



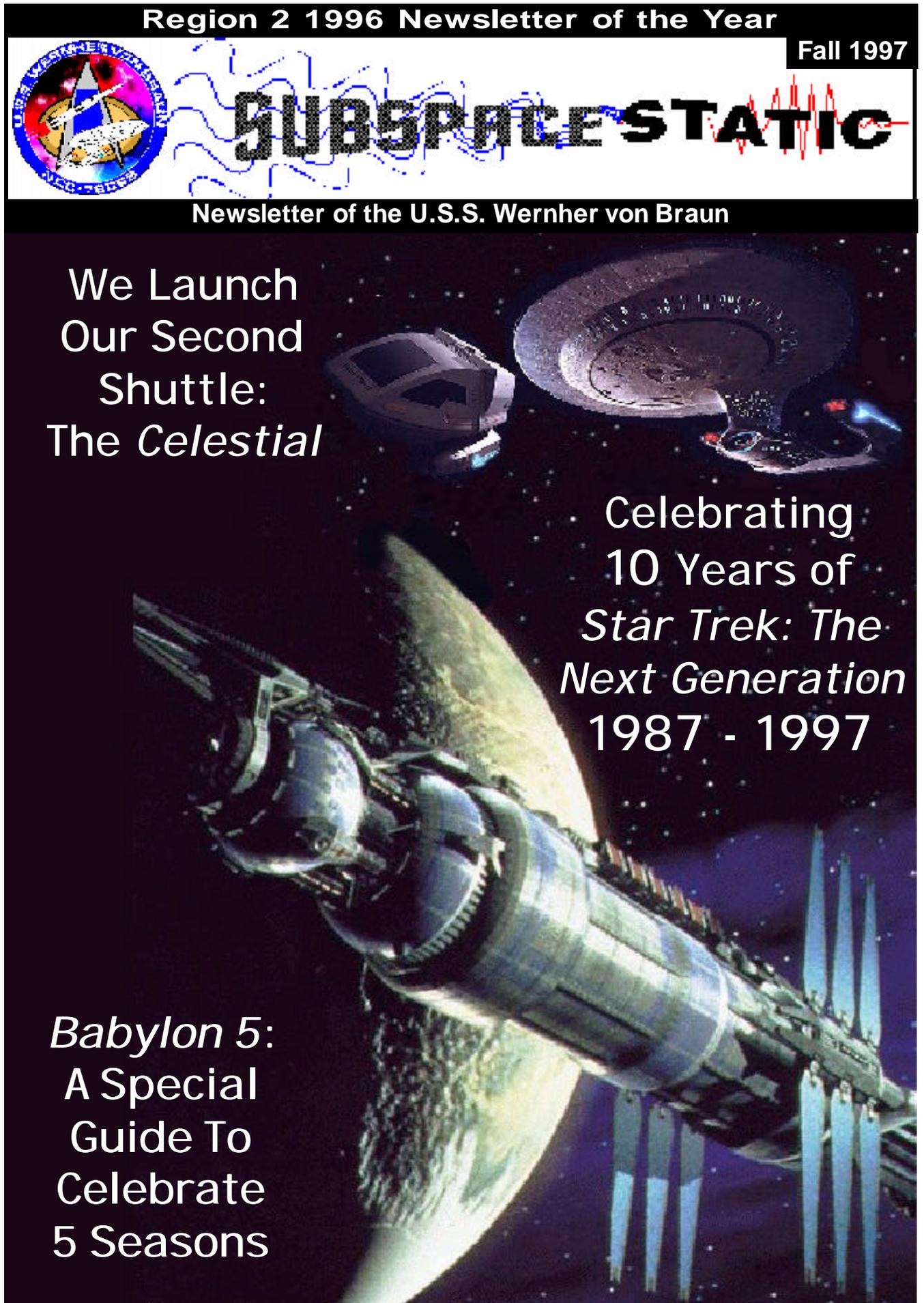
# SUBSPACE STATIC

Newsletter of the U.S.S. Wernher von Braun

We Launch  
Our Second  
Shuttle:  
*The Celestial*

Celebrating  
10 Years of  
*Star Trek: The  
Next Generation*  
1987 - 1997

*Babylon 5:*  
A Special  
Guide To  
Celebrate  
5 Seasons



# CONTENTS

## Reports

<b>Commanding Officer</b> .....	<b>3</b>
A little of everything this time.	
<b>Executive Officer</b> .....	<b>5</b>
A new report. Find out who it is.	
<b>Operations</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Jerry Lewis Telethon.	
<b>Sciences</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Planetarium woes.	
<b>Communications</b> .....	<b>8</b>
What goes into making this beast.	

## Ship Business

<b>Shuttle <i>Celestial</i></b> .....	<b>12</b>
Welcome to our new shuttle!	
<b>T-Shirts and Name Badges</b> .....	<b>18</b>
Buying them and production problems.	
<b>Challenge</b> .....	<b>22</b>
Something to ponder and do.	
<b>Meeting Minutes</b> .....	<b>26</b>
October through December 1997	
<b>STARFLEET News</b> .....	<b>31</b>
The year in review.	
<b>Summits and Conferences</b> .....	<b>36</b>
R2 Summit, the IC, and a few cons.	
<b>Overseas Coupon Project</b> .....	<b>38</b>
What it is and what to do.	
<b>Operation Eagle</b> .....	<b>39</b>
Support our troops overseas.	
<b>Finances</b> .....	<b>46</b>
Where, oh where, does the money go?	
<b>STARFLEET Academy Application</b> ...	<b>47</b>
<b>Words of Thanks</b> .....	<b>49</b>
Given to those who helped.	
<b>STARFLEET Membership Application</b> .....	<b>68</b>

## Articles

<b>Con Review</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Don got to see Chase Masterson again.	
<b>Trek 411 Collector's Corner</b> .....	<b>15</b>
All new games, books, cards, etc.	
<b>Voyager</b> .....	<b>40</b>
Current season news.	
<b>Deep Space 9</b> .....	<b>42</b>
Current season news.	
<b>Con Review 2</b> .....	<b>43</b>
Richard Biggs and Robert Beltran.	

## Humor

Tickle that funny bone!	
<b>Trek Humor</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Top 20 warranty problems.	
<b>Trek Humor 2</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Top 10 Ambassador problems.	
<b>Star Trek Christmas Carols</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Filking at its best... or worst.	
<b>Microsoft Borg</b> .....	<b>24</b>
The ultimate Borg weapon unleashed.	

## Babylon 5

This issue showcases our last, best hope.	
<b>Babylon 5 Returns</b> .....	<b>50</b>
Overview of what is coming.	
<b>Broadcast Schedule</b> .....	<b>51</b>
When TNT will be airing everything.	
<b>Episode Guide</b> .....	<b>54</b>
General synopsis and spoilers.	
<b>Cast Members</b> .....	<b>65</b>
Who plays what parts.	
<b>Behind Babylon 5</b> .....	<b>66</b>
Who does what behind the camera.	

**Editor: Richard L. Trulson**

**Assistant Editor: Jim Dykes, and a few others.**

*Subspace Static*

**Fall 1997: Volume 5, Issue 4**

**“Our last, best hope to get a newsletter,” issue or “My gosh! They’re multiplying!”**

*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. We live for the One; we die for the One. See the inside back cover for more fine print information about SS, WVB, STARFLEET and Vitamin B5.

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# COMMANDING OFFICER



## A new shuttle, completed projects, and looking elsewhere.

Let's start on a positive note this time around. We launched another shuttle on August 18, 1997. The shuttle *Celestial*, NCC 72069/2, is chartered in Leeds, Alabama under the command of CMDR Rebecca Self. I welcome the *Celestial* crew into the STARFLEET family and hope your ship has a long, distinguished tour of duty. Full speed ahead into your own "undiscovered country."

In other news, the initial order for name-tags and T-shirts have finally been completed. I was originally going to share some of the trials and tribulations associated with getting this project completed with you here, but it quickly grew into an article unto itself located elsewhere. Suffice to say, it wasn't a pleasant journey. If you would like to order one, please do so. Or if you haven't received yours, let me know and I'll rectify the problem.

STARFLEET is running another membership drive from October through January. The ship that recruits the most new members (not renewing or expired members), will win money. Even if we don't win, new members will help us on many different levels. First, they will help us meet our ten member

minimum, which we're dangerously close to falling below lately. Second, it helps STARFLEET as dues will help rebuild the treasury. Third, if they join STARFLEET, they are probably willing to join as Active *von Braun* members as well, which will provide us more money. And finally, and

## ***"I challenge you to do something for the USS Wernher von Braun and its causes."***

most importantly, I think the more people we have, the more fun the ship will be as greater participation results. So please go out there and recruit new members. I always have application forms available, even with the new address.

And I suppose that naturally leads into the subject I've needed to address. The apathy on this ship has gotten ridiculously bad. However, instead of dragging my CO's report down, I decided to move my venting on this subject into

a separate article. If you read only one article in this issue, please make it my "Challenge" article on page 22. In summary, I challenge you to do something for the *USS Wernher von Braun* and its causes. The article contains a bit of venting on the subject, as well as suggestions on how to help.

STARFLEET has done some people shuffling at the international level. It boils down to an attempt to better serve the people without burning-out those in charge. While they may be able to do so, the method they used to select the replacements has left a few people upset. I decided to devote another separate article (see page 31) to review STARFLEET over the past year, which is recommended reading as well.

I'm still working on trying to tie up all the loose ends dangling around here. Among those is the membership handbook, that can finally be completed since the promotion policies were voted in at the December meeting. I'd like to have the crew's input into this document, especially that of the Department Chiefs. Speaking of which, we desperately need to fill Security and Engineering. And while we're at it, someone else in Communications would be nice as well. Eventually, I



will get around to designing membership certificates as well. I'd also like to do a bit of reworking of the database and the web page, so I'll be working with Dallas on that one.

People have been receiving materials from STARFLEET, including *Communiqués* and membership materials. For *Communiqués*, please remember you should have been a current member at some point during the months listed on the date of the label. (February/March for issue #79, April/May for #80, June/July for #81, August/September for #82, and October/November for #83.) If not, you are not entitled to that issue. Also be aware that it takes them about a month to cash your check, as they do not do so until after you have been added to the database. Then, depending on their finances and time, it may take another month to get membership materials to you. If you haven't heard anything after three months, you should contact me.



*The Executive Committee of STARFLEET-IC*

You should have received your membership card and certificate first (8½" by 11" card-stock sheet and an accompanying letter of explanation), followed later by the remaining membership materials, which includes the Membership Handbook and STARFLEET Constitution (both incorporated into the Technical Manual), Vessel Registry (chapter listings), and sheet applications to both STARFLEET and the Academy. They should have processed all 1996 memberships left over from the McGinnis Administration and everyone up to the end of November 1997.

If you are missing memberships or *Communiqués*, please let me know in writing so I can have a physical reminder that I need to check into this. You can write Liz Wolf yourself at CompOps Help, but they prefer a CO handle the process to ensure all the necessary information is provided. What I need from you is your name, address, phone number, and SCC # along with what you are

missing. If it's a *Communiqué*, I need to know the issue number. If it's memberships materials, I need to know exactly what you're missing, along with the following information: The date you sent your application in, the check or money order #, the date the check was cashed, and any other information you may think will prove helpful. Actually, please let me know even if you have received your materials. I can pass along this receipt confirmation to Roy Sesler for you via E-mail.

Some miscellaneous news: The command transfer paperwork for Russ as the XO has been filed. Kelly Hilliard's step-dad passed away on November 7 after a fight with colon cancer. I'm sure he'd appreciate your personal words of support in addition to the crew-signed card we sent him, as he had numerous other losses as well. Congratulations to those who won the Most Outstanding ship awards at the anniversary party in September. You guys are the shining stars for others to follow.

Anyway, I've rambled enough and should bring this report to a close. Please read the other articles I mentioned in my report, as they too contain useful and valuable information. See you around the space lanes.

**- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**



*Michael D. Smith:  
Commander,  
STARFLEET-IC*

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## First Officer's first report.

This is my first report as Executive Officer of the *Werner von Braun*. I am honored to have been chosen as second in command of this fine chapter. I will do my best to earn and keep the trust and respect of this fine crew.

First off, I would like to reiterate that any officer, and/or crew member may come to me at any time if they have a comment and/or complaint they wish to present, if they feel that they are uncomfortable with going directly to the Captain. All information given to me **WILL BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL, UNLESS HE/SHE GIVES ME DIRECT PERMISSION TO DO OTHERWISE.**

I am serving as Capt. Trulson's eyes and ears for the Huntsville area, which includes Athens and Decatur.

The Huntsville television scene has not been kind to *Trek* fans. WAAY-TV has dropped *Voyager* from its programming and none of the other stations will put the show on their fall schedule. We have entertained ideas of directly petitioning the Huntsville cable systems to put the Birmingham UPN station on the cable systems. This idea is still pending. As sort of a last resort, I have sent an e-mail message to Majel Barrett Roddenberry and I have asked her for help in getting UPN to set up a Huntsville UPN station, if possible. I hope

that she will have some influence in this matter, being the widow of series creator Gene Roddenberry. So far, I have received no response. However, she does answer all correspondence so I am hopeful for an answer in the near future. I reminded Mrs. Roddenberry that Huntsville has many *Trek* fans and that Huntsville was very much honored to host the giant *Trek* 30 celebration.

*Deep Space Nine* has not been immune from this fracas, as WZDX has rescheduled the show to 5 AM every Monday morning. This time is inconvenient for a majority of fans, unless they program VCR's accordingly, because most people are just trying to get up to start their week. I seriously question this programming move and ask the crew to voice their objections to WZDX.

The new season of DS9 will start on Thursday Oct. 2, 1997 at 1:00 AM, that's right in the morning. This translates to late Wednesday Oct. 1, 1997. Please set you VCR's accordingly. TV Guide and the FOX 54 web sites were giving me

conflicting info, so I had to call the station to confirm the date. [ *Editor's note: Due to viewer complaints at new episodes being shown at such a bad time, WZDX has changed the air-times for new episodes to Monday nights at 9:05 PM. This change occurred after Russ submitted his report. Good job to everyone for bringing DS9 to a better time. - Rich* ]

I am looking forward to Con†Stellation this month and I hope we have a good convention.

I would like to remind the crew that I write a monthly column for my former ship, the *USS Guardian*, entitled '*Trek* 411 Collector's Corner'. This column is published in the *Gateway*, the *Guardian* newsletter, and *Subspace Static*, our club newsletter. I am always looking for good *Trek* collectibles, so if you have any line on a unique *Trek* collectible, please let me know about it. You can reach me at the club meetings or via e-mail at russnutt@hiwaay.net.

Plenty of *Trek* books are in the stores now. *Starfleet Academy*, the new *Trek* PC game is also in the stores. More *Trek* interactive software will be released by the end of the year.

That's all I have for now. Once again, I am proud to serve as executive officer, and I will serve this ship and crew the best way I can.

- **CMDR Russ McNutt**



# OPERATIONS

## Donating to the MDA and helping ourselves too.

Well, here it is, September. Our younger members have returned to school to continue making themselves better for the challenges they will face in the years ahead.

Another summer has slipped through our fingers before we barely had time to blink (or so it seems).

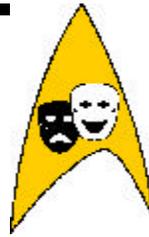
I have just finished work on the 1997 Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. On behalf of Jerry Lewis and the MDA I would like to thank the following people for their selfless donation of their invaluable time and selves to make this worthy cause a success: Rebecca Self, Anya Funderburk, Tom Perry, and Russ McNutt. Without their assistance, and that of the many other volunteers, I am certain that we could have never broken our local record and brought in a total of \$200,221.00. This is not just a new local record, but a new record for the entire state. Thanks guys.

I would like to ask everyone to save themselves an empty Pringles can, cut a slot in the top of it, then start dropping in your loose pocket change each night into the can. I would really like to be able to come up with AT LEAST \$1000 by next September so that we can present the check for the amount collected to the MDA at next years telethon. We can not only help fight a debilitating, crippling, and killing disease,

but also help bolster our public image and let the people of the Tennessee Valley now that we're out there, and that we don't just have our heads among the stars.

This crew used to raise a couple hundred dollars in a weekend for the Alabama Council for the Blind. If we can do that in just two days, then I see no problem with coming up with \$1000.00 in a year. Let's get real folks, that's just \$19.23 per week / \$2.74 per day. Assuming that we have only 10 of our members do this then it's only \$0.27 per person per day. Now be truthful folks, which one of you can not afford to give just \$0.27 per day to this very worthy cause. The MDA researchers have already identified the gene that causes Duchenne MD, and have had successful test on lab animals with new treatment. The next step is testing on humans. But they need your help to continue this research.

A lot of people see the large sums of money that MDA brings in both locally as well as nationally with the annual telethon and think that they are getting enough money to support all the research they do. But what these people don't understand is



that it costs \$39.00 for just one minute of research. That's \$2,340.00 per hour. That may seem like a lot, but it shrinks VERY rapidly when you start taking out the costs for lab space, lab equipment, supplies, utilities, and the payroll of the many researchers. So I think that you can see that they need all the help that they can get.

Like I said, I would really like to see this crew raise the \$1000 and send at least 2 kids to camp. This will not only make you feel good inside, but it will also help to diminish the stereotype about Trekkers that we are just a bunch of geeks. We will be able to show the public that we do care about what is going on in the real world as well as at the same time demonstrating Gene Roddenberry's dream by our actions. With a minimum of \$1000, we will be able to present the money on air and put on the best possible presentation we can of our ship, STARFLEET, and Trekkers everywhere, not to mention getting some good press and letting people know that we're out here. I would really like to



take the MDA to the fleet level and have the fleet raise enough money that the CS and VCS could go to the national Telethon and present the check directly to Jerry Lewis and thereby diminish the stereotype on the national level, and not just us do it on the local level.

Anyway, I guess I'll get off my MDA soapbox now. [Steps down off of a wooden crate that has MDA stenciled on the side and kicks it away.]

As for local ships business. I need to know RIGHT AWAY if you guys want any or all of the following: Halloween Party/Ambassador's Ball, Christmas Party/Anniversary Party. These events are approaching VERY rapidly and I'll need to start making the plans for them immediately if you decide that we want to do these things. So let me know ASAP, either by calling me voice, or sending me E-Mail. (Voice = 498-0204, E-Mail = dwvinson@juno.com)

Our bank account is still fairly healthy even after writing a couple of rather hefty checks to Richard to help with the costs of printing and distributing the newsletter. But our account could look even better if we could get our membership to grow. If each person could get just ONE new person to join, that would be great, and then that one person get one more, and so on. We could eventually get so big that we would have no choice but to split into two groups. I don't necessarily mean split into two chapters, but into two shifts like some of

the other chapters have (i.e. the *Krazny*) we would all still be on the same chapter, just basically have two crews that would do not only their own things, but also joint activities with the other shift. It would be like Alpha Shift and Beta Shift, with the Command staff for each shift making up the command staff for the entire ship, and the CO and XO being the two shift leaders. Anyway, that is a discussion for another time.

Well, I think I've rambled on long enough now. (This is starting to look like one of Richard's reports. :) For all of you who wish to know it, I have moved up onto Brindley Mountain (Lacey's Spring). My new address and phone number are as follows:

Dallas Vinson  
PO Box 12477  
Huntsville, AL 35815-2477  
Phone: 498-0204  
- **CMDR Dallas Vinson**

## SCIENCES

### Meteors and project updates.

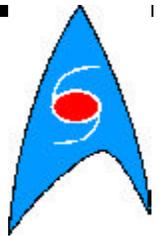
The Orionid Meteor shower will occur on October 20-23. They are so-named because the meteors appear to come from the constellation Orion. Under ideal conditions, one might see as many as 20 per hour. This year the conditions will be less than ideal; there will be a bright, waning moon lighting up the sky.



It was decided by the Command Staff that we would do the Adopt-a-Mile program pending selection of an acceptable stretch of highway and a sufficient number of participants from the membership. Also, I am going to check with the Von Braun Astronomical Society about some sort of planetarium outing in October or November. I will also try and send out a monthly e-mail(also included in the Mission Briefing) regarding an astronomical event(usually a meteor shower) that month.

On a personal note, I passed OTS and I also managed to get a new job (which will mean that I will have more time to devote to Ship's activities - community service and fun stuff). That's all for now.

- **LT (jg) Don Daniel**



# COMMUNICATIONS



## Creating a newsletter.

This time around I thought I'd share with you what goes into putting one of these little monstrosities together. Despite what you may think, they don't just leap forth from my computer by themselves. Advances in computers have come a long way, but they're still not that talented.

After finishing an issue and handing it to everyone, I generally don't even want to even think about a newsletter again for quite a while. However, this adverse reaction wears off after a few weeks and I do begin to review how to last issue went. I will reread the issue to see what mistakes I can find. This includes not only spelling, grammar, and other technical errors; but also major errors such as incorrectly labeled pictures or wrong page numbers on the "To be continued" articles. While I don't specifically write these things down, I do make mental notes of them and try to avoid them in the future. If, however, it is something wrong like an incorrect spelling of a name or the wrong phone number (I managed to mangle Dallas's number in the crew listing on the last page big time. Sorry.) for something that is repeated in every issue, I change it immediately in the newsletter template. It's also during this phase that I usually correct the changes that occur to people leaving or being appointed to new positions.

During the second month I try to do the majority of the writing that needs to be done by me. This would include any feature articles as well as my reports. I also try to develop some idea of what I want this particular issue to look like. I try to have some idea of what the cover will be and what articles will go into the issue. I also spend this month scouring the internet for any interesting information that I can put into an article, including accompanying pictures that help alleviate the boring text.

Let me touch upon two ongoing articles that I compile and edit. My CO and Communications reports are generally straight forward. I pick a topic and start rambling. These are fairly easy to produce, so that's why I don't understand why some Department Chiefs have such a hard time doing their reports. The other articles I can write during this time include meeting minutes and reviews. Actually, it's best to do those immediately after an event so all the information will be fresh. Otherwise, it gets to be an interesting mystery game to piece together all the little aspects that crop up.

I also make subtle changes in the fine print during this time. If you've never read the newsletter's fine print, do so as it actually changes with every issue, and is often times quite funny. For example, there's the

obvious tag lines for the issue on the inside front cover. I try to summarize the entire newsletter's focus into these two lines, but through a humorous slant. Then scroll on down to the bottom of the page into the traditional fine print. In the middle of the first paragraph is usually a funny phrase pertaining to newsletter production. Then at the end of the paragraph, I have a weird abbreviation to go with the others. At the end of the last paragraph, is usually a funny phrase pertaining to copyrights. And finally, near the back is the phrase that describes our crew in a humorous way on the Information block. When we were digest size, there use to be a funny phrase mixed in with the Address Correction Requested on the mailing back. While making these changes, I also modify the volume and issue numbers on the front and inside covers, as well as in the page number bar.

***Richard, after not having completed the newsletter on time.***



The third month is when everything falls into place. Hopefully, I will have received all the departmental reports and other submissions by the beginning of the month. If so, I can start editing them into a format appropriate for inclusion in the newsletter. I don't change what is said; I only correct errors. I also add the article opening tagline and the closing signature. Unfortunately, I have never had a full complement of reports. And until recently, I didn't have many additional article submissions. Many thanks to anyone who has ever, or will ever, submit an article. This is hopefully done the first week or so of the third month.

Second and third weeks are spent writing the articles that can only be written at the last minute. These are the Sci-Fi news and information articles including rumors and episode guides. Most of this information is taken from the net. It's also the articles that tend to have the most technical errors in them. It's also during this time that I try to gather any remaining pictures or articles that may be needed. By the end of the third week, I try to have everything written and ready to be tossed into the newsletter.

