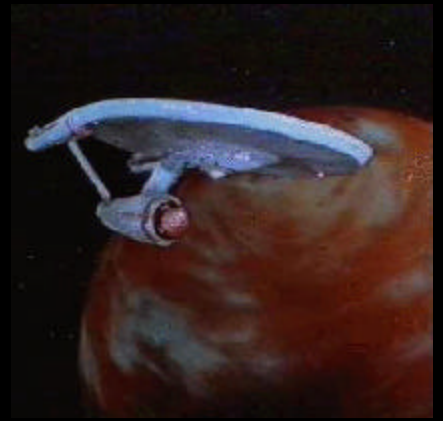


REGION 2 1996 NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

SUBSPACE STATIC

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION



CELEBRATING
THIRTY
YEARS OF
STAR TREK



CELEBRATING
TWENTY
YEARS OF
STAR WARS



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Celebrating thirty years of boldly going where no one has gone before.

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"Same great newsletter! Now with twice the fiber and half the fat of other leading newsletters. Try it today!"

Editor: Richard L. Trulson
Assistant Editor: Jim Dykes

Subspace Static
Special Anniversary Edition
Volume 5, Issue 1

"It's finally here," issue or "My God, it's huge!"

Bonus reaction: "Oooooooo, ahhhhh, pretty."

Subspace Static (SS) is the quarterly newsletter of the U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* (WVB). All opinions expressed herein are those of the author only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, other contributors, WVB, WVB members, STARFLEET, or STARFLEET members. Hey, it was difficult enough to just getting this thing to print, so don't make it any harder than it already is. See the inside back cover for more fine print information about SS, WVB, STARFLEET and the UFO.

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THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION

And if you believe that...

OK, here's where I try to explain why this newsletter was so late. The information in here was so top secret and important, that I had to wait for the contents to be declassified by the Warren Commission. Um, don't buy that? How about every time I went to write, I'd wake up 6 hours later with a strange feeling that I had been abducted from my home by aliens? Not that either? I must be slipping. Let me try to explain.

I am first and foremost your Commanding Officer. Anything relating to that is my highest priority. Whether it be making sure our monthly reports are filed, or helping a member with a problem, being a CO is my main focus. Granted, Article III, Section 2, Part A5 states that one of the duties of the CO is to take care of the responsibilities of other Command Officers in their absence. Of course, I can appoint someone to do that, but very few people have the technical skills and resources to produce a newsletter. Therefore, I am the prime candidate to do that since I was once Communications Chief. However, I will not let the responsibilities of doing the Comm. Chief duties detract from those as CO. That's why you haven't gotten a newsletter in so long.

Of course, there's also the fact that I procrastinate horribly. Take a look at this

issue. Probably 75% of it I wrote. If you think you have problems coming up with a DC report or a review, then try writing the amount I do. Sure, I have a vaster amount of material to draw from, but there's still the initial urge and desire to actually write, which sometimes just doesn't occur. And when that happens, nothing I can do will put me in the mood to write.

And as a result, the newsletter got postponed when I became super busy with *Star Trek 30: One Weekend on Earth*, among other things. What was to be the Summer issue in August highlighting the celebration, became the Fall issue. However, then I became busy with *Star Trek: First Contact* activities, among other things. What was to be the Fall issue in December highlighting the upcoming STARFLEET election, became the Spring issue in March. This time I got busy handling the XO selection, Region 2 activities, and making sure Fleet doesn't decommission us because all our members got scattered about due to the Fleet database getting scrambled in multiple transfers. ::sigh:: So here we are approaching May.

Articles that were announcing upcoming events got rewritten into reviews of those events. Some of the old news, like candidate information that is completely useless, was scrapped completely. Some

of the stuff that's old, but still somewhat useful, was kept like the *Trek 30* and *First Contact* reviews. Those articles are still relevant, though the urgency is somewhat less. Some of the departmental reports are equally out of date, but I kept those to show that at least the Chiefs were reporting in. (Thanks for small miracles!) However, tons of up to date, useful, new information has been included as well. There are movie and TV episode guides compiled just this past week. There are additions and corrections to existing articles as information in them changed.

Unfortunately, I can hear some of you complaining about not getting what you paid for. Technically speaking, you're getting MORE than what you paid for. Here's why: I have an unspoken, unwritten promise to the ship that each issue of my newsletter will be at least 12 digest size pages, which equates to three 8.5"x11" sheets of paper folded in half. However, I usually manage at least 16 digest pages, or four sheets. Therefore, since you are missing the Summer and Fall issue of 1996, and the Spring issue of 1997, you would have gotten at least 36 digest pages, or maybe even as many as 48 pages, which equals 12 sheets. This newsletter is 68 pages, which is 29 full size 8.5"x11" sheets of

**Continued: See
Explanation on page 8...**

COMMANDING OFFICER



The best laid plans...

One of the advantages of doing the newsletter while also being the CO is that I can change my report easily and at the last minute. In fact, this report has changed several times since it was first written. Originally, it focused on our participation in *Star Trek 30* and the International Conference. But as you know, the newsletter got delayed because I was so busy with those things. So I did a rewrite and focused on STARFLEET's election, encouraging everyone to vote on the Commander, STARFLEET candidate they felt would best serve this organization. Again, somewhere in the hustle and bustle of my daily life, the newsletter got shelved. So again, I had to do a rewrite because half of what I said would have wasted paper if I had kept it. And I felt you deserved to hear the latest information. See the introduction on page 3 for more details.

Now, on with my report. 1996 was my rookie year as a CO. I'll admit I and the ship fell short of some goals and ideas that I thought we could accomplish. On the other hand, I feel we stopped the downward spiral we were in. While membership isn't climbing as fast it should, it has at least remained steady. Our finances have been steady as well. In fact, I've included the 1996 financial audit prepared by Dallas elsewhere in this issue.

Again this year my focus will be on membership. Theoretically, from *Star Trek 30* and *First Contact*, our numbers should have shot through the roof. They haven't. I know our table at *Trek 30* never materialized thanks to the Phaeton Guinn cutting off support to us at the last minute. That upset me greatly. And I know we did not get to set up at the more popular theater for *First Contact*, but still, we got two pages of people who indicated they were interested in joining. Where are they? I'm at a loss as to why our numbers haven't increased dramatically and I'd appreciate your input. Is there enough interest in us? Is it the problems with STARFLEET at the national level? Is it internal disagreements? Are we not doing enough? Are we not doing the right things? What?

I'm asking each of you to go out and recruit at least one new member. At the very least, bring them to our meetings or social activities. We've had several show up at meetings once or twice, but they haven't been sticking around or joining. I realize finances are a problem for some, but certainly not this widespread. If money prevents them from joining both the ship and STARFLEET, convince them to join STARFLEET first. (New addresses and contact information are available elsewhere in this issue.) We can make up the loss in ship funds

through fund-raisers. Try getting involved with new members and befriending them, as that will help retain them and encourage others to join in as well.

And another problem has recently been brought to my attention: Our Fleet numbers have fallen below the ten required for us to remain an active chapter in STARFLEET. After investigating this further, I've discovered that about 80% of our members are listed with Fleet as being Associate members unassigned to any chapter, or as having expired. Therefore, when you renew or join, make sure you mark the active member box on the application and write down our ship name and NCC # (*Wernher von Braun*, NCC 72609) in the box.

Again, membership participation is still a problem. Why? Is it the activities we choose? Is it the cost or the timing? Is it personal dislikes? I've been informed that some think that there is a clique on this ship. I hate this has occurred. While I'm sure people will naturally group together around those they enjoy being around, a clique is not a good thing. We are one group of *Star Trek* fans; we should all be equal friends. I admit I get busy during a meeting and can't always chat with everyone on a one-to-one basis, but my door and phone are always open and available. If you can't make it

to one of our events, then please suggest a time and activity that is more appropriate to you. And if we can't schedule something, I'd be more than happy to meet with you individually.

Another goal for this year will be finalizing of our handbook and miscellaneous membership extras. Last year brought about a vote on our By-Laws. This year I want to establish firm promotion policies as well. (See elsewhere in this issue for discussion on promotions.) Once these two are finished, we can create a handbook to be issued to members so they can know how the chapter operates and what goes on. I'd also like to get us some name tags and T-shirts made. Is there any other way that I can make joining our ship worthwhile to you?

I've think I've already made some strides in that respect though. People receive Commendations of Excellence for their performance of duties. Also, the *Mission Briefings* have been arriving on time, except for one small snag near the end of last year. The *Subspace Static* has faltered at times in punctuality, but I think the information contained within though has been of great value and a general joy to read. Plus, it won Region 2's Newsletter of the Year award. So, as you can see, my track record has been good in some areas, and needs improvement in others.

The first planning meeting this year was a whopper. We had lots of ground to

cover as it was to set the tone for this year's objectives and activities. Some of this report came out of that planning meeting. I encourage all of you to participate in future planning meetings so your ideas and opinions can be heard. Those meetings allow us to have more fun at the general meetings and not dwell on all the boring details.

One of the things that came out of the meeting is that I will be keeping a tighter reign on ship's finances. No one is to ever incur a debt on our behalf without getting approval vote of the Command Staff first. Secondly, my signature must be on every check we write. All financial transactions must be logged so we can have double checks on all money that goes through the ship. Furthermore, I will keep you informed on our financial status at every meeting and in the newsletter. I'm instigating stricter financial management because I hope that our income and fundraising efforts will be much larger this year. I fully expect use to deal with over \$300 this year. And I am ultimately responsible for that money regardless of who handles it. You deserve to have financial accountability on the local level just as much as the national level.

Another goal for this year is more community service. We've established ourselves quite well at Panoply and conventions for doing security. I'd like to try and branch out into other areas as well since there's more to community



service than just con security. Of course, monetary donations are great, but we have to do a lot more fund raisers for that. We could perhaps do some educational projects with local schools, or start a recycling program. (That could possibly bring us money too.)

In some personal news, I was promoted to Fleet Captain on November 16, 1996 by Jim Herring in the EC-396 vote. I, along with several other people throughout Fleet including Carol Burhans of the *Dark Silence* in Decatur and Isaac Turner of the *Yamato* in Birmingham, were promoted. Normally, this would a very exciting event. However, I feel this was done in an attempt to soothe relations with Fleet due to the actions of the McGinnis administration and not because we had earned it. While refusing a rank is possible, the process is unknown and probably more trouble than it's worth. Therefore, I will be doing everything I can to earn the rank I've been given. Then here recently, I was awarded a Regional Commendation at the Region 2 Summit in March. Me and Pete Mohny of the *Hephaestus* in Birmingham

Continued: See Command on bottom of page 67...

SECURITY

All is well.

Nothing to report except possible trek-convention in December and internal security at Con*Stellation. A small task force will be used at Con*stellation consisting of me, John Colley, and new comer Sean Fitzgerald. Have a happy Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas! That is all!

- CAPT Dustin Williams

Accolades, he's got accolades!

Everyone needs to congratulate Dustin on a very successful year in 1996. I've been trying since April to get the paperwork through to HQ for Dustin's promotion. Well, after Dan left office and then waiting for the a new Commander, STARFLEER to get elected, I resubmitted the paperwork. This time, I succeeded in convincing Regional and STARFLEET brass that Dustin deserved a promotion to Captain. The stage was set for him to be presented the promotion at the Region 2 Summit. Imagine my horror when I learned he may not be going due to lack of funds. Well, we couldn't have that, so alternative means were made to get him to the Summit.

At the awards banquet Saturday night, Commander Dustin Williams was promoted to Captain by Commander, STARFLEET Mike Smith, who was in attendance. Region 2 Coordinator Kelly Hilliard and the rest of the Regional staff were also in attendance. When Dustin's name was called, he made a calm approach to the stage. However, when Mike barked, "Get up here NOW, Marine!", I think Dustin leapt the reaming 20 feet over the



tables to land at the podium where they stood. I'm not quite sure how he did this, though I think accelerated transporters were used. Fortunately, no one in between was injured.

Then round two of my master plan to humiliate Dustin went into affect. When the nominees for Officer of the Year were read, I watched in amusement as they called out Dustin's name. The look of puzzlement on his face was priceless. The look of sheer shock and astonishment when they read his name as winner of Officer of the Year was even more priceless though. For his continued hard work at Pano-ply, for the holding down of the national Departmental Resource Chief of Security position through administration transitions, for his rebuilding of the Marines in Region 2, and for his tireless work he does with the ship, I had nominated Dustin for the award. It was with great pride that one of my crewmembers actually won because he was up against some very tough competition equally deserving of the award. For winning this, he is eligible for the International Officer of the Year Award that will be given out at the International Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ in August.

Congratulations Captain Dustin on your accomplishments!

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

MEDICAL

Moderation in all things.

This is just a short and moderately sweet note about the holiday season and the assorted problems that can 'crop' up due to immoderate overstuffing of the digestive tract and then also excessive indulgence in the fruit of the vine.

In closing- Happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and a SAFE and enjoyable happy new year!

- CMDR Ralph Brigham



OPERATIONS

Staying, helping, watching, partying, and surfing.

Well here it goes. It looks like I may be staying on with the ship. Although I'm still working on getting a KLAW chapter started in Athens, I will continue on as the Operations Officer for the *Wernher von Braun*. There was a suggestion made at the September meeting that the Athen's KLAW chapter come aboard the *von Braun*. We are giving this some serious thought. It does open up whole new avenues for ideas.

To the best of my knowledge we are still sitting at a balance of \$90 in the checking account. I know I haven't signed any checks recently, and I have the check book. So we should still be sitting fairly well on our checking account, not that I'll be able to say the same thing after the *Trek 30* celebration.

We are starting to get in some new members finally, and hopefully after the *Trek 30* event we will get a lot more new members. I have already contacted one interested person that lives over here in Athens. She is going to try her best to make it to the next meeting.

I would like to say thank you to Rebecca Self, Dustin Williams, and Kevin Carney for helping out at the 1996 Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Speaking of Kevin Carney, I would like to take this time to welcome him aboard.

He has recently transferred over from the Shuttle *Alabama*, and was promptly appointed ADC of Ops. (So I shanghaied one of CMDR Flannagans crew, I needed him more than she did).

November saw the release of the 8th *Star Trek* movie: '*First Contact*'. As has been our tradition, we went down and worked the premier of the movie. This year we were at Madison Square 12 with our recruiting table. Comic Corner was also gracious enough to donate several boxes of comics for us to give away as well as a display case for us to display *Trek* memorabilia. We got plenty of signatures and handed out many fliers. I think the high point of our display was CMO Ralph Brigham's working tri-corder that we had on display Friday night. I would like to thank Dustin Williams, John Collie, Ralph Brigham, and Richard Trulson for coming out and helping us make a good showing for this premier.

As for the movie itself, I, for one, enjoyed it, and in my humble opinion, was the best movie to-date. Even though the in-jokes and YATI's were abundant, it was still the best films to-date.

In October we had our annual Halloween party, although the only people to show up were Richard Trulson, Dustin Williams, and John Collie. This was a very disap-



pointing party, especially after all the work that went into preparing for it.

The following weekend John Collie, Dustin Williams, Richard Trulson and myself made a trek to Birmingham to spend the evening with the USS *Hephaestus* and her crew for their Halloween party. We had a real fun time getting together with Fleet Captain Mohny and his crew, and look forward to many more joint activities with them.

As for what we will be doing in December, your guess is as good as mine. It is too late to get into the Athens Christmas Parade, and we have yet to hear anything from WAAY about theirs. As for a ship's holiday party goes We'll just have to see. We will discuss the possibilities of one at the monthly meeting.

In this day and age of political correctness I can't wish everyone a Merry Christmas



Where's the boy wonder when you need him? I just like this image and needed something to balance the page, so enjoy this image from the new movie, Batman and Robin.

without upsetting the Jews. I can't say Happy Hanukkah without upsetting the Christians, and I can't say either without upsetting the Pagans, Agnostics or others. Let's face it, it seems like no matter what you say you're going to offend someone. So in hopes of not offending anyone and staying politically correct: Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings from Operations. There, I don't think you can get much more generic than that. :)

Anyways... That's right, it's the holiday season again, where has the year gone? 1996 seemed to go by at warp speed. All-in-all though, I think it was a pretty good year. We had many new members join us, and had the release of the 8th *Star Trek* movie. This December also marks our 3rd anniversary. That's right folks, it was December 1993 the we were launched. Believe me, it feels like a LOT longer than three years.

Unfortunately, this year also marked the passing of another one of the Living Legends: Mark Lenard passed away from cancer. He will be sorrowfully missed by all. So we now bid goodbye to Sarek of Vulcan.

Well, now that I have a new job, I should be able to get all my paperwork and reports done now as I have plenty of time sitting behind a desk on weekends and I have to do SOMETHING to keep me awake. :)

...Explanation continued from page 3.

paper. You're getting over TWICE as much information than you normally would.

Combine that with a full color cover, and you have a very nice newsletter that would be a magazine equal to almost two *Communiqués* or other regular magazine such as *Time*. I decided to play with the format a little with this issue and make it a commemorative anniversary edition celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of *Star Trek* in 1996 and the twentieth anniversary of *Star Wars* in 1997. That way, hopefully all the extra information, the color cover, and the anniversary information would make up for the missed timeliness of the normal three issues. If that doesn't please you, what will?

After all, this newsletter is an award winning newsletter. We received an Honorable Mention in the 1995 International Newsletter of the Year Competition. And then at the Region 2 Summit, I was

shocked to hear *Subspace Static* announced as the winner of Region 2's Newsletter of the Year Competition. I knew we had a chance at a finalist placing, but I had no idea we would actually WIN the most highly contested award given. We were up against eight other very deserving newsletters. This win also allows us to participate in the 1996 international competition.

Anyway, I hope you're as pleased with the outcome as I am. I wanted this to be something special that you would be proud to have. I know I am. Hopefully, future issues will be more on schedule. I have an Assistant Department Chief now, so hopefully Jim can help me get things back on track. And maybe, just maybe, I can convince him to take over once he sees what a regular issue is like. Till then, welcome him aboard.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson.

Just thought you all might like to know that our web site is now a member of the United Federation of *Trek* Sites. What this basically means is that there is now a control panel on our main page that will allow you to jump directly from our web site to other *Trek* related sites that are part of this Web Ring. No more using a search engine to try and find other *Trek* related sites and coming up with a lot of useless sites. We are site number 171, so there are plenty of sites for you to visit that are *Trek* related where you can get images, sounds and even video footage. I hope that you all will take advantage of this new feature. As always, the site continues to grow and improve. Be sure to check the site often for information at http://fly.HiWAAAY.net/~dwvinson/web_solu/USS_von_Braun/
- CMDR Dallas Vinson

1996 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Note: Entries marked with a * are missing receipts.

January:		July:	
Start Balance:	\$64.78	Starting Balance:	\$42.39
Deposits:	\$0	Deposits:	\$48.00
Checks:		Checks:	\$0
#1109: Postmaster	\$32.00	Ending Balance:	\$90.39
(Survey Postage) *		August:	
Ending Balance:	\$32.78	Starting Balance:	\$90.39
February:		Deposits:	\$0
Starting Balance:	\$32.78	Checks:	\$0
Deposits:	\$0	Ending Balance:	\$90.39
Checks:		September:	
#1110: Postmaster	\$6.00	Starting Balance:	\$90.39
(MB Postage) *		Deposits:	\$0
Ending Balance:	\$26.78	Checks:	\$0
March:		Ending Balance:	\$90.39
Starting Balance:	\$26.78	October:	
Deposits: *	\$49.00	Starting Balance:	\$90.39
Checks:		Deposits:	\$30.00
#1108: STARFLEET	\$12.00	Checks:	
(Chapter Charter Fee)		#1113: Jim Dykes	\$10.00
#1111: Postmaster	\$20.80	(Change for Membership Dues) *	
(MB Postage)		#1116: Dominos	\$16.99
Ending Balance:	\$42.98	(Operations Dept. Meeting) *	
April:		#1117: Wal-Mart	\$16.48
Starting Balance:	\$42.98	(Halloween Party Snacks)	
Deposits:	\$20.00	Ending Balance:	\$76.92
Checks:		November:	
#1112: Kinko's	\$40.59	Starting Balance:	\$76.92
(Brochure Copying)		Deposits:	\$0
Ending Balance:	\$22.39	Checks:	
May:		#1114: Postmaster	\$16.00
Starting Balance:	\$22.39	(MB Postage) *	
Deposits:	\$20.00	#1115: Kinko's	\$32.70
Checks:	\$0	(Brochures for <i>First Contact</i>)	
Ending Balance:	\$42.39	Ending Balance:	\$28.22
June:		December:	
Starting Balance:	\$42.39	Starting Balance:	\$28.22
Deposits:	\$0	Deposits:	\$0
Checks:	\$0	Checks:	\$0
Ending Balance:	\$42.39	Ending Balance:	\$28.22

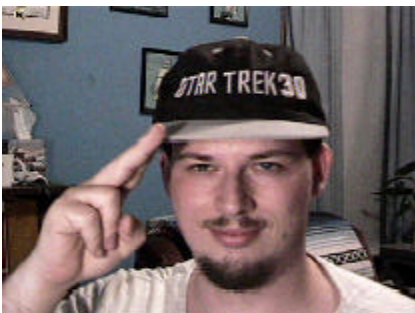
COMMUNICATIONS



How to write reviews.

In a previous issue, my report detailed how to write a report. This was done in hopes that it would help other departments chiefs write their reports for the newsletter. However, if voluntary submissions are any indication, it did not. I STILL have to be beat department chiefs over the head to submit something. Even with the newsletter being this late, submissions aren't what I'd like for them to be. Anyway, in this issue, I'm going to tell you how to write a review. Since this applies to everyone, hopefully, I will get more submissions from the general membership.

First of all, what exactly is a review? It can be any number of things, but it is simply a retelling or summarization of your experience with something. You can write a review on any number of things or events. You can review a movie you went to and be critic for your peers, you can tell what you did at a convention, you can report on a significant achievement, or you can even review a book that you have read. The possibilities of what can be reviewed are endless.



You can take two approaches to a review. You can simply deliver the facts as they happened or you can give a personal critique of the event. Let me illustrate the difference between the two. A factual account would say that *Star Trek: First Contact* premiered last November earning millions of dollars in ticket sales. A critique would say that *First Contact* had a thrilling plot and is the best *Trek* movie to date. The first is objective and impartial while the second is subjective and personal. Neither of the two are any better or any worse than the other. However, personal critiques are open for debate. I usually combine both methods in my reviews, providing the facts and then giving my opinions on them.

