



AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION OF THE USS WERNHER VON BRAUN

WANTED: EXCELSIOR

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson
Fans campaign for a new *Star Trek* series based on the USS *Excelsior*.

The *Excelsior* Campaign is a fan based effort for Paramount to start a new *Star Trek* series based upon the USS *Excelsior* as seen in the sixth movie, *The Undiscovered Country*. The campaign is spearheaded by the International Federation of Trekkers (IFT), a 1200+ member *Star Trek* fan club similar to STARFLEET. The IFT was founded in 1984 "to promote the humanistic philosophies and ideals portrayed in the *Star Trek* myths in a realistic fashion conducive to the continued existence and responsible advancement of human kind."

Fans are especially enamored with George Takei in the role of Captain Hikaru Sulu. They did a brief return to the *Excelsior* during a flashback episode of *Voyager*. With *Voyager* completing its seven year mission at the end of next season, rumors abound about what the next series will be about, if at all. There's even concern about when, or if, another

movie will be made. The IFT and many other fans want a new series with Sulu in command of the *Excelsior*, which they feel will be a profitable move for Paramount that will reinvigorate the waning interest in *Star Trek* as of late.

In an interview by Patrick Lee for scifi.com (<http://www.scifi.com/startrek/takei/>), Takei said of the Campaign, "it certainly is very flattering... I'm amazed at the consistency of *Star Trek* fans over the generations." Takei explained, "when *Star Trek* was canceled... it was the activism of the fans that revived it for a third season. When the *Star Trek* Lives campaign began... *Star Trek* came back as a series of major motion pictures. So the history of *Star Trek* is one directed, guided, and determined by the *Star Trek* fans, and here they are, asserting themselves." Regarding the *Excelsior* Campaign, Takei said, "here's an initiative coming from fandom itself on this huge scale." When asked if he would be willing to reprise his role as Sulu, Takei stated emphatically, "absolutely! I love the show, and I'm proud of my association with the show."

IFT is trying to accomplish its goal through a variety of different outlets. In addition to a concentrated letter writing campaign, they plan to buy ads in popular trade magazines. After all, a letter writing campaign worked for the original *Star Trek* series. Furthermore, they hope to coordinate a unified public display of support on April 22, 2000. They hope to have over ten thousand fans appear in costume at Paramount Studios in Hollywood and at local *Trek*-broadcasting stations around the world.

Their initial letter writing campaign began on Valentine's Day and ended exactly one month later. This was done in an effort to overwhelm Paramount with their sincerity. However, I'm sure they will try again. If not, any letter of support at any time would help. If you'd like to write a friendly letter encouraging an *Excelsior* series, send it to:

Mr. Kerry McCluggage
President of Television Programming
Paramount Pictures Corporation
5555 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038-3197

In response to this campaign, John Ordover, the Executive Editor of the Pocket Books novels, issued a separate challenge on March 28. In the form of a posting to the *Star Trek* discussion board at the Pocket Books website, he wrote "You get 1,000 people to write me an individual letter requesting a Captain Sulu novel - a street mail letter and no petitions or form letters count - and I'll do a Captain Sulu novel." Ordover needs to know there's a market out there, before he commits to such a book. If you'd like to see such a book, write a polite letter of request via postal mail (not e-mail), and send it to:

Captain Sulu
c/o John Ordover
Pocket Books
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020-1586

Continued on page 4 as *Excelsior*.

George Takei as CAPT Hikaru Sulu.
Photo courtesy of Paramount.



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- Note:** This issue is only 4 pages. I didn't get my pictures back in time to include them with the Summit article. Therefore, next issue will be 8 pages to make up for this issue's size.

COMMANDING OFFICER

COMM Richard L. Trulson
Improved numbers and recruiting.

Our future isn't as bleak as when I reported in the last issue. Several of our members have added their family members to their STARFLEET membership. I'd like to thank Laura, Ron, and Russ for doing this! I deeply appreciate your help in preventing our decommissioning. My own parents have been on our roster now since 1996, though I never told anyone. Of course, they do help the ship occasionally by allowing functions at our house or making other resource donations.

