



## REGION 2 SUMMIT

**COMM Richard L. Trulson**

**Soggy Summit is full of fun and surprises.**

The fifth annual Region 2 "Sunny Summit" was held March 10-13, 2000, in Birmingham, AL. Normally, the Summit is rotated among the four zones. Therefore, this year should have been in Zone 5, Puerto Rico or the Caribbean Islands. But since there isn't a chapter there yet, the Chief of Summit opened the bidding to anyone in the Region. The USS *Hephaestus* in Birmingham, which had helped with the 1998 Summit, won the 2000 bid. Pete Mohnney was originally the Summit Chairman, but he turned over the responsibilities to Danny Potts, the new *Hephaestus* CO, once Pete became the Regional Coordinator.

I carpooled down to the Summit on Friday afternoon with the USS *Draco* crew. The *Draco* CO, XO, (Dallas Vinson and James Whatley) and another crewmember also shared a room with me.

We checked in just before 4 p.m. when registration opened. We unloaded our stuff into our second floor room. We were surrounded by the Potts' (Danny and Denby, Region 2's "mother" and Chief of Treasury) on one side and a couple of *Dark Silence* crewmembers on the other.

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### Important Announcements:

- ♣ Hike at Monte Sano Park on Saturday, May 20 at 4:30 pm. \$1 admission. Bring your own sack lunch for the 6:30 picnic.
- ♣ Next meeting is June 4.

The only problem we had going down was the weather. Like the last Summit held in Birmingham, this turned out to be a "Soggy Summit." Birmingham and the surrounding counties were under severe thunderstorm warnings throughout Friday night. In fact, tornado watches were also issued. Parts of downtown Birmingham were without power and suffered damage from either straight-line winds or small tornadoes. Flash flood watches and warnings were also issued. It also rained throughout the day on Saturday as well, though nothing like the monsoon on Friday evening. As a result, the Soggy Summit became the running joke of the weekend.

After the short mix and mingle, over 50 people drove a short distance to the Lone Star steak house. A few got upset because the directions listed the Long Horn as the actual restaurant. I scared the *Draco* crew once by nearly rear-ending the car in front of me. But other than that, the dinner was fabulous. In addition to the good camaraderie, the food was delicious. Fleet had officially invaded.

*2000 Region 2 Summit Opening Ceremonies. From left to right: Cindi DeMidio (IC 2000 Chair), Danny Potts (2000 R2 Summit Chairman), Pete Mohnney (R2 Regional Coordinator), Jennifer Rosbury (Vice-Regional Coordinator), Mike Smith (Commander, STARFLEET), John Adcock (Second Brigade Commander), and Mike Henigan (Chief of Summit). -Photo by Richard L. Trulson*



The rest of the evening was a slow build-up to Saturday's events. At one point, Danny hosted a "Who Wants To Be A Latnumaire?" game. The winners with the most "gold pressed latinum" at the end of the game won some free prizes, including a *Star Wars* Monopoly game. The Region 2 Store was also open. In addition to the quartermaster merchandise, a couple of sci-fi merchandise dealers were also there. Items for the Auction were also on display for early, silent bidding.

I attended a Region 2 staff meeting since I'm the Chief of Computer Operations. Nothing too Earth shattering was discussed. Basically, we gave a brief update on what each of us was doing and what we were trying to accomplish. The importance of communication with each other, the RC, the VRC, and the members were discussed. We were also to make sure we had a Vice-Chief. If something were to happen to us, the Vice-Chief could fill in temporarily to prevent something important from being missed.

The evening was brought to a close with the annual Great Dalmuti tournament. People stayed up till late playing this addictive card game. Snacks and drinks throughout the weekend were provided by the host chapter of the 2001 Summit.



*Region 2 invades the Lone Star steakhouse for dinner on Friday night. -RLT*

Saturday started at 8:30 a.m. with the Opening Ceremonies. The *Star Spangled Banner* was played after the Marines marched in as color guard for the flags. Mike Henigan, Chief of Summit, briefly welcomed everyone to the Summit. Danny Potts, Summit Chairman, followed with a brief discussion on what he gets out of fleet: friends.