All reviews should share common traits. This is where the factual aspect usually resides. You should always tell the who, what, when, where, why, and how of your event. Or, if it's a review of a book or movie, given details on the characters, actors, and plot. Providing this basic information will orient your readers on what's going on. Not only that, but it will give your review credibility that you know what you're talking about as opposed to just rambling on. (Sorta like I am now. ::grin::) Don't be afraid to be elaborate on the details, as those are what give your review depth.

Various methods of rating reviews exist. You can use something as simple as you either liked or didn't like, or something as complicated as a scale from one to ten. Just make sure you label which is the good end of the scale. If you don't rate on the overall effect, you can rate particular aspects. For example, a convention can have an overall good or bad rating, but maybe a bad con excelled in a particular area, such as variety. Therefore, you can give a greater understanding of something by rating the parts, the whole, or both. Again, no one method is better than the other, just use the method you like the best.

Don't forget to tell your readers if you liked it and enjoyed yourself. Would you go back again? Why or why not? Was there one deciding factor or was it lots of little things that added up? Would you recommend your friends go to this event or activity? Would your opinion change if you were to add some minor qualifiers, such as "Not if they are appearing," or "If they do this..."?

Also try comparing the event or item with others like it. For example, everyone loves to compare the various *Trek* incarnations with each other: Who's the better Captain or which is the best designed ship? Is it a sequel? Have you attended others like it before? Did it improve or go down in

quality? What changes were made from the previous one? Did it stand on it's own or does it need the know the previous incarnations to know what's going on? Making these comparisons will also help foster familiarity with your readers and give them a measuring stick for reference.

Age considerations are also important. Let your readers know who the target audience is. Will children be allowed or should only adults with a risqué taste go? Were the expectations of the target audience met, or did they fall far short of their goals. Was it entertainment appropriate to who they intended to attend?

Finally, do your review as soon after the event as possible, so you will have all your information fresh in your memory. Once you get that down, then go back and review your own writing a few days or weeks later. Did your opinion change after a period of reflection and cool down? Are the issues that seemed important then as important later? This will also allow you to gather additional follow-up information that you may not have had during the event, such as attendance figures and so forth.

It's fine to talk in generalities on everything; however, having a concrete example to go by will help even more. Therefore, the next few paragraphs will cover specific reviews.

Let's start off our review of reviews with movies. Everyone goes to and enjoys them.

However, occasionally you may be indecisive on a particular movie. Reading a review may help persuade you. Writing one isn't that difficult. Perhaps the best thing to do with movies is to give a brief plot summary. However, be careful not to give away the cliff hanger ending or other crucial points as that may cause people to be upset with you. Therefore, your plot summary should tease at what's happening but not give it away entirely. Also, consider providing actor and character relations as in who portrayed who and what the relationship between the characters are. You can go even further behind the scenes by mentioning the production crew and so forth. Was it an action-packed thrill ride or was it a three hanky, tear-jerker? Individual episodes and TV specials would also have the same reviewing methodology.

Books are very similar to movies. Provide the same information with them as you would the movie. You might also include information on if it was easy to read. Was it technical in nature with many hard to understand and custom words and phrases, or was it written in such a way that everyone could follow along easily? On the

opposite extreme, did it use every cliché available with stereotypical, one-dimensional characters? If it was a "can't put the book down until I read the entire thing straight through", tell us so we will be sure to read it as well. However, if you got bored with just the first chapter, explain that so we can avoid it.



Believe it or not, you can also review games. Explain what genre it falls under, such as action/arcade, role-playing, problem solving, etc. Did you enjoy playing it, or did you get your money back? Is it something you can jump right in and enjoy easily, or do you have to spend hours setting it up and

Continued: See Communications on page 61...

SCIENCES



Meteor showers and adopting a highway.

Greetings fellow crewmembers and stargazers:

Is there ice on the moon? Some NASA scientists seem to think that they have located ice deposits near the south polar region of the moon that is never exposed to any kind of light. Others disagree saying that the current information is inconclusive.

For anyone interested in some stargazing during the month of November, the Leonid Meteor Showers will be an event to watch. The peak for number of meteors will be 30-36 per hour on Sunday, November 17. Unfortunately, the time will be just after sunset, so the view from the Northern Hemisphere may not be too good this year. Next year's showers will not have as good a peak at 12 per hour with some interference from the moon (also to occur on Nov. 17).

The Geminid meteors tend to be bright and yellow. I have no frequency but, the peak will be on the evenings of December 12th into the 13th and December 13th into the 14th with productive viewing around 10 p.m. local time. There will be several nights of showers around these nights with clear viewing unobstructed by the moon, but the 2 nights above will offer the best show. Happy viewing to those stargazers who brave the chill winter air to enjoy the night sky.

Here is the info on the Adopt-a-Mile Program. The DOT will furnish two Adopt-A-Mile recognition signs at each end of the adopted section with the name of the adopting organization displayed. Requirements:

- * Supervision for members of our group under the age of 15 by adults.
- * Attendance of a safety meeting and execution of release forms before participation.
- * Adoption of a section of roadway one or more miles long.
- * Cleanup of adopted section at intervals necessary to keep said section litter-free.
- * Pickup of supplies and traffic signs (to be installed during cleanup) during business hours (this includes trash bags and safety vests). Bags will be left at adopted site for DOT pickup.
- * Return of unused supplies and signs to DOT upon termination of program.
- * Adoption will be for a period of two years.

- SCPO Don Daniel



Observations.

WOW! What a sight!!! That's the best description I can give for the Geminid meteor shower. I went outside and looked forward, not expecting much due to my disappointments with the last few Perseid meteor showings. However, I got the surprise of my life when I was treated to the best display of a meteor shower ever. While I didn't keep an official record, I probably saw at least one meteor per minute. This absolutely floored me given the rarity of Perseids in August. I'd occasionally be treated to three or four per minute. And the colors were be spectacular as well. The best one I saw fell in the east-northeast sky low on the horizon. It streaked straight down with a brilliant yellow at the tail to an burnt orange at the front. Not only was it colorful, but it was huge as well. This one meteor shower made up for all the other crappy Perseid showings that were suppose to be nice but weren't.

On that note, I need to apologize for this information from Don for being to late to be of use to you. Of all the things that got hurt by my newsletter tardiness, this one is it. Not only was this information not given in the newsletter, but I lost it in the hundreds of messages in my e-mailbox, and therefore was unable to send it out. I apologize to Don, and to everyone for that; I'm sorry. I'll do my best not to let this happen again. The same also happened to comet Hale-Bopp. I asked Don to do

an article for it as well, but did not get it finished in time for April. Therefore, I told him to save himself the trouble.

I only saw comet Hale-Bopp once, during early April, but that once will live with me forever. I had just finished mowing the runway, and was taking a short break outside. Since it was dusk, I decided to wait to see the comet. My parents eventually joined me out there and talked. Then it appeared suddenly as a bright star in the north-northwest sky just after sunset. You could see it's tail appear as a pale white streak/smear going up and to the right. This was just with naked eye viewing. I've also heard those with better eyesight claim to see a smaller, fainter, bluish tail. This turned out to be a very enjoyable moment with my family, peering into the sky at the mysterious splendor of space. You can get more Hale-Bopp information at <http://newproducts.jpl.nasa.gov/comet/> on the web, including some beautiful telescope pictures.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 1996 Minutes:

Departmental Reports: Commanding Officer, CAPT Richard L. Trulson

- Creating new Citation Awards. Please sign your name to the citation list, along with the event and date of what you did to earn a citation. They will be awarded at the • Next Meeting.
- Submit an application to Rich by July 1 if you want to be the Department Chief in one of the following departments: Communications does the newsletter, Operations plans and coordinates events, Sciences, Engineering builds props, Marines, Medical needs medical training, and Counselor. DC's need to be a STARFLEET member and preferably have OTS. Responsibilities will include writing a report for each newsletter, and organizing activities and projects for your department.
- Planning meeting was discussed and set for June 2 at 2 PM at Henry Vaughn's house at 159 Dexter Circle in Madison. This will plan activities for the next few months and establish some bylaws among other things.

Executive Officer, CMDR Henry Vaughn:

- Henry Vaughn is the new XO, his address is 159 Dexter Circle, Madison, AL 35758. You can contact him by E-Mail at static@ro.com or by phone at (205) 722-4778. He will serve as Richard's eyes and ears in

Huntsville. Additionally, if you have any problems about Rich, or simply don't feel comfortable coming to him, Henry will be your contact point, and will keep your identity confidential.

Operations, CMDR Dallas Vinson:

- Several memberships are past due. Please pay.

Security:

- Did not go to the opening of Space Shot at US Space and Rocket Center due to sunburn sickness.

Communications, CAPT Richard L. Trulson:

- Why isn't anyone submitting anything for the newsletter? The current issue will be mailed out next week.

Shuttle Alabama, CMDR Bonnie Flanagan:

- Arts and crafts are the second Thursday of the month at 2 PM. They will make things to sell.
- Monthly meeting is the third Sunday at 2 PM at the Decatur Regional Library.
- Mother's Day picnic went well.

Business:

- Movie after the meeting at Madison Square 12 will be *Arrival* at 4:40 PM.
- People decided not to have a potluck dinner this month.
- Fund raising was discussed. We will have a Rummage sale on July 20, at Dallas's house. PLEASE donate something.
- Details on the STARFLEET International Conference were given. Everyone is encouraged

to attend. Richard will be driving out with a van that can hold several easily and comfortably. August 30-September 1 at the Oklahoma City Marriot. We will share rooms so we can split the \$79 room rate. Guests include Keith Birdsong and Jaimie Murray. Package A registration is \$55 for admission, banquet, and T-shirt. Package B is \$45 for Registration and T-shirt. Package C is \$35 for registration only. Prices go up on July 15. Due to travel time, you will need to take off

from school or work on August 30. We'll leave late Thursday and return Monday evening. You need to mail your OWN registration.

- We'll go see *Independence Day* after next month's meeting.
- Shining Star vote was won by Tom Perry for his building of a transporter pad. Other nominees included Anya Funderburk and Bonnie Flanagan for her hard work with the *Alabama* launching. (6-2-4, respectively)
- Next meeting is July 7.

July 7, 1996 Minutes:

Departmental Reports: Commanding Officer, CAPT Richard L. Trulson

- Paper for the Commendations has been received. They will be awarded at the next meeting.
- Debra Story from the *Huntsville Times* is here to interview us concerning the *Star Trek* 30 Celebration. Please take a moment after the meeting so she can interview you.
- John Dodd, candidate for Huntsville Mayor, will give a speech after the meeting.

JANEWAY

Reasons why Captain Janeway is better than the other Captains:

- More hair than all previous *Star Trek* Captains combined.
- Drinks coffee, not that sissy "Earl Grey" stuff.
- Beams down to the planet like real Captains should.
- Mutes the doctor when the doctor gets out of line.
- *Voyager* needs a female Captain, because its Captain must be willing to admit they're lost and pull over for directions.
- Picard likes to talk his way through. Janeway likes to punch her way through.
- Looks better in sleepwear.
- Gives guilt trips that would make a Jewish mother proud.
- Isn't French with an English accent.
- Janeway says "I don't like you!" to enemies instead of trying to convince them to behave better.

- Janeway has a First Officer with a tattoo.
- She doesn't have any pesky Federation Admirals to get in her way.
- Janeway's holo programs create useful things like doctors and lungs. Picard's holodecks create maniacal evil geniuses who yet again take over the ship.
- She doesn't need to straighten her uniform every time she stands.
- Janeway has never worn green tights and frolicked about in Sherwood Forest. However, if she did, she would look absolutely fabulous!
- Kirk looked good in ripped shirts; Picard looked good without a shirt; Janeway would look... no, they can't do that on network television.
- Her engineer does not wear a banana clip over her eyes.
- Slouches in her chair even in critical life-threatening moments.
- Doesn't have a Counselor on board (thank God!).

- Janeway heard the words "boldly go where no man (er, woman) has gone before" and took them to the extreme.
- Picard tells alien cultures, "I hope our two cultures will one day come to a greater understanding." Janeway threatens them with "the deadliest of force".
- Her ship has neat-looking folding warp nacelles.
- Her Conn. officer can use contractions.
- Her first officer has a hallucinogenic device.
- Janeway's Security Chief would never grow a ponytail.
- Maintains an elaborate hairdo that would baffle even Princess Leia.

[*These were received in their original form
chunone@mailman.ghgcorp.com
via the STARFLEET mailing
list. I cut out some of the less
funnier ones for space sake. -
Rich*]

Executive Officer, CMDR Henry Vaughn:

• Searching for diplomas. Operations, CMDR Dallas Vinson:

• Phone list was given to the department heads. Several memberships are past due. \$42.39 is in the account.

Engineering, Acting LTjg Michael Theodoreau:

• Michael Theodoreau is the new DC.

Communications, CAPT Richard L. Trulson:

• Newsletter was held for last minute info. The next deadline for submission is August 1.

Medical, LT Ralph Brigham:

• Ralph Brigham is the new DC. Be careful of heat problems this summer.

Sciences, Acting LTjg Donald Daniel:

• Don Daniel is the new DC. Please join the department.

Shuttle Alabama, CMDR Bonnie Flanagan:

- Arts and crafts are the second Thursday of the month at 2 PM. They will make things to sell.
- Monthly meeting is the third Sunday at 2 PM at the Decatur Regional Library.
- Several new people. Collections for CCC are going good.

Business:

- Movie after the meeting at Madison Square 12 will be *Independence Day*.
- Rummage sale moved to July 27 at Dallas's house. Money will go into ship funds for *Mission Briefing* and *Subspace Static* mailings, membership materials, awards, and other ship expenses.



Bridge scene from First Contact. MSN.

- Details given again for STARFLEET International Conference. (See last month's minutes.) Need to have your share of the costs given to Richard BEFORE we leave.
- By-laws published in the newsletter were discussed. They will be voted upon at the September meeting.
- Discussion of the upcoming *Star Trek: One Weekend* on Earth celebration on September 7 and 8. One interesting note is that Anya Funderburk suggested the 1-888-2-BEAM-UP number. They're going to try to have all of the original series cast members there, along with many from the other series including all four Captains. Events will occur at both the Von Braun Civic Center and the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. They will be needing volunteer work and we will do our best to participate in some fashion.
- Shining Star vote was won by Henry Vaughn for hosting the planning meeting. Anya Funderburk was also nominated for her work with *Star Trek 30*. (Vote was 6 to 4.)

• Calendar of events for the next few months was given. [Cut due to space- Rich]

• Next meeting is August 4. John Dodd then gave his presentation on his plans as mayor if elected. He had a platform based upon bringing high-tech businesses, sites, and attractions into Huntsville, including a high-tech theme park. He wants to win by a landslide so that he can be Mayor in time for *Star Trek 30* because he's a fan.

August 4, 1996 Minutes:

**Departmental Reports:
Commanding Officer, CAPT Richard L. Trulson**

- All the old Commendations of Excellence (formally known as Citations) were presented. If there are any omissions, let Rich know so he can get you an award. They included:
- *Panoply work for 1994*: Henry Vaughn, Ralph Brigham, Dustin Williams, Kit Ramsey, Bonnie Flanagan, Dianne Adams, and Johnnie Peterson

- *Panoply work for 1995:* Henry Vaughn, Dallas Vinson, Ralph Brigham, Dustin Williams, Kit Ramsey, Bonnie Flanagan, Dianne Adams, Larry Adams, and Johnnie Peterson
- *Panoply work for 1996:* Henry Vaughn, Dallas Vinson, Ralph Brigham, John Colley, Dustin Williams, Richard Trulson, Kit Ramsey, and Johnnie Peterson
- *Runway Run work for 1995:* Dustin Williams, Bonnie Flanagan, Dianne Adams, Larry Adams
- *Convention Security for 1994:* Henry Vaughn, Dallas Vinson, Ralph Brigham, Dustin Williams, Kit Ramsey, Bonnie Flanagan, Dianne Adams, Larry Adams, and Johnnie Peterson
- *Convention Security for 1995:* Henry Vaughn, Dallas Vinson, Ralph Brigham, John Colley, Dustin Williams, Kit Ramsey, Bonnie Flanagan, Dianne Adams, Larry Adams, and Johnnie Peterson
- *STARFLEET International Conference for 1993 and 1994:* Kit Ramsey
- *STARFLEET International Conference for 1995:* Henry Vaughn, Dallas Vinson, Dustin Williams, Bonnie Flanagan, Richard Trulson, Dianne Adams, and Larry Adams
- *Books-A-Million Star Trek Day work:* Dustin Williams, Anya Funderburk, John Colley, Richard Trulson, Michael Theodoreau, and Laura Peterson
- *Madison Square Mall Community Days work:* Henry Vaughn, Dustin Williams, Kit Ramsey, Richard Trulson,

Bonnie Flanagan, Dianne Adams, Larry Adams, and Laura Peterson

Executive Officer, CMDR Henry Vaughn:

- New phone number is 895-9650 and address is 691 Gouch LN, Madison, AL, 35758.

Operations, CMDR Dallas Vinson:

- Director of the Federation Studies in STARFLEET Academy has resigned. KLAW has finally responded.

Communications, CAPT Richard L. Trulson:

- Submissions are due now. Memory problems with Richard's printer have delayed *Subspace Static* until next month.

Sciences, Acting LTjg Donald Daniel:

- Donated a table top book display to ship stores. It contains a blinking light display.

Shuttle Alabama, CMDR Bonnie Flanagan:

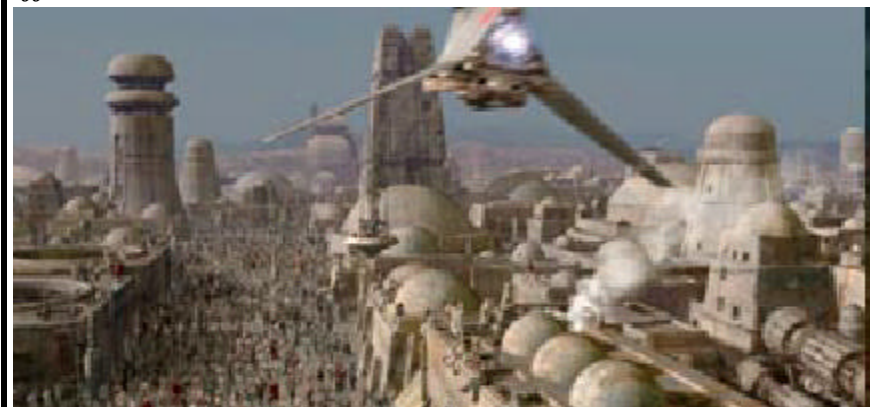
- Arts and crafts are the second Thursday of the month at 2 PM. They will make things to sell.
- Monthly meeting is the third Sunday at 2 PM at the Decatur Regional Library.

- Banner has been ordered and will be ready by IC. Got new names tags and are working on by-laws.

Business:

- Runway Run at the Huntsville International Airport is Saturday, August 10. They need volunteer helpers at the finish line at 6:30 PM, traffic control at 3 PM, and aid stations at 3 and 6 PM. Please sign up. You get a free T-shirt and refreshments from them, along with promotion points from us.
- Madison Square Mall Costume contest is August 17 starting at 11 AM at the Center Court. We will try to have a recruiting table there and will need your help too.
- We discussed having a special planning meeting on August 25, but that was canceled since it seems most everyone but Richard will be here for the September meeting. Henry will be in charge of that one.
- UAH organizational fair is tentatively scheduled for August 28.

One of three celebration scenes added to the end of Return of the Jedi. This is over Mos Eisley spaceport. Image courtesy of the official Star Wars web site.



- Final list and plans made for STARFLEET International Conference, which is turning out to be more of leadership conference than a regular con with stars.
- By-laws published in the newsletter were discussed. They will be voted upon at the September meeting.
- Please distribute the flyers and posters for *Star Trek*: One Weekend on Earth celebration. Make sure you ask business owners first for permission! A sign-up sheet was passed around for people to indicate what times they could work. Volunteers will get a T-shirt, name badge, possible day pass to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, and possibly a small pass to the *Trek* 30 event itself. It was pointed out the volunteer workers to this event are not being welcomed and encouraged as nicely as they would like. Therefore, participation is completely voluntary.
- STARFLEET will be at Space Camp on September 20-22. We will try to have our third anniversary party with them on Saturday, September 21 sometime in late evening. Anya Funderburk offered to let us host it at her house. More details in the next *Mission Briefing*.
- Shining Star went to Anya Funderburk by acclamation for her work with *Star Trek* 30.
- Next meeting is September 1.
- Bonnie announced that River Oaks mall in Decatur is having a sale on *Star Trek* items.

STAR WARS: BETTER?

Top ten reasons why the *Star Wars* characters would kick butt in the *Star Trek* universe:

- 10) In the *Star Wars* universe, weapons rarely, if ever, are set on "stun".
- 9) The *Enterprise* needs a huge engine room with an anti-matter unit and a crew of twenty just to go into warp—the *Millennium Falcon* does the same thing with R2-D2 and a Wookiee.
- 8) After resisting the Imperial torture droid and Darth Vader, Princess Leia still looked fresh and desirable—after some Cardassian starvation and torture, Picard looked like hell.

- 7) Jabba the Hutt would eat Harry Mudd for trying to cut in on his action.
- 6) Luke Skywalker is not obsessed with sleeping with every alien he encounters.
- 5) One word: lightsabers.
- 4) The Federation would have to attempt to liberate any ship named *Slave I*.
- 3) The *Death Star* doesn't care if a world is class "M" or not.
- 2) Darth Vader could choke the entire Borg empire with one glance.
- 1) Picard pilots the *Enterprise* through an asteroid belt at one-quarter impulse power. Han Solo floors it.

[The previous was received in its original form
sashi@feith1.FEITH.COM via
the STARFLEET mailing list.]

- Calendar of events for the next few months was given. [*Cut due to space.* - Rich]

September 1, 1996 Minutes

Departmental Reports: Commanding Officer, CAPT Richard L. Trulson

- Apologies for Richard not being here were made. He left word to thank those who helped at the Runway Run.

Communications, CAPT Richard L. Trulson:

- Next issue will be given at the October meeting.

Sciences, Acting LTjg Donald Daniel:

- Don has several copies of the *Huntsville Times* article in which they interviewed us for *Star Trek* 30.

Business:

- More discussion on the *Star Trek*: One Weekend on Earth celebration. Sign-up sheets

were passed around for people to volunteer work. They have quite a few restrictions on what people can do and must wear. Vote was passed to spend money for flyers/brochures at *Trek 30* and for our third anniversary party if needed.