Magic begins on the fourth week as I fire up PageMaker 6.0 and begin the actual construction on the newsletter. The first thing I do is place the departmental reports, trying to keep them grouped at the beginning. Other than CO and XO reports, which should go first, the other depart-

## ***“Proofing involves much more than looking for spelling and grammatical errors.”***

mental reports are arranged in random order depending on their length and their information. Following that, I insert the articles and other tidbits of information that may be of use. I try to avoid doing “To be continued” footers, but sometimes it just doesn't happen. However, I try to keep them all in one location, or in sequential order. While placing them, I try to leave space for appropriate pictures and side-bar articles. The side-bar articles can either be additional information about something, such as a smaller follow-up report or correction, or it can be something that doesn't quite warrant an entire article unto itself, such as a top 10 list or joke.

The cover is a touchy area. I would prefer to do some type of artwork or graphics on the cover, since an image is easier for quick identification than text. However, I don't want to simply use digitized images from TV or movies as the image needs to be unique to us and that issue. As a result, I usually have to decide upon an article important enough to be a cover story.

For every article that I do, I have to adjust the article header. This involves changing two separate graphic elements and a text element, depending on the size and location of the article header. If it's a departmental report, I also have to place the department's logo and deal with text wrapping around

the image. Then I actually place the article text and convert it all over into a standard style. I then change the opening and closing taglines into a different standard style. Then it's a matter of spacing out multi-page articles, remembering to leave space for pictures. Occasionally, I have to make manual changes to indenting, tabs, or other layout features if it's a side-bar or the article contains special parts.

Once the articles are placed, I start inserting the pictures and other side-bars. Each picture usually has an associated frame and caption with it that needs modifying. Re-sizing is almost always required with an occasional cropping of certain parts to make things fit. Sometimes even text wrapping will be needed which can either work very well or be a major pain. Side-bars require an article header and a frame to adjust. Where needed, I also drop in the “To be continued” and “Continued from page” footers and headers on articles.

Finally, a draft copy is printed. Ideally, I try to wait as long as possible, at least one day, between printing the draft and re-reading it for errors. I've discovered that no matter how many times I proof-read the document, I always discover more errors in the printed version better than the screen version. I then create the table of contents, which is a fertile place for errors. I type those in

by hand on the spot, and often make mistakes, which is bad given the TOC is probably the most important tool of any newsletter. I then make any changes from the first draft before printing the second draft. Hopefully, there's enough time to hand this over to my ADC for proofing in addition to my own checking.

Proofing involves much more than looking for spelling and grammatical errors. I check for wrong page numbers, incorrectly or poorly labeled caption or side-boxes, wrong page continuation numbers, missing taglines, and pictures are located in the correct position, among other things. However, there is an aesthetic side to proofing as well. Not

only do I have to make sure that each individual page has a good balance of text and graphical elements, but each opposing page as a whole is balanced correctly. This is the part where my perfectionist, anal-retentive side can get out of hand. But at a certain point, usually 5 AM on the last day, you just have to say, "it's good enough," and go on with the master printing.

## TREK HUMOR

[ Editor's note: All the Top Ten Lists used in this issue were submitted by Scotty Lowery, who got them at <http://www.nueva.pvt.k12.ca.us/~akosut/startrek/> off the internet. The original author is indicated if known. You can reach Scotty at [fran28@HiWAAY.net](mailto:fran28@HiWAAY.net). Thanks, Scotty. - Rich ]

### Top 20 Signs That The *Enterprise* Is Nearing The End Of Its Warranty

- 20 Impulse engines stall when used in reverse.
- 19 Shields fail to work on alternate Fridays.
- 18 Rust problem in engineering causes support failure: one corner of warp coil now held up by phone book.
- 17 Computer fails to process any instruction beginning with "W".
- 16 Booster cables become permanent fixtures in transporter room.
- 15 Captain's chair must be propped up against screen to keep image from flickering.
- 14 Guinan stops wearing large, heavy hats for fear of falling through squeaky part of floor in 10-forward.
- 13 Main sensor array unable to pick up anything except CBS.
- 12 Lower part of bridge falls even lower and ramps along either side become too steep for crew to climb.
- 11 Turbolift cannot climb past deck 5 when there are more than 2 people on board.
- 10 Holodeck becomes caught in an infinite loop: ship is overcome by ten thousand care bears.
- 9 Ship cannot enter warp while food dispenser is making Kraft macaroni and cheese.
- 8 Food dispenser in 10-forward will only serve light beer.
- 7 Bug in main computer speech processor: computer voice will either stutter or talk like Barbara Walters.
- 6 Untraceable glitch in plumbing periodically replaces water in Wesley's shower with frozen concentrated orange juice.
- 5 Ship's dryer indiscriminately shreds crew's uniforms, and related problem in fabrication machinery will only produce new clothing with Roger Rabbit caricature prominently displayed.
- 4 Computer refuses to carry out commands unless Captain says, "Pretty please with sugar on it."
- 3 Riker unable to sleep for 2 weeks when holodeck computer crashes and loses access to nude volleyball program.
- 2 Replacement parts for automatic door to captain's ready room are exhausted and door must be replaced with bead curtains.
- 1 Saucer section separates whenever ship makes left turn.

- SS

While I try to keep everything on the computer, sometimes an occasional manual paste-up is required. This is usually limited to a one or two items, such as original artwork, cartoons, camera ready ads, etc. Once these are affixed to the master prints, I carry everything down to Kinko's to be copied. The problems that can occur here are numerous, and have been detailed in my past reports. I have them collate the pages together since that's practically built into the copying process. All that's left for me to do is the stapling. Since that's a small expense I can do for free, I save the ship a bit of money. If we are doing the digest size format, some folding may be involved, but that's no big deal either.

Now, if you believe I actually do all this by that time table, you are sadly mistaken. The first two months I rarely do anything other than think about what I want to do with the next issue. As a result, each week of the third month is spent doing about a month's worth of work. That's why the newsletter is so often late. I admit to being a bad procrastinator and putting things off till the last few weeks. However, I seem to do fairly decent work under pressure. It just doesn't help my stress levels. Another reason is I'm usually playing catch up on the things that got put off from the previous issue. Or simply having a life; take your pick.

Anyway, that's the process of putting this newsletter together. Hopefully now you will have a better understanding of how difficult this may be. I haven't even touched upon the mental and physical aspects of this. Suffice to say, the late hours, the lack of sleep, the pressure of deadlines, the desire to make a quality publication, and more can take quite a toll upon an editor.

***“Please remember the time frame that the newsletter will be published in.”***

This time around, however, I was pleasantly surprised with quite a few submissions. I noticed most of these came from the web and other sources. If you do submit something from another source, please make sure you credit that source. Even if it is from the web and an author is unidentifiable, say so.

These other source submissions are greatly appreciated, but personal material that you create would be even better. After all, anyone can find these web sources, but they can't read your mind (unless they're Vulcan). Besides, I'm sure people would much rather hear your opinions, feelings, and ideas instead of someone they've never met. You also don't have an excuse any more. My last report detailed how anyone can do a review of anything, and a previous report explained how a department chief can easily develop material for their report.

Of course, I realize some of you may not enjoy writing. That's when you can turn to other sources, such as the internet or a co-author. Time permitting, I can help you write your article or co-author it if you want. At the very least give me your suggestions if there is an article you WANT to see. I can do my best to write it, or try to find something appropriately similar.

One more thing I'd like touch upon before closing this report. When writing an article or report, please remember the time frame that the newsletter will be published in. The delay between when you write an article and when you actually receive the newsletter can be over a month even if the publication is on time. This is an unfortunate result of having a quarterly newsletter, but it's the best we can do with the amount of funds, time, and submissions available.

For example with the next issue: Since the official deadline is the beginning of January, you will probably be writing your submission in late December. However, I won't edit those submissions until January as I prepare for a

**Continued: See Communications on page 46...**

# SHUTTLE CELESTIAL

## Introducing the new shuttle *Celestial*.

On August 18, 1997, the *Celestial* officially launched as the second shuttle of the USS *Wernher von Braun*. Commander Rebecca Self commands NCC 72069/2 along with a crew of approximately nine individuals. Alice Strange serves as the Executive Officer as well as Medical Officer. Some other former WvB members round out the crew, including Chyrstal Kimbro as the Second Officer and Finance Officer, and Kenneth Kimbro as the Judge Advocate General and Computer Science Officer. Some of the crew's family members also walk the halls, including Jeanette and Sophia Self, Niles Kimbro, Curtis Strange, Jeffery Self, and Thomas Carpenter.

The origins of the *Celestial* go back to over 10 years ago with Rebecca's roots in Birmingham. She had affiliated loosely with the chapters there, but never joined officially until 1988 during the pre-Jeanette Maddox years. However, she was put off by the local arguing that occurred among the chapters then, and felt there "had to be a better way." When the USS *Paramount* morphed into the current USS *Hephaestus* as a result of problems with their previous Commanding Officer, she ended up serving as their Executive Officer. During this time she learned the skills needed to be in command.

It's also during this time as XO, that Rebecca met and became friends with Alice, who shared a desire to start their own shuttle. They both realized they had a spiritual side that both thought would be a good focus for the shuttle. Rebecca is a member of the Episcopal Church, and belongs to a religious group called Daughters of the King. Alice, who is a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis, is also an Episcopal Church member along with her husband. However, most members of the *Celestial* continue to make spirituality and *Star Trek* a part of their lives.

Now fast forward a few years to the forming of our ship's first shuttle, the *Alabama*. While Rebecca lived and worked in Birmingham still, she would commute to Decatur almost weekly to visit her parents. She began affiliating with the *Alabama* gang and became their Operations Officer. Unfortunately, problems and personal disagreements arose, and the thought of starting their own shuttle arose again. She used this time to learn from us, and plan how to go about launching a shuttle. She is glad they waited as long as they did though, because they were learning more and more.

The gathering crew also learned a lot at the Region 2 summit in March. Rebecca, Alice, and Chyrstal were in attendance to learn from the

panels and to get to know the people in the Region 2 hierarchy. As the year progressed, they continued to gain members, and start laying down the groundwork to launch. Finally, in early August, they submitted the paperwork to me to be launched as a shuttle. I made sure the paperwork was complete, signed my name as Commanding Officer of their mothership, and sent the package on to the Regional Coordinator for approval. Then we waited to see if Kelly thought another shuttle was a worthwhile endeavor. Then as August came to a close, I received an E-mail from Mike Henigan, Kelly's Chief of Staff, stating that Shuttle Operations Command had approved the *Celestial's* launching.

Despite having half their members in Birmingham, half in Decatur, and a few spaced along the way, they chartered their chapter in Leeds, Alabama, which is just southeast of Birmingham. Since their membership is spread out over a large distance, they originally considered being a correspondence chapter. However, they chose against it for several reasons. First, they wanted to be able to hold regular meetings, which, apparently, correspon-



**Celestial Logo**

dence chapters are not suppose to do, although they can gather for parties at already established events. Second, Rebecca felt commanding a shuttle via correspondence would be difficult. Using E-mail might have been easier than postal mail, but she lacked full-time computer access. Plus, they wanted everyone to have as much of an equal chance to participate as possible. Nor did most of the crew want to do a lot of writing. Of course, Leeds is close to Birmingham, where Rebecca's idea for a shuttle first began.

Spirituality remains the focus though. However, that does not mean just the spiritual focus of the Christian religion. They hope to further Gene Roddenberry's dream of a better future where people celebrate Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. Sure, most of the crew are of the mainstream Christian faith, but that doesn't mean they aren't open to other beliefs. For example, Rebecca has been known to sit under a pyramid. People should join the *Celestial* for their interest in *Star Trek* first. And hopefully along the way, they will discover religion as a way of life too. She hopes that by bettering themselves through knowledge in the world and beyond, they will have a better ship.

The shuttle actually meets twice a month with the exact dates and times determined the month before. Those in Decatur meet at the begin-

ning of the month and those in Leeds and Birmingham meet at the end of the month, with several of the Executive Committee members meeting in the middle of the month to plan things. If that wasn't enough, once a quarter they meet in the middle at a small town called Blountsville. If you want to attend one of their meetings, contact Rebecca, Alice, or Chyrstal to pinpoint the next one. Rebecca says she's in contact with someone from the shuttle on almost a nightly basis, so communication among the members shouldn't be a problem. Members also try to get together socially outside of meetings as well.

They hope to do quite a bit of community service even if that means starting small. For example, crewmembers have already helped in *Wernher von Braun* projects such as the Runway Run and the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. Several members are also pursuing individual projects. At the Crisis Center in Birmingham, Alice trained to talk over the phone to people in crisis situations. Her husband collected money during the months of August through November for the Shriners' Crippled and Burned Children Hospitals. Kenneth has also been teaching a sign-language class to the members, which he eventually hopes to open up to other Fleet members or to the public. For an upcoming group project, they are working with the Leeds



**Commander Rebecca Self:  
Commanding Officer of the  
shuttle Celestial**

Welfare Center gathering enough food for a nice Christmas "basket" for a needy family.

Of course, they do have a fun side as well. They held a launching party on August 23 in which they invited several north Alabama chapters to attend, including a couple members of the *von Braun*. The crew spent the morning and afternoon at Delano Park in Decatur, having a wonderful time with the picnic and games. Crewmembers are also encouraged to develop personas for themselves. Their main focus, however, will always be toward community service. Eventually, they'd like to do enough fundraising to be able to donate \$100 to \$1000 to a charitable organization. One of the fundraisers they have is a swear jar. Any time someone cusses or swears, they must make some type of monetary donation to the jar. Apparently, they had a huge number of donations about the time they worked on the shuttle's by-laws.

If you'd like to contact the *Celestial*, the ship's official mailing address is:

shuttle *Celestial*

% Rebecca Self

4418 Willow Bend Rd.

Decatur, AL 35609-9337

They do have E-mail capability, but it's best to contact via E-mail to the Executive Officer at [Frantrek@aol.com](mailto:Frantrek@aol.com). The XO's mailing address is:

Alice C. Strange

1294 George Crow Rd.

Springville, AL 35146

(205) 629-6135

The CO's mailing address is:

Rebecca L. Self

225 Laprado Place

Birmingham, AL 35209-4123

(205) 879-5934

And for those in the Decatur area, the Second Officer's address is:

Chyrstal Kimbro

2017 Locust St. S.E.

Decatur, AL 35601

(205) 308-1079

Rebecca feels that she has an excellent crew behind her. They'd like to make the Fleet proud of them as a shuttle. Hopefully, the prophets will guide them on their spiritual journey through life. And perhaps during the summer of 1998, the shuttle will commission as the *USS Spiritwalker*, which they have already gotten approval for from STARFLEET's Department of Technical Services. They've already laid some excellent groundwork for the future. I truly hope the spirits and the prophets guide the *Celestial* on its journey.

- **FCAPT Richard Trulson**

## CON REVIEW

### Another encounter with Leeta.

This Convention in Knoxville, TN featured Chase Masterson. (By the way, Marina Sirtis was also there. :) ). Stardate 970104.

Time: 0600 hours local(Central) time. Departure for trip to Knoxville via my earthbound vehicle. Elapsed travel time 3hrs 55min.

1100 hours local (Eastern) time. Arrival at convention and delivery of Chase's photos to her signing table. Chase arrived a short time later. Explored dealer's room (convention was actually in one very large room).

1130 hours. STNG episode "Face of the Enemy" featuring Marina Sirtis shown on viewing screen. Met Chase (she thanked me profusely for bringing the photos, but I was just happy that I could help her out).

1230 hours. Trivia contest. I won a prize! Well, it was only a window sticker.

1300 hours. Chase did her onstage thing (the highlight of the convention for me). She related the Avery Brooks "Cathy" story, answered several questions, and at one point invited a little girl up to share the stage with her which I thought was a very nice gesture (but that's just Chase :) ).

1400 hours. Several nice memorabilia items were auctioned off including a DS9 shirt signed by Chase that I was sorry I missed out on :(.

1500 hours. An interesting demonstration of sword fighting techniques utilized by stunt people for TV and film purposes.

1600 hours. That other star, Marina Sirtis, was onstage. She has a caustic or sarcastic sense of humor, but I did enjoy hearing her speak (just a little).

1700 hours. Marina signed autographs for an hour. By the way Chase started signing at about 1145 and with only some short breaks (one for her to speak onstage) signed until about 1830.

1815 hours. Another STNG episode featuring Marina Sirtis was shown on the viewing screen ("Eye of the Beholder").

1900 hours. Chase, a few others, and I adjourned to a local dining establishment known as Joe's Crab Shack. A wonderful time was had by all including yours truly (even though it may have appeared otherwise to some).

2200 hours. Sadly, all good things must end, so after taking several photos, Chase headed to Johnson City and I headed home, tired after a very long day, but a day that was well worth the effort.

- **LT (jg) Don Daniel**



*Chase Masterson is Leeta.*

# TREK 411

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

### All the latest collectible news.

Hello STARFLEET fans, once again, it is time to peek inside the Universe of the *Trek* Collectible.

While rummaging around my latest edition of the *Star Trek: Communicator* magazine, I noticed that the Collectibles section has been renamed Quark's Bazaar, probably a sideline while the Dominion is occupying *Deep Space Nine*.

One of the new items at Quark's is the limited *Trek* Leather Jacket. This jacket is made of high quality leather and wool and is plastered with the TOS logos and insignia. This one ain't cheap folks, the cost is \$349 and each one is individually numbered in a limited edition.

Here's one for you folks who collect beer steins: Quark's now has a supply of *Trek* beer steins. The stein is highly detailed in bas-relief and contains a scene of Chekov, from the TOS episode "Spectre of the Gun". Cost is \$22 and comes packaged in a window gift box.

Also, for those of you, including yours truly, who like to take an occasional nip every now and then: Starfleet Academy shot glasses are now

available. Quark says that these items are guaranteed to be a hit at your next party. Cost is \$8.

For you die hard Bones McCoy fans: Dr. McCoy's Medical Kit is being made available again. This kit contains a replica of the Doctor's universally famous medical scanner and wound healer. These items actually light up too. A Starfleet Medical School Diploma is included also. But please remember, the Diploma does not give you the right to start being a doctor: the AMA would give the whole Fleet a dirty look. Cost for the kit is \$15.

For you fans of Captain Kirk: The Kirk *Galileo* Shuttlecraft and figure are available once again. This item first appeared during the 30 year *Trek* celebration of 1996. Cost is \$25.

For you book worms: Quark has written, with Ira Steven Behr and Robert Hewitt

Wolfe, a book called *The Legends of the Ferengi*. This work delves into the culture, and profit making ways of this curious race. Whether it works for the rest of us, we'll have to wait and see. Cost is \$12.

For you clock watchers, there are new *Trek* watches, and clocks, galore. In fact, there are so many new ones, that I invite everybody to check them out in the Quark section of the *Communicator* magazine.

One more item for the book worms: the *Day of Honor* Series books one and two are now in the book stores. This is a four book collection spanning the Klingons, from TOS to VOY.

That's all for now folks, but keep tuned in for that good collectible, and let me in on it for a write up in this article.

Hello again  
STARFLEET fans, once again, it's time for our giant leap into the hallowed halls of the *Trek* Collectible.

Good news for the PC crowd: *Starfleet Academy* is now in the stores. I got my copy on the day of its release and it has some GOOD GRAPHICS. William Shatner, George Takei, and Walter

Koenig reprise their *Trek* roles for this one. The game is on CD-ROM and requires Windows 95, running on a

minimum of a Pentium-90 processor. Cost is \$59.95. A game guide is also available, for those who get blown up several hundred times, like yours truly, for \$19.95.

Staying on the PC kick for a moment; Interplay Games, producers of *Starfleet Academy*, have another game in the works with a release date of either Christmas 1997 or early 1998. The game is entitled *Vulcan's Fury*, a TOS based game, starring the voices of the original TOS cast. The preview can be watched while installing *Starfleet Academy*. It looks impressive.

Now for the book worms in our audience: the four part *Trek* series *Day of Honor* is now in the book stores. The series is set around the Klingon Empire and it covers all four *Trek* series. Part one is TNG; part two is DS9; part three is VGR and part four is TOS. Several authors have contributed to this work and it should make for some interesting reading.

Staying with the book worms for a moment: a new TNG hard cover novel, entitled *Ship of the Line*, is hitting the bookstores. The author is *Trek* novelist, Diane Carey. The plot involves the first voyage of the new *Enterprise-E*, which does not, as some might think, take place under the command of Captain Jean-Luc Picard. Instead, the first voyage takes place under the command of the time transplanted Captain Morgan Bateson, who was

played by Kelsey Grammer (AKA Dr. Frasier Crane of *Cheers* and *Frasier* fame) in the TNG episode where the *Enterprise-D* was destroyed about three or four times in a time loop. Thank goodness for Data saving the day on that one.

Beware of renegade Klingons who want to take over the ship and invade Cardassia Prime. Sounds like a thriller. An audio version of this work is forthcoming.

Gotta go back to the PC crowd for a moment: Pocket Books is announcing a revised *Trek* Encyclopedia which will be available in trade paperback and CD-ROM multimedia. This is complete and up-to-date through all of the *Trek* Series. Look for a release date near the end of 1997.

One more item for the book worms: Marc Okrand, developer of the Klingon language, has written a new work entitled: *Star Trek: Klingon for the Wayward Traveller*. This is designed for folks who want to know enough about the Klingons in order to avoid embarrassment or possible death, should one insult a Klingon's honor. This work is in the book stores now and sells for \$12.95.

Before I close, I would like to extend another great big thanks to Leslie Shinault, from my old ship the USS *Guardian*. Leslie has published complete information on all of the *Trek* action figures that have been manufactured to date in the *Guardian* newsletter *Gateway*.

This should be a big help to collectors when buying new figures or trying to wheel and deal for other figures. Well done Leslie and family.

That's all for now, but please write, call, fax, or e-mail me anytime if you have news on any *Trek* collectible not mentioned in this article, or if you have questions and/or comments on *Trek* collecting. I will always put my address at the end of the article.

Hello STARFLEET fans, once again it's time for a sneak peek in the Universe of the *Trek* Collectible, and see what's on the other side.

For all the book worms in our audience, Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens have authored a new work based on the tenth anniversary of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. This book looks at the characters, producers, episodes, and behind-the-scenes of this universally loved show, which ran for seven successful seasons, 1987-1994, and produced two motion pictures. This is a big hardcover book, produced by Pocket Books. Price is \$35.

***What you'll need to use in order to pay for all your Star Trek stuff.***



# TREK HUMOR 2

A quick diversion for the movie buffs, Jonathan Frakes has been signed to direct the next TNG movie. All of the TNG cast have signed up, with the possible exception of Gates McFadden (AKA Dr. Beverly Crusher). Rumor has it that Diana Muldaur will return as Dr. Kate Pulaski for this movie. Principal photography on the movie is to begin in early 1998.

For the PC buffs: two new items are in release. the *Captain's Chair*, a CD-ROM feature which includes tours of the bridges of five *Trek* starships, including the *Defiant*, of DS9, and *Voyager*. This program uses the Quick Time Virtual Reality software package, which is installed at program installation. Quick Time gives the viewer a 360 degree view of the object he/she is looking at. For \$49.95, this program runs under Windows 95 on a Pentium processor.

The second PC item in release is the revised *Star Trek: Encyclopedia* CD-ROM. This is a revision of the previous trade paperback *Encyclopedia*, and it is update to all of the current areas of the *Trek* Universe, including the current seasons of DS9 and *Voyager*. The *Encyclopedia* is also available in trade paperback form. Cost for both is \$50.

Here's a pre-holiday heads up for all you Xmas tree trimmers: Hallmark has its new *Trek* decorations coming out. Highlighting the collection this year is the light-up model of the DS9 flagship, the *Defiant*. Cost is \$24.95. Also included this

year is the Data Ornament, which shows Data sitting at his OPS Station on the *Enterprise-D* bridge. Cost of this ornament is around \$24.95.

For the book worms: the novelization of the VGR episode "Day of Honor" is now in release. Here we see B'Elanna Torres and Tom Paris get a little close together as Torres fears to celebrate this solemn Klingon ritual. This novel was written by Michael Jan Friedman, based on the screenplay by Jeri Taylor.

