto, but I must say that I am looking forward to trying them! Anyway, we went across the street to Mama Mia's for some lunch.

GREAT Italian food! After lunch, the final leg home. A stop in Hillsboro to gas up and then another stop at the last Braum's there for ice cream. TJ has a penchant for 7 Eleven. Especially the metal Slurpee straws. At our stop in Midwest City, we found the original 7 Eleven that she visited with her father to get candy. I learned that this particular 7 Eleven was store number 3! And it was and still is the last remaining original 7 Eleven that has not been remodeled or renovated! A true original classic C- store! TJ was reminiscing with the clerks about her childhood and coming in to the store for candy, growing up in the neighborhood and attending Carl Albert Middle and Carl Albert High

School. Also, a few years ago, a tornado ravaged the city. TJ wanted to see how much the city had been rebuilt and what remained after the tornado. She observed that most of the buildings were gone, but some of the larger stores were still in existence.

I suppose that we never really forget the good times that we had when we were younger. I compared TJ's trip to Midwest City/Tinker to my childhood in Columbus, Georgia. We both got to relive our childhood (although next time we are in OKC/Midwest City/Tinker, I will be more courteous and let her drive and reminisce) by visiting our old stomping grounds. The more that we can remember the good times, the better out present and future can be. Making new friends and seeing old friends really makes any trip worthwhile. Going to new places that we have never been before broadens our world. I can now make a couple of more notches in my travel belt, and add the shot glasses to my collection (actually, I already had shot glasses from Oklahoma and Arkansas, but now I can truly say that I have been there). But the memories we make and take with us we can never forget.

Lastly, we would like to thank all of our R3 friends who attended the IC. If you never do anything else in your Fleet life, I strongly encourage you to attend at least one International Conference. The next one closest to R3 will be in Memphis in 2012. I will make an attempt to attend that one if not just for the IC, to go back and re-experience Beale Street and possibly Graceland. Plus, it's **that** close to R2.

Anyway, again, thanks to not only our R3 friends, but to all who made our IC experience a great one! Especially: Reed, who always finds a reason to help TJ keep me in line; Aaron, my best man at our wedding eight years ago; Marion Murphy, whom I have dubbed the "Region 3 Momma Denby" (ask me, and I'll tell you about Momma Denby in R2); Lloyd "NAKEDYMAN", who always makes me laugh; the Careys, Darrell and Alice, who are always very kind; the Duboses, who I see occasionally but are always super nice; Pat Spillers, Lisa Pruitt and Sam Black, all of the Lone Star, who always make the long trip from Lubbock; and everyone else in R3 who I know I am overlooking but cannot remember (John Johnston, Robert Graham,...I did not forget you guys!). We hope to see everyone in January at Retreat! Until next time I decide to submit something....

Steven Gordon
USS Victory
Region 3 DJ



Overview of Team Federation Guard

by Team Squad Leader Bounty-hunter from MCPO Gutierrez

What can I say about Team Federation Guard that isn't already on the team's website? As previously mentioned, the core members of the team originally were part of another home team at Tactical Paintball. We had issues with the leadership team's leadership so we decided to quit the team and form our own team. Thus Team Federation Guard was formed. Why the name Federation Guard? If you look closely at our team logo you will notice a Star Trek delta. Why? This team was formed by several members of a local Star Trek group called the USS Bexar. I myself am a member of this group.

As the members of this group are so diverse in our everyday lives, we decided that this name was a good fit for our team.

What Does the team stand for? The team stands for clean sportsmanship, camaraderie, and friendship. The members of this team not only play together, we also spend time at each other's homes and doing things like going to the movies. Team Federation Guard not only plays paintball but we also do volunteer work to help improve our community. If an situation comes along where our numbers are needed, we contact the membership and make attempts to assist with whatever situation is at hand.

What can the team do for you? The team can help you improve your paintball skills by your active participation in our team practices. The team spends time on the field practicing tactical building entries, team communications using verbal and non-verbal cues, and unit movement.

What our future holds? The team is currently working on saving money on our team building at our home field Tactical Paintball. We are actively trying to locate an old vehicle that we can convert into our "tank" so that we have a heavy vehicle for big games.

One clarification on our membership. Although we have members from all over the State of Texas, we only play at our home field at Tactical paintball. The team leadership

resides in the San Antonio area so we claim on the website that we are a San Antonio based team. The team does not play speed-ball.