- If arrangements can be made, our third anniversary party will be held Saturday night, September 21, in conjunction with the STARFLEET people coming in for Space Camp Sep. 20-22.
- Vote to participate in Madison Square Mall Community Days was for us to not do it because of the timing and restrictions the mall is wanting to put on us.
- UAH Organizational Fair is Friday, September 27 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Sign up sheet to work the recruiting table was passed around.

- Planning Meeting has been set for 2 PM on Saturday, September 28, at Dallas's house in Athens on Hwy. 72 and 31.

- Alan Davis has a huge *Star Trek* toy collection for sale. His list has been attached separately [*Cut due to space. - Rich*]. He can be contacted at 103 Lanthorn Circle, Madison AL 35758 or call (205)464-0763 or through E-mail at adavis@iquest.com

- Discussion was made regarding the annual awards and it was decided that the nominations and secret vote be held at the October meeting and the awards be presented at the annual Halloween party.

- Shining Star went to Anya Funderburk by acclamation for her work with *Star Trek 30*.

- By-laws changes and additions were discussed. They would be voted on section by section at the October meeting.

- It was also suggested that the WVB take on a contingent of Klingons so as to merge it and the Athens KLAU chapter. They will take this under consideration.

- Next meeting is October 6.

- Calendar of events and By-Law changes. [*Cut due to space. - Rich*]

October 6, 1996 Minutes:

Departmental Reports: Commanding Officer, CAPT Richard L. Trulson

- Thanks for everyone's help at *Star Trek 30*. We had a great time and they couldn't have done it without us.

- Commendations of Excellence were given for volunteer work at the following:

- Runway Run: Donald Daniel, Rebecca Self, Bonnie Flanagan, Richard Trulson, and Dianne Adams

- *Star Trek 30*: Ralph Brigham, Dustin Williams, Don Daniel, Richard Trulson, and Jim Dykes
Jerry Lewis Telethon: Dallas Vinson, Dustin Williams, Rebecca Self, and Kevan Carney

- STARFLEET International Conference Help: Bonnie Flanagan

- Various letters thanking us for our help were passed around for people to see. One was a letter from Janet Morgan, the volunteer coordinator at *Star Trek 30*, and the other was from the Runway Run people.

- April/May *Communiqués* were picked up at STARFLEET's International Conference and

Bane and Posion Ivy, from Batman and Robin.



distributed at the meeting. Some of the other interesting events were discussed.

- Richard apologized for not being able to get arrangements made with the people who came in for Space Camp. He could never get anyone to return his inquiries.

Executive Officer, CMDR Henry Vaughn:

- Working on getting T-shirts and possibly name tags.
- Address has changed back to the original one at 159 Dexter Circle, Madison, AL 35758. You can still E-Mail him at static@ro.com.

Operations, CMDR Dallas Vinson:

- Current balance is \$90.39.
- Please update your address and other contact information by filling out a new membership form if you haven't already.
- Ship's Halloween party at 8 PM on Saturday, October 26 at Dallas's house in Athens on Hwy. 72 and 31.
- Also, the USS *Hephaestus* has invited us to their Halloween party as well. It's on Saturday night, November 2.

Operations, CMDR Dustin Williams:

- Worked for VBCC security at *Star Trek 30*.
- Plans to do security at Big Spring Jam have fallen through. We have a bid in for next year though.
- There may be a Trek-O-Rama in mid-December.

- Unless he gets appointed full time as Head of FDC Security and allowed to work fully in this regard, he is going to resign the interim head position.

- Feeling much better health wise.

Communications, CAPT

Richard L. Trulson:

- The *Subspace Static* received an honorable mention in the STARFLEET Newsletter of the Year competition.
- Summer issue is being held to include information on *Star Trek 30* and STARFLEET elections. It will be a double sized issue again. It's not too late for last minute submissions.

Medical, LT Ralph Brigham:

- Please fill out the medical release forms if you have not done so.

Sciences, Acting LTjg Donald Daniel:

- Adopt-A-highway program is for a 2 year period. A vote to participate in this program was passed. Some discussion occurred on where we want to be located.

Shuttle Alabama, CMDR

Bonnie Flanagan:

- Arts and crafts are the second Thursday of the month at 2 PM. They will make things to sell.
- Monthly meeting is the third Sunday at 2 PM at the Decatur Regional Library.

Business:

- We had a discussion on which logo to use: our original one with the oval shape behind the *Trek* chevron, or the new one with the hollow rectangle

Continued: See Minutes on page 64...

REDNECK

Your Captain just might be a redneck if...

- Your shuttlecraft has been up on blocks for over a month.
- He paints flames and a NRA sticker on the warp nacelles.
- You have a shuttle called "Billy Joe Bob."
- He refers to Klingons as "critters."
- He has the sensor array repaired with a bent coathanger and aluminum foil.
- He installs a set of bullhorns on the front of the saucer section.
- He says "got your ears on, good buddy" instead of "open hailing frequencies."
- He hangs fuzzy dice over the viewscreen.
- He programs the food replicator for beer, ribs, and turnip greens.
- His idea of dress uniform is clean bib overalls.
- He paints the starship John Deere green.
- His moonshine is stronger than Romulan ale.
- He rewires his communicator into his belt buckle.
- He keeps a six-pack under his command chair and a gun rack above it.
- He says "yee-ha!" instead of "engage."

[This was received from jtwombly@polyclad-usa.com off the STARFLEET listserve. Should I ever start exhibiting any of these symptoms, shoot me out of the nearest photon tube. - Rich]

STAR WARS: SPECIAL EDITION

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... revisited.

The greatest science-fiction story to ever be produced got a major face lift this year. In order to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of *Star Wars* in 1997, George Lucas released special editions of the *Star Wars* trilogy. They have all been digitally remastered using the latest THX and DTS technologies to give the ultimate viewing and listening experience. Furthermore, thanks to the wonders of Computer Graphics Imaging (CGI), such as that used to produce the dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*, new scenes were added or enhancements were made to existing ones. *Star Wars* was released on January 31, followed by *The Empire Strikes Back* on February 21, and *Return of the Jedi* on March 7.

Lucas wanted people to "see them like the Saturday matinee serials they were originally meant to be," so he released them within a few weeks of each other. "I thought that would be a very appropriate way of celebrating the twentieth anniversary. At the same time, I had an ulterior motive that I had been thinking about for a long time—actually ever since the films were finished. There were various things, especially in the original film, that I wasn't satisfied with—special effects shots that never were really finished, scenes that I'd wanted to include that couldn't be included for some reason, mostly money and time. I really wanted to fix the films and have them be complete."

In the final total, about four minutes of additional footage has been added to *Star Wars*, one and a half minutes to *Empire*, and three and a half minutes to *Jedi*. All three films had to be cleaned meticulously to get the dirt and grime off them. In order to redo some of the effects, they had to be re-filmed from the original composites, which can number over a dozen elements in each scene. Furthermore, color enhancing was done and the matte lines were moved. Even new matte paintings were and new models built as well as new live action sequences filmed. The folks at Industrial Light and Magic have again performed magic to achieve breathtaking effects.

Here's a perfect example of CGI effects used to work magic. The top is the original shot, and the bottom is from the Special Edition.



Most of the information and pictures were taken from <http://www.starwars.com/home.html>, which is the official web site. I also got some information from <http://www.stolaf.edu/people/meissnem/SW/index.html>, which is a fan run site. NOTICE: If you don't want hear about these enhancements for fear of ruining the movie experience, do not read any further. The official web site goes into much greater detail.



Star Wars: A New Hope (SW) is the oldest and showing the most age. In fact, compared to today's special effects, it really is starting too stale. In fact, Lucas himself has stated that he was unable to create a world as realistic as he originally intended. As a result, SW seems to be getting the most improvements from the very beginning. The attack on the rebel blockade runner has been cleaned up considerably to show greater detail in both ships and in Tatooine below. The search for the droids by the Stormtroopers had major CGI help. Entire animated Dewback creatures with Stormtrooper riders have been added.

The Mos Eisley space port received a major makeover. The original spaceport was suppose to be a great trading and space center. However, due

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

to budget and time constraints, the city turned out to be less than what Lucas wanted. With the Special Edition, several new scenes were added as were enhancements to existing ones. The overall tone was to make this a busy, bustling center packed with life from across the galaxy. As the landspeeder enters the city, dozens of small creatures, possibly the infamous Womprats, scurry out of the speeder's path. Several scenes show ships being loaded by humans and droids, and the very streets are packed with people going about their life. Ship and building wreckage can be seen, as well as Ronto creatures, which are CGI creations similar to the Dewbacks.

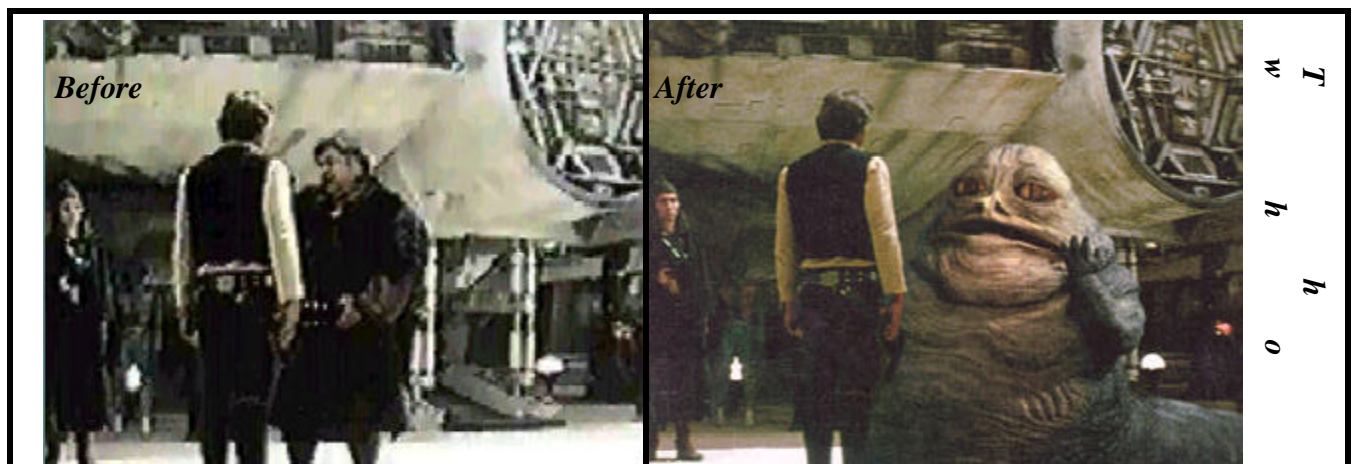
One of the more amusing and noticeable additions is that of a Ronto being ridden by Jawas. The Ronto creature is sort of homage to the previously mentioned dinosaurs from *Jurassic Park*, particularly the brontosaurus. In this scene, a speederbike-like vehicle startles

a Ronto, which throws its Jawa riders off. Another minor amusing addition is the presence of floating droid. And as always several CGI Rontos and Dewbacks are scattered throughout the entire Mos Eisley spaceport.

The Cantina scene, which I thought would be a prime candidate for CGI creatures, was left mostly untouched. The only change involves removing the wolf-man and putting an elephant/ant-eater combination in its place to sip a drink. Why more wasn't done with this, I'll never know. However, one change that has stirred a lot of controversy is when Han shoots Greedo. Originally, it looked like Han shot Greedo after being threatened. The new scene makes it appear that Han was quicker in drawing his blaster than Greedo, who then misses firing at Han first. The entire effect seems a bit stretched and contrived, changing Han's character and personality as well.

Perhaps the most anticipated addition to the Special Edition of *Star Wars* is that of Jabba the Hut. We knew from being mentioned earlier by Greedo and by *Jedi* that Jabba is located on Tatooine. In fact, when SW was originally filmed, Han encountered Jabba at the spaceport. Since Lucas wasn't certain yet on what Jabba would look like, the scene was shot with a huge, overweight, Neanderthal type in Jabba's place. This scene was returned to the movie, and spiced up. In fact, even Boba Fett is spotted as one of Jabba's henchmen. One of the problems though involved Han walking around Jabba, who as you know is a giant slug like creature. The human actor didn't have this large mass. This was overcome amusingly by having Han step on Jabba's tail. Furthermore, they had to tone down the bulk of Jabba for this movie, and make him more agile than in *Jedi*.

The final Tatooine scene has the *Millennium Falcon* blasting its way out of Mos



Special Anniversary Edition

Eisley spaceport. This was enhanced by giving an outside overhead view of the *Falcon* rising, turning, and leaving the hanger bay. Personally, I thought this was a very breath-taking addition and was one of the best CGI shots of the movie. (There was also a similar nice addition of the Jawa sandcrawler cresting over a sand dune.) The entire skyscape was also touched up to make it look like ships were constantly arriving and leaving Mos Eisley.

Ironically enough, not much was done to the film from this point, until they escape the *Death Star*. None of the web sites discuss any changes. However, the one I remember best is the scene where Han chases four Stormtroopers down a hallway, and is then chased by them after they stop in a room. In the Special Edition, the reason they stop running is that they join a room full of dozens of Stormtroopers. Even though the odds were four to one, they have changed, so Han and Chewbacca decide discretion is the better part of valor and retreat. Actually, the overall effect is quite humorous. Another *Death Star* scene that was rumored for rework was the creature in the trash compactor. However, as far as I could tell, it was not. This is strange considering that Lucas himself has stated that he did not like what was supposed to be scary creature being turned into nothing more than a brown tentacle.

The scene where the *Falcon* approaches Yavin has been touched up and enhanced. In fact, in the original, a tower guard can be seen motioning at nothing in the sky. In the Special addition release, the *Falcon* has been inserted and does a slight turn before landing at the base. Shortly thereafter is the second major addition to the Special Edition of *Star Wars*:

Biggs talks with Luke at the Rebel base prior to the attack on the *Death Star*. There were several more shot, apparently on Tatooine before everything began, but Lucas would only authorize this one to be included because they mention Luke's father being a great pilot. Personally, I didn't think this extra footage was that great and could have been left out.

NEW SCENES?

Top 15 Surprises in the *Star Wars* Special Edition:

[The following was received in it's original form oprksh@panther.Gsu.EDU via the STARFLEET mailing list. While I've tried to tone down the worst parts, some of these may not be suitable for young children. -Rich]

15: New scene in which Chewbacca teaches Han Solo how to lick himself.

14: He might not look as fearsome as before, but that Primatene Mist of Darth Vader's seems to have helped his breathing immensely.

13: Added scene in which Tonya Harding whacks Princess Leia on the knee with a lightsaber.

12: Luke accused of killing ex-wife and advised by Obi Wan to "Use the Fifth, Luke."

11: The commercial tie-in appearance of Jabba's big brother, Pizza the Hut.

10: Newly-colored Darth Vader is mauve.

9: C3PO has a conspicuous "Intel Inside" sticker on his shiny brass butt.

8: Han, Luke, and Obi-Wan now sportin' hip goatees.

7: New scene where Luke shakes JFK's hand and tells him he has to pee.

6: Jabba the Butt-head saying, "Hehe...hehe...she said, 'Lay ya.'"

5: Revealing scene in the bathroom shows how "Han Solo" got his name.

4: During one lonely night, Princess Leia finds R2D2's special attachment.

3: Anti-fur activists from planet PETA spray Chewbacca with red paint.

2: The X-Wing pilot who blows up the *Death Star*? Richard Jewell.

And the Number 1 Surprise in the Re-Mastered *Star Wars*...

1: Dismembered victim of Obi-Wan Kenobi's light saber in bar scene none other than John Wayne Bobbitt.

Almost all the scenes involving the attack on the *Death Star* are CGI enhanced. Or, more often than not, completely redone using CGI. In fact, the locking of the S-foils in attack position of the X-Wings was done with a delay between each X-Wing to create more realism. And in the final explosion, as with the planet Organa explosion, a shockwave was added for the “wow” effect.

Overall, the additions are very nice and add a deeper texture to an already fabulous movie. The changes they made to *Star Wars* were definitely worth the trouble and are very welcome indeed.



The Empire Strikes Back is usually considered the best of the trilogy. Sure, *Star Wars* was the first and broke the most ground, but *Empire* took us even further away into an unknown galaxy. The special effects were magnitudes better, and as a result needed fewer enhancements.

Luke’s battle with the Wampa creature at the beginning has been extended and greatly enhanced to make the Wampa even more threatening. Personally, I think it just added a gore gross out factor instead of actually helping it. However, I am disappointed that they didn’t add an originally filmed scene. Apparently, the Rebels had captured a Wampa and held it in a pen. C3PO removes the warning sign off the pen so that



Stormtroopers can discover it. This would explain a medical droid seen examining a dead Taun-Taun in the background a little later.

Perhaps the most spectacular additions are scenes involving the cloud city of Bespin. An entire opening sequence of the *Falcon* first arriving was added with CGI. All the matte paintings have been redone with CGI. Also throughout the Bespin scenes, windows were added to the walls so people can see out into the city. Additionally, at the end a CGI scene involving Vader leaving Bespin in an imperial shuttle from *Jedi* was added.

As far as I could tell, those were the only major additions to the movie. While

nice, they weren’t absolutely necessary. However, they did do a spectacular job on Bespin effects. I just wish they had added the C3PO/Wampa scene. Otherwise, the best of the three remains the best of the three, but not really improving that much compared to *Star Wars*.



RETURN OF THE JEDI

With *Return of the Jedi* being the most recent film, they didn't have to make as many corrections. However, they did

make some changes though. Lucas has expressed major dislike with the way *Jedi* came out despite the fact he had most of the technology behind him. The major stumbling block of the film, the script, cannot be easily changed like cosmetic problems can.

It borrowed heavily from the original *Star Wars* in many ways.

Like the Cantina scene in *Star Wars*, Jabba's palace scene in *Jedi* was given a major facelift. The entire alien band was redone with nine new CGI musicians. In addition to the original bellydancer, three more dancing slave girls were added. The music was redone by John

Williams into a blues style duet. Sny Snootles, the original lead singer with lips to rival Mick Jagger's, was completely redone with CGI. And this time, the effect is remarkable. She is incredibly animated and fluid compared to the puppet moves of the original.



Backup dancer/singers, seen here, along with several new band members and a new song spice up the Palace scene.

However, again I was disappointed with what they didn't change. I had hoped they would embellish Han's thawing from carbonite, as that seemed rather rushed and poorly done originally. I figured if the morphing in *Terminator 2: Judgement Day* was done so nicely then, they should be able

Continued: See *Star Wars* on page 56...

TOYS

Top 15 Rejected *Star Wars* Marketing Tie-ins

[This was sent to me from our very own Jim Dykes. However, some of these may not be suitable for young children due to adult humor. - Rich]

15: The "Princess LeiaMe" blow-up doll

14: Chewbacca Chew'n T'bacca, from Skoal

13: Princess Chia

12: Lando Calrissian Cognac—40 Parsecs of smoooooth

11: R2D2, C3PO & KY4U "Adult Action Figures"

10: Han Solo Cups

9: "Do you know me? Probably not, if I'm out of my Stormtrooper uniform. That's why I carry American Express."

8: McDonald's Ewok Burger Happy Meal

7: Metamucil - "May the Force run through you!"

6: Darth Vader Ginsberg doll — Black robe and goofy glasses sold separately

5: Tampex Tampons, now with starfighter X-wings and lightsabre applicator

4: Volkswagon's "Return of the Jetta"

3: "Ewok On A Stick" toilet brushes

2: Darth Vibrader

and the Number 1 Rejected *Star Wars* Trilogy Marketing Tie-in...

1: Barbie Wan Kenobie's Malibu *Deathstar*

Coruscant, two of three celebration scenes added to end of Jedi.



SPOTLIGHT: DON DANIEL

Getting to know the Science Department Chief.

Donald Daniel was born at a military base in Japan on December 15. He grew up as a “service brat” and all the moving around that entails, though that didn’t bother him. One of the more memorable places was Maine, where he remembers snow banks higher than him. Then in 1977, he moved into this area and finally into Huntsville itself in 1985. He has one brother and one sister, both younger than him. Don has a BS-BA from the University of Alabama: Huntsville, with a specialty in accounting.

The *Wernher von Braun* held a recruiting drive at Books-A-Million in March of 1996, which was when Don became affiliated with the ship. He still works there along with a job in circulation at the Huntsville Times. He was hoping to find other *Trek* fans and people that shared his interests. Shortly after joining, he was appointed as the Department Chief of Sciences and currently has a rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer.

The original *Star Trek* is Don’s favorite of the *Trek* series. Of the recent series, *Deep Space Nine* is his favorite. He feels the additions of the *Defiant* and Worf to DS9 has made it much better. He wasn’t too fond of *Next Generation* when it first came out. Worf is his favorite character on DS9 as

is Leeta the Dabo girl (He’s in Chase Masterson’s fan club even.). In fact, he had the chance to meet and talk with her at *Star Trek 30*. His favorite episodes are “Trials and Tribble-ations” and those that deal with the alternate mirror universe.

In fact, “Mirror, Mirror” is Don’s favorite original series episode. Kirk is Don’s favorite character though he doesn’t comment on the actor since he’s never met William Shatner personally. When it comes to the most recent series, The Doctor and Tuvok are his favorite *Voyager* characters because they are amusing without trying. He likes the exchanges with Neelix. In fact, “Tuvix” is his favorite episode. He feels that it was such a hard ethical dilemma to decide to “kill” the Tuvix character in order to bring back Tuvok and Neelix, and compared it to abortion. Don says “the scene in which Tuvix pleads, ‘Doesn’t anyone see that this is wrong?’ really got to me”.

Don likes a lot of other science-fiction shows and movies as well. Garibaldi is his favorite character on *Babylon 5* and Quinn is on *Sliders*. His favorite movies included the

Star Wars and *Alien* trilogies (the second *Aliens* is the best). *Wrath of Khan* is his favorite *Star Trek* movie followed by *First Contact* at a close second.

When *Star Trek 30* came to town, Don was there helping as well. He was a big help in bagging the 1300 plus bag of goodies that attendees received, for which he received Region



2’s Distinguished Service Award. He also attended as a fan as well. He felt it was one of the best conventions he’s attended, and was definitely worth the expense.

Some of Don’s other favorites include the color blue, pizza, and most music (except elevator style). Some of his favorite artists include Sting, Phil Collins, and Blackhawk. He also loves to play volleyball. Most people seem to be fooled by his size, so he says “I love to block!” with a particularly mischievous gleam to his eyes.

STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT

The Next Generation goes it alone... against the Borg.

Many people feared that a *Star Trek* movie could not survive without the original casts. Even with three successful sequel TV series running, two currently and one in continual rerun somewhere, executives feared it just could not survive without the original cast. So in *Star Trek: Generations*, they included three of the original cast members, and relied heavily upon Shatner's James T. Kirk. They hoped to ease the next generation in to replace the old one, and to tie them together in some way. Unfortunately, it was less than successful. Opinions varied greatly on how well it compared to the others, but it was certainly not the best, which was the *Wrath of Kahn*.

Now comes the time for a new movie. They can no longer rely on the original cast since trying to get them to appear realistically is a writer's worst nightmare, not to mention the actors are aging rapidly. Time for the *Next Generation* to stand on its own. And what

better way than to stand alone and fight with the Borg, perhaps the Federation's greatest enemy.

Star Trek: First Contact was a valiant effort to create perhaps the best *Trek* movie ever. Based on a story by Rick Berman, Brannon Braga, and Ronald D. Moore, the film was directed by Johnathan Frakes, who directed several episodes of the series and plays Commander Riker. Industrial Light & Magic did the visual effects while Jerry Goldsmith handled the music. The entire seven member main cast reprised their roles and were joined by James Cromwell as Zefram Cochrane and Alfie Woodard as his assistant.

Frakes says he viewed various films—including *Alien*, *Aliens*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Blade Runner* and *Jaws*—to get inspiration for directing. He wanted to give it a darker, scarier, more action oriented feel than the previous film. He succeeded with chilling effect, with great help from Michael Westmore, who handled the make-up. For inspiration, Westmore turned to H. R. Giger, who created one of the scariest "aliens" of all with the terrifying and deadly bugs in the *Alien* series. He says, "the Borg look more evolved and detailed than they did in the television show." Braga then combined the Borg idea with the second most popular element in the series history, time travel, to come up with the

chilling plot: The Borg, after a failed attack on the Federation, go back in time to prevent humans from making first contact with the Vulcans.

Enterprise NCC 1701-E is introduced in the film. Where as the D appeared very contoured and flowing, the E appears to be more angular and low. It seems to follow the lines of the B, with more angular curves. Personally, I didn't like it that much, though it is better looking than most of the other incarnations and most everyone else seemed to love it. As far as its technology, it seems more equipped for war than for exploration. (An interesting bit of trivia: The deflector dish is labeled AE35, which is the name of a component of a satellite dish in *2001: A Space Odyssey*.) The one major technological leap involved the use of quantum torpedoes instead of photons. And apparently, they appear to be able to do much greater damage, even through Borg shields.

Woodard and Cromwell. MSN



Worf returns to his first ship: the Enterprise. MSN





Since Worf transferred to *Deep Space Nine*, I was very pleased with how they brought Worf back. The “tough, little” *Defiant*, which Worf commands, performed just as well against the Borg as it was designed to fight the Jem Haddar. It was interesting to note that the Starfleet ships were able to destroy the Borg vessel this time around. Since they got toasted at Wolf 359, I guess the technology advancements that Shelby had been working on had finally been produced. Combine that with Picard’s knowledge of Borg vessels, and I guess they were able to do more damage.

OK, time jump back to 21st century Earth after World War III’s nuclear weapons fire has caused wide spread damage to the environment. We visit Cochrane on the eve of his launch of the *Phoenix*, Earth’s first warp capable space vehicle. It was a good touch to show that history often times remembers people differently than they really are. Cochrane is nothing more than a washed up drunk trying to make a profit, and is

NOT the idealistic hero history makes him out to be. Of course, this makes for some amusing interaction with the crew, particularly Troi, who gets sloshed drunk to the amusement of Riker (and most of our male crewmembers). Our heroes manage to whip into shape to make his flight.

Another interesting technological advancement is Geordi’s cybernetic eye implants. Of course, LeVar Burton refused to appear in the film if he had to wear the VISOR. So instead, they give him some white eyes with cross hairs in them which reminded me of the AI’s from the failed *Space: Above and Beyond* TV show. Unfortunately, they forgot to explain why, when, or how the change occurs. However, they

appear to give Geordi more visual abilities, such as telescopic viewing.

Most of the movie is spent trying to reclaim the *Enterprise* from the Borg, who managed to beam aboard undetected before their own ship is destroyed. This made for several hilarious cameo appearances. First, Robert Picardo makes an appearance as the holographic doctor. He delivers a line in homage to Dr. McCoy from the original series when asked to delay the Borg’s entrance into sickbay: “I’m a doctor, not a doorstep.” Shortly thereafter, Ethan Phillips appears on the holodeck as a waiter, who gets his image scrambled by the Borg eye scanners. Speaking of those eye pieces, if you’re really bored when the video tape comes out, watch the flickering of the lights as they reportedly spell out in Morse code the names of the production people.

Of course, cameos were done throughout the film. At the very beginning when Picard sends the attack coordinates on the Borg cube to the fleet, the voice which responds for the USS *Bozeman* is that of Kelsey Grammer, who played the Captain of that ship on an episode of the *Next Generation*. Later in the film, Dwight Schultz also makes an appearance as Broccoli, I mean Barclay, to hero worship Cochrane. These cameos and use of existing characters was a nice touch. Of course, we just knew Ensign Hawke, who was introduced in this film as a new

*A very drunk Troi
and an amused Riker.*



bridge officer, was going to die. After all, he's an ensign in yellow, the same as security. These cameos also give hope that in future films others characters will be used, such as Guinan or Q.

Some have pointed out that this film has quite a few YATIs in it, Yet Another *Trek* Inconsistency. Oh well, the movie was enjoyable even if a few plot holes were left open. For example, in the original series, Cochrane was supposedly from Alpha Centauri and not Earth. Furthermore, there are several technical errors, such as inconsistent listing of the number of decks. I'm not diligent enough to spot these, though I have read about them online and in discussions with friends.

However, the main problem I had with the movie was the Borg Queen. Even Data points out that such a central figure is not consistent with established Borg operations. They are a collective conscious operating on what I assume is a single thought formed from interlinking several thoughts together. We see in a later episode of *Voyager*, and it's hinted at somewhat here, that such a interlinking has tremendous benefits though loses the spark of individuality and originality. It can, for example in conjunction with the cybernetics, increase the body's ability to heal itself. A queen figure completely destroys that collective thought organization, and I don't buy her explanation of how this is correct.



Secondly, at the end when the deadly gas is pumped out, we see what's left of the Borg Queen: almost an entire mechanical being. As far as I can tell, only her skin, brain, and eyes were flesh. That too seems to take the Borg in areas inappropriate for it. They always seem to be taking humanoids and adding mechanical parts to them. However, they are almost always more flesh than mechanical. Not the case with the Queen. Oh well, perhaps that's what made her their Queen, cause she was more mechanical. If that was the case though, then why did they consider Data earlier to be nothing more than an outdated piece of scrap metal?

My one minor complaint about the Borg Queen aside, *Star Trek: First Contact* was a very enjoyable movie. I'd certainly give it an 8 out of 10, though I don't think it was as good as *Wrath of Khan*. It had plenty of thrills and chills as well as doing a bit of character development. Overall, an excellent movie. Of course, the odd number curse didn't affect it since it is the eighth *Trek* movie, and the second *Next Generation* film. Let's hope the next movie doesn't succumb to the curse.

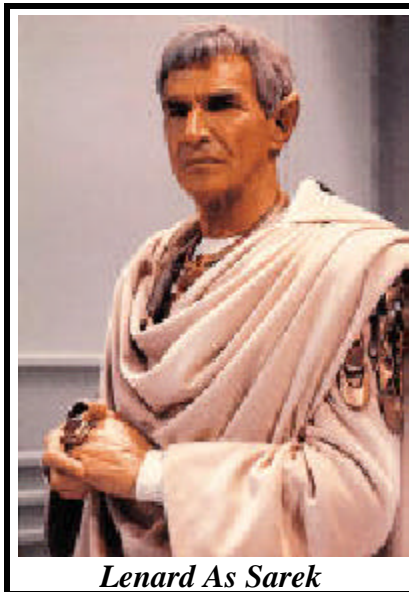
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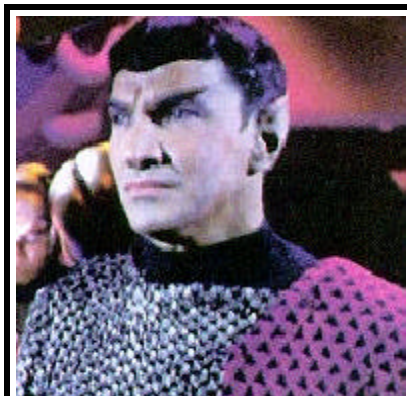
IN MEMORY OF

Mark Lenard

Mark Lenard had the distinguished role of having played three different aliens in two different *Star Trek* series. He first played a Romulan commander in "Balance of Terror," long considered to be one of fandom's favorite original series episodes. His next role was to be his most popular: that of Sarek, Spock's Vulcan father, in "Journey to Babel." This role was later reprised in the several of the motion pictures involving the original series. He also appeared twice as an older Sarek in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. However, it was in the two-part episode "Unification" that Sarek died a death most distressing to Vulcans: losing control of their emotions due to an incurable illness. He also played a Klingon officer in *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. Lenard has numerous non-*Trek* related movies, TV series, and stage roles.



Lenard As Sarek



*Lenard as
Romulan Commander*

In poor health from multiple myeloma, Lenard apparently needed surgery. In order to feed him, they had to place tubes in his stomach. Infection developed and was followed quickly by Pneumonia. He died peacefully in Manhattan on November 22, 1996. Born in 1924, Lenard was 72. He is survived by his wife, Ann, and two daughters, Roberta, of Boston, and Catherine, of Oklahoma City.

Carl Sagan

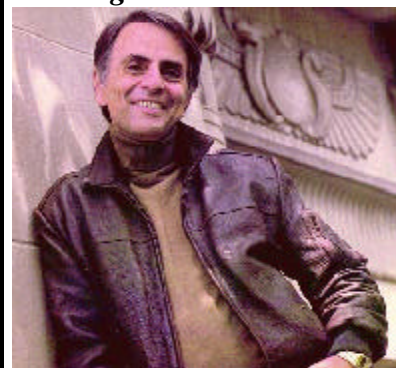
Carl Sagan—noted astronomer, author, host of *Cosmos*, founder of The Planetary Society, advocate of SETI—died of pneumonia in Seattle on December 20, 1996. Born in New York City in 1934, Sagan had a lifelong passion for searching for intelligent life in the universe. He was 62 when he finally succumbed to a two year battle with bone marrow disease.

Other Memorials:

Dr. Who Dalek creator Terry Nation died at 66 on March 9, 1997 at his home in Pacific Palisades, California after suffering for several years from a lung condition. He also worked on other TV shows such as *The Saint* and *The Avenger*. He also created *The Survivors*, a story about civilization holding together after a lethal plague outbreak. Nation was also known for his work with *Blakes 7*. He is survived by his wife and by a son and a daughter.

The nation was shocked when 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cult who committed suicide in Rancho Santa Fe, California. They believed that their death would allow them to board a spaceship following in the wake of the Hale-Bopp comet. Among those members was Thomas Nichols, the brother of *Star Trek's* Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura). Nichols said that her family respected the choices Thomas had made. He was 59.

Sagan: 1934 - 1996



STAR TREK 30

September 7 and 8, 1996

Celebrating thirty years of a cultural phenomena.

One of the biggest events in the history of *Star Trek* occurred on September 7 and 8, 1996, which marks the thirtieth anniversary of *Star Trek*. To celebrate, Paramount agreed to hold the largest gathering of *Star Trek* fans and stars ever assembled under one roof. And to top it all off, they held it right in our back yard in Huntsville, Alabama. Thousands of people converged on the Von Braun Civic Center and the U. S. Space and Rocket Center to celebrate the *Star Trek* legend. Once in a lifetime opportunities don't come along very often, and *Star Trek 30: One Weekend on Earth* was certainly one of those.

In the following pages, you will be taken on a guided tour of all the events surrounding this momentous occasion. Not only is the event itself covered, but so are the surrounding stories. The *Wernher von Braun* played an integral part with this, supplying not only volunteer workers, but also attending the event. These articles will hopefully give you some idea of what happened and why. There are moments that will forever be with those who participated.

The news first hit on June 14, 1996 with stories in the *Huntsville Times* and the local TV stations. Apparently, the idea to host an anniversary gathering started with Thad Mauldin, the director of the U. S. Space and Rocket Center (S&RC). He had pitched the idea to Paramount that Huntsville would be the perfect place to host an anniversary celebration. After all, the roots of the space program are buried deep in Huntsville. From



Star Trek: 1966-1996 and beyond.

Making the most out of the biggest weekend ever.

Stardate 960906. Picked up my tickets (I spent the big bucks and as it turns out, that was the only way to get most of the autographs). In my ticket packet I received a neat badge with a hologram sticker on it, a souvenir program for the weekend's events, an autograph schedule, and a really cool limited edition medallion with a calendar on the back (ooh, aah, pretty!).

Note - Huntsville was renamed for the weekend by mayoral proclamation: "*Star Trek*".

Stardate 960907:

Arrived 0830 hrs with some friends at the site of the convention, Von Braun Civic Center (VBCC) and entered Spencer Gifts Warp 10 store half an hour earlier than everyone

else (one of the privileges accorded to those who opted for Galaxy Class passes). Spent most of the day walking the Promenade which consisted of several vendor and informational booths. I also chose to acquire many of the autographs available today. I managed to get autographs from Rene Auberjonois, Kate Mulgrew, John DeLancie, Robert Duncan McNeill, Robert Picardo, and Armin Shimerman. Actually, McNeill, Picardo, and Ethan Phillips walked right past me on their way to the autograph session and I didn't even realize who they were (duh!). However, I did not get Ethan's autograph because he only signed for about 20 minutes due to a scheduling conflict.

While milling around the Promenade, I spotted Rene and Armin walking around with their bodyguard, Mr. Muscle. I also spotted Patricia Tallman from *Babylon 5* but was not

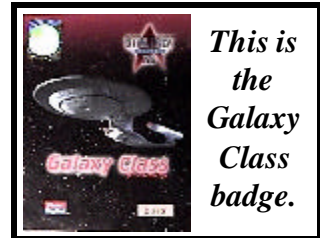
Huntsville, Alabama

One Weekend On Earth

the very beginnings of the space program with the German rocket scientist Wernher von Braun, to the current day Space Shuttle engine testing, Huntsville has played and continues to play a vital role in the space program. Therefore, it was logical—to borrow from Mr. Spock—that the anniversary celebration of perhaps the largest sci-fi phenomenon of all time should occur here.

In personal talks with Phaeton Quinn, the Marketing Director at the Space and Rocket Center and the initial volunteer coordinator, he said that Huntsville came dangerously close to loosing the entire event. Paramount officials were hearing the rumors circulating about who was coming and what would happen. They were not pleased to say the least. Attendance was estimated to be in the twenty to twenty-five thousand, though the actual attendance figures were far lower in the 7000 to 8000 range. Rumors also included that all four Captains and the entire original cast were going to be there. Of course, the final turn out was quite different and can be read about in the coverage of the event itself.

Weekend package tickets for events went on sale by calling a toll free number 1-888-2-BEAM-UP. (See the Volunteer Article on page 33 for a *von Braun* tie in to this number.) Ticket's for the weekend were either \$150 for the Constitution package, or \$350 for the Galaxy class package. Both packages contained a souvenir bag, fancy name badge, a special gift, tours of the S&RC and the Marshall Space Flight Center, and reserved seating in the main auditorium for all events including the stars' discussion panels and the Saturday night tribute to Gene Roddenberry. Galaxy class packages also received a special forty-five minute mini-space camp experience, priority access to the stars' autograph sessions, and access to a special VIP gala diner late Saturday night with the stars and astronauts. Day and event tickets were also on sale for \$30 or more. Apparently, they



Boldly going for 30 years.

quick enough to get her autograph. Then I spotted none other than Chase Masterson walking down the hall. Wow! She signed autographs and posed for pictures- what a terrific lady.

"I got to meet Chase Masterson (Leeta, the Dabo girl) and received signed photos... This was truly one of the major highlights for me during the weekend."

light was when Shatner and Nimoy came out at the same time and poked fun at each other's careers both in and out of *Star Trek*. I would've

I attended the evening show featuring TOS cast, several astronauts, a tribute to Gene Roddenberry, comedian Rick Overton, and Michael Dorn as host. The high-

paid money for a videotape of the show, but none was to be had. I was also amused by the fact that Buzz Aldrin seemed to be bored.

Shuttled over to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center for the private party with the stars. The food was pretty good but the turnout by the stars was just a tad disappointing. The stars that did show up to party with us included: Robert Picardo, Nichelle Nichols, Walter Koenig, Kate Mulgrew, Chase Masterson, Patricia Tallman(B5), and Rick Overton.

Stardate 960908:

I arrived once again at the VBCC at 0900 hrs. I watched some *Star Trek* highlight reels and a preview of *First Contact*. I also sampled several new software releases including a cool game called *Star Trek: Borg* that

STAR TREK 30

September 7 and 8, 1996

also had a special fan club price that was slightly better than the Constitution package, but it wasn't widely advertised. Hotel and plane reservations could be made as well. They also had tour and golf packages of the surrounding areas such as Birmingham, Decatur, and Nashville. However, even with the astronomical prices, I'm not sure if Paramount covered the cost of the reported one million they spent to have this since the attendance was much lower than expected.

The souvenir bag contained a welcome letter, a schedule of events, an advertisement from Intergraph, a sample *Star Trek* check from a check service (They looked beautiful!), a gorgeous *Star Trek* Continuum web site mouse pad, and a souvenir handbook. The Constitution name badge had the original USS *Enterprise* and the Galaxy badge had *Next Generation's Enterprise*, NCC 7201-D. Both badges had a hologram of the world on it, the *Star Trek* 30 logo, and seating assignments and legal disclaimers on the back. The special gift for the Constitution package was a black baseball hat with the words "*Star Trek* 30" stitched in white on the front in the original series type style and "One Weekend On Earth" in white and "September 7 and 8, 1996" in blue on the back. The Galaxy class gift was a pewter medallion about 1/4 inch thick from the Franklin Mint. On the front is the first movie era *Enterprise* set atop the *Trek* chevron among the stars. The words "*Star Trek* 30: One Weekend on Earth" encircled the medallion. On the back is a 1996 calendar with September 7 and 8 raised above the other dates. At the top is the *Trek* 30 logo and at the bottom is the *Enterprise* with stars encircling the medallion.



This is the medallion that Galaxy Class ticket holders got. On the left is the front of the coin, and on the right is the back.

Star Trek: 1966-1996 and beyond.

featured John DeLancie. Received a neat mousepad and coaster from the *Star Trek* Continuum. I got to meet Chase Masterson and received signed photos and her fan club flyer

(she was soooo nice and I have since joined her fan club). (By the way, she was signing at the Playmates booth in the Promenade and Playmates will be producing a Leeta action figure later this year— probably June.) This was truly one of the major highlights for me during the weekend. I also managed to get autographs from George Takei, Grace Lee Whitney, Nichelle Nichols, Walter Koenig, and James Doohan. I also purchased some new items including a cool

baseball jersey available only for the weekend (on sale!) and a neat trading card featuring George Takei and yours truly.



Wayne Cole, our own Picard clone, posing for a picture at Star Trek 30, courtesy of Traveller Information Services. HT

Synopsis:

In summary, I would say that although there were some minor things that I did not like, I would rate the overall experience as a thoroughly enjoyable one. I had a great time and if I had it to do over again knowing what I would get for my money, I would happily do so. For the autographs I received and the enjoyable experience I had, it was truly worth every penny. See you at ST60!

- SCPO Don Daniel

Huntsville, Alabama

One Weekend On Earth

As the event drew closer, more and more articles and stories were done by the local papers and TV stations. The *Huntsville Times* interviewed several of our crewmembers in the Sunday, July 21, 1996 issue. You can view this article and many more on the web at “<http://www.htimes.com/today/startrek/startrek.html>” (everything inside the quotes, but not including the quotes). In fact, some of the pictures used in this newsletter are theirs and are marked with HT. A local radio station even did a morning show interview of Commanding Officer, Richard Trulson.

Madison Square Mall hosted a *Star Trek* costume contest on August 17, 1996 to help generate interest and publicity for the celebration. Former *von Braun* member Mary K. Dyer won first place with her costume of the late Kai Opaka from *Deep Space 9*. She received two Galaxy Class passes as a prize. Wayne Cole, who has won previous costume contests for his uncanny resemblance to Jean-Luc Picard of *The Next Generation*, won a book in third place. They had about twenty entrants in the contest, including several Klingons and a Borg. Several articles appeared in the *Times*, but the winner announcements occurred in the August 25, 1996 edition.

Perhaps one of the most significant events to occur was on August 29, 1996. Then Mayor Steve Hettinger proclaimed that Huntsville would be renamed to *Star Trek*, Alabama to commemorate such a monumental event.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Is the model scary or what? This the hat that Constitution Class ticket holders received. The writing on the back is in the upper left hand corner.



Boldly going for 30 years.

Volunteering: Betrayal and triumph.

When the news of *Star Trek 30: One Weekend On Earth* first hit the airwaves, the crew of the *Wernher von Braun* was very excited. We didn't quite know what was going to happen, but we knew we wanted to be a part of the biggest *Star Trek* event to ever occur. Obviously we wanted to go as fans; but given we were also a STARFLEET chapter, we also wanted to volunteer help. However, what's that line about the “best laid plans of mice and men?” This is the chronicle of the tribulations we had to go through as volunteers.

Apparently, Anya Funderburk, the ship's counselor, was a secret agent amongst us. She had been close friends with Thad Mauldin, who is responsible for getting Paramount to host *Star Trek 30* here in the Rocket City to begin with. However, she had to keep

quiet about it until it was officially announced, so as not to ruin the possibility of them hosting it here. When they were discussing what the toll free number for tickets were going to be, she suggested “BEAM-ME-UP”, but because it had too many letters they had to shorten it to 1-888-2-BEAM-UP. Anya proved to be a valuable link to what was going on later.

Phaeton Guinn, marketing director at the Space and Rocket Center, was to be the initial volunteer coordinator. I, as Commanding Officer, began talks with him on behalf of the ship to provide a STARFLEET presence at *Trek 30*. When talking with him, Guinn said that Paramount had to have two stipulations when they agreed to have this: One, it must be a spectacular event unlike a typical convention.