However, padding our numbers with family members is only a temporary solution. It will prevent us from immediate decommissioning. It will not, however, allow us to thrive and grow as a chapter. The same small group of dedicated individuals cannot continue as we are. We'll burn out and lose interest if we try. Therefore, we need to continue with our recruiting efforts, especially in getting more individual members.

At the March meeting, I gave everyone some business cards and some flyers to distribute as they saw appropriate. If anyone wants some, please contact me and I will be glad to give them to you. However, remember to get permission from the owners or managers before distributing our materials somewhere. We don't need to upset someone. As Russ can attest, I will gladly make custom/personal ship business cards for you at a small fee to cover my costs.

I think a great untapped potential has been the younger audience. This includes not only young adults in their twenties, but also teenagers. Even when I was in college with a full course load, I had much more time and energy to devote to Fleet than I do now. Therefore, I suggest we target UAH and Alabama A&M campuses for a recruiting campaign. High schools would be an excellent place as well, since some chapters have a thriving cadet corp. Hopefully, as this generation grows older and real world responsibilities set in, they will remain active with the ship.

However, we need an inroad to these places. Is there anyone that's currently enrolled or is good friends with some students or teachers that can help? We need to act now since most of them will be graduating or leaving for summer break in mid May. Even though we could wait until Fall to recruit them, being involved with us now may give the students something to do during the summer months.

Also, what do you guys want to do for activities? We've been rather non-active lately. I didn't want to plan specific activities if no one was going to do them or didn't like them. But no one is really providing much feedback at the meetings or privately on what they want to do. And this relates to whether or not we should focus on social or community service issues, or some balance between the two as we have done in the past.

Speaking of community service, the Panoply arts festival is April 28-30 this year. For future reference, always reserve the last full weekend in April for working Panoply. This is the ship's signature event that we've performed since our inception as a shuttle. We use to be large enough to do this on our own, but our dwindling numbers require help from other north Alabama chapters. Check out the separate Panoply article for more information on what we do at Panoply and how you can help.

I also attended the Region 2 Summit in Birmingham this past month. A separate story in the next issue will give all the details. The one item that's directly related to me though is that I was promoted to Commodore during the Awards ceremony. That's what the COMM in front of my name means. And no, you don't have to address me as Commodore Trulson or salute me. Rich, Richard, or "hey you" will work. Besides, I don't want to deal with all the commode door jokes this will entail anyway. ♣



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

COMM Richard L. Trulson
No more free newsletters.

I hope you've enjoyed the first 3 issues of the new *Subspace Static*. I've sent it out to about 30 people on our mailing list. It's composed of the actual paying members and the ones who have expressed an interest most recently. However, the free lunch ends with this issue.

Beginning with the next issue, only members that are current with Fleet or us will receive the newsletter. I decided to send the 3 issues so you could see that yes, I can produce a monthly newsletter. And it contains current information too! Complimentary issues will be limited to 2 free issues in the future.

This means that we will no longer be participating in a newsletter exchange with some ships. Anyone wanting a subscription to the newsletter but not wishing to join our ship will need to send me \$10. This is the same price as our Active membership since almost all the money goes into the newsletter production. Anything left over goes to paying for the occasional complimentary issue, the three issues that go to the Region for judging in the Awards program, and an issue for our archives.

Of course, this means we might as well do away with the Associate Membership, especially since there are no longer any Associate members. We'll need to bring this to a vote in order to change our By-Laws, but I'm in no rush to do that again. Remember that Household memberships, which is \$15 for up to 5 people at a single address, includes a single subscription to the newsletter, though all the people are considered Active members.

I also only put one staple in the newsletter in case people want to remove it and place all the issues in a 3 ring binder. There should be plenty of space on the inside margin to allow you to punch holes. However, I have noticed that sometimes the copiers at Kinko's will slide the copies to one edge or another. I'm not sure if this is due to an inappropriate setting on my part, or the nature of the self-serve copier. I'll try to find out for certain.

