

# Fleet Channels

Office of Region 3 Coordinator

*We're gonna do what they say can't be done.*

*We've got a long way to go and a short time to get there....*



As I sit and write this report, we are 24 days into my "Reign of Terror". If you don't believe that description – ask someone on staff. We've had one staff meeting, where they were subject to my droning on and on (and on) for 20 minutes about what I'd like to see from each department... and that was after they were all nice enough to keep all their own briefs short and sweet. Perhaps that was a bit unfair. I'm hearing a rumor, the VRC,

Sam Black, stated quite eloquently, "Boy am I so glad to be grading 2000+ high school tests instead of sitting in THAT meeting!" (not an actual quote, I made it up right now). The end result of the staff meeting, and subsequent pestering on the staff list, I can say with certainty everyone has tasks assigned deemed critical to the Region, and guidelines to implement the plans.

Prior to that meeting, immediately following Summit, Sam Black and I were able to change

over the bank account. In addition to the updates made at the SFI level (database permissions, e-mail, the super secret magic RC wand, etc), all functional items have been completed in this transfer. This leaves only dysfunctional things to transfer over!

I am not going to detail the multitude of tasks I have dumped upon my poor staff – they may state their woes in their own articles – but I will say I am extremely grateful to have them. I have a lot I'd like to do in the next two years and there is no way on this, or any other planet, I could do that without the staff and without the CO's (who are also already getting badgered as well).

I do hope to make this time enjoyable, useful, and exciting (insert comments about Chinese curses here). I look forward to the successes, and the challenges – and working with you all here in Region 3 and beyond. Together we are going to set the new standard in STARFLEET.

Jeremy Carsten

Regional Coordinator, STARFLEET Region 3



# Chief of Operations Report

Most of you already know me, having previously served as Region 3 Quartermaster, Region 3 Communications Officer, and in the last year as your Operations Officer. As this is the first issue of Fleet Channels published since I became the Region 3 Chief of Operations, I'm taking this chance to say... Hello!

As always, if you have any MSR, membership, or chapter issues, please document these in your MSR and I'll do my best to assist you to get them resolved. If you're having difficulties submitting your MSR, let me know, as there are many ways to submit your MSR for example via the online form, the postal service, or via email. All of these methods are accepted by STARFLEET.

Currently we have the following:

- 22 chapters with one "in the chute" getting its paperwork sorted out for submission.
- 465 Members with 63 people in the unassigned roster. This is by far our largest "chapter" in the Region.

For those of you unassigned category, the Regional Coordinator is considered your "Captain". If you have

any questions, comments, concerns, please contact either him or myself. However, we'd like to encourage you to try to find a chapter that fits your interests. Please contact me with your personality quirks, likes, dislikes, etc and I will do my best to help you find a home chapter.

Unassigned MSG/MEU have options well. If you have 10 or more members in your group you can form a "Camp" or "Base". There's a little added overhead with reporting, but it also gives your group a direct voice in any decisions in Region 3.

As always, if you have questions, comments, concerns, commiserations please hit me up at OPS@Region3.org.

Signing off,  
LTC James Trainham  
Region 3 Operations Officer  
USS Battle Born XO

# Vice-Chief of Operations Report

I've been asked to assume the role of Vice-Chief of Operations for Region 3 to assist LTC James Trainham with its largest department. We've also decided to consolidate the responsibilities of Region Shakedown Operations and Convention Operations into the Office of the Vice-Chief.

I'm a six-year veteran of STARFLEET and served as Operations Officer on the USS CORSAIR before moving down to New Orleans. I was elected as the new Commanding Officer of the USS New Orleans in 2011 and helped my Chapter through an accelerated Shakedown Process.



Most of this time, I've also been working with variety convention committees either serving on staff, or volunteering my time, which also led the USS New Orleans to work alongside like-minded Chapters

on contributing a significant STARFLEET presence at every event we have attended.

In 2013, I became the Zone Two Leader where I continued to work with the Chapters providing a strong presence at local and regional conventions even working with colleagues in Region Two on joint operations.

As Commanding Officer and later Zone Leader, I was personally able to participate anywhere from six to eight convention related events a year. This, I believe, gives me a strong foundation of experience for the duties that have been asked to do.

In the coming weeks and months, I, along with other members of the Regional Staff will be working on how to create a stronger Regional/STARFLEET presence in our respective zones. We'll explore the options to help increase recruitment at large events and capture the imagination of interested fans. We'll experiment with new ideas and they're successful, see about making them Region-wide.

I am at your Service,  
FCAPT Randolph Allen  
Vice-Chief of Third Fleet Operations  
Commanding Officer, USS New Orleans



# Zone Reports

## Zone 2

First of all, let me recap a little about myself. I am just your ordinary fun loving guy. Okay, yes, I wear a skant to conventions and get a lot of pictures taken of me



*Things are really cooking in Zone 2!*

with all kinds of people. I am a former U.S. Army Sergeant of eight years; also I was one of those that chased around officers

threatening them if they

didn't get out of my hair, or when they did not want to help out my soldiers under me. I worked in Law Enforcement, VIP security (yes, the ones that escort big name people around in SUVs), and security police.

Currently I have been in STARFLEET for a little over 2 years. My first ship was the USS New Orleans under the command of FCPT Randolph Allen, it took him a year of talking me into joining. Since I joined I have worn many hats; Chief Engineer, DOIC of the 329th MSG, XO of the NEW ORLEANS.

Currently I am the XO of the USS Selene, which is still in the process of shakedown cruise, under the Command of CMDR Brandon Case. The USS Selene is a new and upcoming ship, looking to get out of shakedown soon, as well as get with other groups in and around our Region.

I have always loved the cooperation that I have seen in SFI, granted some you have to light a firecracker under, buuuuuuu, over all I have seen a lot of good in the community. One thing that I like that SFI works on is charities, helping them get money needed for research or whatever is needed.

I want to thank you all again for allowing me the chance to work with Zone 2 as its new Zone Leader. Currently I have a few things on my plate that I am looking into doing with some groups here in Louisiana. This is something that we were already working before I became Zone 2 Leader.

USS CORSAIR is working on a great fundraiser, trying to help relieve a young boy and family from the mounting medical bills. The young boy is in the Ascension Parish of Louisiana, and the CORSAIR is working with the 501st and REBEL LEGION. This will be taking place July 25, 2015 at the Premier Lanes Entertainment Center, 1414 N Airline Hwy, Gonzales, Louisiana 70737. If you want to bowl, please pay in advance and register at <http://trekwars.eventzilla.net>. If you cannot make it and like to make a donation, please get in touch with RADM Trisha Tunis, Chief of Communications, STARFLEET Region 3 at [comm@Region3.org](mailto:comm@Region3.org), she can get you an address in which to send it.

