

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTH YEAR AS A STARFLEET CHAPTER

SUMMER 1998



SUBSPACE STATIC

AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION OF THE USS WERNHER VON BRAUN



**Details on
the largest
convention in
the southeast.**

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About the Cover:

A photo by Don Daniel. Look for more of his photos at Dragon*Con scattered throughout this issue along with his con review on page 9. Now, the only question is, who was guarding and protecting who on that cover?

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Editor: Richard L. Trulson
Assistant Editor: Jim Dykes

Subspace Static
Summer 1998
Volume 6, Issue 3

**“The bare bones,” issue or
“It finally made it into print.”**

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. Well, it says “newsletter” on the cover, so it must be. See the inside back cover for more fine print information about SS, WVB, STARFLEET and FBI.

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COMMANDING OFFICER



Accepting our current status and looking forward.

OK, I must have been in a bad mood when I wrote that last report. It was extremely pessimistic and I apologize for that. However, the underlying ideas are still valid though. We do need to increase our membership and our participation level. However, a few things have happened recently to give me a much brighter outlook for our future.

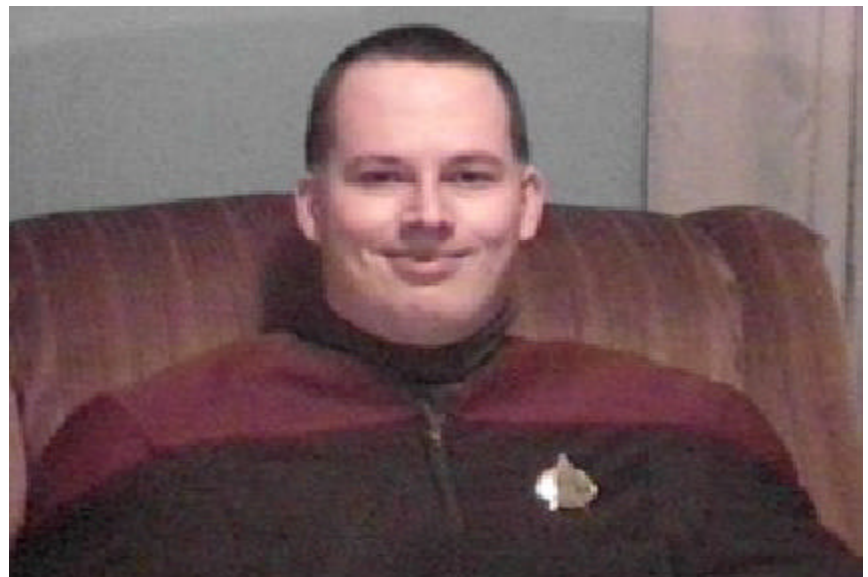
First up was the Fifth Anniversary Celebration. This proved to me that good participation in a *von Braun* event is possible. With 22 people in attendance, half of which were our own members, it was a fabulous success. You can get the lowdown on what happened in the next issue. Now if only we can continue to have such well attended fun events.

Second is the STARFLEET Operations web site, which contains the number of crewmembers taken from the Monthly Status Reports. While there are a handful of ships with over 30 members, I'd say about half have members numbering in the twenties and about half have numbers in the teens. In comparison, most of the Region 2 chapters are in their teens. However, the chapter I'd love to emulate, the USS *Hephaestus* in Birmingham, has 25. Therefore, statistically speaking, we're not that different from other chapters near us.

Third is an article I received from Howard Cronson (STARFLEET's Internal Auditor) of the USS *Christa McAuliffe*. He provides his own analysis of why two major Boston area organizations (one independent club and one STARFLEET chapter) have suffered from severe membership loss over the past few years. He blames this member attrition on three major influences: 1) Demographic changes in the membership: People grow up and get busy with families and other real world obligations. 2) The "mainstreaming" of *Star Trek*: After all, it use to have a cult following, but now over 50% of Americans consider themselves "fans." 3) The abundance of information on the internet: People no longer need to join a club for information they can now get for free in the comfort of their own home.

All I can say is that he is absolutely right. His explanations sound so simple, yet explain so much. I finally stopped blaming myself for actions that I have no control over. For the first time in a long time, I'm feeling very optimistic about the *von Braun*. Of course, now the question is how do we overcome these problems?

We can't control the lives of our members who get busy with real life problems. However, we can work to insure that those new members who do come in are able to do the things they would like. This may mean changing our schedule to the most convenient time for everyone to get together. Furthermore, we may have to take extra care in cultivating officer qualities in those who might not normally consider themselves an officer or Department Chief.



We can't really combat the mainstreaming of *Star Trek*. This double edged sword is both good and bad. It may allow for more of what we like, but at the same time people may become over-saturated and lose interest. If people no longer have to join a club to chat with like minded individuals, why should they? Therefore, we need to think of something to offer people that they can't get anywhere else. I thought showing *Voyager* episodes would be a big draw to our meetings since most people can't see it in Huntsville. But so far, it hasn't worked. Any other ideas?

Nor can we combat the growing internet juggernaut. Simply shifting our focus to the internet would radically change who and what we are. Furthermore, not everyone has net access and I don't want to leave them behind. However, the personal interaction that a club offers can't totally be replaced by the internet, so perhaps that is where we need to focus. There is something to be said for being able to go see a movie with a bunch of friends or watching the latest episode at someone's house.

Anyway, I've stopped feeling guilty and personally responsible for the decline in members and other problems the ship faces. Though I still accept the responsibilities for the things that I can control. The success of the *von Braun* also rests in your contributions as individuals.

- **FCAPT Richard L. Trulson**

SCIENCES



Coupons, planets, and thanks.

I am preparing to send the following coupon totals: Non-food is \$84.70 and food is \$52.15 for a total of \$136.85. The Science Department thanks the crew for its donation of stamps and coupons and encourages each crewmember to continue collecting stamps and coupons.

Astronomical highlights for upcoming quarter:

October:

Jupiter will be visible in the east-southeast sky to the naked eye just after dusk on October 3 and 4. Saturn will be in opposition to the Sun and also closer the Earth presenting a bright appearance also in the east southeast sky with complete opposition occurring on October 23. The two planets will be in conjunction toward the end of the month.

November:

Jupiter will continue to be the brightest point of light in the sky nearing a conjunction with the Moon on the evening

of November 27 in the southeast part of the sky.

Saturn will also have a visit from the Moon as the Moon passes just under the brilliant Saturn on late night of November 2 in the eastern part of the night sky.

December:

Jupiter and Saturn will continue to be good sights this month with Jupiter appearing in the southern night sky and Saturn in the southeast part of the night sky. Saturn will have yet another visit from the Moon near the end of the month on December 27. Venus will reappear after the beginning of the month in the lower part of the southwest horizon shortly after sunset.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the ship in general for awarding me the Officer of the Year award for this year. I will work just as hard in the upcoming year on behalf of the club.

- **LT Don Daniel**



EXECUTIVE OFFICER



New member possibility and some *Trek* news.

This is my third report as the executive officer of the *Wernher von Braun*, NCC-72069. We are now approaching the fifth anniversary of our chapter, but our membership is a little on the downside. I have come across a method, by accident, which I found most unique in recruiting possible new members.

I was carrying my TV set to a local repair shop and when the receptionist asked for my name, address, and phone number. I gave her one of my *von Braun* business cards, in order for her to record the information. She took another look at my card and her eyes lit up when she saw that I was part of a *Star Trek* fan club here in Huntsville. I want to tell you that she is a die-hard *Trek* fan.

Seeing the opportunity, I gave a brief description of the club, and told that we would love to have her come to our next meeting. I told her to keep the card since I carry a small supply with me. You should have seen how she held on to it, like it was a sacred relic. I told her the time and place of our meetings and I definitely intend to do a follow up when I get my TV out of the shop.

I think this is a good way to help recruit new members, and it requires very little effort. I would hope that any *von Braun* member who wants their own set of personalized *von Braun* business cards would talk to Rich, because Rich made my set of cards for around \$2.50 for a set of 50 cards. This is not only a good recruiting tool but you are also providing much-needed funds for our chapter at the same time.

On a more positive note, the *von Braun* is planning an outing at the US Space and Rocket Center, in Huntsville, as part of its fifth anniversary celebration. We are hoping to invite other STARFLEET members from Region 2 to join in our celebration.



On the DS9 front, WZDX FOX54 is showing DS9 repeats at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings. FOX 54 has informed me that a more decent viewing time will be selected as the new NFL football season gets underway. More info will be reported as I receive it.

