



AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION OF THE USS WERNHER VON BRAUN

2001 SUMMIT PREVIEW

COMM Richard L. Trulson
A Summit odyssey by the sea.

Want to go to Risa? OK, maybe you can't hop on the nearest starship and go to this fabled pleasure planet, but how about a simulation of it? The USS *Continuum*, serving as host chapter, hopes to recreate this pleasure world in Mobile, AL for the 2001 Region 2 Summit. Odds are though since it's not being held in Birmingham, we should have lots of sunshine to make it a true "Sunny Summit." Plus, with the Mobile Bay and all that Florida coastline a short, scenic drive, away, you just might think you're on Risa after all.

So what is a Summit you may ask? To put it simply, a Summit is a gathering of the Region's chapters to talk shop. It can be one of the most fun and rewarding experiences in STARFLEET. There are dozens of panels to discuss everything from how to be a better officer to improving your chapter and from how to make the perfect costume to finding the perfect collectible. Not only is it a great chance to learn a valuable skill as an officer, but it's also a great chance to make valuable friendships with people you've only heard about through the *Communiqué*, the *Region 2 Update*, or online. Summit attendance is roughly 100

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Summit
Logo

people from chapters throughout the region, some of the Regional staff, and maybe even some of the STARFLEET Executive Committee.

Most of the Summit is focused on learning valuable skills pertaining to STARFLEET chapters, such as how to make a newsletter or promote your chapter. The Summit is ideal for anyone who wants to improve their skills as a Department Chief or even as a general officer. However, the skills learned here are skills that can be used anywhere. So think of the Summit as a general leadership and skills-building conference.

The Summit also has a very fun side. Besides the general camaraderie that exists when you put a huge group of fans together, there are many fun events

planned. You can try your skill at being the Great Dalmuti, which is a very fun card game. If that particular addiction isn't your style, how about the annual RC's Putt Putt Tourney? Miniature golf is always a blast, as is the Grand Prix go-cart race. Do you have what it takes to beat our speed demon Regional Coordinator? Would you like to make out like a bandit while helping a very good cause? You'll get your chance at the annual Region 2 Auction, which raises money for various charities.

For something that's fun and even therapeutic, try the Tribble-toss, which helps raise funds for the regional treasury. Need to vent a little frustration? For a small fee, you get to throw a furry Tribble in the face of any Regional Staff member, as well as any Commanding Officer or Executive Officer. For a bit more, you can get up close and personal. The fur can tickle and irritate your nose like the worst allergies. Trust me.

The Annual Awards Banquet held Saturday night recognizes all the hard working individuals and chapters who have done a lot for their ship, community, region, and STARFLEET. Over a dozen awards are given out to recognize everything from Shuttle of the Year to Ship of the Year, from Cadet to Officer, from Recruiter to Commanding Officer, and many, many more.

From the 2000 Region 2 Summit Opening Ceremony. From left to right: Danny Potts (2000 Summit Chairman), Jennifer Rosbury (R2 VRC), Pete Mohnney (R2 RC), Jack Hopkins (STARFLEET Assistant Recruiting Director), Mike Smith (Commander, STARFLEET), John Adcock (Second Brigade OIC), and Mike Henigan (R2 Chief of Summit). -Photo from R2 Picture Pool



The costs of registration for the Summit varies depending on what package you buy and when you register. Package A includes the panels for the entire weekend, the Hospitality Suite, the Auction, and the Awards Banquet. You must pre-register before February 28 in order to attend the banquet. After that, this package and the banquet are no longer available. Package B includes the panels for the entire weekend and the Auction, but does NOT include the Awards Banquet or Hospitality Suite. Package C includes the panels on Saturday ONLY and the Auction, but does NOT include the Awards Banquet or Hospitality Suite.

In order to encourage early registration, a monthly drawing will be held from those who are pre-registered. The winner will receive a \$10 "auction bucks" certificate, which can be used at the Summit auction just like cash. Drawings will be held each month through February. This year only, they're offering some special items depending on how early you register. If you register prior to December 1, 2000, you will receive a Welcome Basket. If you register prior to January 1, 2001, you will receive \$5 in Raffle Bucks to use in the Auction.