Regional Coordinator Pete Mohny spoke next by welcoming the newest chapters to commission since the last Summit. This included the USS *Draco* (CO is Dallas Vinson), the USS *Jubilee* (Tony Goretski), and the USS *Dräkenfire* (Alice Strange). Jennifer Rosbury, the Vice-Regional Coordinator, then performed a roll call of all the chapters in the Region. Being the only one to stand for the *von Braun* felt strange,

especially since we were so close to Birmingham and the costs were so cheap this year. Other chapters have anywhere from 5 to 15 people in attendance.

Commander STARFLEET, FADM Mike Smith spoke next with a state of Fleet address. He recognized the Fleet Staff members that were in attendance with him, including STARFLEET Chief of Operations Les Rickard. Mike reminded everyone that this would be his last year as Commander, STARFLEET, since the Constitution prevents anyone from serving in that position for more than two terms. Even though he had accomplished most of what he set out to do, he was burned out from the job. Because of the state Fleet was in when he was elected, he's honestly surprised by how well Fleet is doing now, which is an indication of the hard work and determination of his staff and of Fleet members in general. He encouraged everyone to "get out and vote" in this year's elections for Commander, STARFLEET, since this is the one time members have a direct influence on Fleet. He thanked everyone for their support, saying "It has meant a lot to me."

Jack Hopkins spoke next as the Region 1 VRC, which had two chapters present. Jennifer Rosbury spoke next and presented Mike Smith with a T-shirt from Debora Maestu of the USS *Blackstar*. This T-shirt would be auctioned or raffled off. It's a T-shirt from the infamous Will Wheaton convention that first revealed that Dan McGinnis, the prior Commander STARFLEET, might not be as trustworthy as he seemed. There was much booing and hissing of the bad memories this brought up.

*Denby Pots, Region 2 Treasurer, works the registration desk.  
-Picture from the R2 Summit Collection*





Pete then presented promotions up to and including Commander. It started off with a nepotism theme thanks to the promotion of Denby Potts to Lieutenant, Senior Grade. People were then encouraged to register at this Summit for the 2001 Summit. The largest package if bought at this Summit would get you special VIP treatment and other incentives, such as a coconut cup, welcome basket, and auction bucks.

Cindi DeMidio, the 2000 STARFLEET International Conference chairman, closed out the Opening Ceremony with a slide show for the IC. People oohed and aaahed at the gorgeous, though expensive, host hotel, and at the Vermont scenery. One of the nearby featured attractions is the Ben and Jerry's ice-cream store, which got noted chocolate lover Jo Banister's attention.

The rest of the morning was split among the various panels. I left immediately for the CO's panel. After it was over, I dropped by the registration table to submit the *Wernher von Braun* entries for the stampede and OCP competitions. By the time I finished that, I popped into the remaining part of the Recruiting panel. I would have liked to have attended the Decipher *Star Trek* Customizable Card Game introduction. It turns out the Decipher representative is from Huntsville!

At noon, I headed across the street to have lunch at Burger King. Afterwards, I hosted the newsletter and fanzine panel with Dennis Evans, who produces the *Hephæstus* newsletter, *The Anvil*. I would have liked to have attended the panel by Lee Shakelford, who was a writer for *Star Trek: The Next Generation*; however, it was over by the time I was finished with my panel. Therefore, I perused the Region 2 store for merchandise. I bought a *Babylon 5* poster, but resisted buying the gorgeous Region 2 polo shirt. While I was there, I ran into the Summit T-shirt maker, who I discovered was from Elkmont, which is a few miles south of me.

I dropped by the Auction next, which was entertaining as always. I purchased a 10" G'Kar doll that was autographed by Andreas Katsulas, and a "family" of 6 furry Tribbles. The autographed Gowron button that the ship donated went for \$8 I believe.