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Embracing a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Like everyone else, I was very excited when I heard the rumors surrounding *Star Trek* 30: One Weekend on Earth. I knew I wanted to attend this event from the very beginning regardless of the cost. I considered it a once in a lifetime opportunity that I was not going to let pass me by. Of course, I talked my parents into buying me the Galaxy class ticket as my birthday present since it was only three days later on September 10. Suffice to say, it was one of the best birthday presents I ever received. Anyway, here's what happened.

In the beginning, I was focused as a CO in hopes that this would be a golden opportunity for the *Wernher von Braun* as well. However, everything fell apart in mid-August as far as our ship participating. This was unfortunate but could not be foreseen. I then decided to focus my

attention on being a fan. I was going to go to this event and have the time of my life. (See the accompanying article on our volunteer efforts and the problems we faced.)

Though events officially began Saturday, September 7, my weekend began that Thursday doing volunteer work. However, I've combined the story of the *Wernher von Braun* volunteer workers into a separate article on page 33. Since I worked the registration table Friday, I picked up my membership bag then, as did several others. (See the *Trek* 30 introductory article for details on the bag contents.)

This was a decision I am very thankful for. I was somewhat disappointed though, that the Galaxy Class package didn't also include the Constitution gift as well since that is a very nice hat. However, the medallion is so much better.



Star Trek: 1966-1996 and beyond.

And two, it must be profitable. While that's understandable, I should have realized this would lead to problems later.

Of course, have you ever known something relating to *Star Trek* to NOT make money? I didn't think so given that even *The Final Frontier* made money. However, they wanted to make sure a profit was made given the large number of stars they were going to be bringing in. One method of saving on the one million in expenses was to have plenty of volunteers so they wouldn't have to pay people to work. This is where we come in.

Other STARFLEET chapters throughout the southeast were also interested in helping. Pete Mohny of the *Hephaestus*, Isaac Turner of the *Yamato* (both in Birmingham), Kelly Hilliard from the *Republic* in Atlanta, Cindy Krell from our mothership *Alacrity* in

Memphis, Carol Burhans of the *Dark Silence* in Florence, and Bonnie Flanagan of our shuttle *Alabama* in Decatur were the main ones. Pete turned out to be the biggest help though. (Thanks Pete!!!)

One of the first things they had us do was distribute thousands of brochures and posters they made. These were gorgeous full color glossy productions that listed the planned events and stars. They were done in a deep red and blue motif, with white writing and yellow highlights. We were to blanket our communities with them, as well as distribute them to our members, which we did. Of course, I'm sure a few of these were saved back and stock-piled for our own collections. ::grin::

After the initial announcements in June of 1996, there wasn't much activity until the brochures came out the next month. It was

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Friday night.

Late Friday night several of our crew members met with several crewmembers from the U.S.S. *Hephaestus* from Birmingham, AL. About 20 of us got together for dinner at the Kettle. A few, however, were from the U.S.S. *Guardian* (Howdy to Russ McNutt who is transferring here soon.) and the *Hephaestus* shuttle *Emerald Star*. I know several other ships from STARFLEET had checked in during the day though. As with any gathering of Fleet members at a restaurant, we took over several tables and started to get quite rowdy. Our ship was represented by Don Daniel, Ralph Brigham, Anya Funderburk, and Richard Trulson. I played show and tell with my Galaxy Class goodies. I know blackmail pictures were taken, but I haven't seen them floating around. It was great to see Pete Mohny, the *Hephaestus* CO, and some of his crew. We'll have to do it again sometime. I crawled home and went to bed for some much needed sleep after pulling an all-nighter the previous night.

Saturday Events

Unfortunately, I overslept Saturday morning because I was so exhausted from volunteer work! You can imagine my surprise when I woke up at 11 AM, fearing I had missed something vitally important. After a frantic dressing and violation of warp speed laws, I arrived around noon to discover the thousands of people waiting in line, which stretched about halfway down the street. I went ahead to the main entrance in hopes that I could get in since I had the foresight to get my package Friday. I heard later that people were waiting several hours to get in. And what's worse is that people with advanced registration and the two big packages could have made it in much quicker. However, the few signs that were out weren't that informative.

Speaking of the signs, they had the front of the Von Braun Civic Center (VBCC) covered with a huge red banner with "Celebrating 30 Years of TV and Movie History" written in yellow. They also had a HUGE

Boldly going for 30 years.

simply a sit and wait to see what happens. Once we established phone contact with Gwinn, we chatted on a weekly basis to see what was happening. It wasn't until August

that we finally started to hear more news. Janet Morgan became the official volunteer coordinator and our attention focused on her.

About this time volunteer interest began to wane. We discovered that we wouldn't be doing anything relating to the stars. In fact, most of the activities would probably take us AWAY from *Trek* 30 activities entirely. They wanted the volunteers to handle registration, bus loading and unloading, and to serve as greeters at the airport. Not exactly the nice responsibilities we were hoping for. To make matters even worse, they wouldn't guarantee the volunteers anything other than a T-Shirt. They did say that volunteers might receive a pass to the US Space and Rocket Center and to the Saturday night tribute to Gene Roddenberry though it was not guaranteed.

Giant wood archs, in the shape of the Trek chevron, were used as signs throughout the VBCC. Here's the main one at the entrance.



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plywood cut out in the shape of the *Trek* chevron triangle with the *Star Trek* 30 logo on the front and back. They had similar display stands scattered throughout the VBCC to indicate the various things. I made my way to the main entrance in hopes that I didn't have to wait in line. They saw my reddish Galaxy name badge and ushered me right in.

Moving around was cramped due to all the people. As I walked past the West Exhibit Hall entrance, I saw a large line waiting to get into Spencer Gifts Warp 10 Store. As I headed



for the Promenade in the North Exhibit Hall, I also saw a brief glimpse of the Holosuites in the East Exhibit Hall. More about both of these later. I fought my way through the crowds to make it up to the second floor of the Promenade. This is where stars and astronauts were signing autographs. John de Lancie (Q) and Kate Mulgrew (Kathryn Janeway) were scheduled to have started forty-five minutes earlier, and I was afraid I would miss getting Kate's autograph. I wasn't that concerned about de Lancie's since I had gotten his autograph at Delecon II in Kansas City during STARFLEET's 1992 International Conference. I bought some pictures of both just in case and got in line.

In retrospect, I didn't miss all that much. It would have been nice to have seen deLancie and Mulgrew's presentation in the main arena entitled "Q's Crush", but that wasn't anything major compared to getting an autograph. I also missed a few video presentations in the Blockbuster Viewscreen, but

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As a result, volunteers started dropping out. And except for those from our crew, all of the other STARFLEET volunteers withdrew their support. Of course, we live here so it's not as much of a burden on us. However, for those traveling from hours away, they want some sort of compensation for their work. While money is not required, (You cease to cease to be a volunteer then.) either better treatment by Paramount, a discount in price, or even some free stuff would be nice. At the very least tell us before hand what we can expect, and not leave us hanging on maybes.

Furthermore, they were not very organized in their approach. They didn't even tell us what was happening and what we needed to do until late August. They had two volunteer orientation meetings two weeks before *Trek* 30. That was cutting it a bit close in my opinion. Not only that, volunteers had to sign a release

form waiving Paramount and everyone of any legal liability. To make that waiver even worse, it also allowed them to use you in any promotions they may do. Several people who would have been willing to volunteer even with the accident waiver would not do so because of this publicity waiver. As a final result, we only had five of our crewmembers volunteering to do anything.

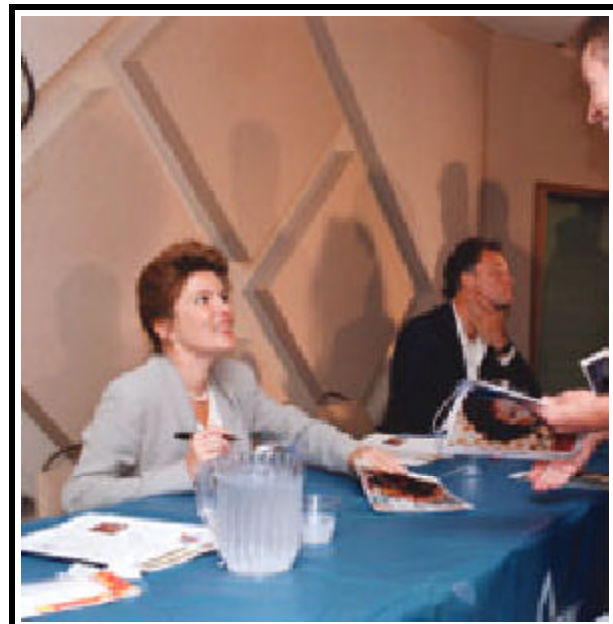
Unfortunately, as the celebration drew closer, Guinn ceased all communications with us entirely. We literally heard nothing from him during August and September. This is unfortunate, as he was the ship's contact person for obtaining a recruiting table for us and STARFLEET. Once I realized he was not returning phone calls or E-Mails, I frantically tried contacting his assistant and others to get answers to my questions. Unfortunately, it was too late. Phaeton Guinn is solely responsible

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nothing I couldn't do without. However, the one thing I did miss that I wish I hadn't was my 10 AM Space Camp adventure. While I can easily attend Space Camp, it will cost me more now and I really don't have that much enthusiasm for it. I guess chance was smiling upon me in that respect.

The autograph line is where I spent most of my time during *Trek 30*. By the time I got in line for Mulgrew, it had stretched out the room and along the balcony walkway. I waited patiently, using this time as opportunity to read through all the materials in my bag of goodies. By the time I got in the room, I could see the physical duress appearing on Mulgrew's face of making one of her rare convention appearances. It was about this time that DeLancie had to leave to do a hosting gig in the main arena. People moaned and groaned about losing one star, but were overall pleased that Mulgrew was staying. This leaving for other obligations is an unfortunate recurring theme throughout the weekend. I finally got my autograph and



Mulgrew and deLancie signing autographs.

picture, which I am eternally thankful for. I thanked Mulgrew gratefully and smiled. You could tell she was tired, but she smiled and signed dutifully.

Boldly going for 30 years.

for us not having a greater presence at *Trek 30*. Even if we were unable to do so, the least he could have done was told us so. However, he simply stopped calling us entirely.

I showed up Wednesday night prior to *Trek 30* for an unofficial volunteer help session. It's a good thing too, as they needed help stuff the 1300+ Constitution and Galaxy Class souvenir gift bags. After calling around, I was able to get Donald Daniel and Ralph Brigham to help. Thanks guys! Though Ralph had to leave early for work the next day, me and Don stayed there until 3 AM Friday morning. While stuffing bags with goodies may not sound like hard work, it's certainly monotonous, repetitive, boring work which quickly tests your sanity. We would stuff in the package gift, then the letters and souvenir book. Then we got to move them to a different location and count

them, sometimes several times. The accolades of thanks from the Paramount staff was quite rewarding. However, it was even more rewarding when they gave me a *Voyager* T-shirt and Don a Borg T-shirt. It's this type of impromptu thanks that makes volunteer work worthwhile.

Then at the Region 2 Summit, I received a Regional Commendation along with Pete Mohny for our *Trek 30* networking efforts and Don received a Region 2 Distinguished Service Award. (On a personal side note, I went back out to my car Thursday night/Friday morning to discover that I had left the lights on. Oh joy. I was finally able to jump start the car and go home. Unfortunately, by the time I did that and showered, it was time for me to go back to work. Therefore I got no sleep Thursday night. ::yawn::)

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As soon as I got out of there around 1:30 PM, I went over to the other autograph room to see Robert Duncan McNiell (Tom Paris), Robert Picardo (holographic doctor), and Ethan Phillips (Neelix). Again, the same song and dance number occurred waiting in line. This time Phillips had to leave since he had to be on stage in the main arena to do a presentation on ‘*Star Trek Aliens*’ with Armin Shimerman (Quark), Rene Auberjonois (Odo), and Michael Westmore (the make-up and costume man for recent *Treks*). Again, I was somewhat disappointed at not getting his autograph or seeing that presentation. I waited forever again, but finally got both Roberts’ autograph. If I had missed this one, they were also signing for a short time on Sunday afternoon. They were equally good sports about signing tons of autographs.

With a major *Voyager* autograph collection started, I was able to then peruse everything else at the VBCC. On my way

down, I grabbed a bite to eat and then started going through everything in the Promenade. Due to Paramount’s licensing rights, small independent dealers

were unable to participate. Therefore, the entire thing had a commercialized, mass produced feel to it. You weren’t going to find the small, uniquely made items and such. While this may have allowed for a larger volume of merchandise and dealers to be there, I think it lowered the variety of things available. Forget about buying anything that’s not currently in production. On the other hand, you were usually buying directly from the maker. Such a large audience allowed for bigger names to display



Auberjonois and Shimerman (on right)

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Friday, I got to work the registration table. People were checking in early and getting their gift bags. This wasn’t too difficult a job, though we did get busier as the day progressed. We had to verify who they were, have them sign for their stuff, then give them their name badge and their gift bag. However, it was quite disconcerting to inform someone that they weren’t in our records. We had people from all over the Southeast and even the world. I got to chat with several Fleet members from other chapters, though I can’t recall their names. One of the more interesting guests to appear was a tour group from Australia. Since I have internet friends from downunder, this was a very pleasant coincidence.

Then there were the fans from hell. You know the type: the ones that can’t be satisfied with anything you do. Oh well, thankfully these types were rare and I only had to deal

Here I am by the beautiful red and blue banner at the main entrance of the VBCC.



with about three of them. Of course, matters were sometimes complicated by the fact that groups who were to be seated together, were sometimes split apart. They had to be told to go

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their wares that won't even consider small time fan conventions. (Skip the next four paragraphs if you could care less about what the booths were doing.)

Some of the more interesting booths there: Leaf Inc. was carving giant chocolate bars before your eyes. Graphix was selling jewelry with hologram and LED enhancements, similar to what Worf wears on his family sash. Vital Technologies had a functioning tri-corder that our own Chief Medical Officer Ralph Bringham bought. Advanced Graphics, who supplied a free display check in everyone's membership bag, had beautiful displays of their checks that could be purchased. Interstellar Productions had some nifty gifts available, such as mouse pads, movie soundtrack CDs, phaser laser pointers, and more. Tevco Sportswear, which came the closest to a smaller dealer in appearance, had T-shirts for sale.

Watch out Deanna Troi!



Hamilton Collection (collectors' plates), Pocket Books, Ertl (and other model companies), Q-Voice (voice computer control) and Hallmark (Christmas ornaments) were also there.

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center booth was tiny compared to NASA's booth, which took up about 1/5 of the exhibit hall. NASA's area had various dioramas of all their accomplishments and a few hands-on programs. Traveller Information Services also had almost as huge an area where people could surf the web. Playmates Toys was there with an interesting museum of past, current, and future *Trek* product lines. They even had a display on the toy making process. Franklin Mint had all of their pewter sculptures on display, including the three nacelle Enterprise from "All Good Things...", which I wanted

Boldly going for 30 years.

wait in the "problem" line which grew longer as the day progressed. Suffice to say, that didn't win over any fans.

Though I was scheduled to work registration throughout the day, they took me off around lunch time to run to Brunos to get some snack supplies. It was quite an honor that they trusted me with petty cash to go and get them some drinks and snack supplies. They of course, had heard about Sun Drop and wanted to taste the local fair. I'm not sure if they got really local and tried grits or not. The rest of the afternoon was spent relieving others for breaks and general errand running. This was my official job that I registered for and received the T-shirt for. I also received a pass to the Space and Rocket Center and a pass to the Saturday night tribute to Gene. Therefore, they were able to live up to getting people a pass to these events.

This reminds me of one of the things that soured me a bit: people's attitude toward volunteering. When they first heard about this, people had hopes of working with the stars or getting discounts on tickets. However, once they heard that they would not be working with the stars, may not get free tickets, or may even be taken away from the VBCC itself, they quickly changed their attitudes. They no longer wanted to help at all. This was especially prevalent in Fleet members.

Volunteerism is most often associated with charitable works such as working a phone bank at a telethon, rebuilding a family's home after a tornado, serving food at a homeless shelter, etc. However, volunteerism at it's basic level is simply doing something for nothing. That's what Paramount was wanting here. People, however, felt they were owed something for their supposedly "volunteer" work.

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desperately to buy. A Las Vegas hotel advertised their “*Star Trek: The Experience*”. They had an original *Enterprise* bridge set where you could have souvenir pictures taken. They were to later have an adventure ride and special sets designed so you could beam out live. Several of our crewmembers had blackmail pictures taken. Creation had a table selling their usual star pictures, glasses, jackets, and other stuff. Blockbuster also had a huge big screen TV and were selling videos.

The live Barbie and Ken dolls, dressed in Starfleet uniforms. HT



Mattel was selling their Ken and Barbie dolls in STARFLEET uniforms, as well as giving away some autographed

by Nichelle Nichols (Uhura). However, I think the live Ken and Barbie models were getting more longing stares from the crowd. Lincoln Enterprises, which I think Majel Barrett Roddenberry (Luxwanna Troi) is involved with or owns, had various items for sale. The U.S. Postal Service had a booth available where you could get a special cancellation stamp put on your mail. It had the *Star Trek 30* logo on the right, the original *Enterprise* on the left, with the “*Star Trek Station / September 8, 1996*” above it and “1966 / 1996 / Huntsville, AL 35813” below it. Fleeer/Skybox had a trading card display, with an actor dressed as Wolverine who’s costume had muscles and claws. They also had a photo session area where you could have your picture taken live with Walter Koenig (Chekov), James Doohan (Scotty), George Takei (Sulu), and Grace Lee Whitney (Yeoman Rand).

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When you’re paid for doing something, whether it be in money, in exchange for goods, or whatever, you cease to be a volunteer and become an employee.

Don’t get me wrong: There is nothing wrong with expecting a little something in return for your efforts, especially when it’s a profitable money making company like Paramount and not some fatally ill child. However, how much do you want? People were guaranteed unique volunteer T-shirts and free food. They were also told they MIGHT get free passes as well, but they couldn’t guarantee that ahead of time. When “volunteers” heard this, they dropped out quickly deciding it wasn’t worth their efforts. (I also realize that some ended up having scheduling conflicts and other legitimate problems; these few are NOT the ones I’m chastising.) Fortunately, Paramount was able to come through with a free pass to

the Saturday night tribute to Gene Roddenberry and a day pass to the US S&RC. Because they dropped out, however, the former “volunteers” never received these gifts in appreciative thanks.

For me, the greatest thanks did not come in the form of a material possession. When I worked the long hours stuffing the gift bags, I felt the most reward in the looks of relief and thanks on the faces of the Paramount staff that were being paid to work there. I lost track of the number of times they verbally thanked the volunteers that were there late Thursday night and early Friday morning for our

Here is the huge NASA exhibit, complete with moon and Space Shuttle



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When booths, like Fleer/Skybox or anyone else, had a special autograph session, it became almost impossible to get through. Some of the stars signing in the Promenade included Nichols, Keith Birdsong (painter on several Hamilton Collection plates), Whitney, Jeri Taylor (*Voyager* executive producer), Judy and Gar Reeves-Stevens (book authors), Marc Okrand (Klingon Language Institute), Majel Barrett, and Chase Masterson, (Leeta, the DS9 Dabo girl). Other stars would occasionally make impromptu visits to the promenade, causing a major traffic jam.

While wandering around the various booths, I eventually ran into other shipmates. Don, Anya, Bonnie Flanagan, Dianne Adams, and Larry Adams (last three from our shuttle *Alabama*), Kit Ramsey, Wayne Cole (our resident Picard look alike), and Johnnie Peterson. Those are the only ones I remember running into. I'm sure out there, somewhere in all those people, were dozens of other Fleet



Review

Boldly going for 30 years.

hard work. Sure, I ended up with a T-shirt as well, but the greater sense of reward came from their verbal thanks and the relief on their faces that our jobs were accomplished on time. I have no doubts in my mind that our work that night saved them many headaches and other problems the rest of the weekend. That's what being a volunteer is all about.

Oops. I didn't quite mean to get on my soapbox quite so much, but it did help me illustrate a point. Anyway, on with the review:

The line Friday was not bad at all. I think even at the busiest, there was only a fifteen, possibly thirty minute wait. That was NOT the case on Saturday and Sunday. As was mentioned elsewhere, the line to get general admission stretched out the door and down the street. I would NOT have wanted to have waited in that line. Furthermore, some of the Constitution and Galaxy class ticket holders

waited in that line, when they didn't have to. Directions and signs were not very helpful. This isn't surprising given that I saw the large plywood signs being cut, painted, and set-up Friday, literally the day before everything was to begin. While I'm sure they had a planned schedule, and they were able to finish, waiting so close to the deadline to finish these things seems rather foolish to me.

Signs weren't the only thing to be completed at the last minute. Even the schedule of events didn't get back from the printer until late Friday afternoon. And the autograph schedule and welcome letter for the gift bags didn't arrive until we were half way finished stuffing them. We had to go back and stuff the flimsy paper in the bags we had already completed, which was difficult with the gifts and other stuff already in there. I have no idea why they waited to the last minute on these items

Volunteering

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members. I did run into Russ and Pete again, as well as Carol Burhans from the *Dark Silence* Station in Decatur. In fact, on the STARFLEET E-Mail list, I occasionally hear people mention *Trek 30* and the time they had here.

I grabbed a bite to eat and headed for the main Arena to watch "Star Trek Salutes the Space Program" by Picardo and McNeill honoring the astronauts Alan Shepard, Alan Bean, and Buzz Aldrin. They were introduced by John de Lancie, who was the arena events host for all day Saturday. After a brief discussion among themselves, the *Trek* stars showed a video clip as an introduction to the astronauts. They then continued the discussion among all five of them. Having a guaranteed seat reserved for you is quite nice. Even though there were seats closer to the stage, I had a great view from about midway back along the right side of the left-front section. They had a HUGE video screen above the stage for those

Koenig and Majel Barrett with three of the Apollo astronauts, not sure which ones. HT



who weren't as fortunate in their seat location. The stage itself was done with a bridge layout, but with *Deep Space Nine* design and color motif.

Once this was over, I wandered back into the East Exhibit Hall that had been renamed the Interactive Holosuites. One

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which should have been finished at least a week before the celebration. This was incredibly poor planning and could have caused some major problems for them. You'd think they

Now isn't this a Kodak moment? This original series bridge set was on display so you could have your picture taken. HT



would want to get all this stuff finished weeks ahead of time so last minute problems and hang-ups won't be as severe. But that wasn't the case.