On the movie front, *Star Trek: Insurrection* is set for release around the Thanksgiving time frame. We are hoping to have a recruiting table at one of the local theaters, preferably Hollywood 16 on the Parkway in Huntsville.

On the collectibles front, a fourth newsletter has asked to carry my 'Trek 411 Collector's Corner' column. This request comes from former *von Braun* Ops Chief Dallas Vinson, who now commands the pre-shuttle *Draco*, based in Cullman, Alabama. If this keeps up I may turn into a syndicated columnist.

That's all I have for now but I want all our members to hang in there and feel free to contact me, at anytime, with your thoughts, comments, and/or questions. My address is on the back of this newsletter.

- **CMDR Russ McNutt**

COMMUNICATIONS



Crossing the content barrier.

Sorry for the extreme lateness yet again. I know you're tired of the excuses, and I'm tired of always having to make them. This time various delays occurred with my Las Angeles vacation to attend Voice of the Resistance. I decided not to make this the special fifth anniversary issue simply to remain on schedule with the cover date. Therefore, the issue with the Fall 1998 cover date will be the special issue. Therefore, if you want to have your submission included, I should have it immediately. If you never submit anything again, at least submit something for this special issue.

Lately, the issue of mature content in a fan publication has come up more frequently. I'd thought I'd take a moment to share my opinions on that with you, and go from there. Unfortunately, there is no absolute rule that I use. It really varies with the intent of the content. Let me elaborate.

Overall, I'd say this newsletter garners a G rating, if you use the U.S. movie ratings system. However, sometimes it does earn a PG rating due to more mature content. I don't think it would ever receive a more mature rating than that. Since this is a print medium, most of the more mature material comes in the form of "four letter words," and less often in images.

For example, in the last issue, I let some rather heated commentary, including a four letter word slang, appear in a departmental report. It didn't even occur to me that it was somewhat racy till someone else pointed it out to me, even though this person was not upset about it either. However, it was a valid point.

Even I have said and printed some "colorful metaphors" during meetings and in my writings. They even have in our favorite television show as well. I think everyone has. So where do you draw the line between freedom of speech and going overboard with stuff that's inappropriate for children? There's no easy answer, but I'll try.

First, there's the frequency such words are used. If every other word, or even sentence, contains vulgar slang, I feel that's overdoing it. However, once or twice a report is about as far as I would dare push it or allow it. This corresponds to the occasional "dirty" word in our shows.

Second is the intent of the words being used. If someone is using profanity simply for the sake of the words themselves, then that is too much. However, slang slipped in once in a great while for major emphasis is OK. After all, you're probably well aware how a simple word such a "cute" can be both derogatory and complimentary depending on who uses

it, the situation they're in, and who or what they're referring to.

The third consideration is the intended audience. After all, if only adults will be seeing your content, you can be more mature. (Though some would say that being crass is immature, but that's a whole different argument.) Our newsletter audience and crew is mostly young adults. However, we do have a handful of minors (under 18) and older adults. Keep that in mind as well, since you wouldn't want to speak down to the adults or over the kids level of understanding.

Fourth is the use of euphemisms, which is the use of "nicer" words in place of "naughty" words. I just don't understand why people can get away with some words, but not others, just because they sound less vulgar even though they mean or refer to the exact same thing. Related to this is the use of character symbols (*!#\$%^, etc.) to replace letters in the offending words, or even the entire word itself. Unfortunately, this social convention will probably never change.

Now let's turn our attention to visual media. All of the above considerations also apply to pictures. However, visual input has a few more twists and turns to it.

Live, in-person events will shock you more than a movie, which in turn will shock you more than a few snapshots from the event. Even color can be somewhat more dramatic than black and white depending on the subject. Of course, this is a generalization and may not be true in all cases. Even taking the exact same images and turning it into a cartoon or drawing will lessen the impact.

So what is too mature for a newsletter? Again, that varies with the intent of the contents. Remember a few meetings back when I displayed the cover of a newsletter? While the drawing itself was nicely done, the general feeling was that it was too racy for the type of publication that it was on the cover of. It didn't mesh well with the intended audience and tone of the internal information.

Science-fiction imagery in general can be rather provocative on its own right; the fantasy genre even more so. If you've ever strolled through an art show at a convention, you realize that most male artists seem to draw their heroines in the most scant outfits available. Japanese animation often takes



this to the extreme. Some anime can be downright pornographic and violent in nature. Even American cartoons are pushing the boundaries lately with shows like *South Park* and *Spawn*.

Adult imagery is nothing new. Comics have always been notoriously sexual in their character portrayal. Heroes often wear nothing more than bathing suits or loin clothes for costumes like Wonder Woman and Hercules. Even if they are wearing a full body suit, ample cleavage and curvature on the women and bulging muscles on the men can be easily seen under the physically impossible outfits. Not that I'm complaining, mind you, but I am pointing out that most comic artwork has a tendency to be very sexual.

By now, you're probably wondering if I'm just on one of my rambling rants or if this actually relates to your newsletter. It does in a round about way. For example, a crewmember goes to a convention and later submits pictures and an article for the newsletter. Anyone who has been to a convention knows that fans just love to dress up as their favorite characters. As a result, it may be too racy for the newsletter.

What do I consider safe to include? Again, it varies with the intent of the contents with relation to our audience. Basically, if I can show it to my mother without embarrassment, it's safe to put in the newsletter. (By the way, she's a very loving and devoted born again southern Baptist. Of course, I would be willing to show others in more compromising situations than of me. ::grin::)

In the final wind up, I don't think I've ever published anything in this newsletter that has severely offended someone. Granted, it may have embarrassed a few, but I don't think I've crossed the barrier and been too adult oriented. If I have, I apologize. Always feel free to offer constructive criticism on the newsletter. If you don't like the content, please tell me what you would rather see. While I can't guarantee you that I will change the newsletter, I will at least listen to your requests objectively and fairly.

Till next time, take care and happy reading.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

MEDICAL

Requesting a medical kit.

As Chief Medical Officer of the USS *Wernher von Braun*, a United States Naval Medical Officer, and a trained emergency technician, I feel that it would be in the best interests of the ship and her crew to have on board a medical kit for emergency purposes.

This kit would contain all of the basic emergency medical equipment needed for an medical emergency treatment. That equipment is listed as follows: Stethoscope (already provided), sterile latex gloves, gauze (pads and roll), medical and surgical scissors, medical tape, blood pressure kit, pen light (already provided), bandages, anti-diarrhea medication, burn aides and creams, ipecac (anti-nausea medication), splints, towels, blankets, fire extinguisher, various sweets (for diabetic emergencies), burn spray, disinfectant cream and spray, anti-septic wipes, aciticyllic aspirin (Tylenol, Bayer, Advil), cold packs, heat packs, bottles of water, and a flashlight with a backup set of batteries.

I know this all seems overwhelming and expensive. It is expensive but I may be able to pull off a deal with some of the hospital's medical suppliers. This kit is extremely necessary. We at the hospital have been faced with countless number of preventable injuries and emergencies, all of which could have

been avoided if the people admitted had they had a proper or well equipped emergency first-aid kit at their location.

This is not something that I am asking for me, but it is something that I am asking for myself, the hospital, the ship and her crew, and possibly fewer trips to the ER. With the ever increasing effects of the seasons and the weather and its accompanying temperatures, it is vital that all persons be well equipped to handle all emergencies.

I am also going to ask if anyone is interested in taking a first-aid emergency care course for knowledge of how to react in times of emergency. I am also suggesting this because of my upcoming departure from the ship itself. I do not know

when that departure will be, but I would feel a lot better knowing that she and her crew are well cared for and provided for in my absence.

I feel very strongly about this as this matter of concern does fall in with my responsibilities as ship's doctor. I am not asking for an immediate go ahead, just for a thinking over and discussion with fellow officers and crew. As far as supplies for the emergency care kit go, could it be possible to ask that the ship's members pitch in what they can towards the purchase of such materials or that we as a ship come up with an alternate plan.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to consider my request.

- LT (jg) **Anya Funderburk**



DRAGON*CON REVIEW

Some ConSuite hassles, pleasurable surprises, and lots of stars' autographs.

Stardate 980904:

Note - all times Eastern unless otherwise stated.

0630 hrs (Central):

Departed my earthly commode (er, abode). After a couple of stops for provisions (food), arrived at my initial destination in Atlanta.