VRC Jennifer Rosbury on left and Danny Potts on right promote Denby Potts to LT(sg). -R2

course, Jack was suddenly freaked out by that idea. Carol Burhans, Alabama's Zone Coordinator, then commented on how her husband didn't seem to mind a poster of Spock looking over them in their bedroom all these years. Dallas Vinson, CO of the *Draco*, spoke up to say "but look what resulted" while pointing to Carol's son, Will Burhans, who is CO of the *Dark Silence* Station. Everyone was laughing.

The annual Putt-Putt and Grand Prix tournament was supposed to have been held next, but the rain had continued today as well. They canceled it for fear of people getting sick or getting hurt even though it wasn't actually raining at the time. The Auction, which is normally held after the banquet, was continued in its place. When it finished, I headed up to my room to shower before the banquet.

The banquet itself was less than it had been in previous years. The food was delicious for the most part. However, the tea was super sweet and pre-mixed with too much lemon. Furthermore, they ran out of forks, so those of us at the end of the line had to use plastic forks.

The Awards ceremony followed. Unfortunately, the *von Braun* didn't win anything. The winning stampede entry had over a pound of stamps and the OCP entry had over \$1,000 worth of coupons. They no longer issue a second or third place winner, nor do they issue runner-up or honorable mentions in the other awards. I personally have disagreed with some of the changes in the awards program and am working

RC Pete Mohny (standing in background) welcomes the ships that have commissioned since the last Summit. Pictured are the Commanding Officers from left to right: Dallas Vinson (USS *Draco*), Tony Goretski (USS *Jubilee*), and Alice Strange (USS *Dräkenfire*). -RLT



Ron Fell, STARFLEET's Recruiting Director, lost control of the auction at one point though. He had his assistant, Jack Hopkins, woke up from a nap so he could bid on a *Star Wars: Episode I* Jar Jar Binks cardboard stand-up for his wife. When Jack got upset, Ron commented on how upset his wife would be to not have that in their bedroom to watch over them. Of



*The tie winners of last year's Newsletter of the Year Award host the newsletter panel at this year's Summit. On left is Richard Trulson and on right is Dennis Evans, editor of the Anvil, the USS Hephæstus newsletter. -RLT*

to change that. Some of the winners included the USS *Hephæstus* for Newsletter of the Year, Bethany Theilman (USS *Haise*) for CO of the Year, and USS *Continuum* for Ship of the Year. I also had the honor to present the Richard Daystrom Cyberspace Awards for the first time, which I established the criteria for and judged as Chief of CompOps.

Even though the ship didn't win anything, I was surprised twice in the night. The first was with a promotion to Commodore. Then I began to feel disappointed when I didn't receive a Superior Performance Award (which is awarded by the RC to the Staff members that work hard) or a Regional Commendation (significant contributions to the Region), both of which I felt I should have gotten. Then Pete awarded me a special Certificate of Appreciation for my hard work as Chief of Computer Operations. That made my night.

The evening was brought to a close with a dance. I retreated to my room to change into something more comfortable than my uniform. When I returned, the Tribble Toss didn't seem to materialize, so I'm not sure if or when I

missed it. The night was spent chatting with friends and consuming Romulan Ale. I was thanked by several members for awarding them their Cyberspace Award, which made all the hassles and headaches worthwhile. I was also

*Auctioneer Ron Fell (with mic) auctions off a poster displayed by his wife, Kristi Fell. Cindi DeMidio, IC 2000 Chair, is seen to the right of Kristi. -R2*



involved in a late night meeting with Barbara Paul, the R2 Chief of Awards, and Pete Mohny. We discussed the problems that were in the awards program, and ways to correct them.

People drug themselves out of bed to attend the Sunday morning ceremonies. The first up was the Ask the Brass Panel. I then helped with an Awards Panel discussion with Barbara Paul. I then checked out of the hotel room. The remaining time was spent in the Regional Department Chief Forum. Of course, there were many more panels to attend throughout the weekend besides the ones I listed, but I won't bore you by listing them all. However, some of the nicer panels included discussions on collectibles, model making, costuming, make-up, and the Marines.