Also in the news, -chuckle- USS New Orleans, SELENE and the NEPTUNE out of Region 2 are in discussion about how they can have more fun at conventions, and really show what SFI can do. In the talks between the CO's and XO's of the three ships, and me having to wear two hats, we discussed having a mixture of Fleet and Marine Color guard for convention opening ceremonies of CONtraflow, GEEK-O-Nomicon, Coast Con and a few others, while specifically looking at the bigger conventions like Wizard World Convention in New Orleans area as well.



Not too long ago I got in touch with Alec Peters from Axanar productions, and asked him how we, the SELENE can help him out. Since I already knew that SFI was in the process of helping spread the word of Axanar, I wanted to help out even more. He got me in contact with his Media person and I was sent a "mini con" package, included was 6 patches, two mini posters and a bunch of cards. I would like to urge those in the Region to help, as well. I am going to be contacting our RC and discussing with him soon about getting in touch with the other RC's around the world, also.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you in my Zone, and throughout the Region to help make SFI even better than it already is. QaPla!

Commander Andrew McDonald

Zone 2 Leader

XO, USS Selene

# Zone Reports

## Zone 4

I would like to bring up two chapters that I feel have really shown what it takes to be outstanding chapters in STARFLEET. I have seen the members of these chapters work hard and work together to get jobs done. They not only are hardworking but stand by their word. Every Commanding Officer looks great when he has a great crew of people to work with. I am proud to say that I get to work along side the members of the USS Battle Born and the Starship Texas. They show outstanding teamwork. I hope to see a lot of great ideas and projects out of them as the year goes on.

The USS Battle Born hosted a great Summit. They have shown that they are able to step up and take on a great challenge. I am glad to see that a correspondence chapter is able to work so well together and bring in the right amount of outside help. Also, the USS Battle Born, a letter has stepped up from her; I am happy to say that Zone 4 is home of the new Region Coordinator, Brigadier Jeremy Carsten. This chapter has always had a history of getting their hands dirty when things need to get done. Great job and your all should be proud of a job well done.

The Starship Texas has been busy with their away missions. Recently going up to Waco, TX and seeing the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame and other great things that Waco has for anyone that wants to come and see parts of history. This is a great chapter that shows teamwork and friendship. This is a chapter that tries to put their members first and you can feel the friendship when talking to the members. Also, I feel that a chapter that games together seems to stay together. This might be the secret of a happy chapter. I am proud of this group in how well they can come together and plan events working together.

Thank you,

Colonel Michael R. McCoslin, SFMD

Zone 4 Leader, Region 3

Executive Officer, S.S. Retribution Station, SFR-1202

Officer in Charge, 324th MSG

## Zone 1, 3 & 5

## No Reports Received

# My Two Cents

I had a great time at Summit, and hope everyone else did too. Thanks go to Jeremy and his team for hosting. Special thanks also to all that donated to the auction.

Here is the Summit's financial report:

Silent Auction	\$370.25
Live Auction	\$1,110.00
Casino	\$100.00
Soda Challenge	\$100.07
Challenge coins	\$489.41
Quartermaster	\$76.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,246.60</b>

Again, thank you every for the successful summit. It's always great to see old friends and make new ones.

This gives us the following balances at the end of May.

Checking	\$4,398.98
Paypal	\$223.61

We had the following unpaid bills as of 5/31/15

Sales tax	\$145.93
Quartermaster	\$863.00

This gives us an available balance of \$3,613.66

Some of these funds may be used to restock the Region 3 Quartermaster. Please give me some input on what kind of things you would like to buy. In addition, if you have any fund raising ideas, let me know.

I'm already looking forward to next year's summit. Start saving now, I'll see you all in Odessa.

CMDR Glenda Stephenson

Chief Financial Officer, Region 3

## Just a Minute!

And I thought I was going to go into SFI semi-retirement! Boy was I wrong! Greetings to all my old and new friends in Region 3! For those I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, please let me introduce myself a bit. A native Mississippian, I married and moved to Houston, TX, from Jackson, MS, one year ago. My career of 38 years in education consisted of classroom teaching, learning technologies, and distance learning training and management at MS Public Broadcasting, and Program Manager/Teacher Trainer at a non-profit drop-out prevention education organization. My teenage

sweetheart came back into my life three years ago and we married in



February of 2014.

On July 1, 2014, I relocated to Houston and began a

new life as a wife and retiree. In Region 2, I served as the Commanding Officer of the USS Haise for almost ten years (a multiple Region and STARFLEET award winning chapter), served nearly four years as R2 Vice Region Coordinator, and another four years as R2 Chief of Awards.

When I moved to Houston, I transferred my SFI membership to the USS Zavala. I thought I would enjoy being a "regular Joe" member who participated when convenient and would not take on much responsibility. Well, it was a good theory anyway. The Zavala Command Staff asked me to put my experience to use and take some of the burden of the growing chapter

off of the CO and XO. They needed a Chief of Ops. They are such nice folks, I just couldn't say no. Later, they needed a Second Officer and added that to my job description. So my plans for being more laid-back started crumbling. Then, I saw a message asking for volunteers to serve on the Awards Committee headed by Marion Murphy, who I had met at previous SFI functions. Marion had already said she was going to put me to work when I got to Region 3, so I guess I should have been warned. It was good to work with Marion and the other volunteers and Staff members in an area I was very familiar with, and I appreciate being accepted to serve. When Jeremy advertised for Staff positions, I thought for a while about the work and time that would be involved in taking on another primary position on a Region Staff and decided that "retirement" just wasn't in the cards for me at this time, because I missed the interaction and involvement of working on a regional level. Working on Region Staff gives me the opportunity to make even more friends in Texas and Louisiana. This is no small task that I have accepted, but I look forward to helping Jeremy and all of you. I am once again excited about taking up the task of managing the awards program (and other things on quite a list Jeremy has given me) and I will be looking to others in the Region to assist me as we work to revise and enhance the recognition of our dedicated members.

Work is already underway on the Awards Manual to revise and add more clarity where needed, improve the process, and make "upgrades." I'm planning for training sessions with the Zone Coordinators, Commanding Officers and Executive Officers by "distance learning", so they are better prepared to submit quality nominations for Orders of Merit, promotions, and annual Region and STARFLEET awards. The Region Staff has been discussing ways to provide more recognition for members throughout the year, including features in "Fleet Channels."

My mailbox door is always open for your questions, comments, concerns and suggestions. You can reach me at [cao@region3.org](mailto:cao@region3.org) or [franck.lucyferron@yahoo.com](mailto:franck.lucyferron@yahoo.com).