How the team is growing, recently we gained sponsorship with Red Dot paintball, and BT paintball. How this sponsorship helps our members? We can offer members great deal from the BT company and from Red Dot. We are proud home team with Tactical Paintball. When there isn't a big game going on at our home field, members are allowed to play for FREE at our home field. We also get a deep discount on items at the field house. Feel free to look at this field, www.tacticalpaintball.com.

Has this article peaked your interest in the team? Feel free to drop us a line on our website: www.federationguard.com

About Region 3 Game Day

I want to take a moment to explain something about our upcoming event, Game Day 2010. MSGT Barbara Baker drove down to my house this weekend, excited about the Game Day event and asking for us to teach her some Battletech so she wouldn't be lost when she signed up for the game at the event. "No problem!" says I, but also - "Did you know the events at Game Day are specifically geared for folks with no prior experience?" This is a message I think we need more media saturation on.

Folks in the Third Fleet, please observe -no experience is necessary for any of our events. We are constructing them with teaching the new player in mind.

Some of our games, like Spades, aren't complex at all. Some of our games might look complex, but are actually rather easy to pick up like Dungeons and Dragons. Some, like Battletech, have many levels of complexity and our demo at Game Day will be the "101" version just exposing the tip of the gaming iceberg. In all cases, we're prepared to teach you the ropes. Drop on by and give something new a shot. Our operational thrust this year is to get as many attendees as possible to come to Game Day, and then see if we can't get all of them to try something they've never tried before. See the Game Day web page for my lengthy rant on the subject. "Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations", right? Let's see it in action.

Some of you might have noticed that many of the games listed are what are referred to as "role-playing games" or RPGs. RPGs, not to be confused with the computer games of a similar name that they inspired, are played with friends around a table and are a more refined form of "let's pretend". Remember playing cops and robbers or something similar as a child? Remember the arguments over who shot who? RPGs offer a game rule to determine the outcome of any action that may succeed or fail -like shooting at the bad guy, trying to fast-talk your way into a concert, or fix the warp drive. Each player takes the role of

a character in the game, like a character in a movie. One player, known as the Game Master (GM) or sometimes Storyteller or Dungeon Master, takes the role like that of the movie's writer/director.

The GM sets the scene, and tells the players where they are and what the situation is, then the players react and tell the GM what they want to try to do. The dice come in when things get well, dicey.

This type of game is very open-ended, and allows for all sorts of cooperative stories to be told. Let's see if I can make this as simple as possible. Let's take a regular die, the kind that comes in Monopoly or most other board games. This is referred to as a D6, or six-sided die. Let's say we're going to play a Star Trek game. When you need to try to a number of dice, total them up, and try to beat a number based on how tough the task is. For the sake of argument, we'll say everyone has two dice in every skill, except their specialty, which is rated at four dice.

So Lloyd is playing Captain Picard, Reed is playing Doctor Crusher, John is playing Data and Clint is playing Geordi. I am the Game Master. I will set the scene. "The Enterprise is traveling on the outskirts of Federation territory when sensors indicate a small civilian transport being chased by a Romulan warbird. They are sending a distress call and begging for assistance." Now the players tell me how they would react to the situation.

Lloyd may speak (as Captain Picard) and say "Red Alert! Move us between the Romulans and the transport." Clint might chime in here, and say "Geordi will try to increase the shields to protect the transport when we get close enough."

I tell him "All right, have Geordi roll his Engineering skill, he needs to beat a 10." Clint rolls four dice (Geordi's skill rating) and gets a 15.

"OK, Geordi extends the shields around the transport." If Reed had tried to do the same thing with Doctor Crusher, she wouldn't have had much of a chance, because Beverly Crusher's expertise is in medicine, not engineering. At the same time, when the refugees from the transport beam aboard, she would roll more dice than Geordi to determine if she could help the injured.

In the same vein, John would have more dice as Data to identify the transport and its origins from his massive memory than Picard, Crusher OR Geordi - but they might ask to use the computer for help.

That's it! That's really as hard as it is. You tell a story -cooperatively! The players get to decide how to handle the emergencies, situations and adventures any way they wish and the GM is there to describe the outcome. A computer game can only allow the options it is programmed to allow, but a traditional RPG allows the players to come up with any kind of scheme they can imagine, and the GM will tell them

how it works out.

So there we go, a short and simple intro to role-playing. Give it a try!