The Closing Ceremony was thankfully short and to the point. Pete Mohny announced that this Summit had the largest turn-out ever with over 105 people in attendance. Almost all of those

had even pre-registered, which is a Summit first. Mike Smith then thanked everyone for funding his attendance at the Summit. As a result, he's been able to attend all four Summits that have been held while he's been Commander, STARFLEET. John Adcock, the Second Brigade Officer in Charge, thanked everyone for such a wonderful time. Mike Henigan thanked the host committee for a successful Summit. If anyone was interesting in bidding for a future Summit, they should see him.

Denby Potts then reported on the funds raised at this Summit. Not only did the Summit start in the black, but we raised over \$1,400 in the auction, \$1,300 in the store, and \$360 in pre-registrations for the 2001 Summit. Ron Fell then announced that between the Auction and the Marines, \$325 had been donated

*Most everyone enjoys the banquet on Saturday night. -RLT*







*One of the merchandise dealers that was at the Summit. -R2*

outright for the Region 17 RC, Keira Russell-Strong. Even though her handicapped husband was OK, Keira had been injured when their house caught fire.

Jennifer Rosbury spoke next and thanked everyone for a good time. The Regional Department Chiefs are working on getting in touch with the region's members, and promoting their activities more. Pete Mohnney also announced that he had a gift certificate to amazon.com for Brian Davis, the Marine Commandant, and Mike Smith for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend the Region 2 Summit. The USS *Jubilee* announced that they were an officially licensed distributor of *Star Trek* uniforms, so contact them if you'd like to buy one.

Danny Potts then closed the Summit by thanking everyone for attending. He announced that the 2001 Summit will be held March 9-11. Since they were able to get better and cheaper hotel rates, the 2001 Summit will be held in Mobile, AL even though the host chapter, the USS *Continuum*, is located in Pensacola, FL.

You miss a fabulous time if you don't attend the Summit. The panels are not only informative, but they're fun. Furthermore, the camaraderie with other *Star Trek* fans is incredibly enjoyable. Therefore, start saving your money now to attend the 2001 Summit. I plan on being there and would like to take a large contingent of the *von Braun* with me. ♣

## CALENDAR

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson

Upcoming birthdays and events.

May 2000:

- 1 Russ McNutt's birthday,  
Johnnie Peterson's birthday
- 10 Wayne Cole's birthday
- 19-21 **DeepSouthCon 38** in Jekyll  
Island, GA
- 20 Raymand Weemes's birthday
- 20 **Hike (4:30) and picnic (6:30)**  
at Monte Sano State Park
- 26-28 **LibertyCon 14** in  
Chattanooga, TN
- 28 Michael Theodorou's birthday

June 2000:

- 4 **General Meeting**
- 6 Laura Peterson's birthday
- 9 Laura Brookshire's birthday
- 16 *Titan A.E.* and *Red Planet* movie  
premieres
- 29-7/2 **DragonCon** in Atlanta, GA ♣



*Sue Ellen and Pete Mohnney work the table at the Region 2 Store (above right).*

*Merchandise being sold in the Region 2 Store, as well as items displayed for preview before the auction. -R2*



# LIBERTYCON 13

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson  
May 26-28, 2000

LibertyCon will have gambling and revelry on the starship *Liberty* on Friday evening. The games start promptly at 8:00 p.m. and will feature blackjack tables, roulette wheels and craps tables. At the end of the evening, lucky winners will have the opportunity to bid on items in the Charity Auction using their Liberty Buck winnings. The J. J. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Chattanooga Jaycees will be the charities that LibertyCon will support this year.

*Andorian Bethany Theilman wins CO of the Year. -R2*



*Starfleet officer Pete Mohny presents Klingon Don Meyer the Member of the Year award. -R2*



There will be two tracks of programming throughout the weekend. A dance will be held on Friday and Saturday evening. Sue Thorn will be the Mistress of the Masquerade once again. Costumes judged to be the "Best In Show" will receive 2 free memberships to LibertyCon 14. Susan Brady will host her highly successful "Make-It and Take-It" handicraft session on Saturday. Computer gaming tournaments will have Master and Novice levels. Sega and Sony game systems are also available. The winner of the computer tournament will receive a free 400 MHz Intel Celeron computer!