I also want to put a plug in for the bi-annual STARFLEET Region 3 Day at Space Center Houston on Saturday, September 26, 2015. I hope to meet a lot of you during that event and in upcoming Region events. One of my favorite Star Trek quotes is from Captain Picard, "Things are only impossible until they're not."

Vice Admiral Lucy Ferron Franck  
R3 Chief Administrative Officer  
Second Officer, USS Zavala

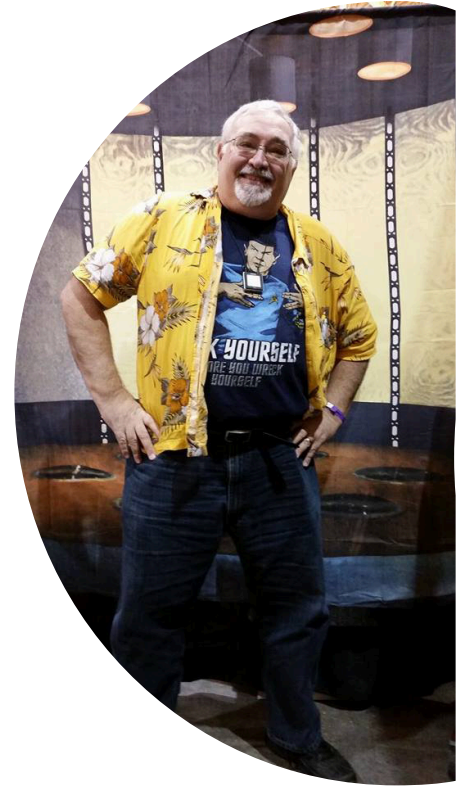


## CPO Michael Scott

CPO and Chief of the Boat Michael "Scotty" Scott is a long time member and "unsung hero" of the USS New Orleans. A reluctant volunteer, he never the less works tirelessly for the chapter at many events and activities, including designing scenarios for Star Trek games and taking care of his granddaughter, Cadet Lucy Ferry.

He is a familiar face at conventions whether it is manning the information table or helping with panels. He brings not only a love and knowledge of Star Trek, but also a great deal of knowledge of the early history of the Air Force and its connections to NASA. Michael has the distinction of being the first person to design a Star Trek Starship Combat Simulator (in 1977) called the "Star Fleet Battle Manual," under the moniker of Michael Scott Kurdick, which made use of the ETRL models of the day.

The Captain of the USS New Orleans always knows he has "Scotty" to call upon to get the ship moving. The Region is proud to salute the ongoing mission of Michael "Scotty" Scott.



### Office of the Senior Enlisted Advisor

## Greetings Shipmates!

Well, it has been quite some time since my last article, and despite having quite a bit to recap, I'll try not to make it painful. The Summit 2015 was a resounding success, and I am sure Summit 2016 is going to be fun, exciting, and a huge success as well. If you haven't attended, you are missing out on a great time and a wonderful opportunity to meet some absolutely fantastic folks. After all, despite all the perks and other things that come with a STARFLEET membership, by far the most important is the development of relationships and the networking with PEOPLE having similar interests yet widely varying points of view.

As with any change of leadership, there will be some changes coming down the pike, and I would encourage everyone to give some of these things an honest effort. After all, united we stand, and together we can accomplish things that are greater than the sum of our individual pieces. If you've heard Admiral Black speak, I'm sure eventually, you've heard him mention that for as long as STARFLEET has been around, we should probably be as recognizable as the Shriners. There may be a bit of disparity between an organization just over 40 and another with well over 100 years, but it does bring a good point to consider. Well, besides typically taking quite a number of years to become a member of the Shrine, each member, and each lodge are united in common bonds of fellowship and purpose. Unity and harmony are highly engrained and more than second nature. This is an aspect where we should strive to put aside the personality and personal conflicts and put foremost our common interests in our fandom of Star Trek and our efforts to make our piece of the world a better place.

One of those areas that is currently under discussion is a common charity for all of us across Region 3 to be engaged with, to partner with, and to support. The CCO and the staff are engaged in discussions about this at the moment. Some really good discussions are being had. I'm not sure if the decision will be final prior to the release of Fleet Channels or not, but I am really excited about the prospects.

Finally, my duties to the membership is mentoring. I will yield that many have been members of Region 3 much longer than I have. I will say, that I am a retired Navy Chief, and mentorship comes with the territory, and it didn't matter if it was a junior, inexperienced person or a senior, highly experienced person. The difference is one requires much more tact and diplomacy, but both are always treated with respect. "Ask the Chief" is a common phrase in the Navy, and feel free to do it here. There may be a good chance I may not know the answer, but I will guarantee that if I don't know it, we will all learn it together and be better for it.

Very respectfully,  
MCPO Steve Sardeson  
Region 3 Senior Enlisted Advisor  
3BDE Sergeant Major  
Chief of the Boat, USS Battle Born  
301st MSG

## What's the Frequency?

I'm back for my second tour of duty as Regional Chief of Communications. Thank you Regional Coordinator Jeremy Carsten for the opportunity to serve the fine folks in Region 3 again.

First, THANK YOU to everyone that submitted articles on time. I've been delighted with each and every one of them. It is because of your contributions Fleet Channel even exists, and isn't just a mish mash of my ramblings about nothing. Those of you didn't, I'm going to assume a targ ate your stuff, right?

Now for my..wait for it..legendary plans for the Office of Regional Communications...

I have several goals set before me.

- Fleet Channels back on a regular schedule (a familiar refrain);
- Increase our visibility on social media platforms
- Develop a comprehensive marketing plan for Region 3.

To sum it up, I want to be YOUR Chief Cheerleader. I'm here to encourage chapters to feature their members, their chapters, their craziness to Region

3, STARFLEET, and what the heck, THE WORLD in all the ways possible-Website, Facebook, Twitter, and whatever the next incarnation of electronic networking is dreamed up. A key point of this will be EDUCATION. Yes, back to school time! Don't worry, I do grade on a curve, I can be bribed, and no, this won't go on your STARFLEET Academy transcript.

I've already turned into our esteemed Regional Coordinator a list of communication channels and suggestions on how to better utilize them. Until then, I have a job for all of you. Shoot me an email about how YOU prefer to get your Regional Communications. Do you want me to put STARFLEET announcements on the R3 Listserv, and not anywhere else? Promotions on the Regional Group page? How can I best make sure that we're communicating effectively and efficiently with you without wasting your time deleting the same message you've gotten at least three different ways?

Once again, great to be back, look forward to reaching for the stars with everyone!