More on Gaming

Star Trek: The Roleplaying Game (Decipher)

I'm a long-time player (and collector) of various "pen-and-paper" role-playing games (RPGs), including Dungeons & Dragons (from the Red Box "Basic" edition through 1st & 2nd Edition AD&D and up to and including 4th Edition), Tunnels & Trolls, Star Wars (all the versions, from West End Games' d6 editions through the recently demised Wizards of the Coast SAGA d20 edition), Warhammer Fantasy Roleplay, most of the Palladium RPGs, and so forth and so on. I tend to buy any game I don't already have whenever I run across it in a used book store, and Star Trek: The Roleplaying Game from Decipher is one of them.

It's out of print. Fortunately, there are fairly inexpensive ways of getting the books: used book stores, Amazon.com, eBay, garage sales, etc. If you're so inclined, there are even bittorrents with all of the books in scanned PDF format. Google, and ye shall find.

This isn't the first Star Trek RPG ever produced; it was preceded by versions from FASA and from Last Unicorn Games (LUG). None of these are still in print; FASA lost its license before Star Trek The Next Generation came on the air, and LUG lost their license -and folded-during the run of Deep Space Nine. Decipher has also folded; before they did so, they published several books for ST:RPG (the Player's Book, the Narrator's Book, Starfleet Operations Manual, Starships, Aliens, Creatures) as well as quite a few books for their Lord of the Rings (LOTR) RPG. The game system for LOTR and ST:RPG is very similar, and one who is familiar with one may easily play in the other.

The system, which Decipher called the CODA system, has a fairly simple resolution engine: roll two six-sided dice (2d6), add appropriate modifiers, and compare the result either to the result of someone else's die roll or to a Narrator-set target number. The degree of success is shown by the amount one exceeds the target number; contrariwise, the degree of failure is determined by the amount one misses the target. If you're shooting your phaser at the Gorn who's trying to hurt you, for example, you would roll 2d6 and add your "Ranged Weapons - Energy" skill modifier to the roll. The Narrator (who in other RPGs might be called the Dungeon Master or Gamemaster) applies range modifiers (as well as modifiers for cover, visibility, and so forth) and compares the result to the Gorn's Defense, and tells you if you've hit him, and how well. Damage would depend on the phaser's setting and on the level of success you've achieved. Other skills are resolved in similar ways: using your tricorder to find something would be a "Systems Operations (Sensors)" roll, or perhaps even an "Investigate"

roll – depending on the Narrator's judgment.

Generating a character in the CODA system¹ is not easy at first. The book isn't really laid out well for the task, and unlike most RPGs there's no easy step-by-step process for doing it, at least within the player's rulebook.² After building a few of them, however, it becomes pretty easy. I think I can make a new character within half an hour or so. There are no "levels", as there are in many RPGs; advancements to player characters (PCs) are done every time 1000 experience points are earned. Players spend 5 "picks" on the advancement table, and upgrade or add skills, traits, or abilities by doing so.

My chapter, the USS Regulator, has been playing this game fairly regularly for several months now, and I can say it's been a great experience for all of us. My shipmates' experience with RPGs range from the crusty old RPG players like myself (who know that when clerics fight, it's pointless) to RPG neophytes who've never rolled a twenty-sided die in their lives. All of us who've played enjoyed it. It's a good, fun game; it's fairly easy to learn the basics, and add in the advanced stuff from there; and, of course, it's STAR TREK! (Hey, we're all in a Star Trek Fan Association, after all...)

I urge you to try it if you can. If you're going to be anywhere near Fort Worth on almost any Saturday afternoon, contact one of us (you can reach me at tank@ncc73337.com, among other places; or check our web site at <http://www.ncc73337.com>) and join us for a game.

Roll 'em!

MCPT Tank Clark, SFMC
333rd MSG, USS Regulator
www.ncc73337.com



Collage of Regulator Crew at various Gaming sessions.

Editor's Note:

As one of the old-school gamers mentioned earlier, I hope that everyone can come to Game Day. It is really more than just playing games, its social, its interactive, its FUN. It doesn't matter what the activity is, it is a chance to get together for fun and fellowship that really doesn't cost that much, but exercises the imagination.