Literary Guest of Honor is C. J. Cherryh and Artist Guest of Honor is Jon Stadter, with Special Guest Kenneth Waters and MC Wilson "Bob" Tucker. They also hope to have Pam Adams, Jon Crusoe, David Deitrick, Lori Deitrick, Darryl Elliot, Jan H. Fender, Mark Fults, Sharon Green, Les Johnson, David M. Weber, and Kenneth Waters; though they have not been confirmed.

LibertyCon 13 has been limited to 450 paid attendees. Registration is \$35. Children under 12 will be charged half-price rates. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. You must have a picture ID for an Adult Badge. They plan on going to the Tripps Seafood Restaurant for an All-You-Can-Eat Buffet on Saturday evening for \$16.00. Because of limited seating at Tripps Seafood Restaurant, the banquet is open to only 100 attendees. Send your registration to:

LibertyCon 14

P. O. Box 695

Hixson, TN 37343-0695

LibertyCon 13 will be at the Ramada Inn South, located just off of I-75 Exit 1 in East Ridge, TN. The room rates for the weekend are \$54 plus tax per night for 1 to 4 people for regular rooms. Hotel reservations can be made at 423-894-6110. Check or money order for the first night's lodging must be sent to the hotel. They will NOT take a credit card for this deposit.

For more information, send e-mail to [libcon@cdc.net](mailto:libcon@cdc.net) or visit <http://www.cdc.net/~libcon> on the web. ♣



*The Region 2 Regional Coordinator (Pete Mohny on left) and the Chief of Computer Operations (Richard Trulson on right) present the Best Ship Web Site Award to the USS Trident, commanded by Jack Eaton. -R2*



*The Second Brigade Commander John Adcock (on left) accepts the Most Informative Web Site award from RC Pete Mohny. -R2*

*The R2 Chief of Shuttle Operations Command (Barbara Paul on right) presents the Shuttle of the Year Award to the shuttle Dräkenfire, commanded by Alice Strange. -R2*



*Jo Bannister (in dress white uniform), CO of the USS Okatoma, accepts an award from Pete Mohny. -R2*





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# COMMANDING OFFICER

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**COMM Richard L. Trulson**

**Good numbers, good help, good events,  
and good movies.**

Good news! We're finally above the ten minimum needed to remain a chapter in STARFLEET. Additionally, several more people have expressed interest in joining. As a result, we should be sitting fairly comfortable until November, when the next batch of expirations occur. The fall and spring will be the real tests to see if we can retain the numbers. Again, I thank everyone who has joined or added their family members to the list.

That doesn't mean we can stop recruiting though. I'm going to start sending a meeting notice for listing in the *Huntsville Times* community events calendar. I'm also going to do another round of flyers to post in the book stores and comic shops. And if any of you go to conventions such as Dragon\*Con, let me know so I can give you some business cards or brochures to take with you. However, our biggest recruiting tool has always been word of mouth through existing members.

I'd like to thank some people for their recent help. First up is Ron Zuckerman for hosting the *Excelsior* video party at his home on April 22. Ron has also offered his house for possible future endeavors as well, which will be great if people don't want to drive all the way to Ardmore for small events.

I'd also like to thank several people for helping at Panoply. First of all, thanks to crewmembers Don Daniel and Laura Peterson for helping. I was surprised to find out that former WvB CO Kit Ramsey and former Medical Chief Ralph Brigham were able to help as well. Ralph deserves special thanks for traveling all the way from Clarksville, TN. He's currently serving aboard the correspondence chapter USS *Jurassic*. Thanks also to Will Burhans, CO of the *Dark Silence* Station in Decatur, and Carol Burhans, the Alabama Zone 3 Coordinator. Many thanks to those who helped or offered to help!

Finally, I'd like to thank Billy Helms for helping with Panoply. Billy contacted me earlier this month about joining our chapter, and jumped in head first. Apparently, he served as the Operations Chief aboard the USS *Ranger*, which was an independent *Trek* fan club here in Huntsville. Has anyone heard of them? Apparently, they met at the VBC until their CO moved away, which led to the disbanding of their group. At the May meeting, Billy was appointed as our new Operations Chief. I get the feeling you're going to be hearing a lot more good stuff about this young man.