RADM Trisha Tunis

Chief of Communications, Region 3

Commanding Officer, USS Corsair

## No Report Received

## CDR John Gilfillan



John Gilfillan saw the needs and jumped into action. The USS Spiritwolf is in the midst of re-growth and the work schedule of the CO made it difficult for the small chapter to be represented at public events and recruit. After three years as a STARFLEET member and helping another chapter get off the ground, he decided to offer his assistance to the Spiritwolf. In the short time he has been on board the Spiritwolf, he has set up and led the small team of available members with their booth at a major con (Comicipalooza), designed promotional flyers, built a banner stand, arranged for a new chapter banner, reserved new meeting quarters for the chapter, improved their recruiting efforts, and worked with the chapter CompOps to upgrade their online presence. For his leadership efforts he has been named Chief of Ops for the chapter and recently promoted to Commander. We salute Commander John Gilfillan for his revitalizing efforts on the USS Spiritwolf and his continuing dedication to Region 3 and STARFLEET.

## From the Brigade OIC

Greetings, Fleet Channels, from your long slumber. I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind our brothers and sisters of the Fleet side of things that all Third Brigade events are open to all Starfleet members, uniforms not required (but pants and shirt might be).



In addition to the Biennial trip to Space Center Houston (which I hope to see many of you there, since I was thwarted by Air Traffic Controllers in my attempt to attend the recent Regional Summit) there will be a Brigade Field Trip with an overnight on the Battleship USS TEXAS spearhead by the 342nd Royal Dragoons. This is a joint event with the SFMC and the RMA (Royal Manticoran Army) which means opportunities to earn SFMC awards (Honor Guard, Joint Service Ribbon, etc).

On Saturday, 17 October 2015 we will board the Texas for an overnight experience. We will be taken on a tour of the vessel that includes areas of the ship not normally accessible to the public. A viewing will be held of an informational film about the ship, and the group will break out some tabletop games to play while aboard. Other activities will involve a gun crew

competition, and morning colors on Sunday before we depart.

The cost for the event is \$42 per person, the proceeds will go to the maintenance and upkeep of the Battleship herself. Attendees are asked to bring a pillow and blanket, and any snacks or drinks they wish to have aboard. We will be coordinating coolers and food as the event begins to take shape. For those attendees who are part of a uniformed fan organization, the Uniform of the Day will be field uniforms/BDU equivalents for the flag ceremonies on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, and civilian clothes at all other times. Payment is required in advance - simple RSVP and pay at - <http://bb35.eventzilla.net/> - seating is limited.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to ask anyone on Brigade Staff or better yet - take the opportunity to check out the Marine Force Manual or SFMC policy manual where most questions can have their answers found (honestly when we are asked nine times out of ten we simply read the manual too)

Until then see you at inspection. Dismissed.

Edward C. Tunis III  
Major General, SFMC  
OIC, Third Brigade

# Two Great R3 Events this Fall

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, September 26, 2015  
Region 3 STARFLEET Day  
at Space Center Houston**



**RESERVE YOUR BERTH NOW**

**Sat, October 17, 2015  
3rd Brigade Overnight on the USS Texas  
<http://bb35.eventzilla.net/>**



## T's the Season

Just a reminder the STARFLEET Office of Emergency Preparedness is still on the scene advising our Chapter CO's that the world is dangerous place out there and we want you and your crew to safe.

As you know this is the month of June and that means the beginning of Hurricane Season for those Chapters along the Gulf of Mexico. Your shields may be strong and harbors may be safe but hath no fury like a Category-Three Hurricane making a direct hit on your neighborhood.

So please take the time to put together a Survival Kit. The Red Cross has a great website where you can make you own.

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit>

Overall the quarter has been a wet one with a lot storm systems some of the very severe weather. Recently Texas has seen more than its fair share of rain with the flooding in the various parts of the state.

Tropical Storm Bill which made landfall at Matagorda Island, TX on June 16, 2015 added more raining and flooding as it moved in Oklahoma. Even as the storm traveled and was downgraded to a post tropical low it continued with rain. Proving once again that even the

Compiled by Vice Admiral Lucy Ferron Franck

# R3 Staff Meeting Minutes

## MINUTES FROM MEETING

R3 Staff Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2015

Present: Jeremy Carsten, Lucy Franck, Lloyd Bates, Steve Sardeson, Trisha Tunis, Randolph Allen, James Trainham, Lisa Pruitt, Edward C. Tunis III

A. James Trainham – Report from Ops

There has been another chapter launch recently. A second chapter in San Antonio, the USS Tarvos, is coming. This chapter is from an existing group and has already had their class and name approved.

Several chapters have not reported yet. Only 22 reported on time. Those not reporting at this time are the Station Freedom 3, Firebird, Gunslinger, Ravenclaw, and Tejas. Tejas and Firebird Marines have not reported yet. On the USS Maverick, the CO and XO are expired and it is down to 0 people.

seemingly trivial systems still had some bite to them.

Overall forecasters have predicated a lower than average Hurricane Season, however just because the storms will occur with less frequency than years prior doesn't mean a direct hit will occur. Remember to keep a keen eye on your local news and weather radios they are the best source of information.

June 22, 2015 we experienced an intense solar storm which intensified auroras borealis during an event which lasted two days. Another happened again on June 25, 2015, where Auroras were seen in Region. Due to the nature of these events, it is possible that power losses could occur. So far, reports indicate that nothing of the kind has happened with them, just be aware of the sun can have on our electrical and communication systems.

If you're interested in what is going on with Office of Emergency Preparedness, please check out our Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SFOEP/>

FCAPT Randolph Allen

Region 3 Office of Emergency Preparedness

Commanding Officer, USS New Orleans

B. Randolph Allen – Report from Vice Ops

Randolph will be working with ShoC, convention coordination, and Regional activities. He is working up ideas for conventions but is looking for ideas. ShoC is new for him.

Zone 2 Report – Because of his new position, a new Zone 2 Leader will be sought. The new chapter, the USS Selene, is doing ok and meeting this weekend. ContraFlow is in October and MechaCon is next month.

C. Trisha Tunis – Report from Communications  
She is assessing the situation with "Fleet Channels" and looking for a feel for the office. She hopes to

# Staff Meeting Minutes (cont)

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### B. Randolph Allen – Report from Vice Ops

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Zone 2 Report – Because of his new position, a new Zone 2 Leader will be sought. The new chapter, the USS Selene, is doing ok and meeting this weekend. ContraFlow is in October and MechaCon is next month.

### C. Trisha Tunis – Report from Communications

She is assessing the situation with “Fleet Channels” and looking for a feel for the office. She hopes to have an issue of “Fleet Channels” out by the end of July. She needs pictures from Summit. She will be working up general marketing materials for R3 and will also contact Jack Eaton regarding the Star Trek 50th Anniversary activities.