1150 hrs: Grabbed a bit of lunch with my sister (without whose kind hospitality I would not be able to make this annual "trek"). After a little misdirection (I still don't know downtown Atlanta that well.), arrived at ticket entrance at about 1345 hrs. I entered the Con itself at about 1415 and proceeded to the Exhibitor's Room/Walk of Fame (where most of the autographs are signed and that is one of the main reasons that I went).

During this partial day, I got some autographs and met the following: Patricia Tallman (Lyta Alexander) - I am in her fan club and I really enjoyed meeting her; she was very nice, Robin Curtis (Lt. Saavik) - she was also very nice and even prettier in person than on film, Anne Lockhart (Lt. Sheba, *Battlestar Galactica*) - she was nice too, Robin Atkin-Downes (Byron) - he didn't seem thrilled to be there, and James Horan (Grayson, *Highlander, the Series*) - he too seemed unhappy.

All in all, I had a good time; but I was tired and after making my way to the ConSuite (which was closed for the first time since I've been going to Dragon*Con when I happened to go there, so I waited a bit), I had some munchies, and then made my way to my temporary lodgings (that's my sister's house) at about 1930 hrs.

longest for most of the weekend), and Brinke Stevens (Scream Queen and a Dragon*Con perennial, not that I'm complaining, mind you).

At 1130, I attended a *Trek* panel in which we got to spend an hour with Patricia Tallman. At first, she was just a little mortified because she thought it was a



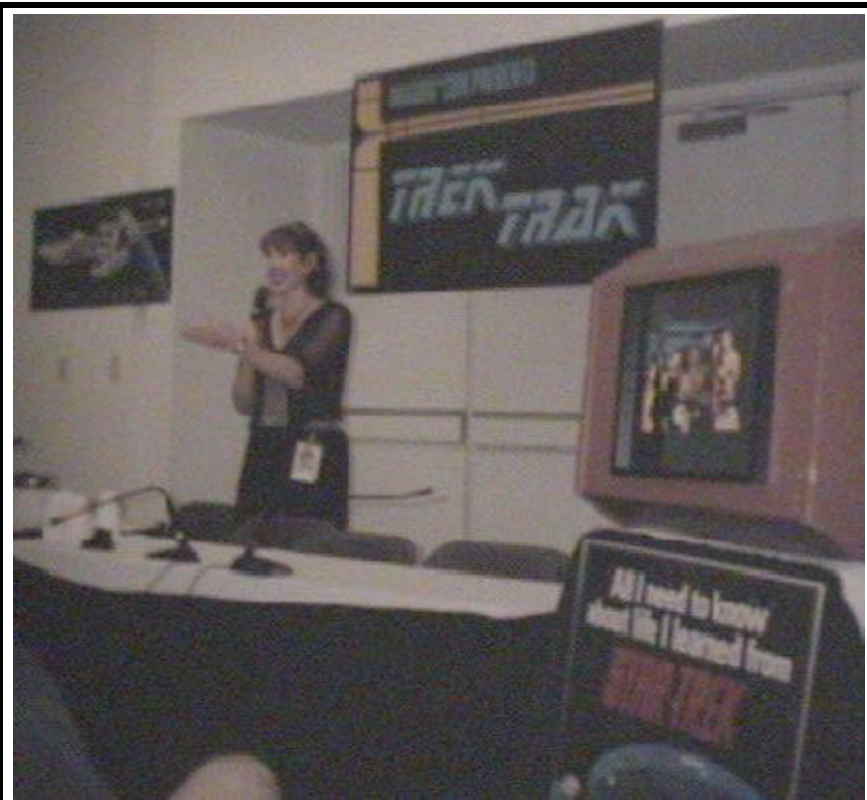
Babylon 5 panel. She did actually

Stardate 980905:

0915 hrs: Departed for the day's festivities arriving at Dragon*Con at about 0940 hrs. At 1000 hrs, I entered the Exhibitor's Room/Walk of Fame and milled about for a short time. Today, I got a few more autographs: Jeff Conaway (Zack Allen) - he too seemed a little grumpy, Peter Jurasik (Londo Mollari) - he was very nice and seemed thrilled to be there (his line was also the

play some minor characters on *Next Gen* and she also did some stunt work for *Voyager*, and she was very entertaining.

After another visit to the ConSuite, I attended another *Trek* panel in which we got to spend an hour with Robin Curtis. She was in *Star Trek III* and *Star Trek IV* and also on DS9. She also turned out to be very entertaining; I'd like to see her more on DS9.



Tallman talks at the Star Trek Panel. - Photo by Don Daniel.

Later in the day, at 1900 hrs: I attended a social gathering of the STARFLEET and Klingon groups around Atlanta. It was interesting; there were a lot of Klingons there. Pete Mohney and a couple of people from the USS *Hephaestus* were also there. There was some food there, but after that and another unsuccessful visit to the ConSuite, I saw that the Christopher Lambert Online Fan Club (CLOFC) was having a party.

Since I am also a big *Highlander* fan, I decided to attend. I slipped in the back door and I was welcomed by a couple of the officers in the club, Rebecca and Michele, and was told to help myself to the food (which was pretty good, by the way). They were some really nice folks. Following an awards presentation, we

watched some videos. As we were being run out of the building, they handed out some T-shirts. (They were cool and they were free!)

After an enjoyable but long day, arrived once again at my temporary lodgings at about 2245 hrs.

Stardate 980906:

0930 hrs: For the final time departed for the Con site arriving at about 0955 hrs. Attended a *Highlander* panel which I thought was going to be an auction. It turned out to be a meeting to introduce several fan clubs of the series (including Peter Wingfield and Peter Hudson - not sure about him). I also was hoping to see a few of the people from CLOFC, but none of them were there. I noticed that there seemed to be a rift between fans of the series

and fans of the movies which I found to be sad because I am a big fan of both.

Later, I attended a panel which I thought was going to be a discussion/comparison of B5 and DS9. All of the celebrity panelists backed out because each felt that they did not know enough about the other show to discuss it intelligently. (At least that's what they said). I was a little bummed, but I stayed for an entertaining performance by the author of some of his stories in an interesting book entitled *Treks Not Taken*.

I also got an autograph and met (again) Apollo Smile (Live Anime Girl) - she's very nice and I hope to see her every year. (She said, "See you next year.") After a little more strolling through the Dealer's Room to pick up some more freebies and maybe a souvenir or two, I said a farewell to the Con for this year.

1730 hrs: Left Atlanta for Alabama domicile arriving here at about 2045 hrs (Central) time.

Summary:

I had a very good time, as usual, and I am planning on doing it again next year. In regard to Jeff Conaway, James Horan, and Robin Atkin-Downes, I would just like to say that I just probably caught them when they weren't in a very good mood. That's OK, everyone is entitled to have bad days; I have plenty of them. Several

**Continued: See
Dragon on page 26...**

NEVER HAPPEN

50 Things that never happen on *Star Trek*.

- 1) The *Enterprise* runs into a mysterious energy field of a type that it has encountered before.
- 2) The *Enterprise* goes to check up on a remote outpost of scientists who are all perfectly all right.
- 3) The *Enterprise* comes across a Garden-of-Eden-like planet called Paradise, where everyone is happy all the time. However, everything is soon revealed to be exactly as it seems.
- 4) The crew of the *Enterprise* discover a totally new lifeform, which later turns out to be a rather well-known old lifeform, wearing a silly hat.
- 5) The crew of the *Enterprise* are struck by a strange alien plague, for which the cure is found in the well-stocked sick-bay.
- 6) An enigmatic being composed of pure energy attempts to interface to the *Enterprise*'s computer, only to find out that it has forgotten to bring the right leads.
- 7) A power surge on the Bridge is rapidly and correctly diagnosed as a faulty capacitor by the highly-trained and competent engineering staff.
- 8) A power surge on the Bridge fails to electrocute the user of a computer panel, due to a highly sophisticated 24th century surge protection feature called a 'fuse'.
- 9) The *Enterprise* ferries an alien VIP from one place to another without serious incident.
- 10) The *Enterprise* is captured by a vastly superior alien intelligence which does not put them on trial.
- 11) The *Enterprise* separates as soon as there is any danger.
- 12) The *Enterprise* gets involved in an enigmatic, strange, and dangerous situation, and there are no pesky aliens they can blame it on in the end.
- 13) The *Enterprise* is captured by a vastly inferior alien intelligence which they easily pacify with candy.
- 14) The *Enterprise* is involved in a bizarre time-warp phenomenon, which is in no way connected with the 20th century.
- 15) Somebody takes out a shuttle and it doesn't explode or crash.
- 16) A major Starfleet emergency breaks out near the *Enterprise*, and some other ships in the area are able to deal with it to everyone's satisfaction.
- 17) The shields on the *Enterprise* stay up during a battle.
- 18) The *Enterprise* visits the Klingon home world on a bright, sunny day
- 19) An attempt at undermining the Klingon-Federation alliance is discovered without anyone noting that such an attempt, if successful, would represent a fundamental shift of power throughout the quadrant.
- 20) A major character spends the entire episode in the Holodeck without a single malfunction trapping him/her there.
- 21) Picard hears the door chime and doesn't bother to say "Come."
- 22) Picard doesn't answer a suggestion with "Make it so!"
- 23) Picard walks up to a replicator and says, "Coke on ice."
- 24) Counselor Troi states something other than the blindingly obvious.
- 25) Mood rings come back in style, jeopardizing Counselor Troi's position.
- 26) Worf and Troi finally decide to get married, only to have Kate Pulaski show up and disrupt the wedding by shouting, "Did he read