And finally, I was promoted to Commodore at the Region 2 Summit in Birmingham this March. While there, I also co-hosted the newsletter panel with Dennis Evans, the Communications Chief of the USS *Hephaestus*. Their newsletter, the *Anvil*, and ours tied for Newsletter of the Year in 1998. The winners of the Award are asked to host the panel at the following year. The *Anvil* won this year as well. I've already complied with the new newsletter submission rules for this year by treating the Awards judges as subscribers. We'll see how the new format, which is just as nice but smaller than the previous one, stacks up against other newsletters in Mobile next year. ♣

PANOPLY

COMM Richard L. Trulson Our annual community service event.

The last weekend in April of every year is the Panoply Arts festival. Held in Big Spring Park across from the Von Braun Center, this celebration of the arts is a huge undertaking that requires many volunteers. Our ship has traditionally provided volunteer parking security every year. And we hope to again this year.

Our job is very easy: All we have to do is make sure that people park where they're suppose to. The colored coded passes indicate which lots the panoply workers, volunteers, and performers are suppose to park in. We usually handle the parking lots at the Jacobs Bank and Mental Health Center on Church Street, though we have also worked the Regions Bank lot in the past. The general public isn't allowed to park in these lots. The public should park in the VBC parking facilities.

We don't, however, have to direct traffic, nor are we authorized to. Nor do we have to act as security should fights or other violent activities occur. We're to call the professionals should anything like that happen. Therefore, there is very little danger to us.

You should bring enough money to provide food and drinks for yourself, or bring something from home with you. At the very least, we will try to provide drinks though. Additionally, I'll be asking fast food restaurants to sponsor us with food, or at least provide it at a considerable discount. However, don't plan for it though in case it doesn't materialize.

Please note that these hours may change once I hear back from the Arts Council contact. A walk-through for the volunteers will occur on Wednesday, April 26, at 5:30 p.m. However, our duties aren't that difficult that we need to attend. The Panoply volunteer work hours for 1998 were as follows:

Friday, April 28: 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 29: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday, April 30: 12 noon - 9 p.m.

Dress appropriately and comfortably. Our ship's T-shirt would be great, but a uniform is NOT recommended due to the heat. Make sure you have some comfortable shoes. Since we will be outside all day, make sure you wear proper sun protection, whether it be hats or sunscreen. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. Also, depending on how many are working, you may be manning an entrance by yourself. Therefore, a book, video game, or other easily portable form of entertainment might be a good idea during the slow times. If you have a fold-up chair, you may want to bring that as well.

If you're willing to help, please let me know as soon as possible by calling 256-658-1018. I'll need to know what days and how many hours you can work. The more people we have, the more breaks we can take to enjoy Panoply and the smaller individual shifts will be. Additionally, Panoply requires that all volunteers sign a hold harmless agreement in case of accidents. The *von Braun* will require a similar agreement as well. However, that's simply to protect all parties legally. This job really is very easy to do. We haven't had any problems for the last three years.

Again, please volunteer a few hours if you can. If you can't work, then consider donating food or money. Any help what so ever will be greatly appreciated. ♣

TREK 411 COLLECTOR'S CORNER

CAPT Russ McNutt

Dress white uniforms, DS9 and other books, and the Franklin Mint model.

Hello Fleet Fans. It's time to peek into the Universe of the *Trek* Goodies and see what we shall see.

First off, I was thumbing through Quark's Bazaar, in the *Star Trek Communicator* magazine when I noticed a new and unique item. The Captain's Dress Jacket, first seen in the recent TNG movie *Insurrection*, is now available at Quark's. This is a two piece set which includes the jacket and vest. This is the same style that Capt. Picard wore at the formal reception near the beginning of the movie. Rank pips and communicator pin are included with the ensemble. Sizes medium through 2XL are available. Price is \$125. Check with the current issue of the *Communicator* magazine for ordering instructions.