Other novels in release are: *Heart Of The Sun*, a TOS novel and *Trial By Error*, a DS9 novel.

That's all for now gang, but please write, call, fax, or e-mail me anytime, if you get wind of a good *Trek* collectible:

Russ McNutt  
902 Drake Ave. SE  
Huntsville, AL 35802-1035  
phone: 205-650-3195  
fax: 205-650-0173  
e-mail: russnutt@hiwaay.net

A Happy Turkey Day to all of my readers on the USS *Guardian* and the USS *Wernher von Braun*. Don't forget to get out there on Thanksgiving Day and make sure to pause and give thanks for our wonderful blessings and then sit down with family, and friends, and stuff yourselves until you can't get up (you know I will).

'Til next time, Keep on Trekkin' and Good Collectin'.

- **CMDR Russ McNutt**

## Top 10 Signs The *Enterprise* Has Picked Up A Bad Ambassador

- 10 Beams aboard with a bunch of crates saying "don't worry about food, I brought my own."
- 9 The Ambassador casually asks for a lot of technical information, and if by any chance they are going near the Neutral Zone.
- 8 They're attracted to Troi.
- 7 Keeps playing "pull my finger" with Data.
- 6 Complains to Dr. Crusher about the poor quality of replicated blood.
- 5 Spends lots of time with Barclay's holodeck programs.
- 4 Someone accidentally bumps into him and half the crew slips into a coma.
- 3 Asks Alexander if he's ever watched gladiator movies.
- 2 Inquires about Federation laws regarding paternity suits.
- 1 When they zoom in on the ambassador for more than three seconds in the opening.

- **Noel Tominack at  
noel@umbc2.umbc.edu  
and submitted by  
Scotty Lowery**

# T-SHIRTS AND NAME BADGES

## Stuff for sale, and the trials and tribulations to produce them.

Originally included in the CO's report, this was gonna tell you all about the delays and problems associated with producing the name-tags and T-shirts. However, it quickly grew into a more mammoth tale demanding its own article for a thorough explanation. When this happened I decided to add a little more to it and make it a quartermaster report. So, let the sales pitch begin.

Let's start at the bottom line: T-shirts are \$10 each and name-tags are \$3 each. For T-shirts you need to specify a color and size. For name-tags you need to specify what information you want included on the back. I also need to have a scanned picture of you. If you don't have one, I can use my video camera to record your image and digitize it myself.

We also have buttons available for sale. The older ones are 50 cents each, or 3 for \$1. They are also usually given as a door prize at the meetings. The newer buttons are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. I will generally make those as you watch so as not to waste the button materials on a non-selling design image. I can also make custom buttons for you for \$1 or more each, depending on how much work I do. You can also supply your own image to make into a button. Haven't you ever had a favorite saying you wish you good make into a button? Or

how about an incredible picture. All buttons are 2¼ inches in diameter with a pin backing. I can also make the buttons with a magnetic, mirror, or sticky back; or even into a key chain! Of course, those options cost \$2 extra each. I can even add 3 different size and colored rosettes for an additional \$3 each. Colored streamers, some with preprinted sayings, are an additional \$1.

Buttons would make a great gift to someone any time of year for any occasion. Furthermore, part of the money collected will go to the ship and part will go to cover my supply costs. Remember, all checks need to be payable to the "*Wernher von Braun*." In any event, make sure we give you a receipt for your payment, and indicate what it is for. Receiving your order in writing would also be a huge help.

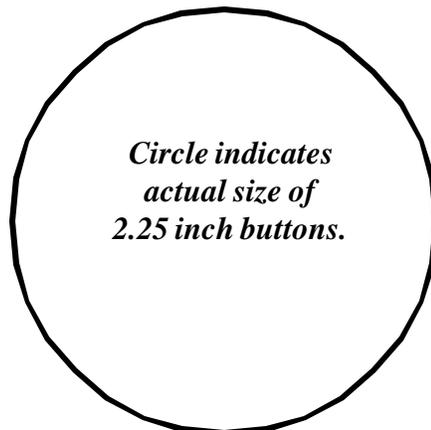
Now that I've thrown the sales pitch your way, let me tell you what went wrong that caused the T-shirts and name tags to be so late. The idea was

originally tossed around the middle of last year. I asked someone to pursue T-shirts since his dad was in the business, and had a wonderful transfer process. Unfortunately, real life got in the way and he was unable to comply.

Then this year the idea got kicked around again. By this time, however, I had acquired an ink jet printer capable of printing iron-on T-shirt transfers at 360 dpi. I could do it all myself. Or at least I could if I had the time, which was not often given I was busy either doing a newsletter, CO duties, or other life obligations. The Spring and Summer issue really delayed me, as did my life around May and June, which are super busy months for me.

However, during that time, I was able to design the name tags and T-shirts, and vote on them at the meeting. Getting everyone to decide on a color and slogan was not easy. We probably would have preferred an ash gray color, but the iron-on process didn't look as well on them, plus we had several white t-shirts left over from the last time. There was also the discussion on what the slogan should say. We finally decided upon, "The dream began here in reality."

The name-tag selection wasn't much easier. Once we had 3 basic design choices for the name-tags, I could do slight variations on them. As Kit said



when I showed everyone the second batch to vote on, “you’re not making this easy are you?”. I took that as a complement that you liked the designs I had come up with. This was a two month or longer process. Once we decided on that, I could begin making them.

Here’s where my headaches really began. First of all, printing with my Dad’s Epon Stylus Color II is not a pleasant process. While it seems to do fine for really simple logos, anything complex and it starts to degrade. I have color bleeding going on, additional white space appearing where it shouldn’t, banding problems in solid color areas, regular paper jams as several sheets are sucked through at once, and a whole lot more. I’m actually beginning to think it’s malfunctioning, cause it certainly doesn’t live up to my expectations or quality standards. Printing problems alone are enough to fill a newsletter and drive a person insane.

Finding correct T-shirts has been a chore. If it wasn’t the wrong color, then it was the wrong size. Or if it wasn’t that, then it had pockets. Even Hobby Lobby was out of stock and had to have some ordered for me. Additional delays occurred when the original back side printing contained yellow letters in the rainbow effect. That showed up fine on the gray sample I used, but disappeared on the white T-shirts we had. More transfers had to be bought and printed in a new color scheme.

Ironing them on is a 10 minute, sweaty process. If you don’t get the pressure, time, and heat distribution right, you screw up an entire T-shirt. And often times, this doesn’t occur till the second side is being done. You burn your fingers from peeling the hot transfer paper off, or the transfer process won’t work right. You name it; it can go wrong. You’re in even more trouble if a small wrinkle develops or it cools before you can pull it off.

Name-tags had their own production hassles. They also showed print quality flaws more easily than the transfers did. Even using high quality glossed paper didn’t help. I finally chose the best of the various papers and hoped that the printer would cooperate. Then I had to cut them out, which wasn’t an exact science either. Nor could I use Kinko’s standard lamination badge since it was smaller than the design we had chose. So I found some 5 mil thick badges at Office Depot. Unfortunately, I don’t have a laminator, so I had to settle for the results given by using a clothes iron on them, which seemed to work decently.

I had to settle for buying alligator clips individually, since those aren’t sold in bulk. But in order to use them, I had to get Kinko’s to punch holes in the finished badges. On the first attempt, the guy punched an extraneous hole in our ship’s name. The next time he couldn’t



*Front of T-Shirt*

find the center of the badge, and ended up putting holes off-center and larger than necessary. Who trains these idiots anyway? At least they didn’t charge me for the hole punching due to the mistakes. Small consolation since it ruined the prints and the lamination pouch, not to mention delayed production even more.

**Continued: See T-Shirts on page 46...**



*Back of T-Shirt*

*What you can't see though, are the pretty colors.*

# STAR TREK CHRISTMAS

## Christmas songs with a *Star Trek* flavor.

These were sent over the STARFLEET mailing list by Ann Garner in December 1996, though they have circulated across the internet for years. Be warned however, they are a bit suggestive in places.

### *Star Trek* Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the ship  
Not a circuit was buzzing, not one microchip;  
The phasers were hung in the armourery securely,  
In hope that no alien would get up that early.  
The crewmen were nestled all snug in their bunks  
(Except for the few who were partying drunks)  
And Picard in his nightshirt, and Bev in her lace,  
Had just settled down for a neat face to face...  
When out in the hall there arose such a racket,  
That we leapt from our beds, pulling on pant and jacket.  
Away to the lifts we all shot like a gun,  
Leapt into the turbos and shouted "Deck One!"  
The bridge red-alert lights, which flashed through the din,  
Gave a lustre of Hades to objects within.  
When, what on the viewscreen, our eyes should behold,  
But a weird kind of sleigh, and some guy who looked old.

But the glint in his eyes was so strange and askew,  
That we knew in a moment it had to be Q.  
His sleigh grew much larger as closer he came.  
Then he zapped on the bridge and addressed us by name:  
"It's Riker, It's Data, It's Worf and Jean-Luc!  
It's Geordi, and Wesley, the genetic fluke!  
To the top of the bridge, to the top of the hall!  
Now float away!  
Float away!  
Float away all!"  
As leaves in the autumn are whisked off the street,  
So the floor of the bridge came away from our feet,  
And up to the ceiling, our bodies they flew,  
As the captain called out, "what the Hell is this, Q?!"  
The prankster just laughed and expanded his grin,  
And, snapping his fingers, he vanished again.  
As we took in our plight, and were looking around,  
The spell was removed, and we crashed to the ground.  
Then Q, dressed in fur from his head to his toe,  
Appeared once again, to continue the show.  
"That's enough!" cried the captain, "You'll stop this at once!"  
And Riker said, "Worf, take aim at this dunce!"  
"I'm deeply offended, Jean-Luc" replied Q,

"I just wanted to celebrate Christmas with you."  
As we scoffed at his words, he produced a large sack.  
He dumped out the contents and took a step back.  
"I've brought gifts," he said, "just to show I'm sincere.  
There's something delightful for everyone here."  
He sat on the floor, and dug into the pile,  
And handed out gifts with his most charming smile:  
"For Counsellor Troi, there's no need to explain.  
Here's Tylenol-Beta for all of your pain.  
For Worf I've some mints, as his breath's not too great  
And for Geordi LaForge, an inflatable date.  
For Wesley, some hormones, and Clearasil-plus;  
For Data, a joke book, for Riker a truss.  
For Beverly Crusher, there's sleek lingerie,  
And for Jean-Luc, the thrill of just seeing her that way."  
And he sprang to his feet with that grin on his face  
And, clapping his hands, disappeared into space.  
But we heard him exclaim as he dwindled from sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good flight!"



## Christmas In Space: The Previous Generation

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the decks  
Not a crewman was stirring,  
'cept those having sex;  
Their boots were all placed by  
the vent shafts with care,  
In hopes that by morning  
they'd get some fresh air.  
The Redshirts were nestled all  
snug in their beds,  
While visions of stay'ng alive  
danced in their heads;  
And Kirk in his gold shirt,  
McCoy in his blue,  
Had just settled down for a nice  
Christmas brew—  
When from the comm panel  
there came such a wail,  
They sprang from their chairs,  
knocking over their ale.  
Away to the panel Kirk flew,  
drenched in beer,  
Snapped on the comm switch  
and barked loudly, "Kirk  
here!"  
The squeals that emerged from  
the thing after that  
Sounded just like the Devil was  
strangling a cat;  
When, what to their bombarded  
ears should appear,  
But the music of "Rudolph the  
Red-Nosed Reindeer,"  
With a voice in the back-  
ground, a murmur of talk,  
That made Kirk exclaim,  
"Bones... That sounds just  
like Spock."  
More rapid than bullets his  
syllables came  
As he tested each circuit and  
called it by name—  
"Cross Alpha to Beta, join  
Delta to Theta,



Route Kappa through Lambda,  
and Gamma to Zeta.  
To the end of the circuit, the  
end of the line,  
Now clip a resistor... there,  
That should do fine."  
As Kirk and McCoy listened  
closely to this,  
The comm unit speaker let out  
a long hiss.  
So, off to the turbolift both of  
them flew,  
With a mind to discover what  
Spock was up to.  
And then, in a twinkling, they  
reached the bridge deck,  
Stepped out of the lift and  
began a quick check.  
As they went down the steps  
and were looking around,  
From a nook Spock emerged,  
barely making a sound.  
He was all dressed in gray from  
his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tar-  
nished with solder and soot.  
A bag of components he had in  
one fist,  
And held in the other, a rather  
long list.  
His eyes didn't twinkle, his  
dimples were none,  
Yet somehow it looked like  
he'd been having fun.



His mouth, at one corner,  
quirked up just a touch,  
And one eyebrow lifted, though  
not by too much.  
A soldering iron he held in his  
teeth,  
And the smoke from it circled  
his head like a wreath.  
He looked like a  
man with a  
task to  
complete  
And nothing  
would stop him,  
not rain, snow,  
nor sleet.  
His two colleagues stood there,  
dumbfounded by this.  
McCoy chuckled softly; Kirk  
let out hiss.  
The look in Spock's eye and  
the set of his head  
Soon gave them to know he  
would not go to bed.  
He spoke not a word, but went  
straight to his work,  
And tuned all the sensors then  
turned back to Kirk,  
And pressing a button and  
counting to three,  
He lit up the bridge like a huge  
Christmas tree.  
His work done, he nodded, and  
walked toward the lift  
As his friends stared in awe at  
his luminous gift.  
But they heard him exclaim,  
his voice with good-will rife,  
"Merry Christmas! And to you  
all, Peace and Long Life!"  
- SS



# CHALLENGE

## Venting frustration and challenging everyone to do better.

Interest in the *Wernher von Braun* has been slipping away over the past 3 years. For example, we once had over 30 people attending the meetings; now we do good to pass 15. Our activities draw less than 10 people. Our STARFLEET membership use to total almost 30 members; now we're barely holding onto the 10 minimum. Why?

Has everyone's obligations changed on them so much that the first Sunday at 2 PM is now bad for them? When I conducted the survey when I first took over, Sunday afternoons were indicated as the best time to have an activity, followed closely by Saturday. Do we need to change activity times and days? But Fleet membership requires only a bit of money and no time at all. Sure, 1996 was a bad year for Fleet that caused a lot of people to turn on the organization, but they've since started rebuilding better than before. (See the "STARFLEET News" article on page 31 for more information.) Is it the finances? Am I not doing a good enough job? Are there other personal reasons I'm unaware of? I'd really like to know, as the situation is getting critical.

The apathy on this ship has gotten ridiculously bad. Frankly, I'm ashamed of the amount of participation being shown by the crew. In fact, we

didn't even have a quorum to conduct October's meeting. That's disappointing and disheartening for me. I realize occasionally people may miss a meeting or activity due to prior obligations, or an emergency will crop up; but this has gone beyond an occasional thing into a major, recurring problem.

Furthermore, no one wants to do anything. I end up doing everything. That's not the way it's suppose to work. When I first started as CO, I had the philosophy that I wasn't gonna ask anyone to do something that I wouldn't do myself. I still believe in leading by example. However, I think some have taken that to mean I should do everything. I'm not going to, nor can I. I'm burning out as it is. Good thing I work part-time for my parents, cause there would be no way to do this working a regular job.

At the very least, a CO should delegate the workload out to others and simply oversee the projects to make sure they are done. The others are the ones who should be doing the actual grunt work, not me. Unfortunately, it hasn't been like that. When I ask for volunteers, I am met with silence, even among the Department Chiefs. No one wants to volunteer to do anything. That's disappointing and disheartening at best.

I practically have to beg, or specifically ask someone to do something. Why? I will be there to help you if needed; I can train you as well if that's the case. I know you people are talented individuals, but your "let me help" attitude, which is often the rallying call of STARFLEET, leaves much to be desired. Well frankly, I'm growing too weary to carry the slack.

Don't get me wrong, a few individuals have performed beautifully. And I'm sure everyone has done at least one thing to help me since I've been here. For these things, no matter how small or how much, I thank you. It has made my life and my job as CO that much easier. I would name names for those wonderful bits of help, but I can't do so and honestly cover everyone and everything. You will have to remain content in the knowledge you have helped me some, and in the thanks I hopefully gave you when you did. Unfortunately, the help has not been enough lately.

When we won several awards at the 1997 Region 2 Summit, I had high hopes that we would win even more in 1998. Unfortunately, we've slipped since then. Very little has been noteworthy enough to even beg consideration for a regional award. However, now is the time to start building toward a glorious 1998.

Therefore, I challenge you to do something for the *USS Wernher von Braun* and its causes. Yes, you means everyone, myself as well. This can be

## ***“I challenge you to do something for the USS Wernher von Braun and its causes.”***

as simple or as grandiose as you want. I can hear some of you whining, “but I can’t do anything.” Of course you can! Let me elaborate with some ideas.

Attending a meeting is the simplest way to help, or even some of our other fun, social events. Make sure you’ve paid your annual Active membership dues of \$10. Join or renew with STARFLEET. Add your immediate family members to your STARFLEET membership. For those of you on tight budgets who can’t, then persuade your friends to join. Don’t know what to give a friend for a gift, how about paying their membership? Or simply donate a few dollars to the ship’s treasury if you happen to be financially fortunate.

Or if simple attendance at functions isn’t enough, donate your volunteer time to help at one of our community service projects. Host an event at your house, or help someone else coordinate something. Even suggesting ideas of what you want to do would be a big benefit. However, make your suggestions in writing, so I, and others, will have a physical reminder instead of relying on our fragile memories. Even if you can’t afford to give financially, you can give your time and knowledge.

I still hear some of you whining that you don’t have the time or money. That’s hogwash cause I know there is always something you can do for the

ship. Convince your sci-fi friends to join the ship. Tell others about us, and encourage them to attend our functions. Word-of-mouth has always been the best method of recruiting. Tell people who we are and what we do, as I’m sure a lot of people misunderstand us thanks to the stereotypes of Trekkies.

If you have the time, but it doesn’t always mesh with when we hold functions, you can still help us. If you don’t want to suggest a function that is built around your free time, then perhaps you could do something for the newsletter. There is no limit to the number of articles that can be written: opinion pieces, reviews, previews, news, surveys, etc. Or how about offering your resources to us for use? If you record a good sci-fi movie, own a memorabilia display for recruiting purposes, have a wonderful place to host a party—whatever the case may be—offer it to us to use. Heck, we can even use paper, toner or ink cartridges, lamination machines, copiers, etc.

You can even help us by referring us elsewhere. For example, do you know of someone willing to let us use their laminator, somewhere to make super cheap screen-printed T-shirts, or can offer a great deal on newsletter copying? Tell us! Just because you

**Continued: See Challenge on page 25...**

# MICROSOFT BORG

## An alternative “Best of Both Worlds”

Jim Dykes submitted this from an E-mail sent to him.

Picard: “Mr. LaForge, have you had any success with your attempts at finding a weakness in the Borg? And Mr. Data, have you been able to access their command pathways?”

Geordi: “Yes, Captain. In fact, we found the answer by searching through our archives on late Twentieth-century computing technology.”

Geordi presses a key, and a logo appears on the computer screen.

Riker (looks puzzled): “What is ‘Microsoft’?”

Data (turns to answer): “Allow me to explain. We will send this program, for some reason called ‘Windows’, through the Borg command pathways. Once inside their root command unit, it will begin consuming system resources at an unstoppable rate.”

Picard: “But the Borg have the ability to adapt. Won’t they alter their systems to increase their processing capacity?”

Data: “Yes, Captain. But when ‘Windows’ detects this, it creates a new version of itself known as an ‘upgrade’. The use of resources increases exponentially with each iteration. The Borg will not be able to adapt quickly enough. Eventually all

of their processing ability will be taken over and none will be available for their normal operational functions.”

Picard: “Excellent work. This is even better than that ‘unsolvable geometric shape’ idea.”

15 Minutes Later:

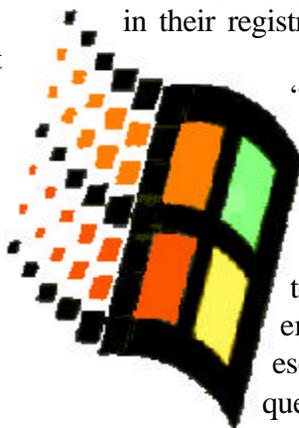
Data: “Captain, we have successfully installed ‘Windows’ in the Borg’s command unit. As expected, it immediately consumed all available resources. However, we have not received any confirmation of the expected ‘upgrade’.”

Geordi: “Our scanners have picked up an increase in Borg storage and CPU capacity, but we still have no indication of an ‘upgrade’ to compensate for their increase.”

Picard: “Data, scan the history banks again and determine if there is something we have missed.”

Data: “Sir, I believe there is a reason for the failure in the ‘upgrade’. Apparently the Borg have circumvented that part of the plan by not sending

in their registration cards.”



Riker: “Captain, we have no choice. Requesting permission to begin emergency escape sequence 3F ...”

Geordi (excited): “Wait, Captain! Their CPU capacity has suddenly dropped to 0!”

Picard: “Data, what do your scanners show?”

Data (studying displays): “Apparently the Borg have found the internal ‘Windows’ module named ‘Solitaire’, and it has used up all available CPU capacity.”

Picard: “Let’s wait and see how long this ‘Solitaire’ can reduce their functionality.”

Two Hours Pass...

Riker: “Geordi, what is the status of the Borg?”

Geordi: “As expected, the Borg are attempting to re-engineer to compensate for increased CPU and storage demands, but each time they successfully increase resources I have set up our closest deep space monitor beacon to transmit more ‘Windows’ modules from something called the ‘*Microsoft Fun-Pack*’.”

Picard: “How much time will that buy us?”

Data: “Current Borg solution rates allow me to predicate an interest time span of 6 more hours.”

Geordi: “Captain, another vessel has entered our sector.”

Picard: “Identify.”

Data: “It appears to have markings very similar to the ‘Microsoft’ logo...”

(Over the speakers): “This is Admiral Bill Gates of the Microsoft flagship *Monopoly*. We have positive confirmation of unregistered software in this sector. Surrender

der all assets and we can avoid any trouble. You have 10 seconds to comply.”

Data: “The alien ship has just opened its forward hatches and released thousands of humanoid-shaped objects.”

Picard: “Magnify forward viewer on the alien craft!”

Riker: “My God, captain! Those are human beings floating straight toward the Borg ship... with no life support suits! How can they survive the tortures of deep space?!”

Data: “I don’t believe that those are humans, sir. If you will look closer I believe you will see that they are carrying something recognized by twenty-first century man as doeskin leather briefcases, and wearing Armani suits.”

Riker and Picard, together (horrified): “Lawyers!!”

Geordi: “It can’t be. All the Lawyers were rounded up and sent hurtling into the sun in 2017 during the Great Awakening.”

Data: “True, but apparently some must have survived.”

Riker: “They have surrounded the Borg ship and are covering it with all types of papers.”

Data: “I believe that is known in ancient vernacular as ‘red tape’. It often proves fatal.”

Riker: “They’re tearing the Borg to pieces!”

Picard: “Turn the monitors off, Data, I can’t bear to watch. Even the Borg don’t deserve such a gruesome death!”

- SS

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### **...Challenge continued from page 23.**

know about the big convention coming up, that doesn’t mean we do. Or if you know of a great sale on *Trek* merchandise or anything else we can use, let us know. Share your information and networking resources with us.

STARFLEET has dozens of projects that you can get involved with to help us, the Fleet, and others. For example, elsewhere in this issue are details on the overseas Coupon Project and Operation: Eagle. Take a little bit of your time to save, clip, and organize all those manufacturers’ coupons in the paper that you’d normally throw away. Send a care package to our troops overseas. Save UPC symbols of Hershey’s Products so we can participate in Fleet’s Challenge of the Heart project, which donates money to the Ryan White Foundation for HIV education and awareness.