Let's move on to ship activities for the next quarter or so. While these aren't set in stone, I'd like to at least draw your attention to them now so you can be thinking about them. Please give your feedback on if you want to do these or if you'd rather do something else.

First up is the car wash. I had thought sometime in mid-May would be best so it wouldn't conflict with any student organizations since they would be too busy with finals. However, that wasn't a good time period for several of the active members who would be helping. I've also been too busy trying to get Panoply squared away to make appropriate arrangements.

Therefore, I think it might be best to postpone the car wash to a Saturday in early June. I was thinking June 10, which will allow for a full month of planning and another meeting to occur. At the April meeting, we also voted to



*My Certificate of Appreciation. Again, the photographer cropped off my head. I'm not sure if this is his way of preventing me from getting too big headed about my awards. -RLT*

donate half the profits to Mike Brookshire, who is the former associate member who was severely injured in the September 1999 LunaTech explosion. Speaking of Mike, he called me recently. He's doing well, but still needs further therapy and help with the bills coming in.

Since that opened up May, I was thinking about a hike and picnic at Monte Sano state park on Saturday, May 20. I think the park costs \$1 to get in, but otherwise, it should be a cheap, easy, fun thing to do. Bring a cooler or food that doesn't spoil, so we can eat dinner when we get through hiking. Plus, hopefully it won't have gotten too hot by then either.

We also need to do another recruiting event. This would normally be a year with a *Star Trek* movie, but there isn't one planned for release later this year. Doing another *Voyager* day wouldn't be that useful since we now have a UPN network. Therefore, we should probably focus on sci-fi themed movies. I don't think *Red Planet* and *Titan A.E.* on June 16 will be that big of a box-office draw. However, the *X-Men* on July 14 is the most eagerly anticipated movie since the *Phantom Menace*. Not only is there a lot of media hype about everyone's favorite mutants, but it stars Patrick Stewart (TNG's Captain Picard) as Professor X. Mark your calendars now so you can participate. ★

*My promotion to Commodore. My head was cropped from the picture by the photographer, and not my editing. -RLT*



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## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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### COMM Richard L. Trulson Chicken and the egg.

Ya know, it's sort of funny. Even with this issue being late, I still don't have any other Command Staff Reports. I've asked in the newsletter and I've asked in the meetings, but no one has submitted anything. It really doesn't take that much time, maybe 30 minutes every month.

Heck, I do four reports a month. The two you're most familiar with is my Comm Chief and my CO report. The other is more important, and that's my Monthly Status Report to Fleet as CO. You don't see it, but my XO and the Regional

Coordinator does, among others. And then finally, there's my MSR as Chief of Computer Operations. If I can manage four reports, surely you can manage one?

Anyway, enough complaining and move on to explaining. The first thing I was waiting on for this issue is the pictures I took at the Summit. I had to get the film developed and then scan them in. I've sprinkled a few of them through this and future issues. Second is the pictures that others took at the Summit. Pete Mohny, the R2 RC, has been sending these out periodically to whoever has asked for them.

Finally, there was Panoply. I was very busy trying to get things squared away with that. Even though I didn't hear

back from our contact until the week before, I still was busy leaving messages and trying to see who all was volunteering. I was also keeping those who traveled from out of town informed on what was going on. But that really isn't an excuse for this issue being so late, and for that I apologize.

Anyway, the next issue should follow relatively close to this one to put us back on the monthly schedule. And please, submit something, whether it be a departmental report or a separate article. If you go see a sci-fi movie or convention, write a review. The same goes for a good book or computer game. The less I have to write, the easier this newsletter is to produce. So please, submit something. ♣

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## USS WERNHER VON BRAUN INFORMATION

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<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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## SCIENCE-FICTION COLLECTIBLES

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

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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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*Second Brigade Commander John Adcock (far left), STARFLEET Operations Les Rickard (right), Commander STARFLEET Mike Smith (far right), and others relax at the closing of the 2000 "Caribbean Cruise" Summit. -RLT*