Due to a change of ownership, the host hotel is currently unable to take reservations for the Region 2 Summit. They've switched names from the Holiday Inn to the Lafayette Plaza Hotel. However, if you call their toll-free number, they will take your name and call you back when they can take your reservation. Be sure to mention the "STARFLEET Region 2 Star Trek Convention" to get the \$73 rate. This includes breakfast for all those registered in an overnight room.

Lafayette Plaza Hotel
 Historic District Mobile
 301 Government Street
 Mobile, AL 36602
 800-692-6662 toll free
 334-694-0100 local
 334-694-0160 fax

All T-shirts MUST be pre-ordered and will be available for pick-up at the Summit. Make sure you pre-order by February 28 when you pre-register in order to ensure you get one. What better way to show your regional pride and help the regional treasury than by wearing its merchandise. Prices are \$15.00 for S - XL



This is about half of the audience in attendance at the Awards Ceremony. -R2

and \$17.00 for 2XL through 3XL. Coffee mugs, which feature gorgeous full color 2001 Summit and Region 2 logos, are available in limited quantities, though a price hasn't been set.



The gorgeous coffee mugs that will be available at the Summit. -R2

A registration form is included with this newsletter. Please fill it out completely using one form per person. If you need more, ask me for another copy or get one online by going to the web site (<http://www.region2.sfi.org/summit>). All

checks or money orders (no cash!) should be made payable to "STARFLEET Region 2". You can also pay with your credit cards using PayPal.Com. Send the appropriate amount to Region2RC@aol.com, and make sure you list the pertinent information there as well. Send the application and your money to:

Region 2 2000 Summit
 c/o Pete Mohney
 1105 Oak Creek Trail
 Birmingham AL 35215

I will definitely be going. If anyone wants to go with me, they're welcome to do so. I don't foresee any reason why I won't be able to carpool down or share rooms with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them. The Summit is a wonderfully fun time, and you end up learning a little bit too. Therefore, ready for Risa? ♣



The Second Brigade Marines pose for a picture with their award. -R2

COMMANDING OFFICER

COMM Richard L. Trulson

Now you see them, now you don't.

The winds of change are blowing again. At first, I thought it was just a gentle breeze, but it's turning into gale force winds. This has caught me completely off guard and unprepared.

Two members of my Command Staff have stepped down. The first was our new Ops Officer, Billy Helms. He approached me one night about the possibility of him needing to move to New Orleans to care for his grandmother. No problem, I thought, so long as he informed me when he actually has to leave. The next time I tried calling him, the person who answered his phone said he was now in North Carolina. Surprise! Obviously, he won't be around to participate in any more functions. As a result, we no longer have an Ops Chief.

The next officer to resign was our Executive Officer, Russ McNutt. He's been offered a new position at work that will require him to travel more. As a result, Russ felt he couldn't properly serve as XO. However, because no one else on the ship is currently qualified to be XO according to STARFLEET regulations (18 years old with Fleet membership in good standing and OTS and OCC qualification in the Academy), I've asked Russ to remain XO, at least on paper and as far as Fleet is concerned, until our elections in November and December. He has agreed to do so, which I am thankful for and appreciate him doing.

But hold the presses! I recently received e-mails from both of them. Billy says he'll be moving back here, but I don't know when. Russ said his job may not have him as busy as he originally thought, therefore he'd like to remain on as XO. And low and behold, he was at the November meeting, in his snazzy *Battlestar Galactica* uniform jacket no less. Again, since we have no other qualified members, I see no reason not to let Russ remain as XO. Welcome back.



Region 2's most notorious Klingon, Fleet Captain Shaughn O'Connor (CO of the USS Rogue Phoenix) displays his promotion certificate.-R2

While we're discussing Command Staff changes, our Sciences Department Chief is headed for some changes as well. Don Daniel is now engaged to Joanie Martin, and will marry her on November 11. Congratulations! Joanie is a wonderful lady who has graced our meetings the last few months. She's been a good sport with all of us crazy Trekkers, even going so far as to attend Dragon*Con with Don. Welcome Joanie!