Apollo Smile
(Live Anime Girl)
poses with Don Daniel. - DD



you love poetry?! Did he serve you poisonous tea?! He's MINE!"

- 27) When Worf tells the bridge officers that something is entering visual range, no one says, "On screen."
- 28) Worf actually gives another vessel more than 2 seconds to respond to one of the *Enterprise's* hails.
- 29) Worf kills Wesley by mistake in the holodeck. (Pity this wasn't done in "Deja Vu" then we could have seen it 5 times without rewinding the tape).
- 30) Wesley Crusher gets beaten up by his classmates for being a smarmy git, and consequently has a go at making some friends of his own age for a change.
- 31) Wesley saves the ship, the Federation, and the Universe as we know it, and EVERYONE is grateful (including the Net).
- 32) The warp engines start acting up a bit, but then seem to sort themselves out after a while without any intervention from boy genius Wesley Crusher.
- 33) Wesley Crusher tries to upgrade the warp drive and they work better than ever.
- 34) Beverly Crusher manages to go through a whole episode without having a hot flash and getting breathless every time Picard is in the room.
- 35) Guinan forgets herself, and breaks into a stand up comedy routine.
- 36) Data falls in love with the replicator.
- 37) Kirk (or Riker) falls in love with a woman on a planet he visits, and isn't tragically separated from her at the end of the episode.
- 38) Kirk (or Riker) meets an attractive woman on a planet he visits, and does not fall in love at all or even have sex.
- 39) An unknown ensign beams down as part of an away team and lives to tell the tale.
- 40) Spock or Data is fired from his high-ranking position for not being able to understand the most basic nu-

*Excellent Star Wars costumes seen at Dragon*Con. - DD*



MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 1998

- ances of about one in three sentences that anyone says to him.
- 41) Kirk's hair remaining consistent for more than one consecutive episode.
 - 42) Kirk gets into a fistfight and doesn't rip his shirt.
 - 43) Kirk doesn't even get into a fistfight.
 - 44) Scotty doesn't mention the laws of physics.
 - 45) Spock isn't the only crew member not affected by new weapon/attack by alien race/etc. due to his "darn green blood" or "bizarre Vulcan physiology" and thus he cannot save the day.
 - 46) The transporter works perfectly without being used as a major plot device.
 - 47) The right accents are spoken by the characters, unlike a English sounding Frenchmen.
 - 48) Kirk doesn't end up kissing the troubled guest-female before she doesn't sacrifice herself for him.
 - 49) The episode ends without Bones and Kirk laughing at Spock's inability to understand the joke, and he doesn't raise his eyebrow.
 - 50) The Captain has to make a difficult decision about a less advanced people which is made a great deal easier by the Starfleet Prime Directive.

This was forwarded to me by a friend, who did not identify the original author, as is so often the case with internet humor.

- SS

Members in attendance: Russ McNutt. Guests: Will Burhans and Carol Burhans of the *Dark Silence Station*; Rebecca Self, Chyrstal Kimbro, and Niles Kimbro of the shuttle *Celestial*; Damon Campbell and Eric Strathurst.

Russ McNutt presided over the meeting. Even though a quorum was not present to conduct business, the following announcements were made.

CO Richard Trulson is away on vacation and sent regards for not being there.

The checking account has remained at \$69.82 for the past 3 months with no deposits or withdrawals. However, Richard needs reimbursed for the Spring *Subspace Static* and there is a deposit pending. Russ will eventually keep and maintain the checkbook.

Another Star Wars costume. - DD



Submission deadline for the next issue of the *Subspace Static* is August 1. The summer issue will be out at next meeting. In the STARFLEET Newsletter of the Year competition, the *Subspace Static* won "outstanding presentation" and received an honorable mention for "most informative."

The shuttle *Celestial* commissioning paperwork has been filed.

The USS *Hephaestus* in Birmingham is having a cook-out at Pete Mohnney's house on Saturday, August 22, and they have invited us. It goes from 3 p.m. till 10 p.m. Chips and snacks provided, but bring your own main meat item. They'd appreciate knowing who will be attending.

The *Dark Silence Station* in Florence has invited us and the *Celestial* to a pool party at the Burhans' house on Sunday, August 23. Please let them know how many are going. Please bring a side dish (except corn) to share and your own non-alcoholic drinks. It starts at 12:00 noon and ends at 5:00 p.m. Rain date is August 30.

Communiqué #85 (Feb/Mar) arrived in June. Let Russ know if you don't have it by the end of July.

Next Meeting is August 2, 1998 at 2 PM at the Madison Municipal Complex.



*Pat Tallman plays
Lyta Alexander. - DD*

August 2, 1998

Members in attendance:
Richard Trulson, Russ McNutt,
Anya Funderburk, Perry Cagle,
John Lowery, and Frances
Hedrich. Guests: Rebecca Self,
Alice Strange, Chyrstal Kimbro,
and Niles Kimbro of the USS
Spiritwalker.

Departmental Reports:
CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson

He thanked Russ for
running things for him while on
he was on leave.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

He's been added to the
von Braun signature list, and
Don Daniel will eventually be
added. Ralph Brigham has
contacted him with some
membership problems.

Secret of Vulcan Fury
game has been pushed back.
You can now order *Trek* books
at <http://www.simonsays.com/>.

Communications: FCAPT
Richard L. Trulson

Hopefully the next issue
will be ready at next meeting.

Medical: LT(jg) Anya
Funderburk

Please be careful of heat
problems this summer. Use a
bug spray with DDS.

She and Robert Beltran
are engaged to be married at an
unspecified date.

Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel

Don picked up a plan-
etarium brochure. He received
some stars' autographs in the
mail. He'll also be handling
OCP and Stampede.

Shuttle *Celestial*:

They have received e-
mail notice they have been
commissioned as the USS
Spiritwalker, NCC 31097.

Business:

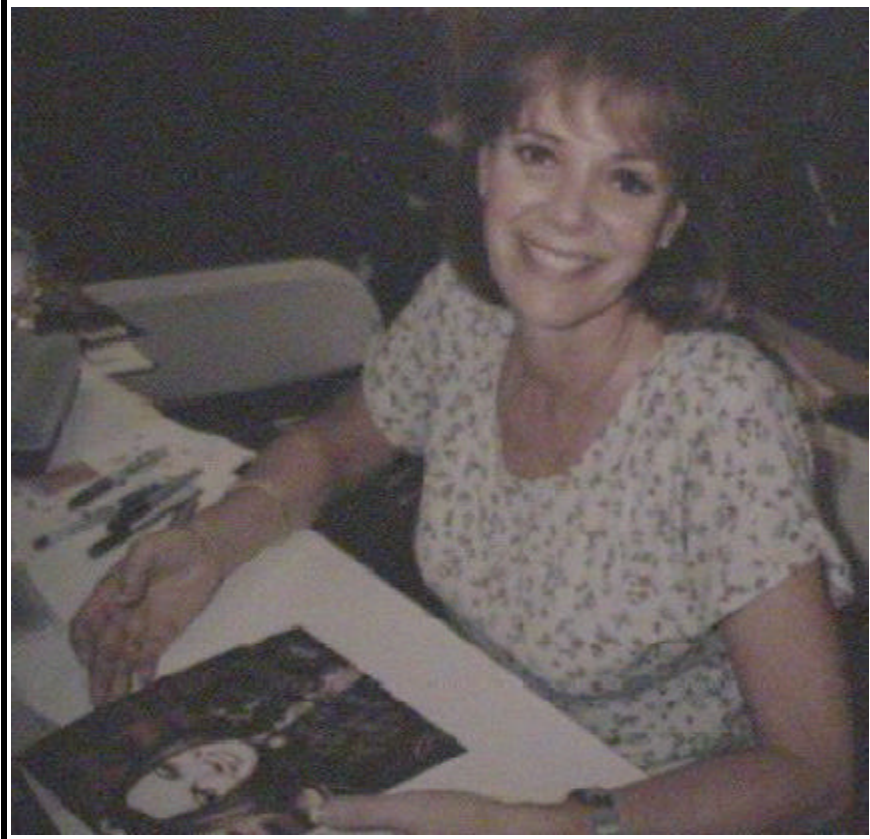
A planning meeting was
scheduled for Sunday, August 9
at 2 p.m.