### D. Lloyd Bates – Report from CompOps

Lloyd is actively changing the lists and will be creating the Vice emails. ShoC email is a forwarder right now to Ops and the RC. He is working on “real emails” rather than forwards. There is talk about moving the website so no changes are being made to it at this time. Lloyd plans to step out of this position soon. Maybe a Vice CompOps can be named to work with him and become the next Chief of CompOps.

### E. Glenda Stephenson - CFO

Glenda was not able to be present so Jeremy gave a basic report of finances. As of May 31 there was \$3535.98 in the bank account with another \$223.61 in Paypal balance. The sales tax check was been sent but not processed yet from the bank account it seems.

### F. Lisa Pruitt – Zone 5 Report

Plans are being developed for an excursion to see the production “Texas.” She hopes to get details out over the weekend. It is performed in an outdoor amphitheater in Palo Duro Canyon State Park, south of Amarillo.

### G. Steve Sardeson – Enlisted Adviser Report

He reported that Lucy has some ideas for improving awards and hopefully a feedback session can be set up to review the awards we did this year. He is working on a CQ article about Summit. Steve has put out a call for “Fleet Channels” articles and will be working with Trisha on that. He would like to encourage discussions on strategic partnerships, like with other Trek groups, or other fan groups and charities.

### H. Lucy Franck – Report from the CAO

Lucy has begun reviewing the Awards Manual with an eye for revising and updating that document. She would like to tighten up the criteria for some categories and add further clarification on others. She wrote a list of recommendations that were provided to the Awards Committee members following this year’s awards. She plans to have distance learning training with Zone Leaders, COs and XOs prior to next award season. Ongoing training will be provided at Summits as well. Training will include the SFI Orders of Merit too since we want to encourage the use of that system for member recognition. She wants to work with all chapters in improving chapter level member recognition/awards too. Looking to next year, the Summit is scheduled for June but SFI award nominations have to be submitted the first of May, so the deadline for submission of nominations needs to be moved back to March 31 (rather than the April 15 deadline used this year) to facilitate earlier decision making by the Awards Committee. That only gives the Awards Committee one month to meet and make decisions but that should be sufficient.

### I. Jeremy Carsten – Report from the RC

Jeremy has been working on ideas for each staff position and has started discussions with the new staff members about implementation.

1. VRC (Sam Black) will also be the Chief of Staff. He will review MSRs, begin work on the R3 history project, and updating staff and Zone contact lists.

2. The CAO is to work with revamping and coordinating the awards and reach out to Fleet regarding that awards process and making sure the needs of the Region are going to be met. She will be working on procedures updating as needed. She will train the Zone Leaders, COs and XOs to improve their nomination abilities. With an eye toward more member recognition, he has asked for Lower Deck spotlights of members from all chapters, aiming for 2 a month. Lucy will be taking minutes of the staff

# Staff Meeting Minutes (cont)

meetings and assisting as needed with staff work flow. She will also be working with the RC on promotion requests.

3. The Ops department will work on convention coordinating. Jeremy wants to get out the message more that we are STARFLEET. He wants them to look at a charity for this year and next, and make contacts relating to Region support for Zone events as well as identifying one big event per zone each year. Please let Ops know of upcoming cons in your area. Ops is to work with Communication and CompOps on technical pieces and he is expecting lots of cross work in these areas. Jeremy wants to emphasize "One big happy Fleet." He also suggested establishing an Eventzilla or similar account to use for ticketing of the identified Region events. Ops should gear up for Game Days as well.

4. Communications has been a hard position to fill and keep filled and we are grateful to Trisha Tunis for accepting the challenge. "Fleet Channels" will return. We will look at social media from a business perspective for the Region. We are looking at some online sites for them.

5. CompOps and the RC are shopping for a new web host (deadline sometime in October?). Give them your ideas for what you would like the website to be able to do. Maybe some online stores will be brought back and possibly use Eventzilla more.

6. Money and the Region Budget are being examined by the CFO and the RC. Some members fall upon hard times and as we analyze the budget Jeremy is looking at perhaps setting aside \$250 to \$500 as a rainy day fund to assist those in need. Jeremy hopes to trim the fat from the budget including sending people to IC and bringing people in for Summit. Travel is also being examined for trimming. Right now the CFO is also functioning as QM. A Café Press store may be open to all chapters as a service. Also looking for an online store for some items like polo shirts and patches.

7. The Senior Enlisted Adviser, Steve, is fitting in as needed. His focus will be on mentorship and all groups being professional. He is also looking for best practices in MSRs. We want to have Lower Decks spotlights and other recognition opportunities. He may also be looking to the Zone Leaders and chapters for chapter fundraisers.

8. Jeremy wants to make sure all staff members are on the appropriate lists. He is looking for ideas to call his grand scheme (Lucy suggested Fleet First). Send him ideas if you've got them. Right now staff meetings will be monthly on the 2nd Thursdays at 7pm. The date is not set yet for a CCO meeting but staff members need to be included in that. The first staff meeting was then adjourned.

## R3 Summit Wrap Up

Summit Chair/USS Battle Born

### Well, We Didn't Get Arrested

So we got that going for us....which is nice.

I, and the crew of the USS Battle Born would like to thank all those that attended Region 3's summit here in San Antonio, TX. We had a rocky, but successful event – and continues to provide benefits. STARFLEET is about to yet another shakedown chapter here in Region 3 – the USS Tarvos (was an independent trek fan club in San Antonio), who's skipper, Michael Trujillo joined us for MUCH revelry, will be joining SFI!

Some raw facts of the event:

64 Paid registrations, plus a few guests

31 attendees at Marine Mess Friday Night

42 attendees at Admirals banquet Saturday Night

\$370.25 Raised by Silent Auction

\$1110 Raised by Live Auction

\$100 Raised by Latinum sales,

\$100.07 Drink of the Region votes, and misc items

\$598.14 left over from registrations/coin sales after bills paid

Total = \$2269.46 to the region

Another raw fact was...I messed up. I planned on a few others to be there and help out. When that proved impossible for them, as well as some other issues, I got overwhelmed. I didn't have contingencies for that, or ask for more help – and for that I am sorry. What makes me feel great about this region, and this organization, is that folks stepped up to ensure a great event. I am certain I am forgetting people but thank you to:

Lloyd Bates, Reed Bates, Sam Black, Mike Brown, Bobby Dean, Michael Garcia, Sarah Hays, Kelly Hays, Kathy Hench, Matt Hill, Norbert Kessen, Penelope McFadin, Mike McGowan, Andrew Register, Glenda Stephenson, Jeff Webb



## Arrested (cont)

Again apologies to anyone who stepped up and I forgot/did not witness – THANK YOU!

I of course would like to thank my crew on the ground:

Sarit Carsten, Teach Minchew, Jen Peterson, Andrew Peterson, Laura Sardeson, Steve Sardeson, Reba Scott

I had to promise my crew I would not do something like this again. True enough, but then I got elected as RC, and they all collectively rolled their eyes at the pains that might bring our way as the proverbial 'flag ship'. You should buy these people a drink for having to put up with me, seriously.