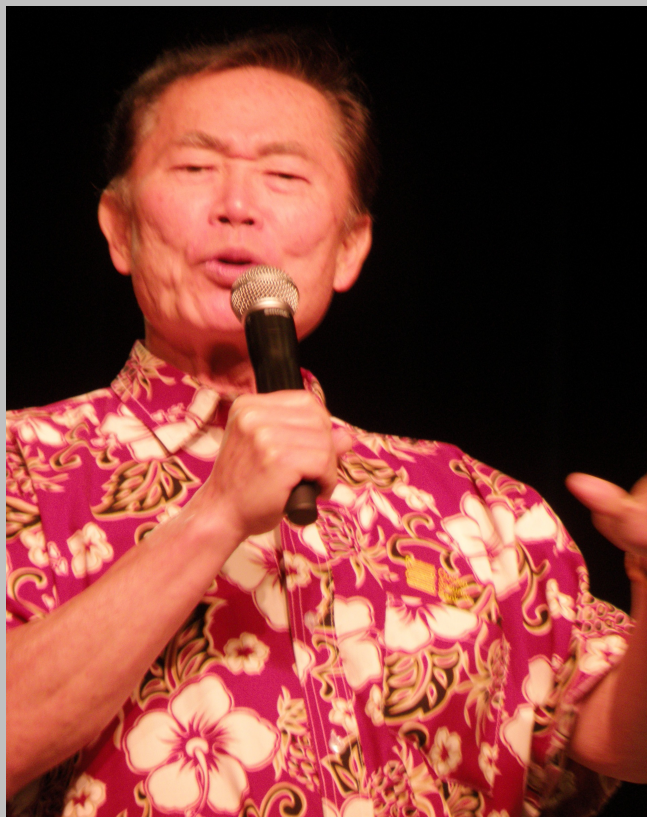
AND, as Reed just announced on the Region Lists, Summit 2011 early-bird registration has been expanded to October 31st! She will be there and will happily accept your registrations there, and you're money too.

THIS
SPACE
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- 1 To the best of my knowledge, "CODA" doesn't stand for anything. It's just what Decipher called their 2d6 RPG engine.
- 2 There's various places on the World Wide Web that have character building checklists for the CODA system, and there's a Windows-based program that will help you generate characters. It requires a working knowledge of the system, as well as the books, as it explains nothing

Bexar Member Visits Las Vegas Trek Con

Ruth Ann Aguero of the USS Bexar submitted the following pictures from her trip.



George Takei speaks to the crowd



Robert Picardo, Roxanne Dawson, Ethan Phillips, and Tim Russ



William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy share the stage together

STARFLEET Announces SFI Scholarship Recipients

My Starfleet Friends and Pals: It is my great honor to announce this year's recipients of STARFLEET's Scholarships (also announced at IC in Oklahoma):

In Alphabetic Order, they are:

Laura Ingles R15 SS Ian Fleming LeVar Burton
Educational Scholarship

Lena Johnson R17 USS Wind Spirit Marina Sirtis
Veterinary Science Scholarship (Marine Biology)

Aaron Jones R3 USS Gunslinger Space Explorers Memorial Scholarship

Christopher McLain R3 USS Tejas Space Explorers Memorial Scholarship

Jeremy McLain R3 USS Tejas James Doohan/ Montgomery Scott Engineering Scholarship

Rachel Pevsner R2 USS Republic Gene Roddenberry Memorial Scholarship for Aspiring Writers

Erik Stubblefield R11 USS Southern Cross LeVar Burton Educational Scholarship

Congratulations to the recipients. I will be in touch soon, and we'll get the CFO to submit the money to the schools as soon as possible.

Reed Bates, Fleet Captain
Director of STARFLEET's Scholarship Program

CS & VCS Election Time

Around September 1, 2010, you should soon after get in the mail your Triennial Starfleet Election ballots, where the Commander Starfleet and the Vice Commander Starfleet are elected. There is an election list set up where you, as a member, can ask the candidates questions.

If you are interested in checking that out, there may be a link on the www.sfi.org website or you can email the Election Coordinator Jon Lane at comms@sfi.org.

For this issue, here is information on Dave Blaser's campaign. Dave is the current Vice Commander STARFLEET and a Canadian:

Web: <http://campaign.blaser.ca>

Twitter: http://twitter.com/blaser_stimpson

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=127949490568599>

His running mate is Bran Stimpson, the Member Services Helpdesk Administrator under the Office of VCS.

The other CS Candidate is Emmett Plant, his website is <http://www.fleet2010.org/>

Emmett has worked with the STAR program, and is the current Commanding Officer of the USS Blackheart in Region 7.

Alex Rosenzweig is his VCS candidate. Alex is the current head of the Department of Technical Services and Office of Technical Information for the Shakedown Operations Command of STARFLEET.