Early August is the
usual time for the Runway Run.
Be on the look out for more
information once it is received.

The USS *Hephaestus* in
Birmingham is having a cook-
out at Pete Mohney's house on
Saturday, August 22, and they
have invited us. It goes from 3
p.m. till 10 p.m. Chips and
snacks provided, but bring your
own main meat item. They'd
appreciate knowing who will be
attending.

The *Dark Silence* Sta-
tion in Florence has invited us
and the *Celestial* to a pool party
at the Burhans' house on Sun-
day, August 23. Please bring a
side dish (except corn) to share
and your own non-alcoholic
drinks. It starts at 12:00 noon
and ends at 5:00 PM. Rain date
is August 30.

*Anne Lockhart played Sheba
on Battlestar Galactica. - DD*





Boba Fett guards (!?) game heroine Laura Crofft. - DD

A Southern Adventures visit was planned for Saturday, August 29.

Keep in mind that September 25 is our fifth anniversary as a starship. If at all possible, we'd go as a group to the US Space and Rocket center on Saturday, September 26. A banquet dinner will occur that night. The entire region including the Regional Coordinator has been invited.

In regional news, CAPT Will Burhans is the new CO of the *Dark Silence* Station and the new RDC Operations of Region 2. In addition to the newsletter awards that our *Subspace Static* won, several regional ships also

won awards at the International Conference including Best Chapter Web Site of the Year for the USS *Khai Tam* and Ship of the Year for the USS *Hephaestus*.

In Fleet news, *Communiqué* #86 (Apr/May) and #87 (Jun/Jul) arrived in July bundled together in the new clear bag. The IRS situation is over for good. An Aerospace Fleet Division Center has been approved. Jeremy Trent resigned as Commandant of the Marines citing poor health.

Also, Mike Smith received two letters from IRS with checks. One refund for the Tax Year 1992 at \$3880.25.

Second refund for the Tax Year 1991 in the amount of \$3173.98. STARFLEET paid out \$6443.00, which means we're getting back our money plus \$611.23 in interest.

Shining Star Award went to Russ McNutt for running the ship and last meeting while Richard was gone.

Next Meeting is September 13, 1998 at 2 PM at the Madison Municipal Complex. This is a week later than normal due to Labor Day weekend.

September 13, 1998

Members in attendance: Richard Trulson, Russ McNutt, Anya Funderburk, Don Daniel, Perry Cagle, Kit Ramsey, and Laura Peterson.

Departmental Reports:

CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson

His printer has died, so the remaining name tags have not been printed. More award certificate paper has been ordered.

After describing them, nominations were accepted for the annual ship awards. The vote was made by secret ballot. Nominees for Officer of the Year were Don Daniel and Dallas Vinson. Nominees for Crewmember of the Year were Scott Lowery and Anya Funderburk. Nominees for New Member of the Year were Frances Hedrich and Perry Cagle.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

Franklin Mint has released the pewter USS *Enterprise*, NCC 1701-E. Hamilton Collection has let their *Trek*

license expire. Book Villa has closed. Dallas Vinson is carrying his 'Trek 411 Collector's Corner' article in the shuttle *Draco's* newsletter, which makes 4 newsletters.

Sci-Fi channel is showing the original series *Star Trek* episodes on weeknights, and is running a special sweepstakes. Fox 54 has messed with the *Deep Space Nine* air times again. The next movie will be called *Star Trek: Insurrection*, and already has a web site and action-figures planned.

Operations:

Richard reported that there was a check for \$30 made out to him to reimburse the Winter *Subspace Static* copying costs. A deposit of \$16 was also made for buttons. Final balance is \$55.82.

Communications: FCAPT
Richard L. Trulson

Since he was unable to get the newsletter finished, he may mail it, hand it out at the Anniversary Party, or combine the Spring and Summer issues into one. He apologized for an error in the *Mission Briefing*.

Everyone should write about their involvement with the ship for the Fifth Anniversary edition.

Medical: LT(jg) Anya Funderburk

Anya is still working as an Executive Assistant to Rick Berman. She also worked the Jerry Lewis Telethon, where she chatted with Dallas. She has a new job at a Mexican restaurant.



The Dark Lord of the Sith, Darth Vader. - DD

Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel

Don worked the Runway Run, which had an even cooler T-shirt this year. He was upset though that they ran out of sandwiches. He would have done the telethon had he remembered. He has also been busy and unable to get new planetarium brochures.

Richard also reminded everyone to continue bringing coupons to Don for the OCP competition. Some good sources to contact are fellow church members and the mailroom of your business.

Business:

September 25 is our Fifth Anniversary as a starship. Anya Funderburk volunteered to have the cookout at her house. Though dinner begins at

7 p.m., people can arrive around 5:30. Awards will be at 8 p.m. Hamburgers and chicken will be provided, but please bring a side dish or drinks to share.

In Region 2 news, the *FYI* (which replaces the *Monthly Memo*), the Zone 3 newsletter, and the *Region 2 Update* arrived. The Inspector General investigation of Mike Henigan and Kelly Hilliard has completed. The IG found them innocent of all charges, though they did make recommendations to prevent the same from happening in the future. R2 ShOC and FDC Sciences is open. Apply to Kelly and Jennifer Rosbury, respectively. Kelly is resigning effective the last day of the 1999 Summit. He would resign earlier, but wants to finish things.

In Fleet news, *Communiqué* #88 (Aug/Sep) arrived with the new Constitution in it. Contact Richard if you don't have it by the end of September. Only Mike Smith received enough nominations for Commander, STARFLEET. A vote of confidence will occur instead of an election. We'll have the VOC and Constitution vote at the same time. Please vote and return your ballots when you receive them. Comp-Ops is behind again due to Roy Sessler undergoing surgery. The Chapter Charter Fee has been rescinded

The Shining Star Award went to Anya Funderburk for volunteering her house to host the Anniversary party.

Next Meeting is October 4, 1998 at 2 PM at the Madison Municipal Complex.

October 4, 1998

Members in attendance: Richard Trulson, Russ McNutt, Anya Funderburk, Perry Cagle, Kit Ramsey, Laura Peterson, and Don Daniel.

Departmental Reports:
CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson

Commendations of Excellence were given to Russ McNutt, Joey Sloan, and Rebecca Self for helping with the Fifth Anniversary party. Richard asked if there were any others that he needed to produce.

He thanked everyone for attending the Fifth Anniversary party and for the plaque the crew gave him. A thank-you card was passed around to give to Russ' parents for allowing us to host it at their house.

The annual ship award winners were announced again. They include New Member of the Year Perry Cagle, Crew-member of the Year Scott Lowery, and Officer of the Year Don Daniel.

Richard will be on vacation October 16-27, so contact Russ if you need anything during that time.