Finally, please check the envelop that this newsletter was mailed in. At the top is your STARFLEET and chapter expiration dates as I know them. If they are in error, please let me know so they can be corrected. If they've expired, please renew. I realize money is tight for everyone, so your Fleet membership is more valuable than your local membership if you must make a choice between them. Make sure you mail or complete your renewal a least two months in advance of the expiration date, since it may take them a month or two to process your renewal. Several members are expiring this fall, and even more early next year. So please renew now. ♠

COMMUNICATIONS

COMM Richard L. Trulson

How to write and submit an article.

Obviously, you haven't received a newsletter since June. There's a reason for that: there hasn't been a newsletter since June. Furthermore, I'm skipping the July through September issues to try and get back on some sort of schedule. I may go back and pick up an issue or two if I receive submissions.

But that's just it: no one is submitting anything, so that means I have to come up with all of the content on my own. And frankly, that's just too much to ask on a regular basis. Therefore, I simply haven't done a regular newsletter.

Despite having nagged and begged everyone to submit something in the last few issues and at the meetings, I still haven't received any submissions. Even my regular contributors have stopped submitting, which really worries me. I should probably take that as an indication that no one is ever going to submit something again.

Is this newsletter really that worthless? It's a hassle to produce even when other people submit something. But when they don't, it gets very, very difficult to produce fresh, original content. Would you prefer that I just repeat whatever I find online, or would you prefer I simply not produce a newsletter? I realize interest in *Trek* is declining, especially in active participation in fandom, so I don't feel personally responsible. After all, why should you pay membership dues if you can get something for free off the internet?

The answer to that question is camaraderie and friendship. The internet, while a convenient information resource, will never replace human contact. And this newsletter is one of the tools by which

SCIENCE-FICTION COLLECTIBLES



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

LAURA R. PETERSON

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<http://sci-fi-col.home.mindspring.com/>

we can share in that camaraderie. So please, submit something so this returns to being your newsletter, and not simply what I compile together from the internet.

I was planning on repeating my "How To Write A Department Report" article, but thought I should probably save that until we actually have more department chiefs. Instead, this report has taken a more general motivational angle. No problem there.

You don't have to be a great writer to write an article or a Department Chief report. Just write something. Or if you're really afraid of writing, call me, and I will be glad to serve as a dictation service. I don't even mind transcribing handwritten notes if that's all you can provide. My postal address is located on the back page under *Wernher von Braun* Information.

Of course, my preferred submission format is via e-mail to SubspaceStatic@OmniFacets.com. The article sent as a separate plain ASCII text file attachment works best, but I can convert several different word processor formats. Even just typed in as part of the e-mail will work as well. Accompanying pictures are also appreciated. A high quality and high resolution jpg is preferred, though most any format can be converted. If you have any compatibility questions, just ask me ahead of time to be certain. I also try to respond back with a brief "I received your submission" e-mail to let you know that I have.

Nor does your article have to be very long. Any length will do, especially since I've went to this monthly format. A short report combined with liberal amounts of white space works wonders. By the time I toss in an accompanying picture or two, even the shortest articles can take up a column or two, if not multiple pages.

Things that our crewmembers have done themselves or have direct relation too is best. For example, it can be anything from a convention to a movie review, or even an editorial. Beyond that though, it can be about anything related to *Star Trek*, or any science-fiction show, movie, book, etc. I'd probably even accept articles relating to fantasy and horror genres as well. It can also be in the form of a poem or short fiction with the latter one serialized across several issues. Or if you've heard some juicy movie or episode rumors, tell us all about them.

Additionally, artwork is greatly appreciated. While it's easiest to deal with artwork already in electronic form, I can easily scan something in or take a digital picture if need be. I also have the capability to digitize from a VCR tape or other video source. I'll gladly return any art or other submissions given to me if you want it back. So if you've got some art you've drawn, whether it be a cartoon or a character study, please submit it as well. I'd prefer to have a picture on the cover since it's easier to recognize that issue visually than with words alone.