We had several fun tales that emerged from the 'Summit Royale'. Marian Murphy inadvertently joining the SFMC (not a lie), Special guests not ruining a perfectly good dress uniform (it was impressive really), Honor Guard Commanders melting faces, and of course, no arrests during the after party (it was closer than usual)!

If you missed it, then I assure you, you MISSED IT. But fear not, there will be more obnoxious tales to made and told in Summit 2016...in Odessa, TX. Plan now.

We hope to see you there!



## Region 3 Summit Muster Attendees

*photo provided by Major Sarah Hays*

## Region 3 Summit

Our NCOIC, MCPO Gene Spillers, was unable to travel with us to the Muster / Summit event. He sent donations instead, most from Admiral Pat's collection; his only request was that we let him know what these items brought at the auction. The donations were a set of three LCARS-type posters and a Star Trek Insurrection theatre poster.

We had wonderful guests of honor: Region 3 RC Admiral Sam Black, Starfleet Chief of Communications Commodore Michael Garcia, and Starfleet Marines

Commandant General Michael McGowan.

These three provided our head table with a resplendent display of proper Marine dress uniform, with Insurrection Blacks, Mess Whites and the Commandant's Experimental Uniform (an option to replace the salt-and-pepper Mess White variants).



We had a beautifully attired (full dress black uniform, in black brocade satin) Vice Admiral Marian Murphy grace us during the evening; in fact she stole the show. Her challenge to Marines generally to match her reading prowess evolved to a challenge, with her joining the SFMC as the stakes, to the Commandant to admit that the Starfleet Rangers are the older and superior branch of service; to which the canny General McGowan responded, "Done, and done! Welcome aboard!" We welcome the Marines' newest flag-level officer, Lieutenant General Marian Murphy, SFMC.

That was but the first highlight of the Mess, as we had representatives from each MEU or MSG present detail their units' successes from the previous calendar year. Congratulations, Major Alvina Bryant, on founding the 320th MSG!

I should say here, that we were very impressed



*Dress Mess Guests of Honor: (l to r) General McGowan, Commodore Garcia and Admiral Sam*

with the food at both evening meals this year, and the hotel did the best job of any Starfleet or SFMC event I've attended in taking care of our needs.

We learned by text that we'd both received promotions; thank you to RADM Reed Bates, Ark Angel Station, for letting us know, as we'd been waylaid finding breakfast and missed opening ceremonies. We had a good lunch with the 342nd's landing party and learned a lot of details about the USS Texas, where the next Brigade outing is set for overnight Saturday Oct. 17th. We're hoping to make both that trip to Houston since it's the



*Region 3 Saturday Night Dinner*

same weekend as a major airshow, Wings Over Houston, and the Sept. 26th Region 3 Star Trek Day at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

If I could change anything about this year's Summit/Muster, it would be that those members of our

Brigade Staff and units who weren't able to join us, for whatever reasons, could have made the trip instead of having to miss out on the fun and camaraderie.

Come to Odessa in 2016 – it'll be more fun than a circular simian storage vessel! You wouldn't want to miss LGEN Murphy serving as Goat of the Mess, would you?

*Photos provided by Major Sarah Hays*



301st Marine Strike Group Reporting Officer: MCPO Steve Sardeson

## Region 3 Throws a Summit Royale

May 15-17, 2015, San Antonio saw the convergence of Region 3. We were lucky enough to have distinguished visitors in the form of the Chief of Communications, Commodore Michael Garcia and Commandant, STARFLEET Marine Corps, General Michael McGowan. We also had visitors from an independent Star Trek fan club, the USS Tarvos, based in San Antonio, and a group of folks from the Geekvengers. All of whom added significantly to the experience and fun time that was Summit Royale.

happened, but rumor has it that there are over 30 people who will say that it did.

Saturday was quite the whirlwind of events from opening ceremonies until the party following the Admiral's Banquet got shut down. Rumors abound of an after party, but that carries almost as much penalty for revealing as acknowledging Section 31's exist.....



*Fun and Games at the Summit (Photo provided by MCPO Sardeson)*

Friday evening kicked off with our traditional Marine Mess Dress. Of course, in the true spirit of STARFLEET Marines, there were the ceremonial obligations that were flawlessly executed. LTCOL Jennifer Peterson was impeccable as she presented the table dedicated to the fallen and missing comrades. The toasting proceeded with all due fanfare and courtesies. Well, needless to say, then the fining and trips to the grog bowl commenced, and that's when all HELL broke loose. If anyone is familiar with Vice Admiral Marian Murphy, then you should know that she is a hard core STARFLEET Ranger to the bone. Well, call it the beverages. Call it the bravado. Call it a mishap of epic proportions, but what happened next is one for the historical annals of STARFLEET. Admiral Murphy raised her glass, testified that she would join the STARFLEET Marines if the Commandant would state that the Rangers were first, and the Rangers were best. The response..."DONE! AND DONE! Welcome to the STARFLEET Marines!" Some would say this never

Region Jeremy Carsten. commenced to recognizing many members across the region for their good works on behalf of Region 3 and STARFLEET International.

After the recognition, all hands were released to have lunch and/or set up for panel discussions. The panels established for this Summit dealt with writing effective award nominations, fan events throughout San Antonio, and how to put together a Summit. This year, the panels were limited and set in order to ensure there would be no competing interests, and it seemed to work effectively. During the panels, table top and casino gaming were in order, and the gaming tables were full for the better part of the day.

The Admiral's Banquet was quite the gala event with great food and awesome company. In addition to the fine dining, the annual award winners were named. USS Zavala NCC-100101 was named Region 3 Chapter of the Year, LCDR Bill Milligan was named Region 3 Officer of the Year, Cadet Staff Sergeant Edward "Eddie" Tunis IV was named Region 3 Junior Member of the Year, and MCPO Steve Sardeson was named Region 3 Enlisted Member of the Year. In recognition of injuries sustained at IC2014, VADM Marian Murphy was recognized by the Third Brigade STARFLEET Marines with the Wounded Lioness Award, which she accepted with a rare grace and dignity. The dinner ended with dancing, revelry, and more gaming at the tables. Once we the hotel closed that down to reclaim their



*Items up for bid at the Summit Auction (photo provided by Major Sarah Hays)*



# Summit Royale (cont)

ballroom, rumors abound of clandestine parties, but that is a story for another time.

Sunday morning concluded with breakfast, a meeting with the Region 3 Staff and the Congress of Commanding Officers, and the closing ceremonies. It seemed that all hands were a bit subdued from the revelry of the night before, but everyone involved parted with smiles on faces, hearty handshakes, and great anticipation for the next gathering.