Fleet Channels is non-partisan, and will provide equal Space for every candidate in these elections.

Summit 2010 Pics



Kris and Aaron Murphy in discussions with Pat Spillers over dinner.



Mike Tolleson trying to keep it together with all the Brass in attendance



"WHERE'S CHOW?"



Reed Bates, Robert Graham and John Johnston



"I HOPE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN MY TEETH!"



Aaron Murphy getting the Flag Officer of the Year

Project proposal open to levels and chapters of Starfleet. (Space Shuttle Well wishes/good luck Card) (Time Sensitive)

Please consider joining the crew of the U.S.S. Star League in wishing the crew of STS-134, the final flight of the Space Shuttle Transport System, by adding your chapter's signatures to a "best wishes" card (good luck card) currently being assembled by the Star League's crew.

Once completed, the card will be sent to the commander and crew of the space shuttle Endeavor STS-134 about one month prior to their historic mission which will end this era of manned flight.

The Shuttle program began with ties to Star Trek, so let us show them that we still care.

About the card:

The card that we are putting together has a suggested format as follows.

Pages will be standard 8.5" x 11 paper

All chapters' and departments' greetings will be assembled into one notebook by the crew of the Star League.

The card/notebook's cover will be artwork supplied by Carnell Eubanks, the Star League's archivist. It will be an image of an American flag made from real clouds and stars with the shuttle arching across the stripes into the star field.

Suggested format:

First page--A crew photo, ship art work, or your ship's logo or a combination of all 3.

Second Page--A brief greeting and well wishes to the crew of the shuttle on the upcoming flight, under which your crew/chapter begins adding their signatures.

As many signature pages can be added as needed/desired.

Once a chapter has completed collecting their chapter's crew and friends' signatures, please mail the completed pages to:

Good Luck Card
C/O Carnell Eubanks
563 Hillman Street
Warrenville, SC 29851

Pages will need to be received by January 2nd to allow time for assembly of the card and still have time for shipping to NASA Public Relations prior to the flight.

On behalf of the U.S.S. Star League, thank you for your time and consideration.

If you have any questions or would like to confirm your participation, please email me at darkon1@atlanticbb.net

Sincerely,

Carnell Eubanks
U.S.S. Star League

CQ Lottery Time Again

A reminder about the CQ lottery. With only 14 chapters having still not won yet and a probable 7 or 8 winners this time--your chances of winning are nearly 2:1 at this point! So if you haven't entered yet, please do so. Winners get a box of 100 CQs mailed to them free of charge (or 50 if the winner is not in the United States...due to higher postage rates). Each chapter can win only once before being allowed to enter and win again.

And how do you enter? Easy!

Just e-mail John Lane <comms@sfi.org> the name, chapter, full mailing address AND phone number of the person who will receive the package if you win. ALSO,

please indicate if you want us to require a signature at delivery (we assume yes unless you tell us no). Then just wait for the announcement, which I'll make next Friday. So be sure to e-mail me your chapter entries on or before Wednesday, August 25. If you're already entered, no need to enter again...only new entries.

And Finally...

For the various Chapters who didn't send anything in:

USS Ark Angel: Lost their Lance in transit, talking to STARFLEET Security about licensing and permits...

USS Aurora Vulcanis: Written themselves into a corner of Sector 21505, trying to get the Cardassians to let them pass...

USS Battle Born: Power Relays to Communications Array not functioning, Engineering running diagnostics...

USS Corsair: Off chasing Orion Pirates, extreme communications interference preventing contact...

USS Firebird: Last Spotted near Apollo, probes sent to investigate...

USS Lafitte: sent to investigate whereabouts of USS Corsair, encountered same communications interference...

SS Maverick: Last seen frolicking with wild horses and others near the Orion Sector...and by the way Doug: Sisko is better than either Picard, Kirk, or Janeway because he punched Q! :)

USS Navras: Overhauling various Fleet Computers...

USS Palo Duro: Searching...Searching...Searching...

USS Rachel Garrett: Being Curmudgeonly while writing her report using stone knives and bare skins of those she killed to write articles

USS Serenity: Deep in Transendental Meditations and not checking communications frequencies

USS Spirit Wolf: Off checking reports of migrating flocks

USS Tejas: Investigating Aggie incursion in Zone 4

USS Trinity River: Gone Fishing!

Don't forget to have your submissions for next Fleet Channels!!

Next Due Date is December 3rd, 2010
You've been warned...