Or if you prefer, there are plenty of local charities to donate to, including us. Donate canned goods to feed the homeless, or give old but good toys to the poor. Everyone has spare change they can donate to our funds or to charity; even pennies are valuable. Help with our button sales by furnishing pictures that be cut up into buttons. Old *TV Guides*, *Starlogs* and other sci-fi magazines, trading cards, old calendars, Hamilton Collection

plate and Franklin Mint mailing advertisements, damaged or worthless comics, toy packages and backings, and countless other sources can be used. Have an extra autograph or two, donate them to us so we can auction them off.

I’m also sure there are hundreds of more ways you can help the ship that aren’t listed here. I really hope that you will take this to heart and do your best to help the ship. If the first part of this article comes across sounding very harsh and rude, I’m sorry. However, you don’t know how frustrating it is to be responsible for this ship, and see it slowly fading away. I know what people are capable of and what they can accomplish. We can do better than we are now. We have before and we can again. I just need your help to do it. Please help make 1998, our fifth anniversary year, the best we’ve ever had.

- **FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**



**Sal Lizard:  
Computer  
Operations -IC**

# MEETING MINUTES

**July 6, 1997:**

**XO:**

Richard Trulson recommended Russ McNutt to serve as Executive Officer. He passed his approval vote and was promoted to Commander.

**Operations: CMDR Dallas Vinson**

A list of members who owe dues were read. There is \$83.20 in the bank. In order to get copies of missing bank statements, we had to pay a \$6 research fee.

**Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

Covers for the Anniversary Edition of the *Subspace Static* were handed out. Submissions for the next one are due immediately.

A mid-month *Mission Briefing* will be sent out to make up for the one missed in June.

**Medical: Anya Funderburk**

Be careful of summer heat problems. Attending her first year of medical school.

**Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel**

*Pathfinder* lands today on Mars. They're thinking of renaming *Sojourner* to the *Carl Sagan Memorial Space Station*. Attended Dragon\*Con and got lots of pictures. Completed Officer's Training School. Since he completed OTS, Don's "Acting" status was removed and he was promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade) for serving as Science Chief.

**Business:**

After some discussion, the social dinner will be a potluck dinner held on Tuesday, July 15, at Anya Funderburk's house instead of at a restaurant as usual. Call Anya to let her know what potluck item you will be bringing.

A final name badge design was selected. They will be \$2 each. A light ash gray was selected as the T-shirt color. They will be \$10. Kit Ramsey moved to change the motto on the shirt to "The dream began here in reality." The vote was 6 to 2 in favor of changing it.

August 9 is the Region 2, Zone 2 picnic at Stone Mountain Park in Georgia.

August 22-24 is the STARFLEET International Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ. Shining Star Award was given to Dallas Vinson by acclimation for helping at an outdoor recruiting event in the rain.

**August 3, 1997:**

**CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson**  
Commendation of Excellence left over from Panoply work were given out. Those receiving them include: Dustin Williams, Ralph Brigham, Johnnie Peterson, Richard L. Trulson, Donald Daniel, Catherine "Kit" Ramsey, Raymond "Lee" Weemes, Michael Ervin, Terrel Mitchell, Jerrelle Mitchell,

David Sloan, Ryan Bahney, Clinton Smith, Shiloh Huddleston, Joseph Couch. Perry Cagel was awarded the rank of Petty Officer, Third Class for having joined STARFLEET.

Nametag price has been raised to \$3. If you've already ordered one for \$2, you will still receive it. The price was increased in order to cover unforeseen production costs. T-shirts are \$10. Both have been delayed.

**XO: CMDR Russ McNutt**

Russ McNutt

902 Drake Ave. SE

Huntsville, AL 35802-1035

phone: 205-650-3195

fax: 205-650-0173

e-mail: russnutt@hiwaay.net

Feel free to go to him confidentially with your comments or suggestions.

He will also be the ship's contact point in Huntsville.

**Operations: CMDR Dallas Vinson**

The bank account holds \$135.42, though a huge check needs to be made to Richard to reimburse copying costs.

**Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

See him to request an Anniversary Edition of the *Subspace Static*, or covers for it.

*Mission Briefing* will come out next week.

Now available, the Spring and Summer *Subspace Static* has been combined into one.

Next submission deadline is October 1.

**Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel**

Perseid meteor shower is August 11.

## Business:

Saturday, August 9 is the Runway Run. Call (205) 722-9395 ext. 260 to volunteer. They need people at Finish Line, Traffic Control, and Aide Stations. Volunteers receive free refreshments and a T-shirt. August 9 is the Region 2, Zone 2 picnic at Stone Mountain Park in Georgia.

August 22-24 is the STARFLEET International Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ. Discussion was held on what activity to do this month. We decided on a pool party at Russ's house on Saturday, August 23 at 4 PM.

Labor Day weekend is the Jerry Lewis Telethon. Anya provided some information on it and a sign up sheet was passed around.

Everyone said it was OK to use the existing white T-shirts. "in reality." will be added to the motto if it fits.

Brief discussion was held on the proposed promotion policies. A vote on them will occur sometime after the planning meeting. Anya Funderburk won the Shining Star Award for hosting the social potluck dinner at her house. Dallas Vinson was also nominated for helping the Lowery family. Richard had to make the tie-breaking vote.

## September 7, 1997

**CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson**  
Unable to contact Henry, the former XO, so Command Transfer paperwork has been delayed.



*A few Wernher von Braun Crewmembers caught watching Voyager episodes after the meeting.*

Commendation of Excellence for working at the Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon were given to Donald Daniel, Dallas Vinson, Anya Funderburk, Rebecca Self, Russ McNutt, and Tom Perry. Commendation of Excellence for the working the Runway Run marathon were given to Don Daniel, Rebecca Self, and Alice Strange.

Approval vote was given in order to allow Kelly and Mike to use Regional funds to attend the IC. A sympathy card for Kelly, whose step-dad is not expected to live much longer, was passed around for people to sign. Senior VRC Jennifer Rosbury, R2's Zone 3 Coordinator, is the acting RC until Kelly returns from temporary leave.

Membership numbers are getting dangerously low. Please join or renew with STARFLEET if you haven't already.

**XO: CMDR Russ McNutt**  
WAAY has stopped airing *Voyager*. Please write or call them and encourage them to carry *Voyager*.

**Operations: CMDR Dallas Vinson**

<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Dimension/1660/> is the new web page URL. We have \$68.42 in the bank account. A huge check was written to reimburse Richard for copying the last two *Subspace Static* issues.

Dallas needs lots of help at Con†Stellation on October 17-19 to serve as security. Basically, you will be operating the elevator. A sign up sheet was passed around if you can help.

**Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

Submission deadline for the next issue is October 1.

**Medical: Anya Funderburk**  
Blood Drive in November.

**Shuttle Alabama: CMDR  
Bonnie Flanagan**

Discovered we have a few unknown members after receiving the last crew roster from Kelly.

**Shuttle Celestial: CMDR  
Rebecca Self**

Officially launched on August 18, 1997 in Leeds, AL. Meeting in Bluntsville on September 20 at 11 AM.

**Business:**

More T-shirt and name tag problems. They will be ready at the next meeting.

Saturday, September 20 will be the anniversary party and social dinner at Formosa restaurant at 6 PM. Please wear your uniform or ship T-shirts.

Nominations were taken for the Most Outstanding Awards to be awarded at the anniversary party. Rebecca Self and Dustin Williams were nominated for Crewmember. Dallas Vinson, Russ McNutt, Dustin Williams, and Bonnie Flanagan were nominated for Officer. Russ McNutt and Scott Lowery were nominated for New Member. Ballot votes were then collected.

Since Con†Stellation is so late in the month this year, we decided to have a regular meeting on October 5 as scheduled, and have a purely fun meeting at Con†Stellation. A planning meeting will occur at 2 PM the day of the anniversary party, on Saturday, September 20.

We voted not to participate in the Madison Square Mall Community Days because it conflicted with Con†Stellation.



*Kelly and his pet poodle, Magic. -IC*

Various long-term upcoming events were discussed.

Anya Funderburk won the Shining Star Award for organizing the Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon workers. Russ McNutt was also nominated for hosting the pool party and dinner.

Received *Communiqué* #81, the *Command Status Report*, the *Region 2 Update*, and the *Region 2 Monthly Memo*.

Several people are receiving the second part of their membership materials. Anyone who has not received them need to give Richard the pertinent information so it can be reported.

Richard Biggs and Robert Beltran will be appearing at a Vulkan in Atlanta on September 12 and 14. Carol Burhans of the *Dark Silence* has extra room for anyone interested sharing. Ask Richard for her phone number after the meeting.

**October 5, 1997**

Since there was not enough people to hold a quorum, no official business was carried out. However, the following announcements were made.

**CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson** Command Transfer paperwork has been filed. T-shirts and name tags completed where available.

Congratulations to Most Outstanding Award winners: Dallas Vinson won Officer, Dustin Williams won Crewmember, and Russ McNutt won New Member.

**XO: CMDR Russ McNutt** New episodes of *Deep Space Nine* air early Thursday mornings at 1 AM. He sent an E-mail to Majel Barrett Roddenberry asking her to do anything she can to bring *Voyager* to Huntsville. Apparently, she usually answers all E-mail sent to her.

**Communications: FCAPT  
Richard L. Trulson**

Submission deadline has past for *Subspace Static*. The next issue will be ready at the November meeting.

**Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel**  
Discussion was held on how many would be interested in Adopt-A-Highway, and where to adopt.

October 20-23 is a meteor shower.

His new job has kept him busy, and has not had the chance to contact the planetarium.

**Shuttle Celestial: CMDR  
Rebecca Self**

Meeting in Leeds on October 24 at 6:30 PM.

**Business:**

Proposed promotion polices were handed out for people to examine. We will vote on them at the next meeting.

October 17-19 is Con†Stellation at the Four Points ITT Sheraton by the airport. There will be a fun meeting at 2 PM, Sunday, October 19. Check the con schedule for location and other information. Various ideas were discussed on what to do there. Do to lack of interest, plans to attend the Renaissance Fair in Florence were canceled.



*Allyson  
Dyar:  
STARFLEET  
Mialing List  
Moderator,  
and keeper  
of the whip.  
-IC*

Saturday, November 1 is the USS *Hephaestus* Halloween party in Birmingham. If you want to go, let Richard know, as we will be car-pooling down. The *Shining Star* was awarded by acclimation to Chyrstal Kimbro for donating raffle tickets to the WvB, and for feeding the CO dinner. In STARFLEET news: *Communiqué* #82 was received. Cindy Krell replaced Mike Henigan as Executive Director of the STARFLEET IC Committee. Brittany Sloan (the news editor) replaced Greg Trotter as the *Communiqué* editor. Greg Trotter replaced Mandi Herrmann as Vice Chief of CompOps in charge of Membership Services. Mandi Herrmann replaced Rob Lerman as STARFLEET Academy Commandant.

**November 2, 1997:**

**CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson**  
Election procedure was discussed with the vote occurring at the next meeting. Rebecca Self will serve as Election Coordinator. Dallas Vinson, Russ McNutt, and Richard Trulson were nominated, though Russ declined his nomination. Dallas also moved that we change the By-Laws to allow a pre-stamped and pre-addressed postcard ballot to be sent to people to vote. In order to make sure we complied with the By-laws, the motion was tabled until after the election.

**XO: CMDR Russ McNutt**  
Hooked on the Great Dalmutti card game after playing it at the *Hephaestus* Halloween party. Pete Mohny will dub *Voyager* tapes if you send him money to cover costs. They also invited us to their Christmas party.

**Operations: CMDR Dallas  
Vinson**

Still haven't heard from Hollywood 16 about doing something for *Starship Troopers*. The bank account holds about \$65. He has his PC again, so should be able to get the database back on-line and updated.

Holiday Party will be held on December 13 in conjunction with Laura Peterson's open house at 6 PM. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped unisex gift valued under \$20.

**Communications: FCAPT  
Richard L. Trulson**

Newsletter delayed, will be ready at the December meeting.

**Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel**  
Adopt-A-Highway was tabled until next spring due to lack of interest. Called the Von Braun Astronomical Society and left message about attending the planetarium, but have not been called back.

**Business:**

The proposed Promotion Policy was discussed. It passed with a unanimous vote. Richard has volunteered to pay for a personalized plank at Decatur's Kid's Kingdom for the WvB. A vote was held and passed to match Richard's funds with ship funds so a brick could be obtained instead.

If we hear back from them, we'll have a Planetarium visit on November 15.

The New Academy Address is:  
Mandi Herrman  
ATTN: SFI Academy  
9908 Berrywood Drive  
Ladson, SC 29456

New Membership Address is:  
STARFLEET  
Membership Services  
PO Box 482  
Leavenworth, KS 66048-0482

### December 7, 1997:

#### CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson

No further nominations were received for CO. Richard Trulson and Dallas Vinson gave a short speech and voting began. A re-vote had to be done because more votes than eligible ballots were received. It was simply a matter of a non-WvB assigned member voting who should not have. On the second vote, Richard received 4 votes, and Dallas received 3. Richard thanked everyone for supporting him for a third term. Kid's Kingdom no longer offered the bricks.

Received *Communiqué* #83 and September/October *Command Status Report*. CQ is still bulk rate because the Post Office lost STARFLEET's Periodicals Class Permit application.

#### XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

New *Star Trek* PC games: *Captain's Chair*, *Star Trek Encyclopedia*, and *Secret of Vulcan's Fury*, which is based on the book and will contain the voices of the original series cast. An *X-Men* meets *Star Trek* comic is in the works.

#### Operations: CMDR Dallas Vinson

New address is:  
Dallas Vinson  
PO Box 12477  
Huntsville, AL 35815-2477  
or call (205) 498-0204

Current bank balance is about \$75. The bank may have lost a \$20 night deposit, which he will check on.

Command Staff needs to submit budgets for next year.

#### Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Sorry the newsletter is delayed again. Submissions for the next issue are due at January 4 meeting. Old issues are available for 25 cents each, or \$1 for all back issues prior to me taking over.

#### Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel

The Planetarium has not returned any of the numerous phone calls or messages.

#### Shuttle Celestial: CMDR Rebecca Self

They presented Richard Trulson with a Best Captain Award.

#### Business:

Saturday, December 13 is the holiday party at Laura Peterson's house. Her open house to buy sci-fi merchandise is from 1 PM till 4 PM. Our party will be a potluck dinner beginning at 6 PM, so please inform Richard what food item you will be bringing. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped, unisex gift not to exceed \$20.

Information was provided on participating in Operation: Eagle.

Two people received nominations for Shining Star Award. Rebecca Self for handling elections and Laura Peterson for hosting the holiday party. Laura won 3 to 2.

Talk to Dustin Williams if you would like to attend the commissioning party of the USS *Rodger Young* in Shreveport, LA on January 17. Cost is \$25 individually, or \$45 for a couple. Dallas will be going in his RV.

Carol and Will Burhans, CO and XO of the *Dark Silence*, and other crewmembers gave a presentation on how to be a successful ship. They also presented Richard with a hand made tree ornament.

We watched three episodes of *Star Trek: Voyager* that were brought by the *Dark Silence*.

- Compiled by FCAPT  
Richard L. Trulson



Some of the STARFLEET  
Executive Committee -IC

# STARFLEET NEWS

## A summary of events over the past year

What a year 1997 has been for STARFLEET, the International *Star Trek* Fan Association. Even though they didn't get to start until a week after January began, Mike Smith and his team hit the ground running as fast as they could. Their first order of business was to obtain all materials from the previous administration. Unfortunately, what Jim Herring had to pass along from Dan McGinnis was not very much at all. Fleet had very little funds and almost \$20,000 in bills to pay, not to mention IRS problems looming over us.

Immediately after assuming the Commander, STARFLEET position, Mike Smith made several announcements. Among them, he repealed the Flag Officer promotions requirements and the punitive actions against Bill Herman by McGinnis that many felt were completely unjust. He then set in motion the difficult process of determining exactly what actions needed to be taken with the IRS and the *Communiqué*. He returned to the pre-IC 96 membership rates of \$15 for individuals. While many chapters complained about the \$12 annual Chapter Charter Fee, this was indeed a needed expense in order to pay for the administrative costs of the *Command Status Report*. He also instigated a very thorough accounting system that would create a double check on all

moneys received by Fleet. Furthermore, he appointed Marlene Miller as Treasurer and Howard Crosnon as Internal Auditor to better track finances.

Most of this was in reaction to correct problems and debts that McGinnis caused. No one has heard anything from him, and even have to communicate through his lawyers. In fact, it seems everyone who renewed or joined in the last half of 1996 had their checks cashed, but never received their membership materials or *Communiqués*. However, Regional Coordinators did receive rough copies of the issues that Doug Glenn produced, but McGinnis never copied or mailed them for everyone. Therefore, where are all the financial records and money for the last half of 1996? Smith has said that McGinnis is under investigation and we will take appropriate legal action if possible. Ironically, on November 7, an article appeared in local St. Louis papers stating that the FBI has arrested and charged McGinnis with embezzling \$68,000 from his employer, Downtown St. Louis Inc. While innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, this is just too much to be a coincidence.

One of the first things to receive priority attention was the membership database. Herring held onto it for a while trying to enter forgotten memberships from McGinnis. Even when Sal Lizard got the database in mid-February, it was woefully out of date and incorrect. Not only were addresses wrong, but ship crew assignments were almost totally inaccurate. The team at Computer Operations worked many long hours to get the database up to speed. Their first objective was to redo the database into something they could work with. They then made processing new and renewing



memberships the main priority. Since they did not have the finances, they were only able to send out membership cards and certificates. Their next priority was to send out membership cards to everyone from 1996.

They accomplished their monumental task by splitting the workload among their team. Mandi Hermann was responsible for processing new and renewing applications. Liz Woolf handled the general questions and corrections to the database. Lizard also continued

to oversee the process and actually mailing out the materials. If you believe McGinnis, we had approximately 9000 members at our largest. We have remained at just over 4000 members this year. Either McGinnis lied about the ever growing numbers, or we have lost over half of Fleet's members due to his actions, disagreements over who won the election, or some other unknown dissatisfaction.

Anyone who joined prior to December 1, 1997 should have received their membership card and certificate, including all of 1996 and 1997 members. All 1996, and very early and very recent 1997 members have received the remaining parts of the membership materials, such as the handbook, vessel registry, etc. However, there are a few who still have not received the second part. Otherwise, processing time should take six to eight weeks, which is the average wait period for any business. If you have not received your materials, then you need to let me know so I can have them sent to you.

*Communiqués* are another area to receive priority attention by a team of individuals. Greg Trotter was appointed as the *Communiqué* Editor. Issue 79 (February/March), the first issue under the Smith administration arrived promptly



**Brittany Sloan:**  
**Communiqué**  
**Editor -IC**

under a flurry of excitement and color. It looked fabulous with full color inside spread and covers, along with spot color throughout. However, a few weren't happy with the newsprint, tabloid-sized format. Unfortunately, problems with the printer caused a major delay in issue 80, as well as quality problems.

Ever since then, the CQ has been behind schedule, though coming out on a regular basis.

Issues 79 through 83 (October/November) of the *Communiqué* have been mailed, though at bulk rate. The Periodicals Class permit was another thing that McGinnis claimed to have acquired, but didn't actually do. Bulk rate mailings can wait around up to two months, and are NOT forwarded. They had announced procedures at the beginning of the year to secure a Periodicals Class (Second) rate for mailing. Unfortunately, the Post Office shows no records of their application when they went back to check in November. Suffice to say, they complained, and filed for the Periodicals Class Permit again.

Other Fleet publications have returned as well. *Command Status Reports* are coming out, though maybe not quite as regularly or as quickly in

previous years. *Stellar Visions*, the STARFLEET bi-annual fanzine, is being published twice a year, with the second issue coming out in December. If you have a submission, E-mail it to [kitten@excaliber.net](mailto:kitten@excaliber.net), or send postal mail to:

Wendy Fillmore  
72 Dickens Road  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Any artwork, stories, poems, filksongs, etc. that are published will entitle the author/artist to a free issue of the fanzine. They are also looking for cover art. Back issues of issue I are still available, and issue II should be ready by now. Cost is \$13 each, or \$24 for 2 issues per year. (Write "Yearly Subscription" in the memo field.) For more info, visit <http://dominion.excaliber.net/~kitten/fanzine/> on the web. You can also visit Fleet's new, official web site at <http://www.sfi.org/>.

Careful budgeting and cost saving measures throughout the year have allowed Fleet to finally make good on several of its financial obligations. First, all 1995 and 1996 Scholarships have been paid. Unfortunately, due to the financial drain this has caused, and the other more important financial obligations, 1997 scholarships will not be awarded. Also, a \$1200 check has been made out to the "The Ryan White Foundation" which is the money that resided in the Challenge of the Heart account. Additionally, Region 2 recently



**Greg Trotter:**  
**Membership**  
**Services -IC**

presented a separate \$1400 check of its own. These funds were raised at the 1997 Summit auction and pie toss.

In other money news, the first financial report appeared in the July/August CSR. Total income for STARFLEET from January 1 through May 31, 1997, has been \$22,115. The previous administration had \$6729 worth of expenses and \$10,008 by the current administration, for a total expenses of \$16,737. That leaves a net income of \$5378. They finally received some forwarded statements from the bank McGinnis used. With the help of the bank's manager, they were able to get \$4123

transferred to us. However, that still doesn't account for a large sum of money that should have been in the various accounts McGinnis had established. Therefore, the total cash on hand as of May 31, 1997 was \$9501 to the good.

However, STARFLEET would have folded had it not been for people renewing their memberships after Smith was elected. Many people let their membership lapse at the end of 1996, specifically waiting for someone new to take over, and many are still waiting to see if Fleet will survive. Well, not only has it survived, but 1998 looks to be the year it will start growing again. Additionally, approximately 225 chapters paid their Chapter Charter fee in 1997, which also helped save

STARFLEET. However, you can make an actual donation with a check or money order payable to STARFLEET if you wish. Over \$2000 were donated, including one \$1000 donation from a single member. Send donations to:

Starfleet Donations  
c/o Howard Cronson  
P.O. Box 990056  
Boston, MA 02199



**Howard "Ho" Cronson: Internal Auditor in his traditional bathrobe and fuzzy slippers -IC**

Internal Revenue Service problems concerning failure to file tax returns have finally been resolved. Apparently, former Commander, STARFLEET Jeanette Maddox was not aware that as an incorporated organization, STARFLEET must file tax returns regardless of our income and our not-for-profit status. The IRS has established a fine for failure to file Fiscal Year 90/91 and 91/92 tax forms. These installment payments will equal \$600 per month for 13 to 14 months. Mike Smith commented later that he felt Fleet should have no problem with meeting this financial obligation. He has also confirmed that FY 96/97 has been filed as well. It has been confirmed that former Commander,

STARFLEET Rob Lerman correctly filed tax returns for FY 92/93 and 93/94. The only questionable year remains the 95/96 FY, in which McGinnis claimed he filed a return. However, no record either by him, the Smith Administration, or the IRS can verify its filing. Therefore, depending on the situation and if it can be proven McGinnis deliberately lied about the filing, STARFLEET may or may not be assessed further penalties. Mike Smith and Howard Cronson deserve MANY thanks for finally resolving this potentially damaging situation.

Unfortunately, life has a tendency to get in the way of STARFLEET. As a result, several changes have occurred on STARFLEET's Executive Committee and staff. Brittany Sloan, the former news editor of the *Communique*, is now the Editor of the CQ. Fortunately, there shouldn't be many changes to it. Greg Trotter, who was the former CQ editor that moved to Region 12, is the new Vice Chief of CompOps in charge of Membership Services. As a result, Trotter and his



**Liz Woolf: CompOps -IC**

friends in Region 12 will now be the people responsible for processing new and renewing membership applications. With the additional volunteers, they should be able to improve response time. The current membership application, which is on the back cover of this issue, should be sent to:

STARFLEET

Membership Services  
PO Box 482

Leavenworth, KS 66048-0482

Rob Lerman, the former and current STARFLEET Academy Commandant has resigned his position due to a personal disagreements with Mike Smith. In his place, Mandi Herrmann, the remarkable lady who formally processed our memberships, is the new Academy Commandant. Applications are still sent to the Director of the School you wish to attend. (You can find the current application on page 47.) For general questions about the Academy, you can ask me or write to her yourself at:

Mandi Herrman

ATTN: SFI Academy  
9908 Berrywood Drive  
Ladson, SC 29456

As far as Schools, Mandi is seeking a director for the College of Trade and Commerce who is 18 or over. Applications, which should be received at the above address by February 15, 1997, should include a complete resume with Fleet and real life qualifications and accomplishments as well as a planned course

outline and syllabus. The Cadet School and the College of Command Studies are closed until Mandi selects a new Director, which should occur soon. All other schools should be open for students.