Checking account has 1 debit of \$30 for the winter newsletter and 1 deposit of \$16. Ending balance is \$55.82. We need to write a check for \$35 to reimburse Richard for the last newsletter and anniversary party expenses.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

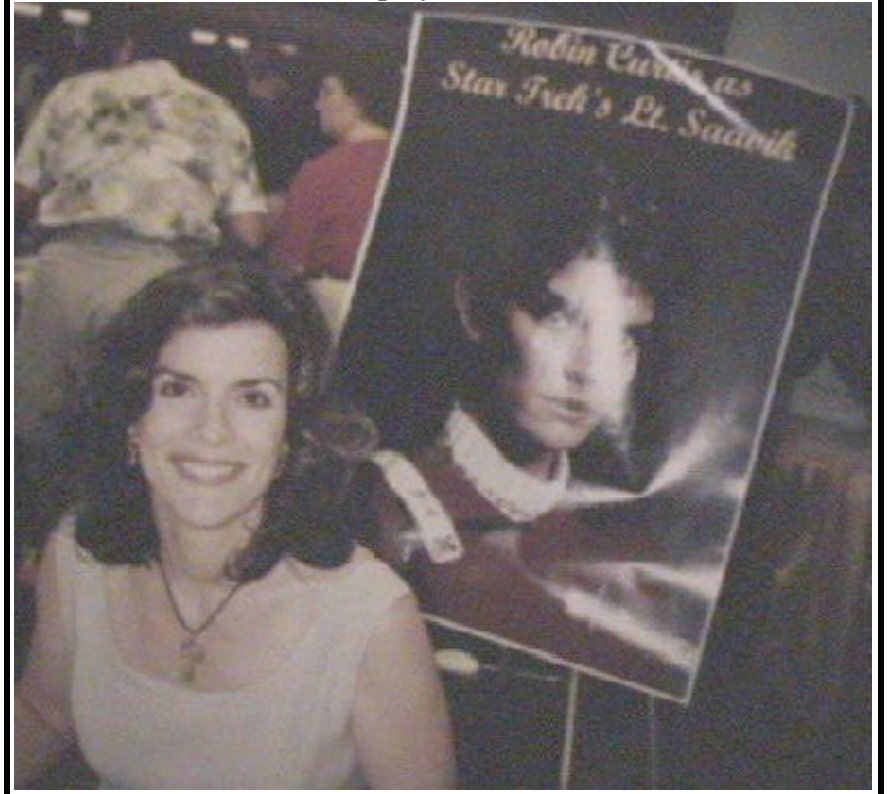
He thanks the crew for the Flowers that Richard sent on behalf of the ship. *Deep Space 9* air times are now Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at midnight. He also discussed various books including the new DS9 *Technical Manual*.

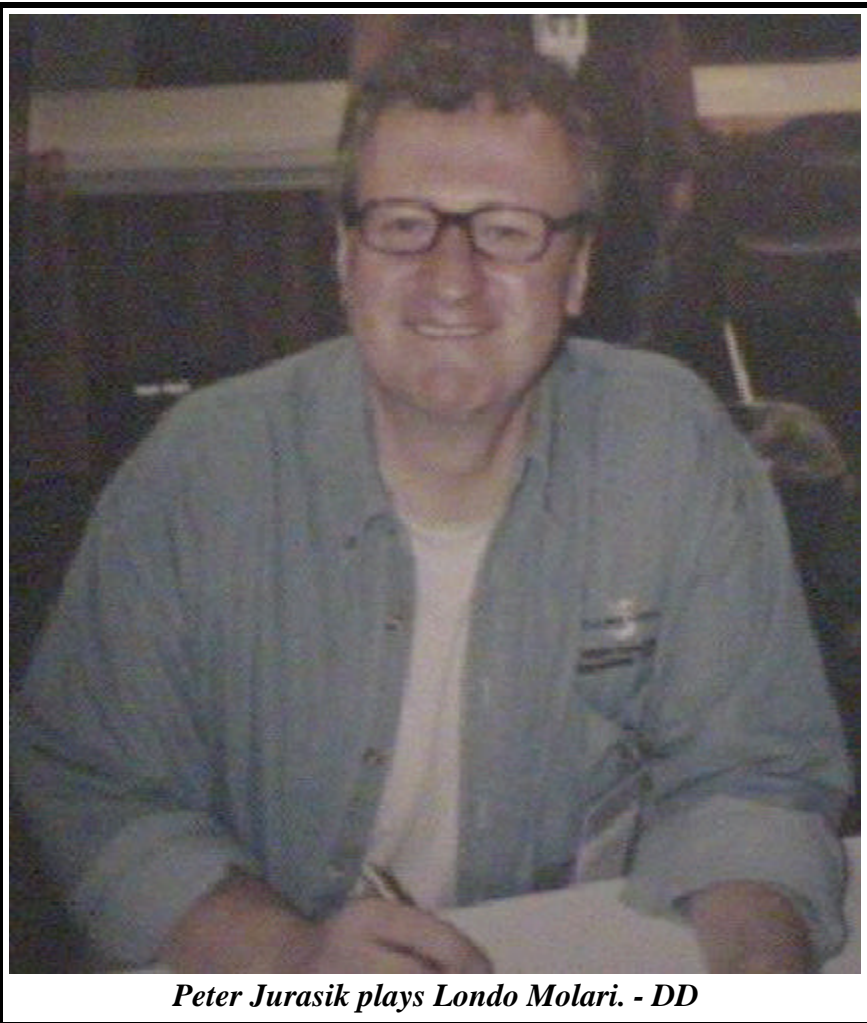
Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Summer issue will come out at next Meeting. Submissions are due by October 12.

I want everyone to write something about their involvement with the ship in order to have a Fifth Anniversary retrospect, regardless of how much you may or may not participate. Submissions for it are due November 1.

Robin Curtis played Lt. Saavik. - DD





Peter Jurasik plays Londo Molari. - DD

Medical: LT(jg) Anya Funderburk

This week is National Fire Prevention Week and this month is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Anya needs emergency info for the ship members. She thanks Russ for filling in for her since she was unable to host the Anniversary Party at her house as planned.

Science: LT Don Daniel

Don mailed in \$43.20 worth of food coupons and \$75.10 worth of non-food coupons to OCP.

Business:

Con†Stellation is Friday-Sunday, October 9-11, at the Sheraton at the Huntsville International Airport. Cost for this fantasy/gaming convention is \$35 at the door. Our fun meeting will be on Sunday at 1 p.m., not at 2 as I announced in the MB. Not sure which room. There is no cost to get in on Sunday afternoon since everything is closed and over with by then.

USS *Hephaestus* Halloween party in Birmingham, Saturday, October 31. Richard will not be able to car pool down with everyone else though.

A planning meeting was scheduled at 1 p.m., just before the November general meeting.

Shining Star Award went to Russ McNutt for hosting the Fifth Anniversary Party at his house.

Next Meeting is November 1, 1998 at 2 PM at the Madison Municipal Complex.

November 1, 1998

Members in attendance: Richard Trulson, Russ McNutt, Anya Funderburk, Don Daniel, and Laura Peterson.

Departmental Reports:

CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson

Elections for CO will occur at the December meeting. Nominations were opened, though only Russ McNutt was nominated. Richard declined to run again.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

Region 2 summit pre-registration was extended by 1 week.

Secret of Vulcan Fury game is on hold due to finances. *Klingon Honor Guard*, *Deep Space Nine Technical Manual*, Franklin Mint *Enterprise E*, and Picard statues are available.

There is a contest going on at Best Buy and online. Russ has started to buy *Voyager* episodes from Columbia House. Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Unable to finish the newsletter due to vacation. Richard may combine the next two issues into one giant issue. Please submit their ship memoirs for the Fifth Anniversary edition.

Medical: LT(jg) Anya Funderburk

Anya was excited about the new CHiP's TV movie, which she got to see the premier in Hollywood. They have new BMW bikes. She does NOT want to hear any donut jokes.

Special *Insurrection* premier is December 5 in Hollywood. Sirtis had a boy.

Get flue and pneumonia shots, as well as regular check-ups. Drive safely.

Paramount can't force stations to carry UPN shows, so don't ask.

Science: LT Don Daniel

Billy D. Williams (Lando from *Star Wars*) and Chase Masterson (Leeta the Daabo girl from DS9) will appear at the Nashville Fantasy Con '98 on December 5-6.

We sent in \$26.25 for food coupons and \$35.85 for non-food coupons to OCP. Also got a new Planetarium flyer.

Business:

Saturday, November 14, shuttle *Draco* has invited us to their Thanksgiving party in Cullman.

Wednesday, November 25, 5 p.m.-10 p.m. *Babylon 5* Series Finale party at Richard's house in Ardmore. "In the Beginning" will be shown at 5, "The Gathering" (Special Edition) at 7, and "Sleeping in Light" at 9. Bring your own snacks if you want.



Jeff Conaway plays Zack Allen. - DD

Ballots for the Vote of Confidence and Constitution Vote have arrived. Please vote and return them by November 15. Richard encouraged the acceptance of both. Some have complained how this was being handled.