Of course, we had a few more volunteers participate as well. Security Chief Dustin Williams worked with the VBCC itself. And Jim Dykes volunteered to work the busses. However, after helping a little while, he got pulled off that duty to work on a more hands-on approach. In fact, he got to tease Klingons, or more appropriately, Klingons' hair. Brave man isn't he? For the stunt spectacular show, Michael Westmore was doing the make-up for the Klingon warriors. He needed help preparing the costumes, and Jim happened to be in the right place at the right time. So while most of us were enjoying the Saturday night tribute, Jim was hard at work back stage teasing the hair on the Klingon headpieces. And while he

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entire wall size display had been set up in a shallow S-curve with computer terminals and video monitors set in it. They had various PC game demos playing and product demonstrations going on. If you had the patience to wait, you could play them. Two of the most exciting were *The Borg*, with de Lancie reprising his role of Q, and *Starfleet Academy*, where you train to command different starships. The graphics, sound, and cinematography were absolutely amazing.

At a circular column in the center of the room packed with more computer terminals, people could browse the *Star Trek*: Continuum, which is a world wide web site ran by Paramount via the Microsoft Network (MSN). Paramount (as well as parent company Viacom) wants to make sure all things *Trek* are stored at this site. And since it's part of the MSN, you have to subscribe to MSN in order to access it. While a very good site (In fact,

about a third of the pictures used in this issue came from there.), it stifles the creativity that *Trek* fandom has become. However, if you'd like to peruse it yourself, the WWW URL is "<http://startrek.msn.com>".

During the day of the event, MSN did a live simulcast on the web with some of the events going on here. While the broadcast of the panels are no longer available, you can visit <http://www.paramount.com/startrek/huntsville/master.html> on the web to see additional reports on some of the things that happened. In fact, local internet provider Traveller Information Services helped with this set up. You can visit <http://www.startrek96.com/> for their information, which contains many great pictures. In fact, several of the pictures used throughout this article were taken from the previous two web sites and I've tried to indicate who they belong to with a MSN and TIS at the end of the picture caption.

Boldly going for 30 years.

didn't have the chance to talk with anyone, he was able to see Westmore backstage, along with a few other stars like the most popular Klingon of all, Michael Dorn, who plays Worf on *The Next Generation* and *Deep Space 9*.

Even though we didn't have an official booth or table as we would have liked, we did have a small presence there. Other fan organizations took over a small table laying out in the food area and hallway. They laid flyers as did I. Pete also had some Region 2 posters there as well. By Sunday afternoon when I left, almost an entire ream (about 450 sheets) of STARFLEET applications had been taken. While these were for STARFLEET in general, they had an introductory letter on the back with all the local chapters listed. I also had two full color signs on display, one for the *Wernher von Braun* and one for STARFLEET. These were full color signs placed in a cheap, cardboard

display, though they looked quite nice. In fact, they looked so nice someone decided to take the STARFLEET one home.

Unfortunately, as far as I can tell, no one has joined the ship as a result of *Star Trek* 30, which is very disheartening. It should have been the best recruiting opportunity anyone has ever had. I

blame the lack of support from Guinn, lack of planning on my part, and the ever watchful eye of Paramount trying to control everything for this not being

Even Wolverine was there giving autographs.



STAR TREK 30

September 7 and 8, 1996

Huntsville, Alabama

Located in one corner of the holosuite was a Kodak moment. Or, more correctly, Kodak would take your picture beaming off the transporter pad. In another corner was the Bajoran Immigration Station. Here you could be turned into a Bajoran with a ridged nose piece. While the worker's makeup looked fine (as it was probably done by Michael Westmore or his staff since they were present), I personally didn't think their quickie process resulted in a very good effect.

A third corner of this room held the live auction for both days. If you think Fleet auctions are something to behold, you haven't seen anything like this. They had quite a few low numbered toy and action figures to bid on. When I say low, I mean LOW, like a few 1's and 2's, but all were certainly under 200. They also had a few dioramas and nine inch dolls. Two of the more spectacular items included original action figure proofs used to make them, and a gold plated original series *Enterprise* with stand that went for \$2,200. They

also had several silent auctions throughout the day. The auction on Saturday raised \$13,500 for the Gene Roddenberry Scholarship Fund.

In the adjoining South Exhibit Hall was housed the Blockbuster Viewscreen. This room was set up in a small theater style with a giant TV screen. I didn't partake of many events in here as I was too busy with other things. However, had I had the time, I'm sure it was a very informative and revealing experience. Not only did they have the usual episode viewing and video clips, they also had presentations by the production staff and industry insiders. Terry Erdmann, a motion picture publicist, hosted both days.

Saturday's schedule included: favorite scene montages from all four *Trek* series, footage that has never been seen before (presented by the Reeves-Stevens couple and Margaret Clark: book authors and editor, respectively), stunt creation (Dennis Madalone: stunt coordinator), 30 year tribute slide show (Erdmann), writing *Star Trek* shows (Jeri

Celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of *Star Trek*.

as successful as a convention or movie recruitment drive. Paramount has always had a very hateful relationship to fan organizations. Only it's official fan club is tolerated, and it's nothing more really than a merchandise outlet to make money. I'm sure the response would have been much better had this been a friendlier, fan run convention.

Overall though, I'm very thankful to have had the opportunity to have participated as a volunteer in the *Star Trek* 30 celebration. A person develops a very wonderful sense of self-worth knowing that your efforts helped make something so important happen. I'd highly recommend that people do some type of volunteer work no matter how great or small, as the rewards will be immeasurable. What was nice about volunteering with this is that I was working with one my greatest hobbies and interests: *Star Trek*.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

**Crewmember
Johnny Peterson
poses in her
"monster maroon"
uniform from *Star
Trek II* with one of
the friendlier
Klingons. MSN**



One Weekend On Earth

Taylor and John Ordovery: *Voyager* creator and Pocket Books editor, respectively), creation of the *Trek* universe (Dan Curry, Rick Sternbach, and Andre Bormanis: visual effects producer, senior illustrator, and *Trek* science consultant), and the original series episode “The Trouble With Tribbles.”

Sunday’s schedule included: writing *Star Trek* books (Reeves-Stevens couple, Clark, Ordovery, and Paula Black: the latter is Publishing Director of Viacom), a “smorgas-Borg” buffet of *Next Generation* Borg episodes, Klingon “Kulture” (Okrand and Curry), ten biggest *Trek* villain video, *Star Trek: First Contact* slide preview (Erdman), and another presentation of the never seen *Trek* footage (Reeves-Stevens).

I finally made my way into the Spencer Gifts Warp 10 Store located in the West Exhibit Hall. This turned out to be a mixed blessing. On one hand, everything was available from uniforms to actions figures, from trading cards to toys, from models to collectables, from hockey jerseys to baseball caps, etc. I could go on forever, but I won’t. There was a staggering amount of merchandise available as it was definitely a collector’s dream come true. If it was licensed by Paramount, it was in here. However on the other hand, there was nothing here that you couldn’t get from any other well supplied Spencer Gifts.

Correction, there was one thing that was supposedly only available at this store: a limited edition of ten thousand action figures of Scotty and Sulu from the very first *Trek* episode, “Where No Man Has Gone Before”. I, of course, bought me one of each for investment purposes and some for another Fleet member. However, by late Sunday night, hundreds if not thousands, of these were still left on the shelves. Had I known they wouldn’t be selling well, I would have waited, because most everything else was being marked down drastically in price. I actually managed to override my desire to buy and made it out of the store with only the actions figures and some metal trading cards. Woe be unto the weak-willed with high credit limits.

Around 3:30 I made my way back into the autograph line for Shimerman. Westmore was signing as well, but I didn’t get his autograph. I admit, I want the stars themselves, not the background crew. Auberjonois was not signing as the schedule said that he may not. By the time I got Shimerman’s autograph, I started making my way toward the arena for the night’s main event.



These figures of Sulu and Scotty, from Star Trek's very first episode, were supposedly available at Star Trek 30 only.

STAR TREK 30

September 7 and 8, 1996

Huntsville, Alabama

Tribute to Gene Roddenberry.

The main event Saturday night was the thirtieth anniversary tribute to Gene Roddenberry. While waiting for everything to start at 7:30, the overhead screen displayed various video clip montages set to different types of music. This was also done throughout the day for the other presentations as well. I had a small bite to eat while waiting since I had a sudden craving for the arena food.

Finally, the tribute began by the host for the evening, Michael Dorn (Worf). Comedian Rick Overton was the first to perform. He tried valiantly to do *Star Trek* humor, but I felt most of his jokes fell flat. Funnier stuff has been heard over the net or at ship meetings. Then came the great stunt spectacular choreographed by Dennis Madalone. It basically amounted to a fight sequence between a single Federation officer and about a half-dozen Klingon warriors. Frankly, it left much to be desired in excitement and believability, though the makeup and costumes were nice. (Check out the volunteer article for an interesting side story involving one of our crewmembers helping with this event.) Even the final explosion fall wasn't that spectacular, though I think the stuntman nearly hit his head on the railing. When I heard them claiming stunt spectacular, I envisioned something along the rides at MGM studios or amusement parks that would allow audience participation. Not this poor excuse at entertainment. Even Dorn joked about wishing Worf could fight like that.

Finally Dorn introduced James Doohan (Scotty), Nichelle Nichols (Uhura), Walter Koenig (Chekov), and George Takei (Sulu). Given the fact that *TV Guide* reported that Doohan had declined to appear at *Trek 30* due to financial compensation disagreements and personal dislikes, I was greatly relieved to see him there. He reconsidered his decision after the outpouring of fans convinced him otherwise.

After they left, DeForest Kelly (McCoy) was introduced. He chatted briefly and then began to introduce a "friend, writer, director, father..." From stage left walked William Shatner (Kirk) and from stage right walked Leonard Nimoy (Spock). The crowd roared with laughter as they both tried to determine who Kelly was talking about. At one point, Shatner produced a small wallet sized picture of his grandkids; Nimoy countered by pulling out an 8x10 picture. It was quite a hilarious moment. They all three sat and chatted a while. They related various anecdotes about their careers and time together.

The astronauts were introduced next and they chatted briefly as well. Buzz Aldrin, Alan Bean, Charles Duke, Fred Haise, Ed Mitchell, and Alan Shepard were on hand to discuss the relationship between the fictional *Star Trek* and the reality of the space program. They touched upon how *Trek* inspires children to look to the stars. Finally, Daniel Goldin, a NASA administrator, brought Majel Barrett Roddenberry up on stage. They presented her with a huge plaque in tribute to Gene Roddenberry. Of course it was a very emotional moment to listen to her thank NASA and the legions of *Star Trek* fans for the past thirty years of memories. She even had their son Rod come on stage. He announced that Gene's dream of going into space was realized when the space shuttle *Columbia* carried his ashes into space.



Koenig, Takei, Doohan, and Nichols. MSN

One Weekend On Earth



The tribute plaque to Gene Roddenberry is presented to his wife, Majel Barrett Roddenberry, by Daniel Goldin, NASA administrator. HT

It was then followed by a musical celebration featuring the Oakwood College Choir and the Alabama A&M Gospel Choir. They also had a laser light display. And of course, various images and scenes from the celebration and from the TV show displaying on the big screen in the background. They even had people in alien costumes among the performers, from the previously seen Klingons, to Romulans and Vulcans, even a few Ferengi.

They also brought all the original series cast members back on stage. For me, it was very emotional and awe inspiring site to see the entire original cast on stage at one time. Of course, due to personal dislikes among them, you could see a few of them avoiding each other. But all in all, they still worked well together for this occasion. What added even more emotion to the scene was to see the real life space heroes, the Apollo astronauts, standing along side the cast members along with Majel Barrett, the queen mother of *Star Trek*.

The show was concluded with a song by Garth Brooks entitled "We Shall Be Free." And just make sure it ended with a literal bang, they had some in-door fireworks, which was sort of scary and exhilarating at the same time. If you listen closely to the lyrics, you will hear that Brooks envisions a world free of racial prejudice, a world free of famine and war, a world free of the problems that face us today. That's also the same utopian vision that Gene Roddenberry envisioned in his *Star Trek*

universe. And that's also the same wonderful world vision we're working for in STARFLEET.



Nimoy and Shatner.

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*An awe inspiring sight: The entire original cast together on stage.
Doohan, Koenig, Kelly, Nimoy, Shatner, Takei, and Nichols.*

VIP banquet.

I managed to catch up with Johnnie Peterson after the crowd started to leave. We made our way to the busses, which were taking everyone over to the US Space and Rocket Center (S&RC) for the VIP Gala dinner held exclusively for the Galaxy Glass package holders. We arrived safely after a speedy buss ride over there. Unfortunately, we had to check our cameras at the entrance, though a few people did sneak theirs in.

We were herded through the twisting, winding corridors of the S&RC to their dining area. Once there, we got to fight our way through the hundreds (a thousand perhaps?) of people to get in line for the food. They had various buffet lines available with all kinds of food, from pasta to roast beef, from pork to fish, from fruits to cheeses, from cookies to cakes, and just about everything else. I gorged

myself silly, regretting having succumbed to the stadium food earlier. Me and Johnnie were able to sit down with Don Daniel.

We sat and chatted a while, catching glimpses of the various stars that were roaming around. They even had a free picture session area available for people to get their picture taken. We eventually parted company, trying to meet up with a particular star. Since I'm not one to hobnob very much, I didn't try to meet any of the big ones. I did, however, have a nice conversation with Rod, Majel Barrett and Gene Roddenberry's son. I think Don had the chance to speak with the actress who plays Leeta the Dabo girl. We were also speculating that the actress who plays Lyta Alexander, the station telepath on *Babylon 5*, was there as well.

Finally, we were getting tired, having perhaps one of the most exciting days of our life. On the way out of the S&RC, we stopped

One Weekend On Earth

to peruse the exhibits that weren't cordoned off. It was fun to see science-fiction toys from my childhood on exhibit at a space museum hosting a gala dinner in honor of the thirtieth anniversary of the cultural phenomena that *Trek* has become. There were a few *Star Trek* toys there, as were *Star Wars* and dozens of other science-fiction movies and TV shows.

Just as we headed out, we ran into Cindy Krell, former STARFLEET Chief of Operations. She is also former Commanding Officer of the USS *Alacrity* out Memphis, Tennessee, which is also the ship that launched the *Wernher von Braun* as a shuttle. We exchanged hugs and notes on the day, but were getting tired. We boarded the busses back to the VBCC and went home.



*Picardo,
Phillips,
and
McNeil.
MSN*

Sunday Events.

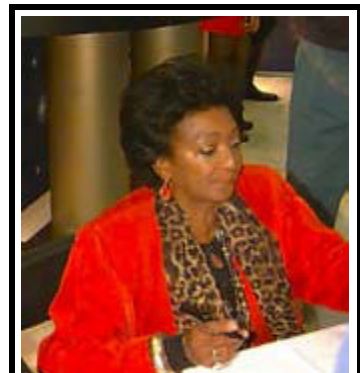
I managed to get up on time for Sunday's activities though. My day started off in the autograph line again for John de Lancie, Rene Auberjonis, and Armin Shimerman. However, the first two had to leave so they could go have a "Menage a Troi" Majel Barrett Roddenberry. Or more accurately, host a panel entitled that with her. I decided to follow to the main arena to watch that since I already had Shimerman's autograph. That was followed by a presentation by William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy hosting a 'Star Trek Salute to the Apollo Astronauts' with Ed Mitchell, Fred Haise, and Charlie Duke.

Robert Picardo, who was hosting the arena today, then introduced the original cast members who have formed their own little

group. Nichelle Nichols, Walter Koenig, James Doohan, and George Takei led a hilarious impromptu scene presentation of "Bridge to Engineering." You could hear the hostility they felt for Shatner and the other "big three" stars (Kelly and Nimoy). In fact, they lampooned it with much gusto and audience approval. The scenario was that Kirk was being held hostage and the others were "trying" to save him. Koenig, who was looking a bit ill and as if he wasn't feeling very well, kept saying as Chekov to let the Klingons have Kirk. Doohan as Scotty kept having to repair the *Enterprise*, which was constantly falling apart. Only Takei as Sulu seemed to generally want Kirk back and was the calmest of the bunch. Come to think of it, he stood between the big three and the lesser four during Saturday night's tribute celebration, acting as buffer between them. And poor Nichols as Uhura, as she usually did in the TV show, simply stood in the background trying to open hailing frequencies. It was a very biting satire, but very funny.

I then went to the autograph room to wait several hours for the lesser four's autographs. Since all four were signing, I figured it was a golden opportunity not to be missed. After all, they're aging rapidly, especially Doohan, and will not be with us forever. It was sort of funny though, the Paramount people were telling us NOT to talk to the stars, as that slows them down.

He warned us especially not to talk to Takei, who was known to ramble. He also reminded us to have the pictures ready and that personalization of autographs was not allowed. All this was done in an



*Nichols signing
autographs. MSN*

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Huntsville, Alabama

attempt to make sure as many people as possible get their autograph. And I did walk out of there with Nichols's, Koenig's, Doohan's, and Takei's autograph. And the Paramount guy was right, Takei did ramble a bit when spoken too or asked questions. I simply limited my words with them to "Thank-you very much!"

I suppose the handling of autographs was one of the major faltering points of this convention. Not only was the lines impossible to deal with, but they often times scheduled the autograph session before the stars were to appear on stage. As a result, people sometimes waited hours in line only to have the star leave for their presentation. They should have scheduled much more time for autographs after the stars' presentations. Additionally, the Galaxy Class people were to have gotten priority in the lines. As far as I could tell, there was no one making sure this occurred.

I'd also like to mention that the astronauts were signing autographs as well. However, some of them were only signing at the S&RC. Even though busses were traveling too and from there every half hour, I didn't want to waste my time to get them. And while I am eternally grateful to them for braving the space frontier, I am a *Star Trek* fan first and foremost. Given the time and opportunity, I would gladly and proudly get their autographs too.



Kelly telling a funny story on Shatner. HT

Anyway, due to time it took to get those four autographs, I missed an arena presentation by DeForest Kelly and Robert Picardo, the two most popular doctors of *Star Trek*. Entitled "Report to Sickbay," I'm sure seeing these two together would have been a remarkable experience. It was followed by "Star Trek: The Latest Generation, which was a panel with Armin Shimmerman, Ethan Phillips, and Robert Duncan McNeil. One of the things they talked about was inheriting the *Trek* mantle from the original cast members. Phillips was also a very funny, and entertaining person.

At this point, the convention started winding down quickly. While there was another autograph session with McNeill and Picardo, I decided to use the remaining time to browse the Promenade and the Spencer's Warp 10 store again. They were quickly marking down the merchandise in hopes not to have any surplus stock left over. In a way, it was a very anti-climactic end to something as significant as *Star Trek*'s thirtieth anniversary.

In Summary

The bottom line is that I had a very wonderful time and experience. It may have been a bit expensive, but I think it was well worth it to see the entire original cast together, along with so many of the recent series stars. Seeing them all on stage together at once on Saturday night was a very powerful and moving experience.



Mulgrew signing a Barbie doll packages. MSN

One Weekend On Earth



McNeil relaxing. MSN

more. I would have liked more *Next Generation* stars as well. And if they had managed to get all four Captains, it would have been perfect. The entire original cast was there, and that was the important thing. And most of the *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager* cast were there as well. The Promenade had everything you could probably want. However, as I mentioned, it had a mass market, commercial feel to it since they did not allow the independent dealers there.

Furthermore, they really only had four tracks of programming going. Compared to say



The two doctors past and present: Kelly and Picardo.

I could have hoped for better autograph scheduling, but I did manage to make it out with nine autographs. It would have been even nicer if the “big three” were signing, but they rarely do so at conventions any

Dragon*Con, that’s incredibly few. They had the main arena events, which were geared to bring the big audiences. They Viewscreen events were the filler material, as they were

going continuously. The only other thing that was going on was the events in the Promenade, which were mostly autograph signings. The fourth track was the autograph signings in the Galaxy Class Club. Therefore, I think there was fewer things available when compared to your usual conventions. However, the things that were going on were quite spectacular. As a result, you did have time to partake in most everything. While more would have offered more variety, it would have been even more frustrating to miss out.

But then again, Paramount never wanted this to be an overgrown convention. They repeatedly stated this was to be a celebration to honor *Star Trek*’s thirtieth anniversary. So I suppose in that regard, they succeeded very well. With Saturday night’s tribute celebration as the main event (and the VIP gala afterward), everything else was just fluff to make money and pad out the weekend.

Star Trek 30: One Weekend on Earth was one of the most exciting things I’ve ever had the opportunity to participate in. It was a once in a life event that I enjoyed thoroughly. While this might have been “One Weekend On Earth,” the memories will last a lifetime.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson



Majel Barrett signs autographs. MSN

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATIONS

When you cease to exist...

Listed below are the expiration dates of our ship and STARFLEET members since January 1, 1996 as we know them. If there isn't a date listed, that means we are not aware of when your dues expire or you never joined. If they have, please pay them. If there is a "?" by the date, that means we are not certain of the date and you should double check with your records. If there is an error, please tell both Dallas and Richard of the problem so it can be corrected. You can find your Fleet expiration on the mailing label of your *Communiqués*.

Ship dues are \$5 for Associate which gets you the monthly postcard, *Mission Briefing*. Full Membership is \$10, which gets you the MB, the *Subspace Static*, and voting privileges. STARFLEET individual memberships are \$15 each, \$22 for a family of two, and \$25 for a family of three. Make checks, money orders, or cashier checks payable to the *Wernher von Braun* or to STARFLEET; do NOT send cash. Give me your money at the meetings, and I can mail your memberships in for you. Or send it along with your Fleet application to:

STARFLEET Membership Processing
PO Box 362
Ladson, SC 29456-0362

A current application for STARFLEET can be found at the end of this issue, or in a *Communiqué*. Ship applications are available upon request and can be mailed with checks

to the address listed in the back of the newsletter. If you have general questions about your memberships, please ask me and I will look into it with Fleet myself. Thank you!