Officer's Training School (OTS) and Officer's Command College are both online now. To take the online course, you still need to send an application through the regular postal mail with the appropriate fees. Just make sure you print all the correct information clearly, and provide an E-mail address indicating you wish to take the online version. Peg Pellerin is OTS Director (ots@sfi.org) and Carolyn Donner is the OCC Director (OCC@sfi.org). Contact me at richlt@hiwaay.net and I will forward your their E-mails with all the specific details.



*Mandi "Rebel Queen" Herrman:  
Academy Commandant,  
holding the infamous ducks -IC*

Remember the old Academy vouchers? Well, they are still valid to use if you still have them. However, they have implemented a new Fleet-wide Voucher system in \$1 and \$5 denominations. While anyone can use them, their biggest use is primarily for international members since we can simply write a check payable to the appropriate people. Unlike the old vouchers which were for the Academy only, the new ones are good for everything in Fleet such as Academy tuition, Membership payment, Quartermaster purchases, etc. Send a check payable to STARFLEET and a LSASE to:

Chuck Freas

P.O. Box 8942

Amarillo, TX 79114-8942

Speaking of the Quartermaster position, Laura Reardon is still in that position. She has a wide variety of merchandise available for purchase. T-shirts, embroidered polo shirts, sweatshirts, and windbreakers are available in small through 3XL sizes and maroon and blue colors, and maybe a few in black. They also have coffee mugs, patches, barrel bags, tote bags, UFP stickers, STARFLEET logo mylar and bumper stickers, logo magnet in oval and bullet shapes, business card holders, and portfolios with and without handles. I have an order form available or you can e-mail her at [quartermaster@sfi.org](mailto:quartermaster@sfi.org). Or you can write:

Laura Reardon

12740 W. 108<sup>th</sup> Street  
Overland Park, KS 66210



Locally in Region 2, several people have received important appointments and some have become available. Pete Mohny, Commanding Officer of the USS *Hephaestus* in Birmingham, was selected as Region 2's Recruiting Officer by Jack Hopkins. Danny Potts, former XO of the *Hephaestus*, was selected as Region 2's Judge Advocate General by Robert Westfall. The Regional Department Chief (RDC) program is being reconsidered again, so here's your chance to work at the regional level. The positions of RDC of Engineering, Medical, Security, Special Services and Chocolate Coordinator are open. Anyone who is interested in applying should provide a résumé including Fleet and real world skills related to the position they are seeking, as well as a outline of what you feel you can do with the position. Applications will be taken until January 15, 1998 to Kelly at the below address.

Kelly Hilliard and Mike Henigan moved into their own condo this past year. For Regional matters, they can be reached at:

1115 McGill Park Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 30312

Also, r2cos@mindspring.com is Mike's new E-mail address.

Unfortunately, September through November was particularly rough for them. Kelly's step-father suffered with and eventually died from colon cancer, as well as having several other people close to Kelly pass way. Mike was removed from his position as Executive Director of the STARFLEET International Conference Committee which he held since its inception. Cindy Krell, who now resides in Region 2 and is aboard the USS *Star League*, has been appointed as the new Director of SICC. Many in the region felt this was unnecessary for Mike Smith, and have complained.

And to really narrow things down to our Zone, Pete Mohny, the Alabama Zone Coordinator, has split the state into three sectors: North, Central, and South. He would like someone who is NOT a CO to fill the Sector Chief positions, who would simply be acting as an additional set of eyes and ears in the area. As someone not directly in the chain of command, the Sector Chief would be on the look out for problems that might arise, or help with other situations as needed. The only requirements are that the person must be a STARFLEET member at least 18 years old and possess communication skills, preferably with E-mail and other contacts throughout their sector. Send any questions and applications to Pete by March 1 at the following address:

Pete Mohny  
1105 oak Creek Trail NE  
Birmingham, AL 35215

Several submissions are also wanted for various things. First, Pete would like to receive submissions for a Zone 3 logo at the above address. Isaac Turner has also asked for submissions to the *Region 2 Update*, the region's quarterly newsletter. Submissions may be e-mailed to YamatoCapt@aol.com or mailed regularly to:

Isaac Turner  
4721 Cyndell Drive  
Pinson, AL 35126



That's just about everything I can think of that's related to Fleet. If you want any of the nitty gritty details, just contact me. Please remember that I (or any of the ship's Command Staff for that matter) am the first person you should contact if you have any questions or don't know what to do. If we can't resolve your problem or help, then Pete as our Zone Coordinator should be

**Continued: See Fleet News on page 49...**

# SUMMITTS AND CONFERENCES

## Prepare for the 1998 Region 2 Summit and International Conference.

One of the most rewarding experiences in STARFLEET can be had by attending a regional summit or an International Conference. Unlike typical conventions, these are learning experiences. But don't let that deter you, as you will have fun while learning. Plus, there are almost always other opportunities for pure fun activities. Not only is it a great chance to learn valuable skills in the various informative panels and workshops, but it's also a great chance to make valuable friendships with people you've only heard about.

I highly encourage everyone to attend both events, especially the entire Command Staff. However, I realize finances may not allow you to do so. Therefore, I recommend the cheaper and easier of the two, the Region 2 Summit. If you can't attend it all, I highly recommend attending Saturday's events, from the opening ceremonies to the awards banquet dinner. Having an entire table composed of your ship's fellow crewmembers is a nice feeling. And while I can't guarantee we will win any awards this time, last year was quite remarkable when we received the Newsletter and Officer of the Year awards. The Summit and IC are excellent ways to learn the skills and knowledge that will help win next year's awards.

First up is the 1998 Region 2 Summit on March 6-8 in Birmingham. The Regional Summit is great in that you get to meet people nearby from all over our region, which includes chapters in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. Not only do they have the educational panels and discussions, but they also have fun events like the pie toss, miniature golf tournament, and more.

Registration will be \$40 and will include the buffet at the Awards Banquet. Inn Towne Lodge rates are \$45 for a Standard King or Double Double. An Extended King or Extended Double Double includes a microwave and small fridge for \$52. Grand total for expenses will probably be under \$100 per person depending on how many go, and how much you eat. I'll probably get an Extended DD, and split the cost with as many as possible.



***Kelly Hilliard and Mike Henigan:  
Region 2 Coordinator and  
Chief of Staff, respectively -IC***

This year's Summit is chaired by Isaac Turner of the USS *Yamato*. I've already been shanghaied into hosting one panel, and well probably end up doing more since I co-hosted two panels last year. I know Dallas has also volunteered his services as well. However, you may attend as a general member, and will not have to help unless you volunteer to.

As another incentive, you will get to pie the Regional Staff in the face. The cost last year was \$5 to throw, or \$10 to smear it up close and personal. The small fee, whatever it ends up being, will go to help fund the Regional treasury and some may be donated to the Challenge of the Heart. Oh, you also get to pie any Commanding Officer or Executive Officer as well, which includes me as well as those of our two shuttles. Isn't the opportunity to do that worth the registration fee alone?

Until forms are available, please include your name, address, phone, e-mail, rank, ship affiliation, position, and SCC#. I'm not certain, but I think all registration info and money (Payable to Region 2 Summit) for the R2 Summit should be sent to:

Mike Henigan  
1115 McGill Park Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 30312

The annual STARFLEET International Conference is being held in Lubbock, Texas on July 2-5, 1998. It will include a Texas BBQ and participation in a 4th of July Parade by STARFLEET. Apparently, the 1997 IC was quite a phenomenal experience that I wish I could have attended. In fact, everyone described it as a fun family reunion. Therefore, I highly encourage everyone to attend the next one.

The hotel is the Holiday Inn Civic Center, on Avenue Q of all places. Hmm... Reservations can be made at 1-806-763-1200, but be sure to mention "STARFLEET IC98" to get the discounted room rates. The standard room for 1 to 4 people with 2 doubles beds is \$50. A 2 room suite with a king size bed, couch/hide-a-bed, recliner, 2 TVs, and refrigerator is \$60 per night for 1 to 4 people.

Limited to 75 people, the \$10 BBQ Dinner with the STARFLEET brass on Thursday evening will be served outdoors at the Texas Tech University Museum's Ranching Heritage Center. The \$25 Saturday banquet will have a choice of chicken breast Florentine or a vegetarian substitute. Until January 1, 1998, the registration fee is \$20, though it will go up after that. You may send your membership and dinner fees to:

Marlene Miller  
461 Harmony Ln  
Campbell, OH 44405

Make all checks payable to STARFLEET IC '98. Until forms are available, please include your name, address, phone, e-mail (if you wish to receive updates), rank, ship affiliation, position, SCC#, and badge name. For more information about the IC you may contact:

Sam Black at IC '98

P.O. Box 94353

Lubbock, TX 79493-4353

You can e-mail them at [USS.Quanah.Parker@sfi.org](mailto:USS.Quanah.Parker@sfi.org) or [quanahparker@region3.com](mailto:quanahparker@region3.com) or call from 7 PM till 10 PM CST at 1-806-799-8188. Ask for Sam Black, or e-mail him at [sblack@math.ttu.edu](mailto:sblack@math.ttu.edu). The USS *Quanah Parker* and the ships of Region 3 are the hosts for the 1998 IC.



As a side note, here are a few other conventions and summits that may be of interest to you:

Chattacon XXIII is January 16-18, 1998, at the Clarion River Plaza Hotel in Chattanooga, TN. Guests include Howard Waldrop, Nancy Kress, Bruce Jensen, and Terry Bisson. Write to: Chattacon 23 Registration, PO

Box 23908, Chattanooga TN 37422-3908. You may also call 770-578-8461, email [dilson@mindspring.com](mailto:dilson@mindspring.com), or visit <http://www.chattanooga.net/chattacon> on the web.

There's also MidSouthCon on March 20-22. It's actually held at the Grand Viranda Hotel and Casino near Tunica, MS, which is 40 miles south of Memphis, TN along Highway 61. Rooms are \$59 for up to four people at 1-800-394-7263 by 3/1/98. Guests include James P. Hogan, Joy Marie Ledet, and Cullen Johnson. Registrations are \$25 until 3/1/98, and \$30 at the door. For more information, write to: MidSouth Science-Fiction Conventions, Inc., P.O. Box 11446, Memphis, TN 38111-0446, or call (901) 358-9325 or (901) 274-7355, or visit them at <http://www.watervalley.net/midsouthcon> on the web.

And for those advance planners who love to travel, the Region 1 Summit is April 17-19 in Gatlinburg, TN. Libertycon is in East Ridge, TN on May 22-24. The Region 12 Summit is August 22-24 in St. Louis, MO. And of course, DragonCon is real late this year on September 3-6, 1998, at Atlanta's Inforum Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel. Four day memberships are \$40 through March 15. Visit <http://www.dragoncon.org> on the web, call the 24 hour info line at (770) 623-6321, or order tickets through TicketMaster at (404) 249-6400.

- **FCAPT Richard Trulson**

# OVERSEAS COUPON PROJECT

## Collecting coupons in order to help others.

In mid-November, Mike Henigan, Region 2's Chief of Staff, issued a challenge to all the ships in Region 2. It appears he's disappointed in the lack of participation in the Overseas Coupon Project. Just what is the project you may ask? Good question, I'll try to answer it as best I can.

The OCP is designed to aid our military troops overseas. Apparently, they can use manufacturers coupons at their base supply stores. And on limited budgets, their value is greatly appreciated. This project is designed to collect, trim, count, and organize manufacturers coupons, then send them overseas to our troops to use. Actually, this is a great idea. You might as well make them worth the wood pulp they're printed on by giving them to someone who could really use them.



**Tom Monaghan:**  
**Operations -IC**

In Mike's E-mail, he mentioned that so far, coupons totaling \$555,000 have been sent to our troops. Only six chapters in our Region have participated (*Davinci, Guardian, Haise, Hephaestus, Republic* and *Triumph*.) Our region totaled \$46,684.42 which is 8.6% of the total. Mike feels it "should be more like 10-12% at the very least." While this is much more than last year's total, we rank fifth as a region this year compared to our third place last year.

To hopefully booster participation, Mike has issued a challenge to all the other Region 2 ships. From January 1, 1998 until the Summit in March, we are to collect, trim, and sort the coupons. After tallying the coupons at the Summit, the top three donating chapters will get a certificate, and the winning chapter OCP Rep will get a Region 2 Hat and T-shirt.

First, a little about the Overseas Coupon Project. It was started by Becky Thane of the USS *Infinity* in late 1992. As the project continued to grow into a major undertaking, they incorporated in Texas in April 1996 as a non-profit, charitable corporation. The information here was taken from internet at <http://members.aol.com/~beckythane/OCP.html> which is their

webpage. If you have further questions after reading through here, please contact me, or her by e-mail at [BeckyThane@aol.com](mailto:BeckyThane@aol.com) or via postal mail at:

Becky Thane  
P.O. Box 8440  
Waco, TX 76714

However, there use to be a East Coast Coordinator for people East of the Mississippi. (That would be us.) Unfortunately, he had to resign to take a step back recently due to real life obligations, but will remain in an advisory capacity. Until a new OCP-East director is found, we can report to Becky.

Now, this could be a major project, which I really don't have the time to do myself. There is a bit of work involved; therefore, I need a Department Chief to adopt this project, or an individual. Basically, your job will be to sort the coupons into appropriate categories. Ideally, people will bring their coupons to you at the meetings, and then you send them on to the OCP East Director. And of course, write a report or two. Let me know if you're interested in this position. Lots of STARFLEET ships really get involved with OCP, issuing challenges to other ships.

**- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

# OPERATION: EAGLE

## Supporting our troops overseas with letters.

Regardless of how you feel about our military presence abroad, our troops need our moral support, especially during the holiday season. A letter or care package can do wonders to cheer up a soldier far from home, friends, family, and anything he or she holds dear. It's important to show support to the people regardless of political actions, because at some point in the future, the very same soldier may be fighting to protect your family and freedom.

For almost 15 years, Bill Herrman, former Commanding Officer of the USS *Rutledge* in South Carolina, has directed Operation: Eagle. This project encourages people to send letters, cards, gifts, and care packages to troops stationed overseas. The information that follows is taken from his numerous (and lengthy) postings to the STARFLEET mailing list. While not an official STARFLEET project, it is a good one. He has sent over 600 TONS of volunteer mail to places such as Beirut, Saudi Arabia, the Persian Gulf, Europe, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, and Grenada.



This year, The US Navy's Aircraft Carrier BattleGroup Seven operating in the Middle East and Persian Gulf has been selected as the focus of the mail campaign. As of this writing there were over 22 ships, 114 tactical aircraft, and 20,000 sailors stationed there. Hopefully, tensions won't escalate into a full scale war like they did in the past. The address format is as follows: Ship Name, followed by "attn: Any Serviceperson", and the FPO mailing address. I've removed the "attn: Any Serviceperson" from all but the first address in order to save space, but PLEASE include it. If you want to send a large poster for the entire crew, send it to "attn : Commanding Officer" instead of "Any Serviceperson." For example:

USS *Nimitz* CVN-68  
attn: Any Serviceperson  
FPO AE 09521-2820

Even though this project is mainly designed for the holidays, please consider writing the troops at any time. I'm sure they'd appreciate any correspondence and care packages they could receive. For example, Carol Thompson, the Commanding Officer of the USS *Sol*, has a son stationed on the USS *Nimitz*. She posted to the mailing list to say:

**Continued: See Eagle on page 49...**

USS *Ford* FFG-54  
FPO AP 96665-1508  
USS *Kinkaid* DD-965  
FPO AP 96670-1203  
USS *Olympia* SSN-717  
FPO AP 96674-2397  
USS *Port Royal* CG-73  
FPO AP 96675-1193  
USS *Sacramento* AOE-1  
FPO AP 96678-3012  
USS *Bremerton* SSN-698  
FPO AP 96661-2378  
USS *Lake Champlain* CG-57  
FPO AP 96671-1177  
USS *George Washington*  
CVN-73  
FPO AE 09550-2873  
USS *Lake Champlain* CG-57  
FPO AP 96671-1177  
USS *Annapolis* SSN-760  
FPO AE 09564-2416  
USS *Normandy* CG-60  
FPO AE 09579-1180  
USS *Seattle* AOE-3  
FPO AE 09587-3014  
USS *Ashland* LSD-48  
FPO AE 09564-1736  
USS *South Carolina* CGN-37  
FPO AE 09587-1164  
USS *Boone* FFG-28  
FPO AA 34093-1484  
USS *Sirocco* PC-6  
FPO AE 09587-1965  
USS *Guam* LPH-9  
FPO AE 09563-1640  
USS *Shreveport* LPD-12  
FPO AE 09587-1714  
USS *Toledo* SSN-769  
FPO AE 09588-2425  
USS *L. Mendel Rivers*  
SSN-686  
FPO AA 34092-2366  
USS *Memphis* SSN-691  
FPO AE 09578-2371  
USS *Underwood* FFG-36  
FPO AA 34093-1491  
USS *John Rodgers* DD-983  
FPO AA 34092-1221

# VOYAGER

## Synopses and Rumors.

The following information was taken from MajCullah's *Star Trek Voyager* Page at <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/7647/> on the WWW.

### "Message in a Bottle"

*Voyager* discovers an alien relay network that allows them to pick up a distant signature of a Starfleet ship in the far reaches of the Alpha Quadrant. They try to send messages, but have no luck. They eventually realize that the alien technology will allow them to send the EMH through to the other ship. The Doctor transfers over and finds himself on the USS *Prometheus*, an experimental Starfleet ship. However, the entire crew is dead and the ship is commandeered by Romulans. The Doctor activates the *Prometheus'* EMH, and the two of them work together to overthrow the Romulans. The *Prometheus'* Doctor is an LMH, a Long-term Medical Hologram, specifically designed for situations like *Voyager's*.

Once they overcome the Romulans, they try to operate the ship. Starfleet forces attack the *Prometheus*, thinking that

it's still under the command of the Romulans. The misunderstanding is cleared up, and *Voyager's* Doctor is transferred back. Starfleet had assumed that *Voyager* was destroyed three years ago, but knows *Voyager's* situation and is mounting a rescue mission.

### "Waking Moments"

The whole crew enters a dream state, where the one thing in common is an alien in each dream. The Doctor has to save the day again. A Janeway and Chakotay kiss was apparently cut out of this episode.

### "Hunters"

This episode begins a five part story arc similar to the beginning of this season of *Deep Space Nine*. *Voyager* returns to the alien subspace relay network they found in "Message In A Bottle" to pick up messages from Starfleet. The crew finally hears from many of their loved ones. The big news for the crew is the demise of the Maquis in the Alpha Quadrant and Janeway's significant other, who has moved on with his life and gotten married.

Things get complicated when the Hirogen, the aliens who claim ownership of the array network show up. Even though they didn't build them, the Hirogen now control the area. The Hirogen are warlike, aggressive beings with body armor and advanced weaponry. They also enjoy hunting other humanoids for recreation.

Tuvok and Seven, who are aboard a shuttle at the time, are captured. Just before they are to be gutted and made into trophies, they escape in the nick of time. The Hirogen are defeated when *Voyager* lures their ship into one of the quantum singularities that powers the subspace relays. The resulting destruction, unfortunately, renders the relays nonfunctional. *Voyager* loses its link to the Alpha Quadrant, and resumes its course home.

### "Prey"

When *Voyager* comes across a badly mangled Hirogen ship, they manage to save one of the wounded Hirogen. The wounded Hirogen reveals that they got attacked by their latest would-be prey, who turned out to be more than one ship could handle. They discover that the prey is actually Species 8472 that kicked the Borg's butt. It manages to bore a hole in the side of *Voyager's* hull and wreak havoc inside the ship.

Other Hirogen vessels show up, intending to either catch species 8472 or destroy it, and *Voyager's* crew along with it. Janeway is determined

01/14/98	181	"Message in a Bottle"	
01/21/98?	182	"Waking Moments"	
01/28/98?	183	"Hunters"	(1 of 5)
02/04/98?	184	"Prey"	(2 of 5)
02/22/98?	185	"Retrospect"	(3 of 5)
02/18/98?	186	"The Killing Game, Part I"	(4 of 5)
02/25/98?	187	"The Killing Game, Part II"	(5 of 5)

to save the 8472 from the Hirogen, but Seven disobeys orders and beams 8472 into one of the Hirogen ships. Janeway reprimands Seven of Nine for her actions as they make a hasty departure with the fate of 8472 in question.

#### “Retrospect”

An alien weapons trader gets accused of attacking Seven of Nine, and then stealing some of her Borg nanoprobes. Tuvok investigates the situation and the evidence he finds points to the alien who attacked Seven. However, the story really gets exciting and mysterious when the alien who attacked Seven is found dead. Unfortunately, this plot synopsis doesn't seem to fit in with the rest of the five part story arc.

#### “Killing Game, Part I”

The episode starts off with members of the crew in the middle of Nazi Europe in World War II, not aware of their true identities. Janeway is a leader in the French Resistance, Neelix is a baker who works for the Resistance, Seven is a German dancing girl, B'Elanna is a pregnant woman, Chakotay is an American captain in the Allied Forces, Paris is his lieutenant, and the members of the Nazi army are the Hirogen. It turns out that *Voyager* has been taken over by the Hirogen. Obsessed with hunting prey, the Hirogen did some research on their prey and decided to conduct the hunt in a holodeck recreation of Nazi Germany.

The *Voyager* crew has been implanted with devices linked to the ship's computers to make them think that they are really the characters they are playing. Two exceptions are Kim and the Doctor, who are keeping the badly damaged *Voyager* running under the Hirogen.

The Hirogen are often successful in trapping and mangling *Voyager's* crewmembers. But since they are in it for

***The new crewmember, 7 of 9, after being de-Borged. Some think her designation should be 10 out of 10.***



the thrill of the hunt, the victims are sent to the Doctor so he can patch them up, only to be sent back to the simulation again. Seven finally winds up in sickbay and the Doctor defeats the implant thanks to her Borg implants. After she's returned to the simulation, a time-delayed

device the Doc implants overrides the Hirogen device and restores her memory. Apparently this happens right in the middle of Seven singing. She tries to cover, but those around her suspect that she's a “spy.”

The Doc and Kim manage to disrupt Janeway's device too, just as her Resistance cell attacks a Nazi communications building and blows it up. But since the holodeck safeties are off, the explosion breaches the holodeck and into three decks of the *Voyager* itself. We're going to get a visual of Universal Studios' European Street with a CGI “hole” exposing the cross-section of three decks of *Voyager*. The Resistance fighters are startled at what they conclude to be a “secret German bunker” and move in.

#### “The Killing Game, Part II”

The crew members, who have forgotten their true identities, invade what they believe to be a German bunker, which is actually the halls of *Voyager*. The hunting grounds get expanded when Kim is forced to install portable emitters throughout the ship. Janeway, Seven, and the Doc deactivate the crew's implants, by torching Sickbay, where the control center for the implants is located. Janeway tries to make a deal with the devil again this year, by trying to convince the Hirogen to leave in return for technology. The Hirogen of course, don't accept.

## General Rumors:

*Voyager* may or may not be getting the uniforms seen in *First Contact*. It may occur after "Hunters" since this is when *Voyager* goes back to the message array to retrieve messages from home. Jeri Taylor, one of the *Voyager*'s producers is retiring and Brannon Braga will be taking her place. Ensign Wildman's baby (born less than 2 years ago) is suddenly six years old. Neelix tells her goodnight stories. A native American consultant was hired for an upcoming Chakotay episode involving Indian tribes.