Greg Trotter has stepped down from membership processing citing increased real life work load. Teri Smith is the new Chief at needler@lan2wan.net or needler@networkboy.com. The new address is:

Membership Processing
PO Box 96
Greenbelt, MD 20768

In other STARFLEET news, *Communiqué* #89 has arrived. Dallas Vinson is the web master for FDC Cadet Services.

In Region 2 news, Jennifer Rosbury and Pete Mohny have announced their intentions to run for Regional Coordinator. New RDC Security is Bill Hart of the USS *Triumph*. New RDC Cadet is Jay Gallops of the USS *Continuum*.

The Shining Star Award went to Laura Peterson for getting her sci-fi collectible business on the internet.

Babylon 5 TV movie "River of Souls" airs Sunday, November 8.

Richard displayed his *Babylon 5* autograph collection that he acquired at the Voice of the Resistance convention in California, along with his other memorabilia from the *Star Trek* Experience in Las Vegas.

Next Meeting is December 6, 1998 at 2 PM at the Madison Municipal Complex.

December 6, 1998

Members in attendance:
Richard Trulson, Russ McNutt,
Anya Funderburk, Don Daniel,
Perry Cagle, Randy Saxion, and
Laura Peterson. Guests: Will
Burhans, Carol Burhans, and
Steven Reilly of the *Dark
Silence* Station; and Rebecca
Self and Chyrstal Kimbro of the
USS *Spiritwalker*.

Departmental Reports:

CO: FCAPT Richard Trulson

There were no further
nominations, and Russ McNutt
passed a vote of confidence to
become CO, which he did
unanimously with 4 aye votes.

Richard thanked every-
one for their support over the
past 3 years and asked they give
Russ their full support.

The bank account has
remained at \$42.82 with no
deposits or withdrawals.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

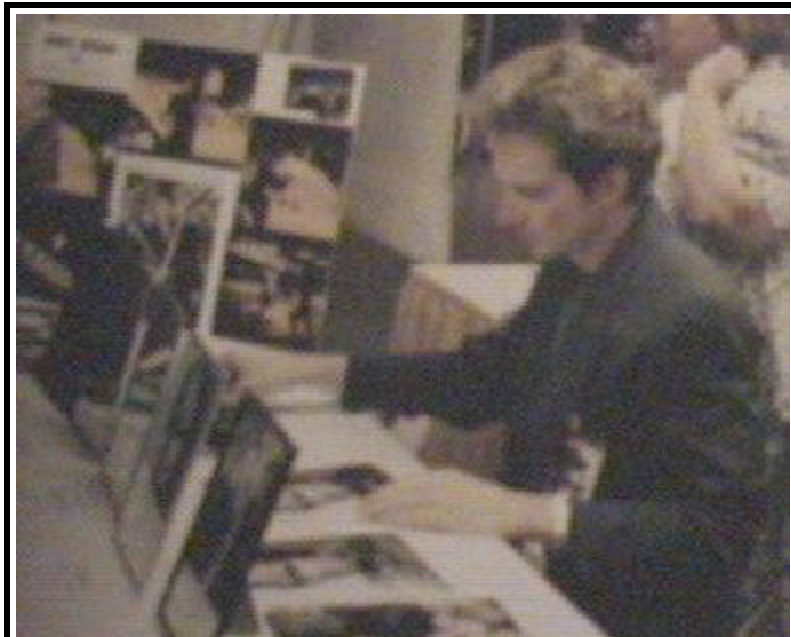
Russ displayed his new
Star Trek: The Next Generation
Monopoly game. He put a plug
for Laura's business in his *411*
column. The Book Mart by
Regal 8 on South Parkway is
similar to Book Villa.

Communications: FCAPT
Richard L. Trulson

Richard apologized for
no newsletter again.

Medical: LT(jg) Anya
Funderburk

Jeri Ryan has split with
her husband. Chase Masterson
got married. Contact your local
cable company about getting a
UPN network.



**James Horan play Grayson on
Highlander: The Series. - DD**

This is the final season
of *Deep Space Nine*. *Voyager*
has been contracted for two
more years.

Please don't drink and
drive during the holiday season.
Science: LT Don Daniel

Don did not send any
coupons to OCP this month,
though he did receive a letter of
confirmation from them.

He had a fun time with
Chase Masterson at the Nash-
ville con.

Business:

Friday, December 11 is
Star Trek: Insurrection premier.
We will try to have a table at
the Madison Square 12 if we
hear back from the manager.

We will hold our annual
holiday party on Saturday,
December 26 at Anya's house
starting at 4 p.m.

Saturday, December 19
is the USS *Hephaestus* Christ-
mas party in Birmingham at 7
p.m.

Thursday, December 31
is the pre-shuttle *Draco* New
Year's Eve party in Cullman/
Hanceville.

On January 1, 1999,
Region 2 Summit pre-registra-
tion prices go up. Richard
highly encouraged everyone to
go to the Summit, which will be
in Jackson, Mississippi on
March 5-6, 1999.

In STARFLEET news,
Mike Smith passed his Vote of
Confidence. The new Constitu-
tion was ratified and will go
into affect January 1, 1999. *CQ*
#89, *Command Status Report*,
R2 Update, and the Zone 3
newsletter were received and
made available for all to look at.

The Shining Star Award
went to Richard and Loretta
Trulson for allowing the ship to
have the *Babylon 5* series finale
party at their house.

The *Dark Silence Sta-*
tion announced they were doing
a gaming con in Florence

sometime in July. They would like to have our ship participate and help if we wish to.

Next Meeting is January 3, 1999 at 2 PM at the Madison Municipal Complex.

Planning Meeting on August 9, 1998

Only Richard Trulson and Russ McNutt were present. Some of the things they discussed: Plans for the Fifth Anniversary Party on September 26 and how extravagant it should be. The Annual Ship Awards to be given. Problems with membership and how to improve them. Places to publi-

cize the ship. Con†Stellation participation. The tentative calendar of events for the upcoming months. The CO election process.

Planning Meeting on November 1, 1998

Officers in attendance: Richard Trulson, Russ McNutt (late), Anya Funderburk, and Don Daniel.

Tentative plans were made for a Christmas party at Anya's on December 12.

The *Insurrection* premiere is December 11. Though we would like to have a recruiting table, no one has called

Richard back despite sending a letter of inquiry. Perhaps in the future, a face to face appointment should be made so plans can be discussed with a manager.

Richard mentioned that he placed an ad in the Con†Stellation booklet, though he has yet to receive any indication that it has attracted new members. Other advertising methods were discussed including new flyers in the comic shops. An ad in the UAH *Exponent* may be a good source in order to get the college students involved.

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

*Patricia Tallman (Lyta Alexander) and Robin Atkin-Downes (Byron)
from Babylon 5 sign autographs. - DD*



DILBERT MANAGES STAR TREK

Star Trek with Dilbert Management.

Saint Diana of Wales offers this vision of what the 24th century would be like under today's management techniques.

After the crew is told they are now "empowered," Dr. Crusher begins doing medical experiments on unsuspecting enlisted personnel while Worf slaughters everyone he considers "weak."

Data fails an ISO9000 audit because the construction of his positronic brain isn't properly documented. He curses Dr. Suhn's record keeping as he is stripped for parts.

All members of the ship's maintenance crew are required to be involved in Quality Circles. The loss of productive work time causes them to cut back on scheduled repairs, resulting in a warp core breach that kills everyone.

Commander Riker is fired after a round of "right sizing." Starfleet decided that it didn't really need someone to seduce alien females and smirk a lot.

Picard is ordered to go to diversity sensitivity training after system logs indicate that he has repeatedly disparaged the Ferengi, the Q and the Romulans.

As part of the new Dignity Enhancement program, Picard is forced to allow Troi to wear uniforms that cover her breasts.

Starfleet decides to adopt the Borg "Team Building" methods and requires all newborn babies to be implanted with computer interface devices. As a bonus this cuts down on carpal tunnel disability claims.

The *Enterprise* finds that it can no longer communicate with Starfleet Command because they're still running an old version of Windows and can't get budget approval for the upgrade.

As part of a cycle time reduction plan, the crew is ordered to cut the time necessary to encounter and escape from new life forms from once a week to 5 days a week. A reuse program is introduced under the nickname RERUNS (Reap Earnings and Royalties Using No-longer-produced Shows).

A ship-wide reorganization results in Worf becoming the ship's counselor, Dr. Crusher taking over the engine room, Deanna managing weapons, Data running sick bay, and Geordi at the helm. They are conquered by a Klingon freighter 15 minutes later.