Last Name	First Name	Expiration:	STARFLEET:
Adams	Gloria	03/03/1997	05/27/1996
Adams	Larry	03/03/1997	05/27/1996
Baker Jr.	Bill	07/07/1996?	02/10/1996
Blevins	Karen	03/03/1997	07/05/1997
Brigham	Ralph	01/09/2010	02/07/1998
Cagle	Perry		04/01/1998?
Carpenter	Thomas		04/01/1998?
Cole	Mary	07/07/1996?	07/19/1996
Cole	Wayne	07/07/1996?	07/19/1996
Cooper	Dawn	07/07/1997?	10/01/1997
Daniel	Donald	05/04/1997	06/24/1997
Dykes	Jim	10/06/1997?	
Fairless	Gayle	01/08/1996	
Flanagan	Bonnie	03/03/1997	05/27/1996
Funderburk	Anya	05/05/1997	05/28/1997
Kimbrow	Kenneth		04/01/1998?
Lockhart	Karen	01/08/1996	
Martin	Jim	02/05/1996	02/22/1996
Parks	Harold		02/21/1997
Perry	Tom	10/01/1996	
Peterson	Johnnie	01/08/1998?	09/29/1997
Peterson	Laura	01/14/1998	04/01/1998?
Ramsey	Catherine "Kit"	03/03/2000	02/03/1998?
Rodgers	Kristina	02/05/1996	
Sizemore	Paul	03/03/1997	02/21/1997
Stevens	Scott	03/24/1997	
Trulson	Richard L.	08/01/1997	02/15/1998
Trulson	Richard C.		02/15/1998
Trulson	Loretta		02/15/1998
Vaughn	Henry	03/24/1997	04/01/1997
Vinson	Dallas	01/05/1998	04/01/1998?
Williams	Dustin	01/05/1998	02/01/1998
Williams	Spencer	01/20/1996	
Zawisza	Michael	07/10/1997	

SPOTLIGHT: JIM DYKES

A really permanent *Star Trek* fan.

Jim Dykes is one of our newest members who started back in July. He got involved with the *von Braun* after signing up for more information at one of our recruiting tables. He hasn't yet decided upon a department to join.

Jim's interest in *Star Trek* began when the original series first aired on TV and he became an instant fan. He was pleased when it was syndicated into reruns. When *Next Generation* came out, he was thrilled that they were going to do a modern update and it eventually became his favorite of the four series. However, he was somewhat disappointed with *Deep Space Nine* because it was boring.

As far as the characters go, Data is Jim's favorite. In fact, when he played softball in Atlanta, Jim's teammates nicknamed him Data. He enjoys the banter between Spock and McCoy in the original series. He also feels Janeway's character is very strong and tough. However, he enjoys the "sharp witted tongue of the [holo-graphic] Doctor" on *Voyager*.

Outside of *Star Trek*, Jim has enjoyed the 2001 and 2010 movies. One of his favorites though is *The Andromeda Strain*. He feels it was futuristic for its time and thinks that the soundtrack is very unique. There's just something about the thought of a deadly microbe

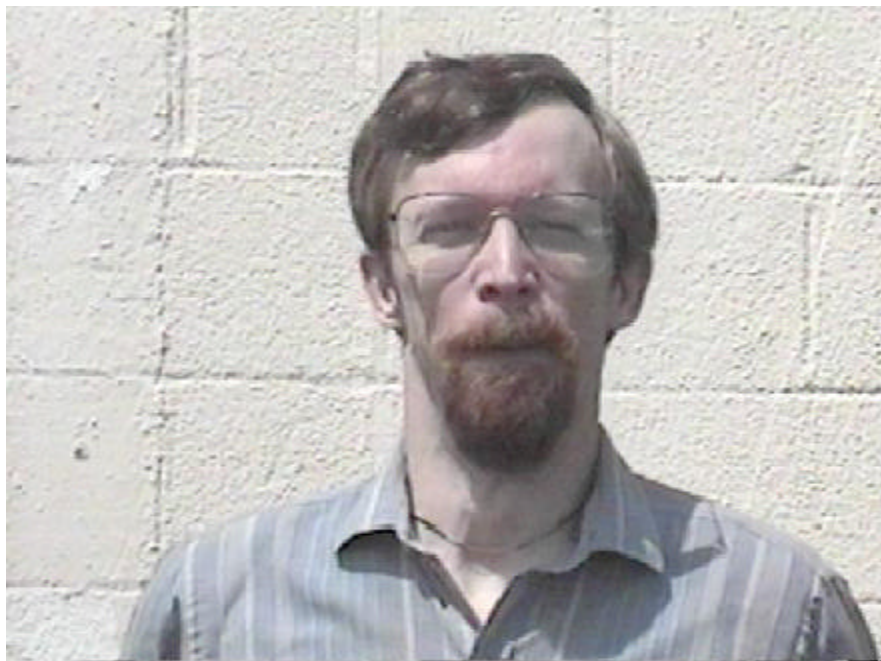
killing everyone. He also enjoys old written science-fiction as well as *Babylon 5*, with G'Kar being Jim's favorite alien character.

Born on March 16 in Winfield, Alabama, Jim is an only child. However, he was an excellent student in school and was a part of the honor society. His favorites include pizza and pepperoni, the color green, and the lucky number 7. Rock and roll is his favorite music genre, though he will listen to some jazz or a bit of anything. He considers "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin to be the all time best rock and roll song ever. He also grew up listening to a lot of Lynyrd Skynyrd. For a year and a half now, Joey is Jim's significant other, though he isn't as much of a original series *Star Trek* fan as Jim. Joey

mainly enjoys the movies (except for five), the *Next Generation*, and *Voyager*.

Jim moved to Decatur in 1965 where he spent most of his life. He attended Athens State College and Calhoun, where he got an Associates degree in Business Data processing. At one time he worked at Marshall Space Flight Center. However, one of his more interesting jobs had Jim working on the second floor of the Vehicle Assembly building at Cape Canaveral. For those who don't know, this is the large building that houses the space shuttles prior to launch so everything can be made ready for flight. Then in 1978, Jim was able to see the original Space Shuttle

Continued: See Spotlight on page 63...



PROMOTIONS

How do I reward thee, let me count the ways.

One of the most difficult decisions a Commanding Officer must decide with his crew is how to approach promotions. Even though a person's rank does not grant them any power over another lower ranked member, people seem to take promotions VERY seriously. And the methods used to promote are as varied as their are number of chapters in Fleet.

Each chapter is allowed to decide what ranks they will have, and what the policies to obtain those ranks will be. Some chapters have a very rigid plan in place, where you must accomplish a certain number of things in order to be promoted, while others are so relaxed, all you have to do is attend a meeting. Most chapters fall somewhere in between.

They usually use one of the following methods or combination to decide when a promotion is to occur: 1) Accumulate a certain number of points that are earned for various activities, often called the points system. 2) Face a review board of sort that determines if they are eligible for a promotion. 3) Discretion is left up to the CO alone. 4) Time in service determines your rank. 5) Holding a particular position on a ship, regional, or national level gives you a certain rank. Each method has it's good and bad points as can be expected.

The points based system is a record keepers nightmare. Usually the individual or a promotions officer must keep tract of each and every little activity a person does. Should their be some discrepancy or omission, major disputes can result. Furthermore, an individual can abuse the points system to get a higher rank. Is it fair they are doing it just to get a higher rank, or should they be doing it for the good of the ship?

Commanding Officer discretion is the easiest method, as it leaves it open for one person who should hopefully know the crew the best. However, that method could possibly lead to major favoritism being shown on part of the CO toward those the CO likes better, which is not good if you happen to end up on the CO's bad side. A review board, consisting of various members of the Command Officers, is less likely to succumb to such favoritism, but the possibility is still there. Depending on what

type of vote is needed, getting approval could be difficult if you've upset some of them.

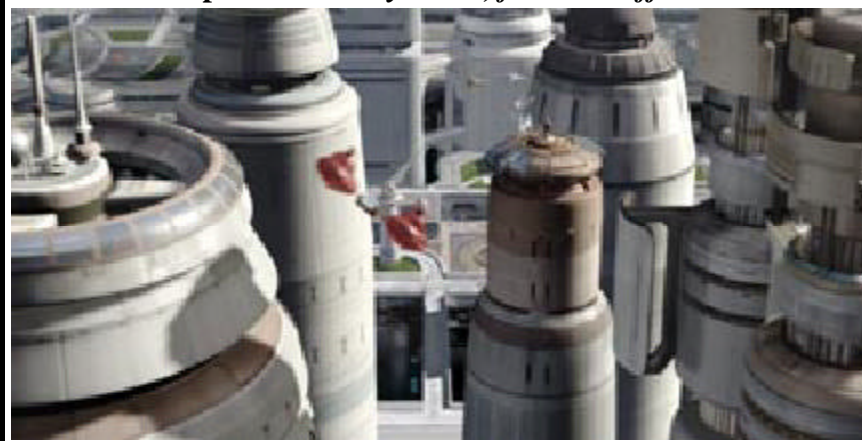
The time in service is the most straight forward. There can be no room for misunderstanding on when you will be promoted and how. Furthermore, the problems of favoritism will not exist. However, it does not recognize those who work especially hard for the chapter. Someone who does nothing will be promoted just as soon as someone who does everything. The same applies for holding a particular position, which are relatively few.

In the past, a loose points system was used on this ship. However, that quickly got difficult to track and was open to abuse. Therefore, promotions slowly started to drift toward CO discretion. Once I took over, it remained mostly CO discretion, though at the last few planning meetings, I have been calling for nominations and applications, with approval vote. That may not be enough, or fair; therefore, an overhaul of the system is needed.

A completely CGI rendered Sy Snootles, complete with duet singer Joe Yowza (on Sy's left), is added to original footage and new actors.



Another Empire Cloud City scene, from the official web site.



I think it was the very first planning meeting I called for, I had a proposed promotion points system. It was figured that it was a typical system. The only areas of disagreement occurred over how much points were needed and minimum time served requirements. Some felt more points needed to be accumulated for the various ranks, and others felt a person should be promoted if they had accumulated enough points, but not served enough time. I've included the points based system here for your review.

However, after considering that system, I do NOT want to have to deal with the paperwork nightmare that system would require. Therefore, at a recent planning meeting, we tossed the idea around of a qualitative review board based on activities. Whenever a person did something that was noteworthy, whether it be volunteer service or fan related such as making a costume—basically the activities listed that you would obtain points for—the person would write that down on a promotion sheet.

No points would be assigned. Then, once a quarter, or however long the CO felt appropriate, anyone wishing a promotion, would submit their sheet in for consideration, or someone could nominate them. The Command Officers would approve their promotion with a vote, either majority or some other value.

I particularly like this system with a few changes. First, only STARFLEET members may hold rank, as an incentive to join STARFLEET, which also may be interpreted from STARFLEET's Constitution. Second, for ranks below Ensign, a person must remain in that rank at least 3 months before being promoted again. For ranks Ensign and above, they must remain in that rank for 1 year. This is to prevent people from accelerating too fast and burning out. Finally, you must pass OTS in order to become an Ensign. This is done to insure knowledge of Fleet and what an officer should be.

If we decide to go with a time in service or position held methods, then we'll need to

make sure we have an established awards system in place to cover duties. For example, I have the Commendation of Excellence I give out when people do work on behalf of the ship, or do something nice. I also have the Shining Star monthly award as well. Of course, we'll need such awards in place even if we use any of the promotion systems.

Anyway, please let me or your DC know what you think of this proposed promotion system. At our next planning meeting, we will hash out the details of whichever method you like best. Then, after announcing at which meeting we plan to do so, we will vote on approval at a general meeting. Once that's done, work can begin on our official membership handbook which I've always wanted to do.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Promotion System

Purpose:

The following rank and promotion system is designed as a reward for service to the ship, STARFLEET, and the community. Obviously, a higher rank indicates a higher level of participation, length of service, and excellent performance of duties.

Rank does NOT give anyone the power to order someone else to do anything, nor does it mean someone is any better than the other. A person is NOT required to address people by rank, nor

salute a higher ranking officer. This is a volunteer organization and such formality is for show only. It is designed to recognize people for their hard work and dedication. Should a member abuse the rank and position given them, appropriate punitive actions will be taken against the offending member. Furthermore, real armed forces officers may get in trouble if a they are addressed by a rank that differs from their real rank.

...Star Wars continued from page 24.

to do it even better now. I also thought the Rancor monster editing was particularly bad. There were size and perspective problems, and black splicing areas. Nether were improved and they should have been.

Jedi's ending was greatly expanded to show people celebrating the Empire's defeat at other places. Instead of cutting immediately to the Ewok village from the X-Wings shooting fireworks, the scene shifted to Tatooine, Bespin, and Coruscant, which figures heavily in a series of books, comics, and games sanctioned by LucasArts. It involves a story line called "Shadows of the Empire" that follows the main characters immediately after *Jedi* ends. They then return to the Ewok

Therefore, it is suggested that STARFLEET rank not be used when corresponding with members of the armed forces.

How A Person Is Promoted:

For ranks below Ensign, a person simply needs to accumulate enough points for the desired rank. For ranks above Ensign, the person must acquire the points AND be subject to a performance review by the Command Officers that determines if he or she is truly deserving of that rank. A person may also apply or be nominated for a promotion, which will then be approved by the Command Officers, as defined in the By-Laws.

The Ranks And The Points Needed:

Listed below is the accepted ranks on the ship, starting with the lowest and ending with the highest. Also listed is the rank's abbreviation and the number of promotion points needed to obtain that rank. New members start at crewman with no rank. They MUST be a member of STARFLEET in order to have a rank and will be assigned the rank of Petty Officer, Third Class, upon joining. Ranks above Commander are listed in the STARFLEET handbook and can not be awarded by the CO or chapter.

Rank	Abbreviation	Addressed As	Points Needed
Crewman, no rank	(none)	(name only)	(none)
Petty Officer, Third Class	PO3	Petty Officer	join STARFLEET
Petty Officer, Second Class	PO2	Petty Officer	50
Petty Officer, First class	PO1	Petty Officer	100
Chief Petty Officer	CPO	Chief Petty Officer	175
Senior Chief Petty Officer	SCPO	Chief Petty Officer	250
Master Chief Petty Officer	MCPO	Chief Petty Officer	350
Ensign	ENS	Ensign	pass OTS
Lieutenant, Junior Grade	LTJG	Lieutenant	500
Lieutenant	LT	Lieutenant	1000
Lieutenant Commander	LCDR	Commander	2000
Commander	CMDR	Commander	pass OCC & 3000

village celebration scored with new music by John Williams. While nice, I thought the original music was vastly more appropriate to the Ewoks. Some new dance scenes and Ewok horn playing were added to go with the new music.

I loved the effects at Jabba's palace, which were excellent. I would have preferred to have kept the original

music in both places, but that didn't happen. And as far as I was concerned, the additional celebration scenes were beautiful, but not really needed. The scenes that needed work the most, did not receive any changes. Therefore, the third installment falls flat again. The only shining point is the Jabba band.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

How To Track Your Points:

Every crewmember will be issued a promotion point sheet (See Appendix D) so they can keep track of the points he or she has earned. The Executive Officer (or an appointee) will also keep track of your points as well in case there are discrepancies or one gets lost. Every time you earn points, write down the date, event or action, and the number of points earned. Once you earn enough points, you are eligible for promotion. You earn the highest possible points for a given category. For example, if you host a party, you earn the points for hosting it, but not for attending as well.

Other Guidelines:

For ranks below Ensign, you must remain at your current rank for two months before you are eligible for promotion. For Ensign and above, the wait period is six months. Once a member is promoted, they start over with zero points. Passing OTS and special promotions by the CO are the only way to skip a rank, even if you have accumulated enough total points for multiple ranks. You can NOT go any higher than PO3 unless you complete and pass STARFLEET Academy's OTS, which will automatically promote you to Ensign.

Earn Points For	Points Earned
Meetings:	
Attending a General Meeting	10
Hosting	15
Departments/Committees:	
Attending Departmental/Committee/Planning Meeting	15
Becoming a Department Chief/Committee Chairperson	200
Serving as Chief/Chairperson	per month 10
Social/Fun Activities:	
Attending	5
Planning/Helping	10
Hosting	15
With Another Chapter	20
Regional Summit/Activity	100
STARFLEET International Conference/Event	300
Conventions:	
Attending	per day 10
Attending one out of town	per day 15
Working	per day 20
Working one out of town	per day 25
Community Service/Work Event:	
Planning	40
Helping	30
Donate Blood	15
Donate can goods	per can 1
Current CPR / first aid certification	10
Work done in another organization	5
Recruiting:	
WVB Associate Member	5
WVB Active Member	10
STARFLEET Associate Member	10
STARFLEET Active Member	15
STARFLEET Academy:	
Pass any course (except OTS)	15
Pass any course with honors/recommendations	20
Uniform:	
Wearing	per event 5
Owning	per uniform 10
Making	per uniform 15
Newsletter:	
Article (excluding DC reports)	minimum 20
Other submission (cartoon, puzzle, etc)	minimum 15
Publication Elsewhere	25
Miscellaneous:	
Drive someone else to an event (non-family member)	per event 5
Department Chief Discretion	varies
Command Officers Discretion	varies

SUMMER MOVIES

Coming to a theater near you!

Be warned that the movie previews may contain information about the plot that may spoil some of the surprises in the movie. If you don't wish to know this ahead of time, **DON'T READ THEM.** Easy enough, no? Also, the validity of the information is **NOT** guaranteed. All movie information and pictures were taken off the web. I've tried to include where I've got them. Also, this summer appears to be another big run of science-fiction movies. So save up your pennies and go with the ship to see them. If think this sampling is good, wait till the next issue.

The Fifth Element

<http://www.fifthelement.com/>
It Mu5t be found, but we're not sure where.

The Fifth Element is another science-fiction action film for Bruce Willis. *Twelve Monkeys* was a surprisingly good movie from an actor who has both succeeded and bombed on the big screen. Willis plays a 23rd century New York cab driver who joins a group of

humans and aliens to stop the pure evil. In a weird sense of irony, evil is coming in the form of a giant comet, which I thought was a bit to close to Hale-Bopp for my tastes. Any attempts to destroy it just makes it stronger, and only a mysterious substance, the fifth element, can stop it. Supposedly, the special effects for this film are very stylistic, similar in tone to *Blade Runner*. Some more information was obtained from <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/7343/5thmain.htm> on the web. It's to be released May 2, 1997.



The Lost World: Jurassic Park

<http://www.lost-world.com/>
"Something has survived" and it's a sequel.

You just know that one of the highest grossing films of all time is going to have a sequel. Steven Spielberg, the director of the first *Jurassic Park*, is directing again. However, even though the first one was somewhat close to the original book by Michael Crichton, Spielberg has said that *The Lost World* has it's own unique story that has a completely different last half.



Apparently, the dinosaur park on island Isla Nublar was just the attraction to make money. The true research facility to study dinosaurs in a natural habitat was on a separate island Isla Sorna eighty miles away. Ian Malcolm (played again by Jeff Goldblum) has to go rescue his girlfriend, Sarah Harding (Julianne Moore), who is the daughter of Dr. Harding in *Jurassic Park*. She was sent there by John Hammond to do research. Rumors have it that big game hunter Roland Tembo (Pete Postlewaite) will capture a T-Rex and take it to San Diego where it goes on a rampage. Supposedly, there are over 75 CGI shots in *Lost World* compared to 59 in *Jurassic Park*. Some information was taken from <http://www.nac.net/~users/splat/lw/>. The release date is set for Friday, May 23, 1997.



Willis pleading the Fifth.



Batman and Robin

<http://www.batman-robin.com/>

The bad bat boys are back.

The fourth installment of the *Batman* series is called *Batman and Robin*. However, it could more accurately be called the Bat Family as they introduce Alicia Silverstone as Batgirl. Chris O'Donnell returns as Robin, but Batman has changed again, this time to George Clooney or *ER* fame. The villains this time around are Arnold Schwarzenegger as Mr. Freeze and Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy. Be on the lookout also for Jeep Swenson as Bane. As every good fan of the DC comic knows, Bane is the one who breaks Batman's back. However, as always, the movies are not following the exact origins and characterizations of the comics, which has its good and bad points. There was some dissatisfaction with the choice of Schwarzenegger to play the role of Freeze, since the comic version is an older, skinny man. Rumors also abound about a cameo by Michelle Pfeiffer as Catwoman fighting with Batgirl. There's also a bit part by Vivica Fox as Ms. B. Haven. *Batman and Robin* will be released on June 20, 1997.

Apparently, Clooney was approached for the Batman role after previous caped crusader Val Kilmer had poor relations with the Warner Brothers executives. He wanted more time to pursue *The Saint* movie with Paramount. However, they didn't want to budge given Kilmer was reportedly



One big bat family, with matching costumes to boot. Silverstone, Clooney, and O'Donnell as Batgirl, Batman, and Robin.

hard to get along with while filming *Batman Forever*. Two-Face Tommy Lee Jones was also reported to be rude to riddling Jim Carrey as well. It will be interesting again to see

what kind of interpretation Clooney brings to the Batman and Bruce Wayne characters.

Early indications of the plot follow that of *Batman Forever* due to the number of hero and villains introduced.

Mr. Muscles Schwarzenegger is back as Mr. Freeze and Thurman is Poison Ivy.



Freeze apparently has a spectacular opening sequence. His demons come forth from a lab accident at Wayne Enterprises. Ivy's origins are due to a similar accident in the Amazon jungle involving chemicals and exotic plants. Be on the lookout for her most deadly weapon: her green hosiery. Batgirl isn't introduced until late in the film when Bruce Wayne's loyal butler, Alfred, played by Michael Gough, becomes ill. He calls on his niece, Barbara Wilson to help out. Barbara learns about the Batcave after snooping around, which is annoyingly similar to Robin's origins. In the comics, Batgirl is Police Commissioner Gordon's daughter.

Anyway, after the grand opening sequence, Freeze is placed in Arkum Asylum only to be rescued later by Ivy. The two team up to take over the world with Pinky and the Brain, or at least Gotham City. Batman and Robin end up fighting for the affections of Ivy, only to have Batgirl come to steal Robin away. And as always, be on the look out for incredible color coordinated batsuits and batvehicles. Rumor has it Robin sports a new batcycle. Most of this information comes from "<http://members.aol.com/mrmojo16/batman4.html>" and from "<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/j.galley/batman4.htm>" (Everything inside the " ", but not including them or the spaces).

Continued: See Movies on top of page 67...

Upcoming Movies:

The movie release dates were taken from the following source: <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/7343/97index.htm> Please note that there is some discrepancy in the release dates in the previews and in this listing. Watch for advertisements or check with the papers or theaters for the correct dates.

May Movies

2 *The Fifth Element*

250 years into the future, a cab driver is pulled into a fight against pure evil.

9 *Father's Day*

Billy Crystal and Robin Williams team-up in this comedy about a woman and her runaway son.