"Q and Son" Read with care as this episode may be completely false. Q returns with his son that is now 3 to 4 years old. Q claims that he is planning a surprise for everyone and goes off somewhere, leaving his son to wreck havoc on the ship. It does star the female Q as well as John De Lancie.

As you well know, WAAY is no longer carrying *Voyager* episodes. We, however, have acquired tapes from Carol Burhans of the *Dark Silence* Station in Decatur and from Pete Mohney of the USS *Hephaestus* in Birmingham. Recently, one of our E-mail contacts informed me that Wireless One cable carries a UPN affiliate out of Boston (cable channel 42). She has indicated that she may be willing to host a party at her house for a live broadcast. In any event, we may be able to get better quality recordings.

- Compiled by FCAPT

Richard L. Trulson

# DEEP SPACE NINE

## Rumors and Synopses

This information was compiled from Mr. Video Productions Home Page at "http://www.vidiot.com/".

"Who Mourns for Morn"

2/02/98

Mark Allan Shephard as Morn

"Far Beyond the Stars" 2/9/98

Sisko falls ill and dreams he is a science fiction writer in 1953 Manhattan. His current series bares striking similarity to "*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*". Nobody will buy his stories, however, because he is black. Andrew J. Robinson (Garak), Marc Alaimo (Dukat), and Jeffrey Combs (Weyoun) guest star without their regular make-up as humans. René Auberjonois (Odo), Michael Dorn (Worf), Armin Shimerman (Quark), and Naná Visitor (Kira) also play humans

rather than their regular characters. Penny Johnson guest stars, but it is not clear whether her character will be Kasidy Yates in 1953, or whether she will play a different role. Brock Peters will also appear, either as Joseph Sisko (Ben's father) or another character.

"One Little Ship" 2/16/98

A Runabout and the crew are shrunk.

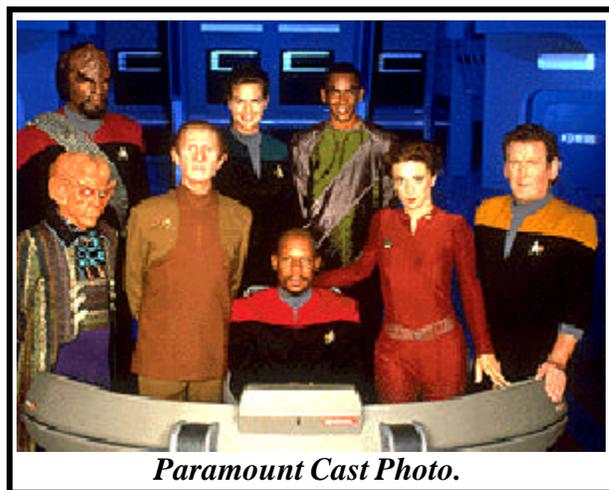
"Honor Among Thieves"

2/23/98

O'Brien is sent to infiltrate the Orion Syndicate, who have joined the Dominion. The Orions plan to kill Chancellor Gowron (Robert O'Reilly) to incite another Klingon Civil War. According to Ron Moore, it's the "annual O'Brien torture episode"

- Compiled by FCAPT

Richard L. Trulson



Paramount Cast Photo.

# CON REVIEW 2

## The good and bad of stars and guests at conventions.

On September 13, 1997, I attended a Vulkan in Atlanta. As most people know, this is one of those canned cons put on by professionals for a profit. There is very little, if any, fan involvement. The good thing about these conventions is that they can afford to bring in the big name guests. In this case, Robert Beltran who plays Chakotay on *Star Trek: Voyager* and Richard Biggs who plays Dr. Franklin on *Babylon 5*. Some of you may remember that Beltran's appearance this time was due to a rescheduling after a previously planned appearance had to be canceled.

I left for Atlanta Friday night with some friends who are *Babylon 5* fans but not *Trek* fans. They decided to take this really weird route through the backwoods of Alabama. Not only was I worried about being stuck in the boonies, but the twisty roads over the tip of the Appalachians had me tense to say the least; not to mention it was dark and the driver was going like a bat out of Klinsai. Because this was a last minute decision to attend, we were staying at a hotel different than the Castlegate midtown. Fortunately, it was only about four blocks from the Castlegate. This turned out to be a very good thing though.

We awoke Sunday morning and started the quest for the Castlegate. We had a map drawn for us from

MapQuest on the web to aid us. Unfortunately, when we found the street the hotel was on, we couldn't locate the hotel itself. It turns out that we were on the right street, but the back of the hotel was facing us. And there was no sign indicating that it was our hotel. After wandering around for a few minutes, we finally found the hotel entrance and nabbed a parking space.

composed of the Atlanta Fleet chapters including the USS *Republic* and the USS *McCloud*. A bit later I found Kelly Hilliard and Mike Henigan, the Regional Coordinator and his Chief of Staff, respectively. I gave Kelly a real big hug of support since his step-dad wasn't expected to live live much longer due to colon cancer. (His step-dad eventually passed away November 7.)

The next area of exploration was the dealer's room, which turned out to be quite nice. It was here that I ran into



*Richard Biggs signing autographs.*

After registering, we went exploring the layout of the hotel. The first thing we discover is that the elevators aren't working. We have to walk up and down this narrow staircase between the floors. But once down there, I discovered the strong STARFLEET Atlanta presence there. This group is

Rebecca Self and Carol Burhans, Commanding Officers of the shuttle *Celestial* and the *Dark Silence* Station, respectively. I also ran into Laura Peterson, who had a dealer's table there. I managed to make it through the weekend with buying only a *Babylon 5* T-shirt from Laura. My two friends,

however, spent considerably more. They bought some *Babylon 5* t-shirts, a coffee mug, and a bloopers tape. I should have bought a fifth pip, but I didn't have the finances to buy a complete set, since I wanted them to all look equal.

Remember I told you it was a good thing we had stayed at a different hotel? Well, the reason being is that Castlegate Midtown management is probably the worst in hotel history. First of all, they overbooked their guests. When people started arriving Friday night, they had to turn some people away who had confirmed reservations for months. Furthermore, the hotel also apparently lost their convention license a week before and was not even suppose to host this convention. I found out later that they were even violating fire and health codes as well, and are now closed down. Joe Motes, the organizer of Vulkan conventions, even apologized to everyone, though he too agreed that this was the worst hotel he's ever been in.

We proceeded next to the auction. I nearly bid about \$100 for an wall plaque of the *Star Trek: Voyager* cast with all their autographs, but decided that there would be time enough to gather them on my own. One of my friends won the bid for a Vir Cotto wall plauque signed by Stephen Furst. Otherwise, not much else held my attention.

Richard Biggs' presentation was first at 2 PM EST. He turned out to be one of the most entertaining and friendly guests I know. He was quite charming and witty, and seemed like he was enjoying himself on stage. Unfortunately, he wouldn't reveal any upcoming secrets about the show. In fact, he joked that J. M. Stracynski, the creator of *Babylon 5*, could tell if he gave anything way. He joked (I think) about JMS calling him in his hotel room immediately after having given some secrets away during a presentation before. He also commented on his love of the show and how he wishes it could continue forever. Apparently, him and Jerry Doyle (Garibali) are great drinking buddies and want to milk the fame and steady work of *Babylon 5* for all it's worth.

Another story Biggs told involved a practical joke played on JMS. As you know, the Great Maker is quickly developing a following bordering on an obsessive religious cult. (I think I'm about to join after doing this newsletter.) At one convention in California, Andreas Katsulas and Peter Jurasik (G'Kar and Londo) got the audience to participate. They had the audience NOT applaud or react when JMS came out on the stage, which unnerved him greatly. Even after they finally let the audience recognize JMS with the accolades he deserves, JMS vowed to get revenge. Apparently, a few months later, they received the scripts for the next episode. In it, G'Kar

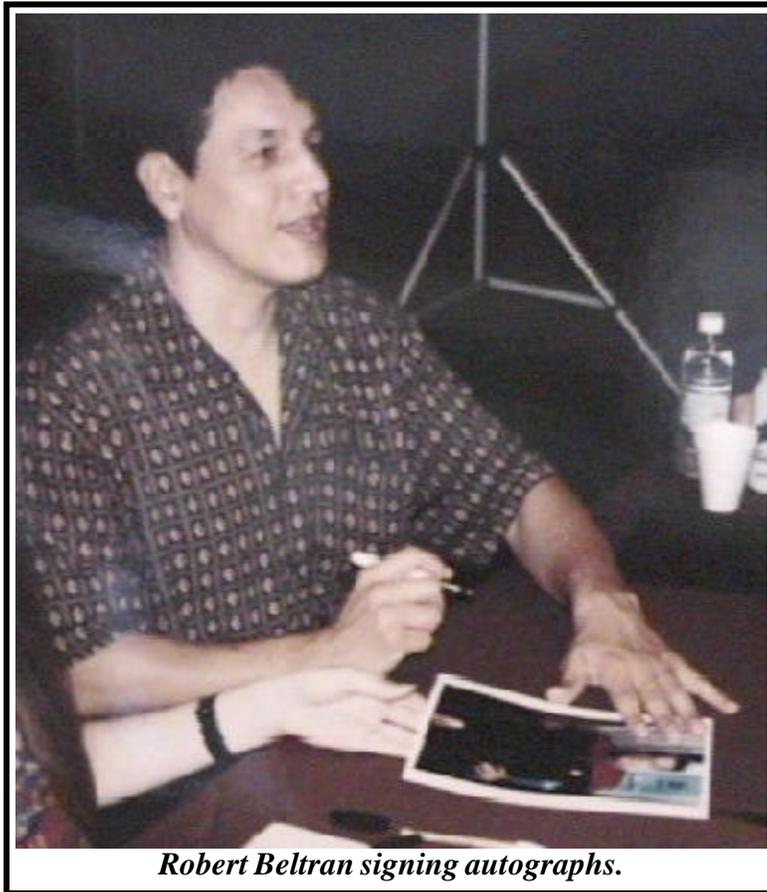
undergoes this weird metamorphosis into a female, which Londo eventually seduces, complete with a bedroom scene. It wasn't until they actually started shooting that they were given the real scripts.

Robert Beltran's presentation, however, left much to be desired. Of course, the audience wasn't helping much either, especially the female members. They kept giggling like school girls who've never had a date in their life. Personally, I thought Beltran looked like a shabby, unkempt slob, not the least of which was sexy. Of course, the females disagreed with me. Anyway, I'd say a full 1/3 of his hour long presentation was spent with him gushing and blushing at the audience admiration. And when and if he did answer, it was usually a short, snappy response. It was so bad, I grew bored with Beltran's presentation and kept wishing it would end so I could get Biggs' autograph.

The audience should also be criticized for being the most ill-behaved group of idiots I've ever seen assembled in fandom. Whereas Biggs got the legitimate questions about career, hobbies, and life in general; Beltran got the stupid questions about how far is it to the Delta Quadrant, why doesn't Chakotay and Janeway get it on, etc. I was honestly ashamed of being a *Trek* fan given the behavior of this audience, as it bordered on the "get a life" *Trekkies* forever stereotyped on *Saturday Night Live* with William Shatner.

Then finally, about half way through this ordeal, I thought we finally had a legitimate question. A little girl approached him and asked how he felt about being an action figure, which she held up for him to see. After the brief pause for the usual clamor from the audience and Beltran's shuffling about on stage, the illusion was shattered when the little girl continued by saying, "I'm sorry it's bent into weird shapes, but my mommy has been playing with it." That, of course, brought the house down in laughter. Sucker punched by an 8 year old.

As you can see, I was not very happy with Beltran. He didn't seem to know what he was doing on stage. Furthermore, it seemed as if he wished he could be anywhere but there. Not only that, he made fun of the south. Our legendary hospitality can only go so far. Biggs, on the other hand, seemed like he was enjoying himself on the stage. He seemed able to steer the audience in the right direction to prevent it from degrading. I can't recommend seeing Robert Beltran at all, though he might be better if he had a well-behaved audience. On the other hand, I'd highly recommend seeing Richard Biggs, as I enjoyed myself thoroughly.



*Robert Beltran signing autographs.*

The autograph session was next. They tried going in order of badge number, which put me and my friends about 2/3 of the way down the long line. We waited and waited, and finally got in line at our appointed time. They even had us fill out a survey while waiting in line in order to get some idea of what guests we'd like to see. I think we all put down *Babylon 5* actors. We finally got their autographs, which was limited to one each. And while personal photos with the guests were not allowed, I did take some pictures while in line.

We went back to our hotel and crashed after that. While I would have enjoyed going to the masquerade contest and dance, I was at the mercy of my friends who wanted to go

out and experience the Atlanta night life. So we drove around trying to find a nice restaurant, but settled on fast food after 15 minutes.

The next morning I got up so I could attend a Richard Arnold discussion. He had news about upcoming *Star Trek* episodes. After that, I attended a *Babylon 5* discussion with Donna Tucker of the *USS Yamota* in Birmingham.

While I would have preferred to have stayed all afternoon so we could attend a second auction and autograph session, my friends wanted to return home before it got dark. We left around 1 PM EST for home.

Overall, the convention was enjoyable despite Beltran's presentation and the hotel quality. Biggs was certainly an enjoyable quest. These canned cons, as they are called, can at least deliver big name stars for a relatively cheap price. They may not be as friendly or as personable as fan run cons, but they can still be enjoyed. I was there as a fan for a change, and didn't worry in the least bit about ship business.

**- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

# FINANCES

## Show me the money!

Dallas did have a short financial statement in his Operations report. However, I asked him to do an account transaction listing for the entire year. If you have any questions about where your money goes, please ask either of us. Furthermore, we can provide proof in receipts if you request them.

The only discrepancy we're aware of is a missing General deposit of \$20 on 11/2/97. Once that is located and posted, it should bring our balance up to \$75.82. That should also be our ending balance of the year since there should be no further transactions in December.

- **CMDR Dallas Vinson and  
CAPT Richard L. Trulson**

<u>Num.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Debits</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b>Balance at beginning of year on January 1, 1997</b>					<b>\$28.22</b>
	1/5/97	General		40.00	68.22
1118	1/27/97	STARFLEET Chapter Charter Fee Payment	(12.00)		56.22
1119	1/27/97	Postmaster Postage Stamps: 100 20-cent stamps for <i>Mission Briefings</i> (3.5 months), and 40 32-cent stamps for Recruiting Letter to bring back former members.	(32.80)		23.42
	4/6/97	General		20.00	43.42
	5/4/97	General		19.00	62.42
	6/1/97	General		55.00	117.42
	6/26/97	Research Fee	(6.00)		111.42
	7/7/97	General		24.00	135.42
1120	7/7/97	**VOID**			135.42
1121	8/23/97	Richard Trulson Reimbursement for copying the Anniversary Edition and the Spring and Summer Edition of the <i>Subspace Static</i> .	(81.60)		53.82
1122	8/23/97	Postmaster 60 20¢ Postage Stamps for Mission Briefings (2 months)	(12.00)		41.82
	9/2/97	General		26.00	67.82
1123	10/19/97	Postmaster 60 20¢ Postage Stamps for Mission Briefings (2 months)	(12.00)		55.82
<b>Balance as of December 1, 1997:</b>					<b>\$75.82</b>

## ...Communications continued from page 11.

distribution date of early February. All of this is according to the schedule published at the end of the newsletter. Therefore, your submission needs to focus on two time frames. You could cover the things that have transpired since the last issue or you could focus on things to come. In this example that would be events occurring February through April. I realize you may not know the specifics of things going on

then, but you can give a general overview of things to come. Hopefully this will help make the timeliness of your submissions more relevant.

This report turned out a bit longer than what I had planned. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please give them to me. The contact information appears at the very end of the newsletter. Have a great holiday season.

- **FCAPT Richard L.  
Trulson**

## ... T-Shirts continued from page 19.

As a final result, I never want to touch another iron-on transfer or lamination pouch again. The next time we do a major change, we're gonna go with a professional instead of trying to save money doing it ourselves. The hassles just aren't worth it.

Anyway, even with all of that, if you want a name-tag or T-shirt, please let me know. Also, if you've ordered one and haven't gotten it yet, please let me know that as well.

- **FCAPT Richard L.  
Trulson**

# WORDS OF THANKS

## Thanks and recognition.

I apologize for this thing being so late. But as you can see, I put a lot of work into it. I'd like to thank all those who submitted something for the newsletter. If I didn't use it this time, I'm saving it for next time. Please keep the submissions coming as ya'll did a wonderful job this time.

I'd also like to thank all the online sources I borrowed information from, particularly the Lurker's Guide to *Babylon 5* and Brenda Bell for the IC pictures. I've tried to mention them all by name in the articles, and what they specifically did, but may have forgotten. Thanks also to the people behind *Star Trek* and *Babylon 5*. Without you, this entire newsletter would not be possible. I've used your copyrighted material for information distribution only, and do not claim them nor am I making any money off them. I'm sure I've forgotten somebody, so I apologize. I can only manage so much before my brain explodes.

Final thanks must be given to several people for helping me proof this newsletter. Both Dallas Vinson and Rebecca Self pitched in at a recent meeting to proof a few articles for me. They caught some errors that would have been quite embarrassing. Continued thanks also go to Jim Dykes as my Assistant Department Chief. He's been on call for a final, last minute proof so

much lately, only to be informed that I'm delayed yet again. He also helped me solve a weird printing problem with a very simple yet elegant solution. Thanks to him and everyone for being patient with me.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this issue, as I think it turned out quite awesome. Goodbye and goodnight. I need some sleep.

- **FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

## ...Fleet News continued from page 35.

your next contact person. Then if all else fails, go on up the chain of command to Kelly as Regional Coordinator or someone in the department directly related to your concerns.

Fleet is rebuilding itself and looks to accomplish some wonderful things. And with the 1998 Regional summit also in Alabama, your chance to participate is at an all time high. Hope to see you in Fleet.

All photos used throughout this newsletter that have an "-IC" suffix were taken at the 1997 International Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ. The entire collection can be found at <http://www.webwarren.com/ic97/photos/> on the web. Brenda Bell ([bfbell@dorsai.org](mailto:bfbell@dorsai.org)) took and scanned them in.

- **FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

## ... Eagle continued from page 39.

*Ben said that some of the sailors had left mail call pretty sad. But when he gave out the dozen extra presents I sent along, they left with big grins on their faces. One sailor who never gets any support from home was amazed that I would send a gift to a total stranger.*

*They also devoured the big container of red twists and nuts I sent. This is a pretty hard time for these young people to be away from home. And more than you know have no support from home at all, having left poor living conditions.*

*...Even a letter from someone in the USA telling them that they are appreciated is all it takes to make a sad serviceperson into a happy one...They may be too busy to reply, but I have it from a first-hand source that your mail makes all the difference.*

If you have any questions, you can ask me, or contact Bill directly at [Operation\\_eagle@juno.com](mailto:Operation_eagle@juno.com) via E-mail. Or you can write him:

Bill Herrmann

Attn: Operation: Eagle  
9908 Berrywood Drive  
Ladson, SC 29456

- **FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

# BABYLON 5 RETURNS



**Our last, best hope survives for a fifth season.**

For those who have been beyond the rim of known space for the past year, *Babylon 5*—our last, best hope for good science-fiction on television—has been renewed for its fifth season. Originally conceived by J. Michael Straczynski (JMS) for a five year story arc, B5 is now able to complete its grand space epic. Every year, they had to fight to survive. But the odds looked so bleak this time, they even filmed the final episode of the series, which JMS has known about since the series began.

Fortunately, Turner Network Television (TNT) negotiated for the rights to air the fifth season of *Babylon 5* beginning in January 1997. However, they have a few surprises up their sleeve. Instead of beginning with the two hour premiere movie, *The Gathering*, they will broadcast a new 2 hour, made-for-TV movie entitled *In the Beginning*. This is a prequel to the series that sets the stage for events we've only glimpsed during the series. These two movies will be shown back to back to kick off TNT's rebroadcast of the entire series.

The following information has been combined from several sources. Some of the episode synopsis located at the end of the article may contain spoiler information, so don't read those if you don't want to know what happens. The rest of

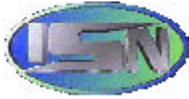
the information is related to scheduling and behind the scenes stuff. Most of the information is taken from the "Lurker's Guide to *Babylon 5*," which is located at <http://www.midwinter.com/lurk/> on the World Wide Web. Other information has been taken from TNT's own web site located at <http://tnt.turner.com/babylon5/> and the Warner Brothers official fan club at <http://www.thestation.com/>. Most pictures (indicated with a -SJ suffix) and the fifth season information was taken from the "*Babylon 5* Spoiler Junkies Page" at <http://www.visi.com/~wildfoto/spoilers.html> on the web. Lurker's Guide images end with a -LG suffix. All images belong to the copyright holders: PTN

Consortium (I think.) Heck, it belongs to someone.

TNT kicks off the *Babylon 5* frenzy on December 28 at 7 PM CST. Bruce Boxleitner (John Sheridan) and Jerry Doyle (Michael Garibaldi) host a presentation of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Shortly thereafter, a thirty minute special entitled *What is Babylon 5?* airs at 10 PM CST. Now make plans for Sunday night, January 4, 1998, when *"In the Beginning"* premieres at 7 PM CST. Then prepare for a treat at 9 PM CST when they broadcast a special version of the premier movie, *The Gathering*. Details about both movies are available later on. They will replay *What is Babylon 5?* And *"In the Beginning"* at various times. (See the broadcast schedule sidebar on the opposite page.)



*From the Warner Brothers Web Site*



On the next day, (Monday, January 5) repeats of seasons one through four air every week night, Monday through Friday, at 6 PM CST. Beginning January 21, the fifth season episodes air every Wednesday at 9 PM CST. They will replay that week's fifth season episode on the following Saturday at 6 PM CST. Set your VCR's now and stock up on tape. Oh, sometime in late Spring of 1998, they plan on airing the second new *Babylon 5* movie, "Third Space," though a definite date has not been set yet.

The episodes will air with closed captioning and stereo surround sound where available. They will also air in the proper order as specified by JMS. They have even talked about doing special airings of letter box editions. However, they plan on doing voice-overs during the closing credits for most episodes, and maybe even a few squeezed credits. Fortunately, they have agreed to show the regular ending on the following episodes: "Chrysalis," "And Now for a Word," "The Fall of Night," "Walkabout," "And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place," "Z'Ha'Dum," and "Atonement." Even worse, they will probably have the small, semi-transparent TNT ghost logo displayed in the corner of the screen some of the time.

# BROADCAST SCHEDULE



## **The Guide To *Babylon 5*: A *Babylon 5* Overview**

Premieres: Friday, December 26, at 10 p.m. CST

Encores:

Sunday, December 28, at 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. CST

Monday, December 29, at 11 p.m. CST

Saturday, January 3, at 4:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. CST

Sunday, January 4, at 1:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. CST

Wednesday, January 21, at 4:30 a.m. CST

## ***Babylon 5*: "In The Beginning" Prequel Movie**

World Premiere: Sunday, January 4, 1998, at 7 p.m. CST

Encores:

Sunday, January 4, 1998 at 11:30 p.m. CST

Saturday, January 10, 1998 at 7 PM CST

Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at 9 PM CST

## ***Babylon 5*: "The Gathering" Premier Movie**

Premieres: Sunday, January 4, 1998, at 9 p.m. CST

## ***Babylon 5*: The Series**

Premieres: Monday, January 5, 1998, at 6 p.m. CST

Airs: Monday - Friday at 6 p.m. CST

## ***Babylon 5*: The Fifth Season**

Premieres: Wednesday, January 21, 1998, at 9 p.m. CST

Airs: Wednesdays at 9 p.m. CST

Warning: The following information may contain spoilers. Do not read further if you do not wish to know what lies ahead, or what has happened. The following topics will be covered: Information about "In the Beginning," changes to "The Gathering," the departure of Claudia Christian and the introduction of Tracy Scoggins, news of a possible spin-off series, and general plot synopsis for the entire series.