For the book worms: The first two books of the DS9 series *Millennium* have now been released. Book One is entitled *The Fall of Terok Nor*, Book Two is entitled *The War of the Prophets*, and Book Three (to be released) will be entitled *Inferno*. The authors of this series are the well known *Trek* writing team of Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens.

The series is set during the waning days of the Dominion War and will have some interesting character changes. For example: ex-Dominion bad guy Weyoun is elected the new Kai of the Bajoran people, Jean-Luc Picard is now an influential Starfleet Admiral, and so called archeologist Vash makes a return appearance. On a quick side note, the *Millennium* series will be the basis for a new DS9 PC game to be released later this year. Stay tuned for further details.

Also for the book worms: *Hamlet*, in the original Klingon, should now be out in the book stores. TNG fans will remember this book being brought up for the first time by General Chang (Christopher Plummer) in *The Undiscovered Country*.

For the card sharks: another customizable card game extension has now been released. This one is based on the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition.

For the serious collectors: The Franklin Mint is announcing that it will retire the die cast model of the *Enterprise-D* in January, 2001. Now is the time to acquire this fine work for your serious collection. This is a die cast metal model with full detail, and a replica of the bridge in the saucer section. The saucer can be separated from the main drive section as in the various TNG shows. This will cost you some bucks but it's well worth it to the serious collector. *Guardian* members should check with Dawn at the meetings since she receives Franklin Mint fliers. *Von Braun* members can check with yours truly.

Well that's about all I have for now, so please send all comments/questions to me at:

Russ McNutt

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russnutt@hiwaay.net (home)
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Until next time, Keep on
Trekkin' and Good Collectin'. ♣

CALENDAR

Birthdays and events for April 2000.

2 Sunday, 2 PM, General Meeting (Horta Egg Search)

9 Steve Malone's Birthday

27 Catherine Ramsey's Birthday

28-30 Panoply Arts Festival at Big Spring Park in Huntsville

28-30 Parthecon 28 in Nashville, TN ♣

USS WERNHER VON BRAUN INFORMATION

WvB@OmniFacets.com

<http://www.OmniFacets.com/wvb/>

The USS *Wernher von Braun*, NCC 72069, is the Huntsville, Alabama chapter of STARFLEET, the International *Star Trek* Fan Association. STARFLEET's and our general purpose is to be 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 USS *Wernher von Braun* accomplishes this through a variety of social and community service activities. But most of all, we have fun by sharing a common interest in all forms of science-fiction. For more information or questions about the USS *Wernher von Braun* or STARFLEET, contact:

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The *Subspace Static* (SS) is the monthly newsletter of the USS *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, the SS, the WVB, WVB members, STARFLEET, or STARFLEET members. By acknowledging this publication, you agree not to hold any of the previously mentioned people or groups responsible for anything. *Star Trek* and just about everything related to it is a copyright of Paramount. Other copyrights and trademarks used herein are the property of their respective owner. No attempt has been made to profit from these copyrights.

Submissions for the next issue are due by the first of each month for the newsletter that comes out the following month. For example, the July issue would have a deadline of June 1. Preferred submission format is by plain ASCII text via E-mail, though handwritten submissions are acceptable. Any ship, science-fiction, or fantasy related submission is welcomed. This includes reports, interviews, cartoons, artwork, reviews, poetry, short fiction, and more. Please send all submissions and comments to:

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Ardmore, AL 35739-8901
SubspaceStatic@OmniFacets.com ♣

Excelsior continued from page 1.

We'll decide at the April meeting if we would like to participate with the campaign in some fashion as a ship. If you want to be informed of the latest developments on this campaign, send a blank e-mail message to *Excelsior*-subscribe@iftcommand.com. If you have any trouble subscribing, send a message to Campaign HQ at ops@iftcommand.com. For more information about the campaign, visit their web site (<http://excelsior.iftcommand.com/>). ♣

SCIENCE-FICTION COLLECTIBLES



Autographs, jewelry, T-shirts, toys,
trading cards, and other collectibles.

LAURA R. PETERSON

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