Of course, keep in mind your intended audience. While we're mainly adults, keep in mind that children may see the newsletter. Therefore, try to keep your language or your images appropriate to the entire family. I don't think anyone has ever pushed that aspect too far though.

Also keep in mind the "who, what, when, where, why, and how" details of what happened. These technical details can provide a lot of substance and validity to your article. Additionally, if you aren't the creator of the material, please try to credit the original creator of it, or at least where you obtained it from. While we may tread awfully close to copyright infringement, we don't want to blatantly disregard it. If in doubt, ask them for permission to use something first. Besides, they may even enjoy seeing their work spread around and appreciated.

And don't worry about being a good writer either. I'll do my best to correct the obvious errors in grammar, spelling, or capitalization. However, I would never change the intent or style of your article. I may snip out an extraneous word here or there to get an unruly paragraph to fit better, but the change will be as little as possible to do what I need to do. I may place a picture or two with your article if you don't provide anything since large amounts of text can be difficult to read. This is done simply to make the layout more pleasing to the eye, though I'll try to relate them to your article if possible, or the overall theme of the issue.

Furthermore, if you have an idea for an article, but don't know how to proceed, ask me for advice. I'll be glad to offer you my suggestions to help you put your thoughts into words. I may even be able to provide references or ideas to help you in some way.

The important thing to remember though is to just write something and submit it. Without your support and help, there's no way I can continue to do this newsletter, no matter how much I may want to. Besides, it ceases to be a newsletter about the ship and it's crew, but simply what I write. As much as it may thrill me to see my name in print, that thrill could be yours instead. And I will gladly credit your work and thank-you appropriately.

Therefore, write right away. ♣

RC Pete Mohny (center) and I present the Most Informative Cyberspace Award to the Second Brigade web site. John Adcock (left) accepts as the Brigade OIC.-R2



REGION 2 NEWS

Compiled by COMM Richard Trulson
News from around the Region.

FCAPT Jack "Towaway" Eaton, CO of the USS *Trident*, has been appointed as the Region 2 Recruiting Officer. LCDR Dave Letts, XO of the USS *Paegan*, has been appointed as the VFDC-R2 Chaplains/Counselors and has set up a web page (<http://www.geocities.com/athens/cyprus/1574>). CAPT Bruce Dolan, CO of the USS *Continuum*, has been appointed as the Vice-Zone Coordinator for Zone 1 (Florida). Rosa Jackson, the R2 RDC Medical, has been appointed as the VFDC Medical and Health for Regions 2, 3, 6 and 7. The Second Brigade (R2 Marines) needs a new Officer in Charge. Contact Michael Smith (forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org) for an application and requirements. Vice-Regional Coordinator Jennifer Rosbury is accepting applications for R2 Chief of Communications until the end of November.

Pete Mohney and Danny Potts enjoy playing Diablo II. If you'd like to join them online, contact Pete at PDMohney@aol.com. CMDR Neil Yawn, the RDC of Science, is asking that all chapters participate in a Region-wide science day during November, which will be to attend an IMAX movie. Patches featuring the most recent R2 logo can be purchased from the Quartermaster at \$5 each for delivery or personal pick-up.

Jack Eaton, pictured at the Summit, is the new R2 Recruiting Officer. -R2



Rosa Jackson at the Summit. -R2

Only 19 of 26 chapters submitted their ballot for the regional coordinator vote of confidence. However, all 19 gave their confidence for Pete Mohney to remain as Regional Coordinator. The RC, VRC, the Zone Coordinators, and their members at large continue to work on the Region 2 Handbook. Paul Dyl, the former STARFLEET Academy Director during the McGinnis reign, has launched the shuttle *Liberty* in Panama City, FL on August 15. Since R2 funded an entire scholarship, Pete is actively encouraging eligible R2 members to apply for a STARFLEET scholarship.