## After Action Reports

USS Diamondback Reporting Officer CDRM Glenda Stephenson

### USS Diamondback is growing and going strong in Abilene



Although our focus and first love is Star Trek, we have members with a variety of interest. We are fortunate to have Amanda Sasser as a part of our crew. She works at the Abilene Public Library. It has an annual event, Lib-Con, which is a week of superhero and comic book activities leading up to Free Comic Book day and a full day of fun events. She leads in costuming classes and is an expert at costuming.

Amanda won the judges award for her creation of Valka at A-Con in Dallas this year. She was assisted by our own make-up guru Dan Joplin.



There were other craft activities and movies for all of us kids all week. Saturday had fun all day long. We set up a booth and had fun in a variety of costumes. We gave out information on joining Starfleet. Dan Joplin brought a large display of models and props to show off. It's always fun to help out the library any way we can.



*Crew of the USS Diamondback at the Silent Wings Museum*

Several of our members are also involved in a World War II re-enactment group. They were invited to join in the D-Day activities at the Silent Wings Museum in Lubbock, even though they are on the German side. It was a great chance for an away mission. Wayne Morris has a huge collection of German WWII artifacts. He amazed the crowds not only with the collection, but his knowledge of history. I had not been to the museum before and enjoyed it a lot. Several planes flew in for the event. Along with Wayne, Dan Joplin, Larry Pendleton and James Lanham are also part of our Diamondback crew.

The best news I have to share from the USS Diamondback is that our Captain, Clark Trainham, is out of the hospital and finally at home. I want to thank you all for your prayers and concern. Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers; he has a long recovery at home

*Photos provided by CDRM Stephenson*



# ApolloCon

Houston, we have a problem."

And indeed the planners for ApolloCon 2015 had a problem.

ApolloCon was held June 19-21, 2015, at a new hotel for the convention. More space, better floor plan, more amenities, and the more accessible location were great. The one problem they had was how to get con attendees to the hospitality suite that was located on a floor that required keycard access. Not every attendee could be given a keycard. What to do?

The volunteers of the USS Zavala provided the solution.



Back - Rob Hunnicutt, Sarah West and Wendy Weston  
Front - Lucy Franck, Penelope McFadin, and James Kent

"transporter" made the Zavala crew very visible as well as useful since everyone was coming and going all weekend.

We had fun seeing everyone and providing this necessary service (which gave us a lot of good PR too). Attendees at the con's feedback session gave glowing praise to the Zavala for its service. Instead of having manpower (and womanpower

of course) at a table/booth all weekend, the Zavala elected to have a "static display" to free up members for this volunteer effort.

Members of the Zavala became the con's "Transporter Crew" for the weekend. Zavala members were stationed at the designated elevator throughout the days and nights of the con to keycard, or "beam

up," the badged attendees to the hospitality suite's floor. A schedule of Zavala



Your friendly transporter team Luther Todd and Wendy Weston ready to assist!

volunteers made sure that the elevator, I mean "transporter," beamed over 400 attendees to the con suite any time it was open during the weekend. Con planners

had special t-shirts made for the Transporter Crew so everyone could easily identify who had the necessary keycards. Being positioned at the

Mission accomplished!



Photos provided by Vice Admiral Ferron Franck



# The Scurvy Dogs land in Occupied France 1944



troops in World War II. The event was a fundraiser for the local Veterans' homes in Jackson and Reserve, LA.

The actual event spanned two days – the first being a USO show modeled off of the shows that entertained our troops in the canteens of the 1940's. Guests were able to hear the sounds of the big bands, Abbott & Costello comedy bits, and of course "cutting a rug" on the dance floor.

The next day at Sydney Hutchinson Park there were full military encampments as well as firing demonstrations and show battles. Some of the 327th Cadets participated in a boot camp obstacle course for the kids, run by the local US Naval Sea Cadets. While the adults

The marines of the 327th MSG found themselves in a familiar yet at the same time a strange location. People spoke English, French and German around them. Several of the people were in archaic uniforms dating from the mid twenty



attended an interactive "Victory Garden" demonstration, a scrap drive competition, and other activities showing what life was like on the home front during WWII in addition to the military demonstrations.

Several reenactor groups were involved such as "Fox Company, 7th Regiment, 3rd Division Reenacted", Easy Co, 8th Regiment, 4th Division Reenactment Association" plus German reenactors like "Schnellen Truppen" and Stabs Kompane". The World War II Museum in New Orleans donated a US M3 37mm anti-tank gun, German 75mm infantry support gun and a WC 54 Ambulance for the event.



century, the time period known as World War II. Soon it was discovered they were in the South of France, August 1944, moments before Operation Dragoon, an overshadowed operation that took place after Operation Overlord. The 327th knew they couldn't change history but they could observe and learn.

The event concluded with a mock attack on the Town of Brignoles. The American forces along with the Free French Army, supported with jeeps sprinted into the town successfully capturing or killing most of the German defenders.

The 327th is looking "traveling back in time" again next year.

It was actually April 2015 at the William W. Perkins WWII Weekend in Walker, LA. It was an immersive living history event that provided the public the ability to see what life was like for the

*Photos provided by MGEN Edward Tunis III*



# NOLA TimeFest

The Airport Hilton located in Kenner, LA was once again the activity for some science fiction antics by the various fan groups in area. NOLA Time Fest now in its third year was the brainchild of Paul Patachek from Krewe Du Who and Lewis D'Aubin of the



Consortium of Genius, a small, two-day convention it has been growing since it started three years ago.

This was the second year for the USS NEW ORLEANS and the first for new launched USS SELENE which came in as a last minute fan guest complete with information table. During the two days of the convention both Chapters contributed to the event.

Both Chapters added to the programming with the



*CMDR Andrew McDonald (XO) and CMDR Brandon Case (CO) representing USS Selene at Timefest*

following panels:

The USS NEW ORLEANS first did "Star Trek: Forever" a panel about time travel in various franchises. The second panel was the popular "Star Trek: To Infinity and Beyond!" which addressed the evolution of fan fiction of Star Trek which started with fanzines and is now cinema quality productions. The third and final panel was called "The Other Doctor" which started off as a "Back to Future" homage but quickly because about the alternate sources of Time Travel in modern science-fiction works.

The USS SELENE had one of the last panels of the day, "1,001 Ways How a Redshirt Can Die."

The panel was attended for the Shakedown Chapter's first time out. Even as it was one of the final bits of programming, the USS SELENE was able to entertain until the very end.

Both Chapters were able to make an impression on the fans that were there and were able to get a number of renewals and new members to sign-on.