"In the Beginning" doesn't start with the creation of the world, ( I don't think, given that we have seen the end of it.) but it does cover a lot of details that lead up to the forming of the *Babylon 5* station. Written by JMS, the movie is directed by Mike Vejar. The main focus will be on the Earth-Minbari War and the period that predates the current series main timeline starting in 2257. We may even learn who built the Great Ma-

chine on Epsilon 3 and learn more of the Sinclair/Valen transformation. An old Londo Molari narrates the story to a group of Minbari school children. Apparently, this narration occurs right before the scene in “War Without End, Part 2,” when Sheridan and Delenn are brought before him. JMS has commented that the movie does an excellent job of introducing the *Babylon* story to everyone. However, as a result, it may spoil some of the mysteries that occur in the first seasons. Of course, at times we’ve already known what was going to happen, only to be completely enthralled by how we were taken there.

“The Gathering” has been re-edited and re-scored for its presentation on TNT. The re-edited version will contain

additional material, new music by Christopher Franke, and new CGI (Computer Graphics Imaging). Several scenes were cut from the original broadcast version due to time constraints, and they may try to add them back in. First up is a scene at the very beginning in which Jeffery Sinclair, the first Commander of *Babylon 5*, prevents a human and an alien from making a mistake with each other. No more can be said without ruining the punch line, though it’s nothing new as far as ideas go. The other scene



**Claudia Christian:  
Goodbye Ivanova-LG**



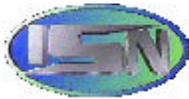
involves Doctor Kyle, B5’s original doctor in the premiere movie, talking to Laurel about what he saw inside Kosh’s encounter suit. Suffice to say it bordered on a religious experience that forever changed his outlook on life.

When it comes to the departure of Claudia Christian (Susan Ivanova), it becomes a matter of he said/she said. What it all boils down to is the fact that Christian wanted time off to do movie work during season five’s filming schedule, and specifically asked for it in her contract. However, Warner Brothers and JMS could not give that to her in writing. However, JMS said that he would be willing to write the scripts in season five so that she would not need to appear in a few episodes. This, apparently, was not acceptable as Christian apparently decided to not sign the offered contracts by the necessary deadlines. Since he had to start immediately on the scripting so episode filming could begin, JMS wrote Ivanova out of the story.

Since JMS did not want to recast the role in case Christian wanted to come back for guest appearances or movies, he wrote the script so a new character could be introduced. Tracy Scoggins plays the role of the new *Babylon 5* Commander, Captain Elizabeth Lochley. Unlike the rest of our favorite regulars who we’ve come to



**An old Londo from “In the Beginning” -SJ**

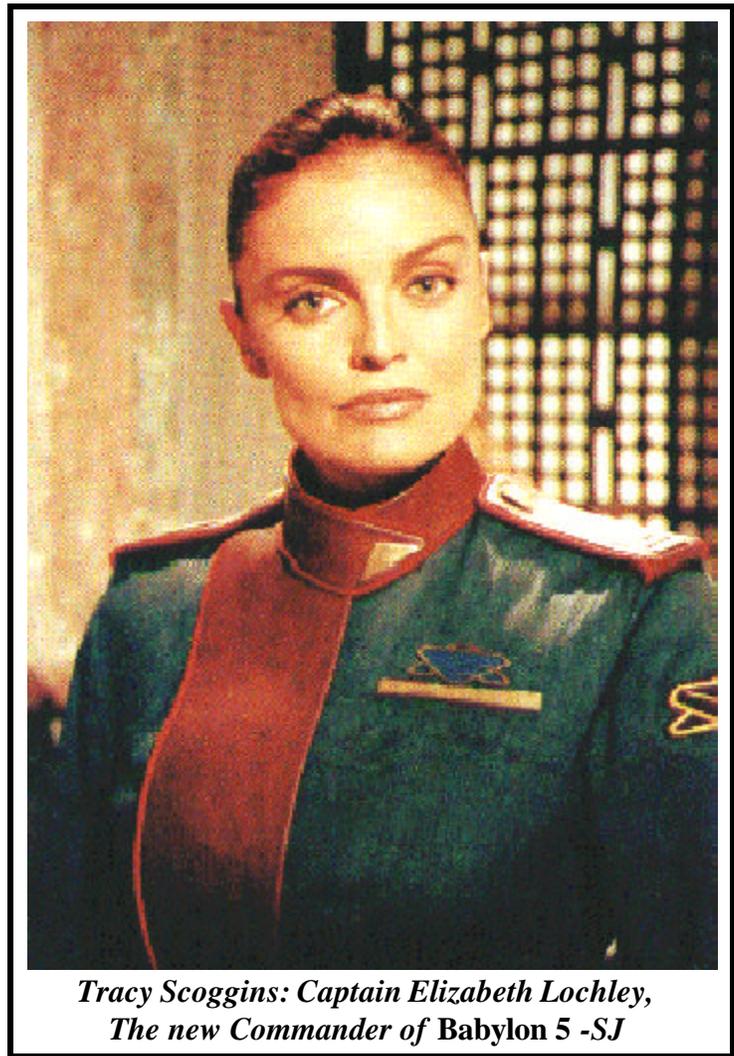


love and trust, this character's loyalties are in question since she supported President Clark.

*The Babylon Project: Crusade* is the spin-off series to *Babylon 5*. JMS has said that he has "worked out the details for 1,000 years in either direction for the B5 storyline in general, and in specific for 100 years in either direction." And since the very beginning, he has considered a separate story line that is set in the same universe as *Babylon 5*, but not involving the station or its main characters. The plot will focus heavily on the rangers, who will be attempting to tract down a cure for a deadly virus. This virus causes a very painful, gruesome death and is highly contagious.

*Crusade* takes place about a year or two after the events of the B5 arc. The Shadow War is over, but the allies of the Shadows remain looking for a new home. Toward that end, they target Earth, but their attempt at conquest and destruction ends badly for them. In one last ditch effort of retribution, they leave behind a biogenetically engineered virus, which is a piece of leftover Shadow technology.

The virus has an incubation period of roughly five years, during which time it adapts to its host species. At the end of that adaptation period, it turns lethal. Released into the atmosphere of Earth, it will essentially wipe out every man, woman and child on Earth who



*Tracy Scoggins: Captain Elizabeth Lochley,  
The new Commander of Babylon 5 -SJ*

was there when the virus was released unless a cure is found. The Ranger fleet will scour worlds on the Rim and elsewhere for leftover First One cities. The First Ones technology, which was used to create the virus, is the only way to find a cure in time.

The pilot movie or episode would deal with the assault on Earth and the release of the virus. The series itself would deal with the search. Central characters would include one of the nine surviving Zathras brothers, the command staff of one of the main explorer vessels *The Excalibur*, a warrior

caste Minbari, the lone survivor of a world wiped out by the Shadow allies, a lone Technomage sent back to see if the coast is clear for the others to come back, and finally, a bioigeneticist, who is a representative from Interplanetary Expeditions and may not have the same motives as the rest.

While that will be the overall agenda and characters, the series will not be as set on a rigid path (or arc if you prefer) as *Babylon 5*. JMS wants to try something different, given how stressful B5 was to write.

- **FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

# EPISODE GUIDE

The following episodes descriptions were taken directly from the Lurker's Guide to *Babylon 5*. I've simply recombined and reformatted the episode descriptions, episode numbers (E#), production numbers (P#), and the new TNT airdate from several different Lurker sources.

98/01/04 7 PM CST "In the Beginning"

A prequel to the premier movie and the series, this movie deals with the Earth-Minbari war and the creation of the *Babylon* stations. Expect to see Delenn as a full Minbari and possibly Valen and Dukat.

98/01/04 9 PM CST "The Gathering"

The Vorlon ambassador is nearly killed by an assassin shortly after arriving at the station, and Commander Sinclair is the prime suspect. Note also that the premier movie contains actors and characters that were suppose to be regulars in the series, but did not return for various reasons.

Monday-Friday	6 PM CST		
<b>Airdate</b>	<b>E#</b>	<b>P#</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Description of Episode</b>			

## Season One: "Signs and Portents"

98/01/05 1 103 "Midnight on the Firing Line"  
When the Narn attack a Centauri colony, Londo and G'Kar nearly come to blows. Meanwhile, raiders are attacking transport ships near the station.

98/01/06 2 102 "Soul Hunter"  
Delenn is in danger when a soul hunter, an alien who captures the souls of the dying, arrives at the station.

98/01/07 3 104 "Born to the Purple"  
Londo's career is in jeopardy when a beautiful slave seduces him and steals a sensitive computer file. Garibaldi investigates an unauthorized use of a restricted communications channel.

98/01/08 4 101 "Infection"  
An archaeologist smuggles ancient artifacts onto the station, unleashing a living weapon.

98/01/09 5 108 "The Parliament of Dreams"  
Sinclair's old flame, Catherine Sakai, arrives during a weeklong festival when humans and aliens demonstrate their religious beliefs. An old enemy sends an assassin to kill G'Kar.

**The "Episode Guide" continues in the outer DOUBLE column of each page...**



# TOO MUCH B5

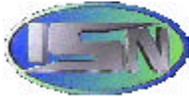
**OK, maybe we take this show too seriously.**

The following list is maintained by Miguel Farah at [http://www.webhost.cl/~miguel/index\\_eng.html](http://www.webhost.cl/~miguel/index_eng.html) on the web.

## You Know You've Been Watching *Babylon 5* Too Much When:

- your hairstyle matches Londo's.
- your sexual fantasies include Delenn.
- you believe that in a past life you were a member of the Grey Council.
- you can't shake the feeling that B4 is DS9.
- the only ancient history you know is Babylon's.
- you pretend to blackmail Londo.
- there is a hole in your mind.
- you think Vulcans are members of the Psi Corps.
- you keep saying "data crystal" instead of "diskette".
- you think Santa Claus is a Shadow agent because he always asks "What do you want?".

**The "Too Much B5" article continues in the SINGLE inner column of each page...**



you finger sinclair@b5.mil.ea  
and wonder why it doesn't  
work.

... then you remember that he's  
currently residing at  
sinclair@ea\_embassy.minbar.gov.  
... it doesn't work either, and then  
you conclude it must be a prob-  
lem with the nameserver.

... so you try Valen@... aw, skip  
it!

someone uses insecticide, and  
you shout "Do you wanna kill  
N'grath? Are you mad?".

... then you don't understand why  
everyone stares at you.

you want to brain wipe someone  
you really hate.

you think Darth Vader is a  
Vorlon.

you think Chekhov was really  
Bester doing an undercover  
spying mission.

you want to become members of  
the Third Fain of Chudomo.

you believe the Grim Reaper is a  
Soul Hunter.

you wonder what did Captain  
Kirk do during the Earth/  
Minbari war.

you want to know if there are any  
xenobiology courses in med  
school.

you are upset because CNN  
doesn't report anything about  
Ragesh 3.

you wonder what's wrong when  
you calculate your age as >300.

your biggest worry is Narn expan-  
sionism.

... but recent events change that  
to Centauri expansionism.

you keep on thinking what went  
wrong in the Battle of the Line.

98/01/12 6 110 "Mind War"

Talia's old Psi Corps instructor, the victim of a secret experiment, is the target of a manhunt involving the Psi-Cops. Catherine wants to survey a promising planet for possible mining, but G'Kar warns her to stay away.

98/01/13 7 107 "The War Prayer"

A violent attack on a Minbari poet rocks B5 and leaves Sinclair scrambling to flush out a vicious pro-Earth group. Two star-crossed young Centauri lovers seek Londo's protection. Ivanova is shaken when a man from her past arrives at the outpost.

98/01/14 8 106 "And The Sky Full Of Stars"

Sinclair is kidnapped and interrogated by members of a pro-Earth group, determined to find out what transpired when the commander was briefly missing in action during the final battle of the Earth/Minbari war—something Sinclair has never been able to remember.

98/01/15 9 113 "Deathwalker"

The station becomes a hotbed of galactic controversy when Sinclair is forced to protect a notorious war criminal—a scientist who's invented an immortality serum. Ambassador Kosh hires telepath Talia Winters to oversee a very unusual negotiation.

98/01/16 10 105 "Believers"

Dr. Franklin asks Sinclair to intermeditate with an alien family who, because of their religious beliefs, refuses to allow surgery that would save their dying child.

98/01/19 11 111 "Survivors"

Garibaldi's past catches up to him, with some fairly disastrous consequences that will linger long after the episode is finished. He's blamed by some for an accident aboard B5, which leads to hitting the bottle again after a prolonged abstinence.

98/01/20 12 114 "By Any Means Necessary"

An accident in the docking area kills a worker, threatening to spark an illegal strike. Londo interferes in an important Narn religious observation which leads to a confrontation between him and G'Kar.

98/01/21 13 116 "Signs and Portents"

A sharp increase in raider activity has the station on the defensive. Londo obtains a priceless Centauri artifact. A mysterious stranger visits the station's alien ambassadors.

98/01/22 14 119 "TKO"

An old friend of Garibaldi's arrives and tries to take part in a dangerous alien combat sport. A rabbi helps Ivanova come to terms with her father's death.

98/01/23 15 109 "Grail"

A traveller comes to B5, seeking the Holy Grail. A series of unexplained attacks on several Lurkers may be linked to Ambassador Kosh.

98/01/26 16 122 "Eyes"

An internal affairs investigation to find out what's been going on at B5 leads to Sinclair having a problem with the military when he has to answer for his actions in settling the labor strike as well as other decisions made during the course of the season. Ivanova confronts a member of Psi-Corps, as well as her own fears, when she is told to submit to a scan.

98/01/27 17 115 "Legacies"

A girl entering puberty exhibits telepathic abilities, and the crew must decide whether to turn her over to the Psi Corps. The corpse of the Minbari military leader who oversaw the Battle of the Line is the focus of a diplomatic incident.

98/01/28 18 120 "A Voice in the Wilderness,

Part 1"

Seismic activity on the planet near the station uncovers what may be signs of an extinct alien civilization. An old mentor pays a visit to Ambassador Delenn. The unrest on the Mars Colony intensifies.

98/01/29 19 121 "A Voice in the Wilderness,

Part 2"

Sinclair fights two turf battles at once as alien invaders claim the planet below the station, and an Earthforce captain disagrees with him about how to deal with the situation.

98/01/30 20 118 "Babylon Squared"

*Babylon 4* returns as abruptly as it vanished, but its reappearance may bode ill for the future. Delenn receives a momentous offer.

98/02/02 21 117 "The Quality of Mercy"

Talia is involved in carrying out the sentence of a convicted murderer. Dr. Franklin investigates a possible medical scam in Downbelow. Londo takes Lennier for a look at the less savory sections of the station.

98/02/03 22 112 "Chrysalis"

First Season finale. A dying man leads Garibaldi to a discovery that could cost him his life. Londo receives help in a dispute with the Narns. Something begins to happen to Delenn.

### Season Two: "The Coming Of Shadows"

98/02/04 23 201 "Points of Departure"

As a new commander assumes control of the station, a renegade Minbari warship arrives, threatening trouble.

98/02/05 24 202 "Revelations"

G'Kar brings news of a terrible new enemy. The arrival of Sheridan's sister opens up old wounds for the new commander. Dr. Franklin employs an unorthodox procedure to try to bring Garibaldi out of his coma. Delenn's mysterious change is completed.

98/02/06 25 203 "The Geometry of Shadows"

Ivanova is promoted and given a diplomatic assignment. Londo seeks affirmation from an unusual source.



your first son has just been born, and you can't think of any names other than Londo, Lennier and Kosh.

you pretend to spend some vacations on Mars.

you're afraid that your soul will escape if you're cut open.

you think Ivanova IS God.

you ask the Air Force recruiter about the Starfury Training Program.

you go to the produce section of the grocery store and ask if their spoo is fresh.

your wardrobe consists of nothing but white, military-pressed collarless shirts and military pressed slacks.

you wonder who would win a testosterone battle between Garibaldi and Tim Allen.

you tell the plastic surgeon you want to have an operation to make you an anatomically correct Centauri.

you have a bumper sticker that says "My other car's a Starfury".

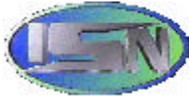
you have a bumper sticker that says "Warning: Fully loaded Cobra Bay in trunk".

you have made a PPG.

you start scouring the world to try and find enough Quantum-40 to make a jump-point generator.

you change from zip then fasten to fasten, then zip.

your WWW client's hot list has over 100 entries and 95% of them point to *Babylon 5* pages.



you keep a notepad and pencil next to your bed so that you can write down what Kosh says in your dreams, should Kosh happen to appear.

... and you go through at least one notebook a week.

... and to be sure, you also write down everything your father says in your dreams.

at work, you don't go to strikes because of fear of the Rush Act. you go asking everyone "What do you want?".

you wonder why Lt. Barclay bears a striking resemblance to that demented war vet in Downbelow.

... and you wonder how Bester and this war vet got to different *Enterprises* in different centuries via the same rift that ate B4. the phone rings, and instead of picking up the receiver you tap the back of your hand.

you go to the aquarium and wonder if there's any significance to the fact that there's a kind of fish called the Garibaldi.

you call your cable operator and ask what cable package comes with ISN.

you are watching Letterman when the camera flashes to the audience. Two women are sitting quietly, not laughing at the jokes and wearing black gloves. You immediately shout, "Psicorps!".

you wreck your car on the highway by spinning the wheel fully around while traveling at 80 miles per hour, trying to imitate Sheridan as he's leaving the station in "All Alone in the Night".

98/02/09	26	204	"A Distant Star"
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Disaster strikes an old friend of Captain Sheridan. Dr. Franklin offers nutritional advice to some reluctant patients.

98/02/10	27	205	"The Long Dark"
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When a cryonic sleeper is awakened, a deadly, evil force is unleashed on the station.

98/02/11	28	206	"A Spider in the Web"
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Talia is caught in a treacherous web of intrigue after she witnesses a murder.

98/02/12	29	208	"Soul Mates"
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Londo summons his three wives to *Babylon 5*. A mysterious man from Talia's past reappears.

98/02/13	30	207	"A Race Through Dark Places"
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Bester asks Talia to investigate an "underground railroad" of unregistered telepaths.

98/02/16	31	209	"The Coming of Shadows"
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When the Centauri emperor visits the station, Sheridan tries to keep G'Kar from going after him. Londo and Refa plot to increase their power. A mysterious man seeks out Garibaldi.

98/02/17	32	210	"GROPOS"
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Dr. Franklin's father arrives, leading 25,000 ground pounding soldiers on the station. The troops' arrival elicits fear from both humans and non-humans that the troops may be going on a secret mission that will involve the station becoming an armed camp.

98/02/18	33	211	"All Alone in the Night"
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Sheridan is kidnapped and taken to an alien ship. The Grey Council decides Delenn's fate. General Hague makes an unofficial visit to the station.

98/02/19	34	212	"Acts of Sacrifice"
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G'Kar asks Sheridan to intervene militarily on behalf of the Narns; Ivanova tries to institute an ambassadorship with a visiting alien.

98/02/20	35	213	"Hunter, Prey"
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A fugitive with sensitive information about the Earth government flees to *Babylon 5*.

98/02/23	36	215	"There All the Honor Lies"
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Sheridan is in hot water when he kills a Minbari warrior in self-defense.

98/02/24	37	214	"And Now For a Word"
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*Babylon 5* is embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Narn and Centauri. An ISN reporter covers the story and tours the station.

98/02/25	38	217	"In the Shadow of Z'ha'dum"
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Sheridan discovers a connection between Morden and the death of his wife. The station is inundated by Narn refugees. A new Earth Alliance agency tries to recruit station personnel.

98/02/26	39	216	"Knives"
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An old acquaintance requests Londo's help. Sheridan is plagued by visions nobody else can see.

98/02/27 40 218 "Confessions and Lamentations"

The outbreak of a disease among the Markab population prompts a panic on the station. Dr. Franklin races against time to find a cure.

98/03/02 41 220 "Divided Loyalties"

Lyta Alexander, the station's first telepath returns with a warning that one of *Babylon 5's* officers may be an operative for a top-secret government organization.

98/03/03 42 219 "The Long, Twilight Struggle"

The Narn-Centauri War reaches a turning point. Sheridan is contacted by a powerful friend, who offers assistance.

98/03/04 43 221 "Comes the Inquisitor"

Kosh summons an ancient inquisitor to test DeLenn. G'Kar tries to rally the Narn on *Babylon 5*.

98/03/05 44 222 "The Fall of Night"

As the war escalates, a Narn cruiser seeks help from *Babylon 5*. Earth takes a position in the war. Keffer makes a terrifying discovery. Kosh takes a drastic step to save a life.

### Season Three: "Point of No Return"

98/03/06 45 301 "Matters of Honor"

While an Earth official investigates the mystery ship encountered by Lt. Keffer in hyperspace, Londo learns more about the Shadows' plans for the Centauri, and the consequences of his bargains. Sheridan receives a new tool in the fight against the Shadows.

98/03/09 46 302 "Convictions"

A series of bombings threatens the station, and Ivanova calls on some unusual investigators to help solve the mystery.

98/03/10 47 303 "A Day in the Strife"

An alien probe makes first contact with the station. G'Kar tries to solidify his position among the Narn.

98/03/11 48 305 "Passing Through Gethsemane"

Lyta Alexander returns to the station at Kosh's behest. One of Theo's brothers discovers that he may have a hidden past.

98/03/12 49 304 "Voices of Authority"

Draal helps the crew attempt to contact more of the First Ones. Sheridan works to hide his conspiracy from the Nightwatch.

98/03/13 50 306 "Dust to Dust"

An addictive drug with telepathic effects is found on the station, prompting a visit by Bester. G'Kar reaches a turning point.

98/03/16 51 307 "Exogenesis"

Marcus and Dr. Franklin combat an invasion by parasitic aliens that attach themselves to humans.



you wonder where the hell is that clean, efficient Minbari power source for your new motorcycle.

you catch yourself looking for Rangers in the background while watching an opera.

you leave work just to see what the TV listings magazines have to say about the new episode within an hour of them appearing on the shelves.

you call your travel agent and try to arrange passage to Minbar and get directions to the Earth embassy.

you're planning your vacation, and the only place that appeals to you is Molari State Park.

you bite into some fried chicken and say, "Hey, tastes just like Narn!".

you see "Norton utilities for people", and your brain sees "Morden utilities for people".

you'd like to introduce your sister to Lennier.

you begin fantasizing political conspiracies at your family reunion.

you wish you could stand up when driving your car.

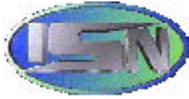
the entire weekend is devoted to preparing and eating one meal.

while watching football, all the blockers look kinda like Kosh.

when conversing with a *Star Wars* fan you claim that "my Shadows can kick your Dark Side's butt".

you begin to wonder if Bester and Deanna Troi are related.

you fantasize about how JMS would have written *The Andy Griffith Show*.



you realize that the “Psychic Friends Network” is actually the PR division of the Psi Corps.

you are spending the night in a shelter to wait out hurricane Erin, and your only thought is “I’m going to miss *Babylon 5* tonight for sure!”

you are disappointed that your newspapers religion page doesn’t list a Foundationist church.

your dreams don’t simply include B5 characters and scenes, instead they are full new episodes.

you trust the Psi-Corps, because the Corps is your friend.

you trust the Psi-Corps, because the Corps is the mother and the father.

you try alligator at a restaurant, and all you can think of to say is “Tastes like Narn!”.

you have always been here.

you go to the basement and expect to find a moment of perfect beauty in the darkness.

you look for airlocks to shove irritating people through.

“Scrag ‘em” and “Space ‘em” have become part of your normal vocabulary.

you call B5-related conversations “dis-kosh-ion”s.

you think genies were Shadow agents.

you back off whenever people ask “What do you want?”.

you see a spline-based screen saver, and immediately wonder if Abel Horne has just interfaced with Control via that computer.