The Region 2 E-mail list is open to anyone interested in chatting about Region 2 business. Send an e-mail to majordomo@sfi.org to subscribe. If you want regular e-mails as they come, the message body should say on a single line:

subscribe region2-L
you@youremail.com

If you want the digest form, the body of the message should say:

subscribe region2-L-digest
youremail@yourprovider.com

Remember to turn off all your signatures. The Frequent Asked Questions (FAQ) is available online at <http://www.region2.sfi.org/archives/listfaq.htm>.

Due to a change of ownership, the host hotel is currently unable to take reservations for the Region 2 Summit. However, if you call their toll-free number (800-692-6662), they will take your name and call you when they can take your reservation. Be sure to mention the "STARFLEET Region 2 *Star Trek* Convention" to get the \$73 rate. Additionally, the R2 CO's approved \$300 to be used by Pete to purchase merchandise that will be used in the Summit auction. Finally, the Region now accepts credit card payments for the Summit registrations (and other regional purchases like from the Quartermaster) via PayPal. Send the appropriate package value to Region2RC@aol.com. The next price increase deadline has been extended to December 1.



Pete is encouraging active growth within the region by issuing a recruiting challenge to conclude at the Region 2 Summit. If the region grows to 425 members, he will swim the length of the Summit hotel pool, regardless of the outside temperature. At 450 people, he will color his hair blue for the weekend. Suggestions are being taken on what to do if R2 grows to 475 or over 500 members. Each chapter receives individual bonuses if they gain a certain number of members. (Recruit 1-5 new members, get a R2 patch; 6-10, SFI individual membership; 11-15, SFI couple membership; 16-20, R2 shirt; over 20, Summit membership.) The chapter with the biggest membership gain would get a special plaque. ♣

TOO MUCH BABYLON 5

You know you've been watching *Babylon 5* too much when:

- You fear the midterm is going to explode if you don't answer all the questions.
- You search your local bookstores continuously trying to find a copy of the *Book of G'Quon*.
- You consider it a strain on you to be seen by many people.
- You start referring to your children as "pouchlings."
- You think NRA means "Narn Resistance Alliance".
- The only day that has any meaning is the day when B5 is telecast.
- You're angry that you can't find a bar that serves Jovian Sunspots.
- The only Senator's name you can recall is Hidoshi.
- You step into an elevator and say "Blue 2", and then you wonder why this travel tube doesn't respond to voice commands.
- You try to collect people's fears using a video recorder.
- You dream about friends speaking cryptically while birds are perched on their shoulders.
- It takes weeks for you to recover after you read a mention of the excellent "psych program" at Clark University.
- You start to find Narn females attractive.
- You make octopus spaghetti because you're expecting Drazi visitors.
- You're watching *Golden Eye* and think the line goes, "Only three men I know use a Walther PPG. Two of them are scragged."
- You stare at pennies far too long.
- You think *The Fugitive* deserves a makeup Emmy. G'Kar made a very convincing one-armed man.
- Somebody calls you a bonehead, and you retort, "But I'm not Minbari!!!"
- You avoid answering questions by impersonating Mollari and saying, "When the room stops spinning."
- You tell your girlfriend she'd look great with a bone hairpiece.
- You have used the phrase "... because you can't have larger ideals if the smaller ones are compromised" at least three times on essay tests.



- On the subway, you inspect the seats of other passengers after they stand up, just in case...
- You look up the word "Vorlon" in the dictionary to find clues to the story arc.
- You want to know if the evil teacher you despise is still out sick, so you ask your friends "Have the shadows returned to Z'ha'dum?".
... and you talk about B5 so much that they actually know what you mean and who you're referring to.
- You have been seen wandering around mumbling something about how "a lack of information can KILL you" on the day of final exams.
- Your 20 GB hard drive holds over 10 GB of B5 video, audio, and texts... and counting.
- You ask your AP physics teacher how to build a jumpgate.
- You classify your days as "arc" or "non-arc."
- You see a commercial for Motel 6, and then you spend the next half hour wondering what happened to Motels 1 through 5.
- You start ending your prayers with "In Valen's Name, Amen."

These are excerpts from a list maintained by Miguel Farah on the web at http://www.webhost.cl/~miguel/index_eng.html ♣

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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256-658-1018 or 256-423-6638
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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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