Overall the weekend went really well and both the USS NEW ORLEANS and USS SELENE look forward to returning next year



*FCAPT Randolph Allen stationed at the USS New Orleans Recruiting table  
photo by Virginia Toll*

# Role-Play Adventures

USS Artemis Reporting Officer CAPT Jeremy Mays

## Every Chapter Has a Story

Those of you subscribed to the Region 3 Mailing List have probably seen some “Mission Recaps” coming from me regarding the Artemis’ role play scenarios. I’ve had several people ask me how we do what we do so I figured this was the best place to get nice and wordy and let you know the how’s and the what’s that go on for our games.

First, let me apologize in advance because I’m going to channel my inner Voyager’s Emergency Medical Hologram and go into a long-winded tale of history because it will help set the stage for you.

From the moment I started rounding up friends to start this Chapter two years ago I knew that I wanted to have a separation between the Chapter Artemis (the group of people) and the Fictional Artemis (the ship, the ranks, etcetera). In my previous experiences with large fan groups I’ve learned that sometimes people tend to blur the two together, and that’s something I wanted to avoid. This way we can hang out as a group and have movie nights or play board games or do charity work and there’s no “rank” or “title” involved. We hand out rank pips in ways similar to “merit badges” in the Scouts. It also helps us reward the members who have done the most for the Chapter, or for Starfleet as a whole.

This way ranks only matter at the gaming table. The ones who have done the most for the chapter called Artemis get to use that experience for the fictional representation of the Artemis.

So how do we play? Well first the problem was finding a Star Trek role playing game that was actually worth trying out. Sadly we quickly learned that all of the Star Trek tabletop RPGs... well... they kinda suck. They tend to stress the “perfect Utopian society of the United Federation

of Planets”. Everyone got along perfectly and everything was geared toward spreading that good will around the galaxy. And while that’s a great model to strive for (and hopefully something we all, as members of SFI, try to emulate) it makes for some boring story telling. I mean, look at the first two seasons of Next Generation...

Oddly enough, we found that the Star Wars: Edge of the Empire game mechanic was the best. Instead of the “Pass or Fail, Crit or Botch” that you get from most tabletop games, the dice mechanic in SW:EotE allows for more fluid story telling (and keeps the game master on his toes). It also allows for personal conflicts (both internally and also between characters).

We spent several months adapting the game to allow for Star Trek to fit into a Star Wars mechanic which required creating our own Racial Abilities (from scratch) and also Career Skills (by modifying the ones which already existed).

As far as Racial Abilities, we decided to use the model already set in place by Gene Roddenberry. Each species in Star Trek is supposed to represent different aspects of humanity. So we made “Human” the baseline, and then modified each common race accordingly. For example, Klingons are stronger than Humans so we gave them one extra “Brawn” (but took one point away from “Agility” to compensate). Vulcans are smarter so we gave them an extra “Intellect” but took one away from “Cunning”. Following this model we were able to create baselines for all of the popular species seen in Star Trek lore.

Next, each player selects their Career Path – if they want their background to be in Engineering (heavy “Mechanics”), Science/Operations (heavy into “Computers”), Medical, or Tactical/Security (weapons). Once we put the Racial Abilities and





# Every Chapter (cont)

Career Skills together, everyone gets one extra point to spend on an Ability and two points to spend in their Skills, and then they just have to come up with a name and they're ready to play!

To combine the "Chapter Contributions" with the "Character Abilities" we incorporated the Elite Forces from the Voyager video game series. Chapter members who are active in SFI can join the Elite Forces by taking (and passing) enough Academy Exams to get the Chapter a VRCP Certificate in that field. For helping gain a Chapter-wide certificate, that member's character then has access to a specialized career "talent tree" and the ability to use specialized equipment. The more they play the more experience points they gain to spend on specialized, unique skills to further customize their character. We've also started using this as a recruitment tool because only members of STARFLEET have access to the Academy.

From there, I recommend acquiring a gaming mat with hexes and not squares. Movement around the board is more fluid with hexes, and using the wide beam setting on phaser rifles just makes more sense. Also (just from my own painful experience) I highly recommend getting the Crayola washable markers to draw on the mat. Dry erase markers do NOT clean easily, and all the Crayola ones need is a wet paper towel.

The next thing that we've started to do is tie in "Game Master Mode" from our Chapter's namesake – Artemis Bridge Simulator. This is actually a bigger challenge than we originally wanted it to be. Sadly the mission creator is not as robust as we'd hoped, so things have to be set up in a pretty linear fashion. We use the "TNG Mod" so that we're seeing Klingons and Romulans and Borg on the screen and our Engineer has an actual model of our ship. It helps tremendously with getting into the mood.

I recommend having someone who will not be playing the game write the scripting and have access to the system as a Game Master in case something goes wonky during the campaign. You usually don't want to have someone with a bridge station who already knows what's coming up. I also recommend asking the people playing to stay "in character" – if they're a Vulcan at the Helm, you don't want them going into Freak-Out-Mode because it breaks immersion.

When we have really big stories where we have everyone taking part in the RP, we'll split up the group. Some will stay on the bridge while others will be the "away team" who go to the table. This obviously requires two different Game Masters and a lot of coordination (so we try to not use this very often). However it is fun to have the ship in orbit getting shot at and the away team asking for an emergency beam out and the ship has to say "We have shields up so we can't transport. You'll have to stand your ground for a little bit longer".

As far as where we exist in the time line, we're in 2381, immediately after the events of the Destiny novel series (and well after Voyager and Nemesis). This puts us in the soft canon part of Star Trek lore so we have a bit more flexibility and freedom with our story telling and don't have to worry about stepping on the toes of established events.

My final suggestion is to write a "basic" idea of what you want your story to do, but know that it will always be in flux. No matter how great of a Game Master you may be and no matter how "fool proof" you make your story, the people playing will almost always come up with some creative solution that you never would have considered. So always give yourself a couple of weeks after every gaming campaign so that you can take "what happened in the past" and figure how you're going to incorporate that into "what you want to happen in the future". Did someone kill when they were ordered to stun? What are the repercussions of that? Did something horrible happen to someone that may traumatize them for a while? Try to add these things (and other crew members' reactions) into the next story.

If any Chapters want to start up their own tabletop role play campaign, I've got tons of paperwork that we've written up and I'm more than willing to share it with you all. We've created weapon specifications and abilities for the Type II and Type IIIb (rifle) phasers, as well as Compression Rifles and the TR-116 sniper rifle (and some melee weapons – and yes Klingons get a melee damage bonus with a bat'leth). I'll gladly work with any Chapter Game Masters to get you up and running.

# Region 3 Staff

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***Next Fleet Channels Deadline is October 7, 2015***  
***Please submit all articles & photos to comm@Region3.org***

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