98/03/17 52 308 “Messages from Earth”

As the Senate continues to investigate President Clark, an archaeologist brings news of a development back home that forces Sheridan to act against the Earth government. The Nightwatch tightens its grip on the civilian population.

98/03/18 53 309 “Point of No Return”

As the Earth Alliance plunges toward civil war, internal strife threatens to shatter the command structure of B5. Zack’s loyalties are put to the test when the Nightwatch is ordered to take over station security. Londo receives another glimpse of his destiny.

98/03/19 54 310 “Severed Dreams”

When President Clark tries to seize control of *Babylon 5* by force, Sheridan is faced with the prospect of severing the station’s ties with Earth. Delenn receives disturbing news from a Ranger.

98/03/20 55 311 “Ceremonies of Light and Dark”

The Nightwatch orders its members on *Babylon 5* to target Delenn in an attempt to undermine Minbari actions during the recent crisis. Londo presents Refa with an ultimatum.

98/03/23 56 313 “Sic Transit Vir”

Londo introduces Vir to a surprising new acquaintance. A heavy influx of Narns to the station raises suspicions.

98/03/24 57 312 “A Late Delivery from Avalon”

As Sheridan and Ivanova try to gain recognition of the station’s new status among the alien governments, a traveler arrives with an unbelievable story out of distant legend.

98/03/25 58 314 “Ship of Tears”

Bester finds himself at odds with others within the Psi Corps and seeks Sheridan’s help. G’Kar presses for admission to the conspiracy of light.

98/03/26 59 315 “Interludes and Examinations”

Direct confrontations with the Shadows begin in earnest.

98/03/27 60 316 “War Without End, Part One”

Sinclair returns to pull *Babylon 4* through time.

98/03/30 61 317 “War Without End, Part Two”

Glimpses of the past and future are seen. Valen’s origin is revealed.

98/03/31 62 318 “Walkabout”

As Lyta prepares to test the limits of the Shadows’ newly-discovered weakness, Dr. Franklin goes on a journey to discover his place in life.

98/04/01 63 319 “Grey 17 Is Missing”

Delenn agrees to lead the Rangers, but Marcus must protect her from a deadly threat. Garibaldi investigates a secret level of the station.

98/04/02 64 320 "And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place"

Londo uses G'Kar and Vir to gain power in the Centauri Royal Court. Sheridan is consumed with analysing the Shadows' strategy.

98/04/03 65 321 "Shadow Dancing"

Sheridan launches a preemptive strike against the Shadows.

Franklin jeopardizes his life while trying to do a good deed.

98/04/06 66 322 "Z'ha'dum"

A face from Sheridan's past takes him on a dangerous mission to meet his Shadow counterpart. Londo receives important news about his political future. The Shadows mass a fleet against *Babylon 5*.

#### Season Four: "No Surrender, No Retreat"

98/04/07 67 401 "The Hour of the Wolf"

Sheridan's disappearance begins to unravel the alliance. Londo discovers that Emperor Cartagia has struck a disturbing deal. G'Kar decides to search for Garibaldi. Ivanova, Delenn, and Lyta head toward Z'ha'dum to search for Sheridan.

98/04/08 68 402 "Whatever Happened to Mr. Garibaldi?"

G'Kar tries to avoid capture by the Centauri while continuing his search. Delenn urges the Rangers to strike against the Shadows.

98/04/09 69 403 "The Summoning"

Zack makes a discovery in the search for Garibaldi. Delenn continues to rally support for her plan to attack the Shadows. *Babylon 5* welcomes the return of a familiar resident.

98/04/10 70 404 "Falling Toward Apotheosis"

The Vorlons step up their battle against the Shadows. Londo uncovers a new wrinkle in his plan to unseat Emperor Cartagia. Garibaldi is asked to remove Kosh from the station. Delenn gets a surprise.

98/04/13 71 405 "The Long Night"

As the Army of Light prepares to strike against the Shadows, Londo and Vir continue to plot Cartagia's downfall. Ivanova and Lorien look for more First Ones.

98/04/14 72 406 "Into the Fire"

The Army of Light moves against the Shadows.

98/04/15 73 407 "Epiphanies"

Bester returns to B5 and asks to be taken to Z'ha'dum to recover Shadow technology. Clark sets a new operation to discredit *Babylon 5* in motion. Garibaldi delivers some unexpected news to Sheridan.

98/04/16 74 408 "The Illusion of Truth"

ISN sends a team to do a second story about *Babylon 5*.

98/04/17 75 409 "Atonement"

Delenn is recalled to Minbar to resolve a problem concerning her relationship with Sheridan, and must finally face up to her role in the Earth-Minbari War. Sheridan sends Marcus and Franklin to Mars on a secret mission.



you actually try to make sense out of which side the red thing on Ivanova's uniform is facing on a particular episode.

you turn a mis-printed M&M upside-down and see the Psi Corps logo instead of an "m".

you ask jewelry stores if they carry gravity-control rings.

you offer to bring the little pieces of red fruit to a friend's wedding.

... and then can't keep yourself from saying "And so it begins" during the ceremony.

you wonder whether Starbuck is a Ranger.

you're not thinking what you're thinking.

you're bored of paying taxes for subsidizing those Martian twits.

you get a headache and wonder if you've been through Sector 14.

you start wondering why Oliver Stone didn't mention the Psi Corp's involvement in the Kennedy assassination.

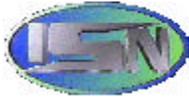
buying candy from a vending machine, you buy whatever is at selection B-5 (or you at least look there).

you cut yourself just to verify your blood is red - not yellow or green.

Quentin Tarantino appears on a call-in program, and you call to ask if it was Ambassador Kosh in the briefcase in *Pulp Fiction*.

you look up the name 'Morden' in your local phone book.

... and when you find one, you call him up and ask him to have his associates pay a visit to the Warner Brothers executive who



decided to delay broadcast of the final four episodes of the season.

... and then you start reading the obituaries in 'Variety' hoping to see news that a Warner Brothers exec died under mysterious circumstances.

you start dating someone because when you ask 'What do you want?' they reply 'Never ask that question!'

... and later break up over a green/purple argument.

you are watching *Aliens* and you think the alien queen is really one of the Shadows and wonder how Ripley is going to see her through its "invisibility" screen.

you constantly call all world governments to come together before the coming of the Shadows.

you feel you're being nibbled to death by cats.

at a relative's deathbed, you begin forming a wall of bodies, in case a Soul Hunter appears.

you see a beautiful girl wearing purple smiling at you, but decide not to approach her because you're wearing green and realize that it could never work out.

you want to give Mr. Garibaldi a hug when you're feeling insecure.

you do a newsletter with over 15 pages devoted to B5.

And you really know it when:  
you worship JMS.

**- Submitted by FCAPT  
Richard L. Trulson**

98/04/20	76	410	"Racing Mars"	Franklin and Marcus arrive on Mars to begin their undercover mission. Sheridan confronts Garibaldi about his behavior.
98/04/21	77	411	"Lines of Communication"	Franklin and Marcus try to convince the leaders of the resistance to go along with Sheridan's plan to unseat Clark. Delenn investigates a series of attacks on Minbari allies. Minbar begins to slide toward civil war.
98/04/22	78	412	"Conflicts of Interest"	Garibaldi takes on a new job. The resistance's counter-propaganda broadcasts begin. Sheridan proposes a plan to protect the Non-Aligned Worlds from raiders.
98/04/23	79	413	"Rumors, Bargains and Lies"	Sheridan tricks the League of Non-Aligned Worlds into accepting his proposed defense pact. Delenn tries to work with an old rival to defuse a brewing Minbari civil war.
98/04/24	80	414	"Moments of Transition"	The warrior caste demands Delenn's surrender. Bester makes an offer to an increasingly desperate Lyta. Sheridan is compelled to act after receiving horrible news from Ivanova.
98/04/27	81	415	"No Surrender, No Retreat"	Sheridan's forces attempt to liberate Proxima 3. Londo tries to enlist G'Kar's aid in backing Sheridan against Earth.
98/04/28	82	416	"The Exercise of Vital Powers"	Garibaldi arrives on Mars and meets William Edgars. Lyta helps Franklin in an attempt to make contact with the frozen telepaths.
98/04/29	83	417	"The Face of the Enemy"	Sheridan's search for his father leads him into danger on Mars. Lyta warns Franklin of an impending clash between telepaths and mundanes. Garibaldi learns of a new threat.
98/04/30	84	418	"Intersections in Real Time"	Sheridan faces an inquisitor from Earthdome.
98/05/01	85	419	"Between the Darkness and the Light"	Garibaldi is captured by the Mars Resistance. Ivanova's fleet clashes with Clark's forces. A plan to free Sheridan is launched.
98/05/04	86	420	"Endgame"	Sheridan's forces make their final strike. Marcus weighs a vital decision.
98/05/05	87	421	"Rising Star"	Earthgov decides Sheridan's fate. Delenn makes a remarkable proposition to the League of Non-Aligned Worlds. Garibaldi continues his search for Lise.
98/05/06	88	422	"The Deconstruction of Falling Stars"	Fourth season finale. A look back at the impact of <i>Babylon 5</i> from 100, 500, 1000, and 1 million years in the future.

## Season Five: "The Wheel of Fire"



98/01/21 89 501 "No Compromises"  
 Season 5 premier. Captain Elizabeth Lochley (Tracy Scoggins), who fought on the wrong side of the war against Clark, is introduced as the new commander of B5. Telepaths come to B5 looking for sanctuary. An assassin is out to get Sheridan.

98/01/28 90 502 "The Very Long Night of Londo Mollari"  
 Strong Londo/G'Kar episode. Londo's past catches up with him and he must deal with his heart failing, almost from the weight of his conscience. Lennier requests to return to Minbar to join the Rangers.

98/02/04 91 503 "The Paragon of Animals"  
 Lyta begins to get involved with the telepaths seeking to start a colony. We learn more about why they're there and what they are planning to do.

98/02/11 92 504 "A View from the Gallery"  
 This episode looks at the station from the viewpoint of a couple of workers, Bo and Mack, who live on the station.

98/02/18 93 505 "Learning Curve"  
 We learn more about the Rangers, how they react to certain problems, and learn more about their teachings. Turhan Bey (the Centauri Emperor from "The Coming of Shadows") plays one of Delenn's mentors.

- 98/02/25 94 506 "Strange Relations"
- 98/03/04 95 507 "Secrets of the Soul"
- 98/03/11 96 508 "In the Kingdom of the Blind"
- 98/03/18 97 509 "Cat and Mouse"
- 98/03/25 98 511 "Phoenix Rising"
- 98/04/01 99 510 "Day of the Dead"

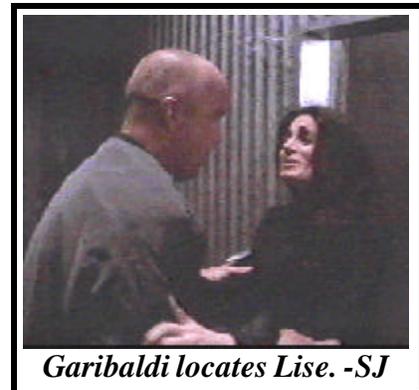
Some of the crew are caught with the Brakiri as they celebrate their "Day of the Dead," a remembrance of the recently deceased. A pair of famous entertainers visits the station.

- 98/04/08 100 512 "The Ragged Edge"
- 98/04/15 101 513 "The Corps is Mother, The Corps is Father"

An examination of the Psi Corps, including their training methods and how they deal with washouts.

- 98/04/22 102 514 "Meditations on the Abyss"
- 98/06/17 110 522 "Sleeping in Light"

Originally, "Sleeping in Light" had production number 422 when they thought there would be no season five. "The Deconstruction of Falling Stars" had a production number of 501, and the rest of the fifth season episodes actually had a production number one greater than what they currently have. However, once TNT picked up the series, "Sleeping in Light" was renumbered to 522 and "The Deconstruction of Falling Stars" was renumbered to 422. I'm not certain if there will be episodes with a production number of 515 through 521.



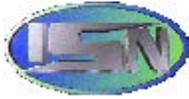
*Garibaldi locates Lise. -SJ*

Since the last four episodes of season four were moved to a really odd time, I've went ahead and included more detailed spoiler information below. Plus, the little that is known about the fifth season is listed below as well, including rumors on how the series ends. **"Between the Darkness and the Light"**

After Mars Resistance captures Garibaldi, Lyta scans him despite Bester's blocks and discovers Bester's scheme and manipulation of Garibaldi. Along with Franklin, they

**The Episode Guide continues in the single column on this page...**





succeed in freeing Sheridan. Londo and G'Kar convince the League of Non-Aligned Worlds to join the fight against Clark. After discovering that that Earth has managed to adapt Shadow technology to their ships, Ivanova leads the White Star fleet in defeating the ambush. Unfortunately, she is mortally wounded and is not expected to live more than a week. As a last request, Ivanova asks Sheridan to assume command of the *Agamemnon*, his former ship, and lead them into the final battle against Clark.

### “Endgame”

The battle for earth climaxes with Sheridan’s forces attacking Clark’s forces at Mars, and finally at Earth itself. Sheridan’s plans for the frozen telepaths is revealed when he has them smuggled onboard Earth Alliance ships. Lyta then awakens them and has them take control of the ships, defeating most of the ships at Mars. Once at Earth, Clark commits suicide to prevent capture. Marcus uses the alien healing machine (“The Quality of Mercy” and “Revelations”) to give his life to Ivanova, apparently dying to save her life.

### “Rising Star”

Delenn oversees the coming together of the non-aligned worlds and the other four main races to form a new Interstellar Alliance, with Sheridan as its first president. The Alliance is a confederation

whose members retain most of their sovereignty, aside from certain rules of conduct and sharing of technologies. With temporary headquarters on *Babylon 5*, the Alliance uses the Rangers and the White Star fleet as its armed forces.

Ivanova, promoted to captain, has taken a new assignment to shake down an experimental Earth military vessel. (Claudia Christian refused to sign her contract for the fifth season.) Londo returned to Centauri Prime to eventually become Emperor once the ill Regent dies. Garibaldi found Lise, Sheridan and Delenn were married, and Sheridan’s father was released.



**Agamemnon survives the “Endgame.” -SJ**

Alliance as well as Sheridan’s motives and abilities. In 2262, Captain Lochley will be in charge of *Bayblon 5* and Sheridan allows a colony of telepaths to form on the station. Garibaldi will end up as a hostage, possibly by the telepaths who have turned against them. Also, Sheridan



**One person makes the ultimate sacrifice for the other in the “Endgame.” -SJ**

### “The Deconstruction of Falling Stars”

In the future, analysts and historians question the validity of the Interstellar

and Delenn’s son David apparently causes some problems for his parents. In 2282, *Babylon 5* will be destroyed and Sheridan will die under mysterious



**Even death can't stop people from using you for "The Deconstruction of Falling Stars" -SJ**

circumstances. In 2762, Earth will again be divided into two factions: one in favor of breaking away from the Interstellar Alliance and another in favor of remaining. The two sides will launch a devastating war, rendering the surface of the Earth nearly uninhabitable. In 3262, the survivors of that war, now known as the "Great Burn," will largely have lost all records of the time before the war. An order of monks, aided by the Rangers in disguise, will work to gather and preserve historical records and technology, which people blame for Earth's destruction. In a million years, the Rangers help establish a "New Earth" on a distant planet because our sun goes nova under mysterious circumstances. Humans have apparently evolved into energy beings that use an encounter suit and organic ships, similar to the Vorlons.



**Keepers of the past for a future. -SJ**

**Other episode rumors:**

"The Very Long Night of Londo Mollari" was a title borrowed from an unproduced episode that originally focused on Ivanova, though the two scripts had nothing to do with each other. "The Paragon of Animals", which is rumored to feature Lennier, refers to dialog in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," specifically Hamlet's speech in Act 2, Scene 2. Two maintenance workers, Mac and Bo, give us a "A View from the Gallery," which was written by JMS and Harlan Ellison in one day for a slightly different perspective on the station. "In the Kingdom of the Blind" probably deals with G'Kar, since he only has one eye. This is in reference to a quote by Gerard Erasmus: "In the valley of the blind, the one-eyed man is king." Walter Koenig returns as Psi-Cop Bester in "Strange Relations," "Phoenix Rising," and "The Corps is Mother, The Corps is Father."

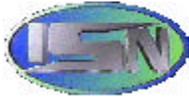
Remember the characters Rebo and Zooty mentioned in "Rumors, Bargains and Lies" and "Rising Star"? Well, they're paying a visit to *Babylon 5* during the "Day of the Dead" festival. In a casting coup of the century, the comic magicians Penn and Teller will play the most popular bumbling comedy team of the 23rd century. Morden, Dodger ("GROPOS"), Adira Tyree ("Born to the Purple"), and others come back to life for 24 hours (sorry, no Marcus). According to Stephen Furst, who directed "The Corps is

Mother, The Corps is Father," Walter Koenig as Bester has a very large part in this episode. The only "regulars" scheduled to appear are Jeff Conaway and Richard Biggs. Apparently, a trainee can't deal with the rigors of the Corps.



**Are encounter suits in our future? -SJ**

When asked about what he could possibly cover in season five since the Shadow and Earth wars are over, JMS posted the following possible plots: The start of the telepath war, the start of the Drakh war (The race who were evacuating from Z'ha'dum in "Epiphanies," and later fought with Delenn in "Lines of Communication."), Londo's fate on Centauri Prime, making the Interstellar Alliance work, inter-faction fighting among the Alliance members, the development of Mars as an independent state, the legacy of William



Edgars' black projects, fallout from Earth's civil war and the feelings about it, and how Sheridan/Delenn/Lennier will get along. He said the over all idea would be empire building of the various races and the newly formed Interstellar Alliance.

"Sleeping in Light" is the series finale set in 2281, twenty years after season four. This also corresponds to the time that Lorien predicted that Sheridan had left to live in "Falling Toward Apotheosis." Written and directed by JMS, this episode has cameos of several B5 staff members, including producer John Copeland and co-producer George Johnsen. Be on the look out for a scene involving Sheridan and a mirror. Supposedly, an unintentional lighting effect mirrors something seen previously in "Between the Darkness and the Light" and in "Z'ha'dum," though exactly what is unknown. Suffice to say, when JMS and John Flinn lit the shot, "the skin on my arms crawled." Response from the crew and those who have seen the final episode have been tearful. However, they were tears of joy and not sadness, as the story is supposedly very positive and uplifting. People have said they felt honored to have worked on the series and what it accomplished.

- **Compiled by Richard L. Trulson**

# CAST MEMBERS

## Who played who.

The following cast listing is in order of the character's last name.

Performer	Character
Patricia Tallman	Lyta Alexander
Stephen Furst	Vir Cotto
Mira Furlan	Delenn
Richard Biggs	Dr. Stephen Franklin
Jerry Doyle	Michael Garibaldi
Andreas Katsulas	G'Kar
Claudia Christian	Susan Ivanova
Bill Mumy	Lennier
Peter Jurasik	Londo Mollari
Michael O'Hare	Jeffrey Sinclair
Andrea Thompson	Talia Winters

## Other Notable Characters:

Jeff Conaway	Zack Allan
Walter Koenig	Bester
Jason Carter	Marcus Cole
John Schuck	Draal
Johnny Sekka	Dr. Benjamin Kyle
Mary Kay Adams	Na'Toth
Caitlin Brown	Na'Toth
William Forward	Lord Refa
Blaire Baron	Carolyn Sykes
Tamlyn Tomita	Laurel Takashima
Louis Turenne	Brother Theodore

## Notable Cameos:

Doug Netter, B5 Executive Producer, as the face of EA President Luis Santiago.

Ron Thornton, B5 Visual Effects, as a "lurker" in "The Gathering." He even has an alien modeled after him.

Jim Johnston, director, in "By Any Means Necessary," yelling, "I say Strike!". Many of the production crew appeared in that episode as well.

John Flinn, Director of Cinematography, as Mr. Flinn in "Grail."

Cartoonist Scott Adams as Mr. Adams in "Moments of Transition."

Harlan Ellison as a Psi Cop in "The Face of the Enemy."

JMS has emphatically stated that he will never do a cameo on B5.

- **Compiled by Richard L. Trulson**

# BEHIND BABYLON 5



## Who does what.

*Babylon 5* was created by Joe Michael Straczynski (JMS), who is executive producer along with Doug Netter. JMS has been involved with genre television for many years, as story editor and writer for the *Twilight Zone* TV series (syndicated version), *Captain Power*, and the animated *The Real Ghostbusters*. He has also written for *Jake and the Fatman* and *Murder, She Wrote*. JMS has also had many published short stories, an anthology, and two fantasy/horror novels. Until recently, he was co-host of *Hour 25*, a Los Angeles area science fiction radio talk show.



**Joe Michael Straczynski:  
The Great Maker -SJ**

Doug Netter is an equal partner in *Babylon 5* and has been in the business for a long time. He was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at MGM Studios from 1970-1975, where his nickname was Rattlesnake, thus Rattlesnake Productions, the production company he founded in 1978. Doug mainly handles the business side and leaves the creative work to Straczynski, which is how they first worked together on *Captain Power*. Recent executive producer

credits include *Captain Power* and *The Wild West* 10-hour miniseries documentary.

John Copeland is *Babylon 5*'s producer. Copeland has been working with Netter since 1977 and together they have produced *The Wild West* and the *Wild Times* miniseries, *Roughnecks*, *The Sacketts*, and the pilot for *Captain Power*, among others.

John Iacovelli is the production designer, in charge of coming up with new sets and other visual elements. In the past, he has worked on *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* among other films.

Christopher Franke, formerly of Tangerine Dream, composes the show's soundtrack and wrote the main title themes. His film credits include *McBain*, *Universal Soldier*, and the miniseries *The Tommyknockers*.

Harlan Ellison is the conceptual consultant for the series. He has written a "manifesto" for the show that explains to other writers how to write science fiction for television and *Babylon 5* in particular. On a day-to-day basis, he has no preassigned duties (though he plans to write a script or two) but is something of a generalist, helping refine many aspects of the production, from writing to sets. JMS refers to Ellison's position as "a free-roaming agent of chaos."

Ron Thornton of Foundation Imaging was in charge of the special-effects through season three. The effects won an Emmy for the pilot movie. Thornton has worked on *Terminator 2*, the *Addams Family*, *Captain Power*, *Blake's 7*, *Doctor Who*, and other projects.

Everett Burrell and John Vulich head the make-up team at Optic Nerve studios, and won an Emmy for their work in the first season of B5. They have worked on productions such as *Batman Returns*, *Aliens*, *Tales From The Crypt*, *Night of The Living Dead*, and *The Lost Boys*.

Many well-known science fiction writers—including Ellison, David Gerrold, Peter David, and D.C. Fontana—have contributed scripts to the show. The above information has been taken almost directly from "Lurker's Guide to *Babylon 5*" at <http://www.midwinter.com/lurk/> on the World Wide Web.

**- Compiled by FCAPT  
Richard L. Trulson**



# U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* Information

(Soldiers for the Army of Light.)

<b>Commanding Officer</b>	<b>FCAPT Richard L. Trulson</b>	<b>423-6638</b>
<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>CMDR Russ McNutt</b>	<b>650-3195</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>needed</b>	
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>needed</b>	
<b>Medical</b>	<b>Anya Funderburk</b>	<b>(Unavailable)</b>
<b>Security</b>	<b>needed</b>	
<b>Science</b>	<b>LT (jg) Donald Daniel</b>	<b>882-2024</b>
<b>Operations</b>	<b>CMDR Dallas Vinson</b>	<b>498-0204</b>
<b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:USS.Wernher.von.Braun@sfi.org">USS.Wernher.von.Braun@sfi.org</a></b>		
<b>World Wide Web URL: <a href="http://www.OmniFacets.com/wvb/">http://www.OmniFacets.com/wvb/</a></b>		

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.

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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:

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Ardmore, AL 35739

(205) 423-6638  
[RichLT@HiWAAY.net](mailto:RichLT@HiWAAY.net)

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.