16 *Playing God*

A disgraced doctor becomes the physician of a mobster. David Duchovny of *X-Files* stars.

21 *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*

Malcolm and others travel to the island where the dinosaurs were made.

June Movies

6 *Con Air*

When a cargo plane is hijacked by a band of homicidal prisoners, a marshal must ask one for help.

6 *Speed II: Cruise Control*

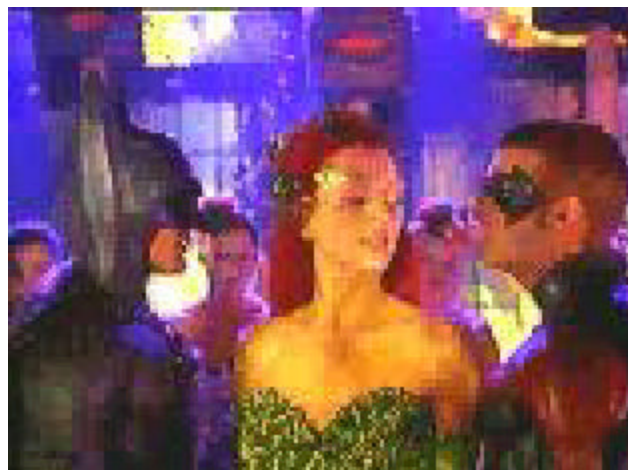
Jack and Annie are back on a cruise ship which is hijacked by a escaped prisoner.

20 *Batman and Robin*

Batman and Robin must fight the villains Mr. Freeze and Poison Ivy to save Gotham City.

27 *Hercules*

Disney animated feature set to the Greek legend about a young man who undergoes various tasks for Zeus.



...Communications continued from page 11.

learning the rules. Does it require you to have anything special, such as dice or charts. Are there supplements you have to or can buy to make it better? Games come in all forms, from board games to hand-held arcade games to computer games. If it's a computer game, you should list the minimum and recommended requirements for hardware. Was it easy to install and play, or did you have to call technical support or your local PC guru? Was it worth the investment or did you waste your money? How long does it take to play and what options are available?

Conventions are interesting little beasts that combine several of the above examples. Make sure you include the basics on when and where it was, as well as who the guests were. List the programming panel tracks? Was there a con suite and how good was it? Were the guests signing autographs and were they handled well? Was their ample opportunity to do everything, or did you get bored with gaps in programming or frustrated at not being able to attend everything? Was there enough room to hold everything and how accommodating was the facilities they were held at? If they had some special events such as a light show, masquerade costume contest, or a dance, make sure you mention that as well.



Many ship fight scenes were revamped using CGI ships, as well as generally cleaned up. Image courtesy of official Star Wars web site.

That's about all the general reviews I can think of. Hopefully, this will give people some idea of how to write a review. Therefore, not only do Department Chiefs not have an excuse for not writing reports, but now everyone has no excuse for not writing reviews. While I prefer E-Mail submission at richlt@hiwaay.net, I do accept handwritten, disk submission, or even dictation. Contact me and we'll see what we can work out. Not having a means to submit, or not knowing how to do so, is NOT a valid excuse for not submitting.

Of course, this article was initially written when there were no other submissions other than my own. With time, a LOT of time, submissions began to trickle in. I received a majority of the DC reports and a few articles as well. I would especially like to thank Don for his convention reviews. And thanks

to the multiple DC's who submitted several departmental reports, which I combined into one. Now if only I could get more people submitting, I'd be happy. Artwork, cartoons, or even short stories would be especially nice.

Hopefully, future issues won't be delayed as long as this one has. I apologize for that. However, I honestly, truly believe the wait is worth it. I think this issue looks spectacular. And our past works have received high praise at the regional level: The *Subspace Static* won Newsletter of the Year at the Region 2 Summit, which makes it eligible for the national award competition. I'm quite proud of this accomplishment and hope to continue the level of success for years to come throughout the ship.

**- FCAPT Richard L.
Trulson**

SCI-FI NEWS

The following science-fiction news was taken from the Science Fiction Weekly web site at <http://www.scifi.com/sfw/>.

New frontiers:

Star Trek executive producer Rick Berman has been talking with Imax about creating a 40 minute Imax movie. While no deal has been set, it's expected to cost about \$10 million and contain characters from the last three series. Paramount parent company Viacom is wanting to get into the retail store business. The Viacom Entertainment Store will open in Chicago, Illinois in May and will have a *Star Trek* theme.

Muscling in on a piece of the action:

For the first time in ten years a series other than a *Star Trek* spin off has resided at the top of the Nielsen ratings for a syndicated actions series. What did it? *Xena: Warrior Princess* and *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*.

Spaaaaaaace Friiiiiiiiends:

Matt LeBlanc (Joey on *Friends*) joins the cast of *Lost in Space*, replacing Sean Patrick Flanery (*Powder*, *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*) as astronaut Don West. New Line is said to be contemplating a new *Lost in Space* television series. Jennifer Aniston (Phoebe on *Friends*) will play the love object of a giant lizard in the upcoming remake *Godzilla* by *Independence Day* creators Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin.

Star Wars success:

The Special Edition release of *Star Wars* has made over \$438 million at the box office. It replaces the *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* at the number one spot. Steven Spielberg bought a full-page ad on the back cover of the Valentine's Day *Variety* magazine depicting E.T. crowning R2D2, with the message: "Dear George: Congratulations for renewing the most enduring motion picture in cinema history. Your pal, Steven." The

newly reissued soundtrack is earning the highest opening weekend of any reissue. Talks are also underway about releasing *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* this fall and *2001: A Space Odyssey* next year for its thirtieth anniversary.

Mad Max 4?

Kevin Costner (*Dances With Wolves*) is directing a post-apocalyptic science-fiction film called *The Postman*. Olivia Williams will be the female lead in the film based on David Brin's popular book of the same name.

Waterworld 2?

Rapper and actor Queen Latifah (*Living Single*) has signed to appear as a Navy habitat specialist in the film version of Michael Crichton's underwater science-fiction thriller *Sphere*. Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone

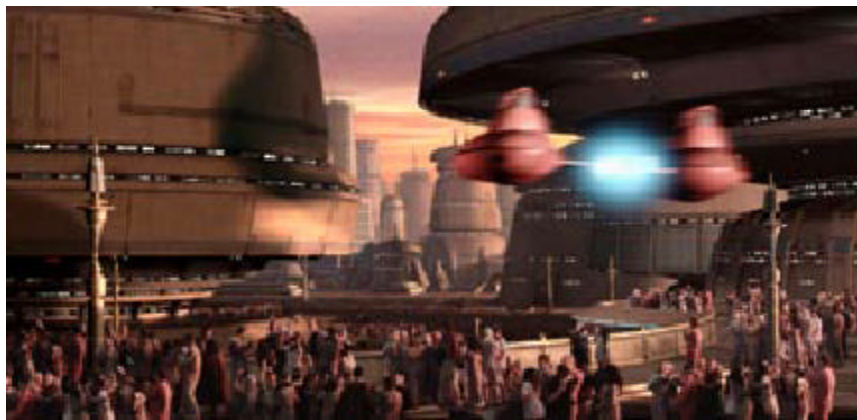
Magic 2?

With the collectible trading card game of *BattleTech* becoming the number two seller in the U.S. trading card industry, the makers, Wizards of the Coast, will release an expansion to the game called *Counterstrike*.

Species 2:

Natasha Henstridge is reprising her role as the alien from another planet trying desperately to have the perfect date, er... mate. The species that was created turned out to be a leather hunter designed by the king of "aliens", H.R. Giger. Set to start shooting in late June, the *Species* sequel will be directed by Peter Medak.

Third of three celebration scenes added to the end of Return of the Jedi. Image courtesy of the official Star Wars web page.



The Final *Odyssey*:

Due the effects on his health from Polio, Arthur C. Clarke, has said that this will be his "his last hurrah." Stanley Kubrick, who collaborated with Clarke on the 1968 *2001: A Space Odyssey*, is rumored to direct the film version.

A whole new zone:

A new time-travel series called *Stops Along the Way* is being produced. It's a idea by the late Rod Serling, creator of the *Twilight Zone*, about the time traveler visiting significant events in the past. They plan to use *Forrest Gump* technology to appear in historical locations.

Through the north sci-fi gate:

The TV series based upon the 1994 hit, *Stargate*, is in production as a syndicated TV series in Vancouver. *Stargate SG-1* will star *MacGyver*'s Richard Dean Anderson and will air on the Showtime cable network starting in July. Other science-fiction shows shot in Canada include *X-Files*, *Millennium*, and *The Outer Limits*.

...Spotlight continued from page 53.

Enterprise. While that shuttle was only used in atmospheric test flights, he has worked on space critical hardware. From 1984 to 1995, he lived in Atlanta where he was also active in the Hotlanta Softball League for the last five years. He then moved back to Huntsville and is currently working at Luna Tech as a computer systems administrator. However, he enjoys his work because he is a computer hobbyist at heart. Jim has owned a 286 PC for eight years though his current system is a 486. He has also considered getting involved with a softball league here as well.

When the *Star Trek*: One Weekend on Earth thirtieth anniversary celebration came last September [See the main article on page 30 in this issue with the accompanying volunteer side story. - Rich], Jim volunteered to help. Originally scheduled to help with busing people to and from the Von Braun Civic Center, his duties were changed when Michael Westmore needed some help.

Westmore is the costume and make-up director for the *Star Trek* series and was responsible for the Klingon make-up at the grand celebration's stunt show on Saturday night. Jim got drafted to help with this by teasing the Klingon hair head-pieces. While backstage, he walked past Robert Picardo who plays *Voyager*'s holographic doctor. He also got to see some of the Apollo astronauts. (He has some hair pins as souvenirs, but don't tell anybody.)

Perhaps the most intriguing thing about Jim is also what makes him a major *Trek* fan. Located on Jim's left shoulder is a tattoo done in the *Next Generation* style communicator pin. The gold and silver is recreated as best as possible given the colors that can be used on skin. The scary thing though is the story behind him getting this tattoo. The tattoo artist was strung out on drugs while doing it, though Jim didn't know this when he got it. Once he got the basic shape and color down, the artist left for what he said would be just a moment. That moment turned out to be much longer as the guy went to the local bar and passed out. As a result, a normally over \$50 tattoo was obtained for free. Jim recently got the tattoo retouched to invigorate the colors and added stars to correct a minor mistake. He has also added the United Federation of Planets logo on the right shoulder. Don't forget to say "hi" to Jim and ask to see them this summer when the weather warms up.

Recognize this bounty hunter? He's been brought into the Special Edition of Star Wars as Jabba's guard.



...Minutes continued from page 19.

behind the *Trek* chevron. Vote was 6 to 1 in favor of the original design, mainly due to the fact that represents the original series as well as the *Next Generation*.

- A vote on each section of the by-laws was taken. All sections and modifications were passed except Article II, Section 1, B. It was tabled for vote another time in order to allow us time to determine if we want to require all Command Officers to be members of STARFLEET and have completed OTS.
- A trip to the Renaissance Fair in Florence was discussed for Friday, October 25. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- Con†Stellation is November 8-10 at the Tom Bevill Center. We will not be doing security as a group though several of our members will be working. Our next meeting will be held there on Sunday. They will have a common use table for all fan organizations to recruit at.
- People were given a slip of paper to vote on who they want for the following annual awards: Most Outstanding Crewmember, Most Outstanding Command Officer, Most Outstanding New Member, and Most Outstanding Overall.
- Various tidbits concerning STARFLEET and Region 2 were discussed. [Cut due to space. - Rich]
- Please give your input on the calendar of events. [Cut due to space. - Rich]

- Shining Star went to Donald Daniel by acclamation for his hard work at *Star Trek* 30 helping stuff over 1000 volunteer bags.
 - Next meeting is November 10 at Con†Stellation held in the Tom Bevill Center on Sparkman Drive.
 - Everyone who attended *Star Trek* 30 showed all the souvenirs and goodies they got including, hats, medallions, drawings, prints, toys, autographs, and more!
 - We moved into another room and watched the season premier of *Voyager*.
-

November 10, '96 Minutes:

**Departmental Reports:
Commanding Officer, CAPT
Richard L. Trulson**

- Thanks to Con†Stellation for allowing us to meet here.
 - Halloween parties were fun, especially with the *Hephaestus*.
 - Richard will be attending a Captain's Call meeting in Birmingham on November 16 at 10 AM.
 - Donald Daniel was promoted to Petty Officer, Third Class.
- Operations, CMDR Dallas
Vinson:**
- Been very busy with Con†Stellation, but things should be returning to normal.
 - Dallas then presented Dustin Williams with a fake "Rear" Admiral promotion.

**Operations, CMDR Dustin
Williams:**

- Next Con†Stellation will not be at the Tom Bevill Center.
- There may be a Trek-O-Rama in mid-December.

**Communications, CAPT
Richard L. Trulson:**

- Summer and fall issue will be combined into a huge single issue given at the next meeting. Submissions or changes need to be in by November 15.

Medical, LT Ralph Brigham:

- With winter approaching, please watch out for nasty weather and road conditions. Your animals and pets will be especially stressed with the cold snap.
- Ralph demonstrated his new toy: A functional Mark I tricorder that he got at *Star Trek* 30.

**Shuttle Alabama, CMDR
Bonnie Flanagan:**

- Arts and crafts are the second Thursday of the month at 2 PM. They will make things to sell.
- Monthly meeting is the third Sunday at 2 PM at the Decatur Regional Library.
- Doing a mini-con at the Carmike Theaters for *Star Trek: First Contact*. Raffles and donation proceeds will go to the Sheriff's Boys Ranch.

Business:

- November 22 is the *Star Trek: First Contact* premier. We will be working a recruitment table at Hollywood 16. We may also try to work the table other nights as well. Details will be announced.



- Some other projects were discussed, but no one wanted to do them.
- Ship election process was explained:
 - Nominations will begin immediately and go until the next meeting. People are encouraged to nominate anyone they wish or themselves. Even if they don't currently meet Fleet obligations, they will be given a 3 month grace period to meet them.
 - Only STARFLEET members may vote for Commanding Officer at the next meeting. Votes may be cast by proxy or absentia as defined in the By-Laws.
 - Rebecca Self will act as the Election Coordinator and will accept and count the votes. Her address is 4418 Willow Bend Rd., Decatur, AL 35603.
 - Ralph Brigham nominated Richard Trulson.

- Various STARFLEET news were discussed including Fleet's elections and other problems. [*Cut due to space.* - Rich]
- Shining Star went to Dallas Vinson by acclamation for hosting the Halloween party.
- Next meeting is December 1.
- Chyrstal Kimbro of the shuttle *Alabama* asked the WVB to make a donation to Electrical Eggs if it could. They provide convention access to handicapped individuals. Richard indicated they would consider it, but didn't think finances would permit it.

December 1, 1996 Minutes:

Departmental Reports:

Commanding Officer, CAPT Richard L. Trulson

- Thanks to everyone who helped work *Star Trek: First Contact*. Thank-you cards for Comic Corner and Madison Square 12 Theater were passed around for the crew to sign.
- Commendations of Excellence for helping at *First Contact* were given to: Dallas Vinson, Dustin Williams, Donald Daniel, John Colley, and Richard Trulson.

Communications, CAPT

Richard L. Trulson:

- Newsletter delayed again waiting for reports.

Science, Acting LTjg Donald Daniel:

- Geminid meteor showers on the evenings of December 12 and 13 around 10PM.

Shuttle Alabama, CMDR

Bonnie Flanagan:

- Arts and crafts are the second Thursday of the month at 2 PM. They will make things to sell.
- Monthly meeting is the third Sunday at 2 PM at the Decatur Regional Library.
- *Star Trek: First Contact* activities were a success. Raised \$60 for the Boys and Girls Ranch. Even some of the newer recruits and kids worked well.

Business:

- Quarterly planning meeting at 2 PM on December 29 at the Madison Municipal Complex Room 160.
- A quorum was not present so voting for Commanding Officer did not occur. Voting will occur at the next meeting.
- Shining Star went to Rebecca Self by acclamation for serving as our Election Coordinator.
- Next Meeting is January 5.
- Don Strong is doing an *Independence Day* type home movie to display at IEEE and needs help with alien make-up and supplies. Call him at 351-7326. Credit will be given in the movie to those who help. They will film people at IEEE and use computers to put them in the movie as the stars.
- STARFLEET's election was discussed, the problems it was having, and the candidates that were running. Richard encouraged everyone to vote.

TV NEWS

The latest gossip and episode guides of your favorite science-fiction TV shows.

In the following episode guides, the date listed is the week of airing date. E# means episode number and P# means production number.

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

In deep space, no one can hear you scream.

E#	Airdate:	P#	Episode Title
120	5/03/97	520	Children of Time
121	5/10/97	521	Blaze of Glory
122	5/17/97	522	Empok Nor
	5/24/97	507R	The Ascent
	5/31/97	508R	Rapture
123	6/07/97	523	In The Cards
124	6/14/97	524	A Call To Arms (Season Finale)

“Children of Time” Sisko and the *Defiant* crew must choose between the lives they have always known and the lives of their own descendants.



“Blaze of Glory” Sisko attempts to force his traitorous former officer to stop a final Maquis attack that could lead to the destruction of the Federation.

Star Trek: Voyager

Toto, they're not in Kansas any more.

While <http://voyager.paramount.com/VoyagerIntro.html> is the official *Voyager* site, I got this episode guide off of Vidiot's site at <http://www.cdsnet.net/vidiot/> on the web. The finale info came from *Science-Fiction Weekly*.

E#	Airdate:	P#	Episode Title
65	5/07/97	STV324	Displaced
66	5/14/97	STV325	Worst Case Scenario
67	5/21/97	STV326	Scorpion, Part I (season finale)
			John Rhys-Davies of Sliders fame will play a holodeck simulation of Leonardo Da Vinci in the Borg-laden season finale.



Babylon 5

The last, best hope for good science-fiction.

Not much has been said about the future of *Babylon 5*. While there are several loose ends left to tie up, the major conflict with the Shadows is long past. There is still no confirmation on the possibility of a fifth season. There is, however, confirmation on several TV movies and a spin-off series involving the Rangers. More on these in a future issue. Most of this information comes from the Lurker's Guide to *Babylon 5* located at <http://www.midwinter.com/lurk/lurker.html> on the web.

Airdate	E#	P#	Title
05/05/97	78	412	Conflicts of Interests
05/12/97	79	413	Rumors, Bargains and Lies
05/19/97	80	414	Moments of Transition
05/26/97	81	415	No Surrender, No Retreat
06/02/97	82	416	The Exercise of Vital Powers
06/09/97	83	417	The Face of the Enemy
06/16/97	84	418	Intersections in Real Time

No new episodes until the Fall.

“Conflicts of Interest”

Garibaldi starts a new job. The resistance's counter-propaganda broadcasts begin. Sheridan proposes a plan to protect the Non-Aligned Worlds from raiders.

“Moments of Transition”

Scott Adams, creator of the *Dilbert* comic strip, has a cameo appearance in this episode as Mr. Adams. Walter Koenig, Chekov on *Star Trek*, returns as Psi-Cop Bester.

“Exercise of Vital Powers”

The title is likely a reference to Aristotle's definition of happiness: “The exercise of vital powers along lines of excellence in a life affording them scope.”

“Intersections in Real Time”

According to J. Michael Straczynski, *Babylon 5* creator and writer, this episode “has the potential to be a very cool and somewhat experimental episode. I'd rather say nothing until later.”

...Movies continued from page 60.

Men In Black

<http://www.vfxhq.com/1997/men.html>

If the aliens don't abduct you, the men in black will.

Urban legends say that whenever there are unexplainable close encounters with UFO phenomenon, shortly thereafter men in black are seen. *Men In Black* updates that legend and makes them futuristic cops chasing aliens on Earth. Will Smith (Jay) of *Independence Day* and Tommy Lee Jones (Kay) of *Batman Forever* are the stars with special effects from Industrial Light and Magic. They are agents in an organization that uncovers a plot of an intergalactic terrorist intent on assassinating two ambassadors from opposing galaxies residing in New York City. As near as I can tell, the film takes a campy, humorous approach to alien invasion films similar to, but hopefully better than, *Mars Attacks* did. It will be released on July 3, 1997.



Can you spot the tiny alien in the head?

...Command continued from page 5.

received the award for our work with *Star Trek 30*. We and several ships received this award for the contributions and positive impact it made throughout the region.

Oh well, I've rambled on quite enough, and this newsletter is huge as it is. In summary, all of us need to work harder to get new members and make sure they feel welcomed. I hope that the *Wernher von Braun* will be a great source of

joy and pride for people to participate in. Our ship's purpose is to provide a social outlet for *Star Trek* fans to strive for a hopeful and brighter future. Together as friends we can accomplish that.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

U.S.S. Wernher von Braun Information

(The people in charge, at one point in time anyway. Really.)

Commanding Officer	FCAPT Richard L. Trulson	423-6638
Executive Officer	CMDR Henry Vaughn	(unlisted)
Communications	CAPT Richard L. Trulson	423-6638
Engineering	needed	
Medical	CMDR Ralph Brigham	881-8400
Security	CAPT Dustin Williams	(unlisted)
Science	SCPO Donald Daniel	882-2024
Operations	CMDR Dallas Vinson	883-4132
E-mail: USS.Wernher.von.Braun@sfi.org		World Wide Web URL:
http://fly.HiWAAAY.net/~dwvinson/web_solu/USS_von_Braun/		

The U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* is a chapter of STARFLEET, the International *Star Trek* Fan Association. STARFLEET's general purpose is to create a social organization of *Star Trek* fans that work to fulfill Gene Roddenberry's dream: a future where mankind has learned to work through its differences and problems to live in harmony. The U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* accomplishes this through a variety of social and community service activities.

For more information about the U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* or STARFLEET, contact:

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Subspace Static

Submissions for the next issue are due by the beginning of January, April, July, and October for the newsletter that comes out the following month. Please send them and all comments about SS to:

Richard L. Trulson (205) 423-6638
28825 Airport Lane richlt@HiWAAAY.net
Ardmore, AL 35739

Preferred submission format is on PC disk or E-mail. Contact me before you submit something to make sure I can import your file. Plain text files are guaranteed to work. If you mail a disk, please include a printout just in case the disk gets damaged. Handwritten materials (typed is preferred) can be mailed as well.

Any ship or science-fiction related submission is acceptable. This includes reports, interviews, cartoons, artwork, reviews, poetry, short fiction, etc. We will also accept other genres. If you wish your submissions returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Donations are also accepted.