The crew mutinies when they are given their annual performance reviews and find that, despite saving the universe numerous times, they're still only getting 3% raises.

David Ryan (daveeryan@msn.com) forwarded this to the main STARFLEET mailing list, but I was not certain who the original author was as is so often the case with internet humor.
- SS

SHIP FINANCES

Where did the money go?

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Beginning balance as of March 31, 1998:					\$69.82
Check #1126	8-9-98	Richard L. Trulson		\$30.00	\$39.82
Spring 1998 <i>Subspace Static</i> copying reimbursement.					
Deposit	8-14-98		\$16.00		\$55.82
1 membership fee and SS add.					
Check #1127	10-4-98	Richard L. Trulson		\$35.00	\$20.82
5 th Anniversary expense reimbursement.					
Deposit	10-9-98		\$20.00		\$40.82
Two membership fees.					
Ending balance as of December 31, 1998:					\$40.82
- Compiled by FCAPT Richard L. Trulson					

TREK 411

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Further syndication, books and PC games, and new stuff.

Hello again Fleet fans, it's time once again for our peek into the Universe of *Trek* Goodies and see what's out there.

We're going to start off with the bookworms. As you may remember, in my last column, I mentioned that Mike and Denise Okuda were working on another revision to the *Trek Encyclopedia*. It appears that this statement may have been premature. After consulting the *Trek* book web site, at www.simonsays.com, one of the Pocket Book officials informed me, via return e-mail, that this statement was only rumor which was not based on any facts.

I have sent an e-mail message to the *Trek* trade paperback editor to find out if this work was indeed in progress. As of this writing, I have not received any response but I will continue to look into this matter and inform you readers of any new developments. I want to say that I will not write on any books unless I have confirmation that any are in the works, or will be in the works. This way, I can hopefully avoid raising any false hopes.

The *DS9 Technical Manual* is still set for release around October 1998, and we will get to see this work come to pass.

Also out in the bookstores is the *Captain's Table* series, which now comprises four books covering Captains Kirk, Sulu, Picard, Sisko, and Janeway. Two more books will be released, later this year, which will cover Captain Calhoun, of the *New Frontier* series, and Captain Christopher Pike, of "The Cage" and "The Menagerie."

Q will contribute to the book arena with a book series entitled *The Q Continuum*. Look for these books in the fall of this year.

Jeri Taylor, who is leaving *Voyager* after this season, has penned a hardcover *Voyager* novel entitled *Pathways*. This work covers the life stories of the *Voyager* main crew. An audio version is planned for simultaneous release with the book. Look for this work any day now.

Some of Russ McNutt's impressive autograph collection. - Photo by Rebecca Self.



For you fans who have been following DS9 during the Dominion War, a set of four novels is planned for release around the November time frame. Most of these novels will be adaptations of key DS9 war episodes.

Voyager crewmember Seven of Nine will have her life story covered in an upcoming VGR novel of the same name. Christie Golden writes this work.

For the web surfers in our audience, The *Star Trek* Continuum is now up and functional at www.startrek.com. IBM is the main sponsor of this site, which has undergone some big changes since it was let go from The Microsoft Network.

I encourage all of my readers, with Internet access, to sign on and check out this site. This is the OFFICIAL site sanctioned by Paramount Pictures, and there are some great graphics. A neat feature is the Surround Video features of the various sites on the Continuum. Web surfers who use Netscape 3, or higher, can get a free download of the Surround Video plug-in.

For the PC buffs: all is continuing to go as planned for the release of the *Trek* PC games that I have talked about in previous articles. The only exception is that Microprose has canceled work on the *First Contact* PC game in order to focus its attention on its upcoming *Trek* strategy and Klingon games. You find out the latest



info on the *Trek* PC games on the Interplay web site at www.interplay.com, and the Microprose web site at www.micropose.com.

For our movie fans: Paramount has titled its next TNG movie: *Star Trek: Insurrection*. The movie is set for release around Christmas time. A tie-in movie novel and audio book are planned for simultaneous release along with the movie.

Well folks, that's all I have for now, but I'm still looking around to fish out good collectibles to share with everybody. If you find a good collectible that you want to share with my readers, or if you have questions, comments, or just want to say hello, please do not hesitate to write, call, fax, or e-mail me. 'Til we meet again, Keep on *Trekkin'* and Good Collectin'.

Hello again friends of the Fleet. Yours truly is ready to take you the Dimension of the *Trek* Goodies, so that we can see what's out there.

We're going to start off with the Internet folks in the crowd. Paramount's official *Star Trek* web site, AKA the *Star Trek* Continuum, located on the web at www.startrek.com, is announcing a new *Trek* gift store on line. This is a soon to be released feature on the site, so keep tuned to this article for the low down on all the goodies.

For the PC gamers in the group, Interplay, has pushed back the release of its upcoming TOS game *Secret of Vulcan Fury*, by at least another month. The new target date is Sept. 30, 1998. I'm not surprised by this action, but I think that it's good because, crossing my fingers, I hope that the development team at Interplay can get all of the bugs worked out before release.

Just a reminder about the system requirements. The minimum system requirements are a Pentium 133 (or better) processor, Windows 95 (or Windows 98), along with a mouse and a Sound Blaster (or compatible) sound card. If you plan on purchasing this game, please review your current system and make any necessary upgrades in order to get the best possible performance.

You can check out this, and other *Trek* games, on Interplay's web site at www.interplay.com.

For the bookworms in the crowd. The three book series on the *Q Continuum* is now in the stores. The titles are *Q-Zone*, *Q-Space*, and *Q-Strike*. Greg Cox is the author of this series. A trade paperback on the *Q Continuum* is also in the works.

Voyager's newest Borg crewmember, Seven of Nine, has her life story told in an upcoming VGR novel of the same name. She was Annika Hansen, before her assimilation into the Borg Collective and eventual rescue by the *Voyager* crew.

I want to tell all of the bookworms reading this article that you no longer have to wait for you local bookstore to start carrying the latest *Trek* titles. The *Star Trek* book web site, at www.simonsays.com, now lets readers buy the latest, and most of the *Trek* titles in print, via their web site. This is a secure site and you can use your credit (or debit) card with peace of mind. You also have the option



of having quick shipping, usually about 2-5 days, for an added fee, depending on how quick you want delivery, or you can choose delivery by regular snail mail via the US Postal Service.

I purchased my *Star Trek* weekly log book, for 1999, through this service, and I can tell you that I was quite impressed with the ease of how I selected what I wanted and how I paid for it. I was also very impressed with the time the delivery took place after I had placed my order.

There have been several stories in the media about the Internet being the next big shopping mall of the future. And I must say that the *Star Trek* merchandisers and other licensee's are wasting no time in jumping on the bandwagon. This is my opinion and my

opinion alone. I speak only for myself, and not for the readers of this column, when I say that the Internet may just be the next big step in the great adventure in the wonderful world of *Trek* collecting.

I invite all of my readers to give this new adventure a try, and give me all of you pro's, and con's, about buying collectibles through the Net. I will keep all information relayed to me in the strictest confidence unless you give me permission to you have your comments published in this column.

That's all for now folks. Don't hesitate to write, call, fax, or e-mail me, with you comments, lines on a good *Trek* collectible, questions, or just to say hello to me. Until next time, keep on *Trekkin'* and good Collectin'.

Hello Fleet fans everywhere, it's time once again to peek into the Universe of the *Trek* Goodies.

First off, I would like to welcome another group to my list of newsletters in my family of readers. I am pleased to welcome the pre-shuttle *Draco*, Dallas Vinson commanding, of Cullman, Alabama to my Universe of the *Trek* Goodies.

We are starting off with the *Trek* Christmas ornament world. The *Enterprise-E* ornament is now in your local Hallmark stores. This ornament sells for \$24.95 and should be a big item, so get yours now. Also from Hallmark is the Captain Janeway ornament. This should also sell well.

For the PC buffs: Interplay has delayed, yet again, the release of *The Secret Of Vulcan Fury*. The estimated release date is November 1998, probably to coincide with the release of *Star Trek: Insurrection*. You can see a new preview movie of this game at Interplay's *Trek* web site at www.interplay.com. All other PC games that I have mentioned, in previous articles, are still on schedule for their estimated release dates.

For the card sharks in our audience: the DS9 Customizable Card Game is now in the stores. This card game is compatible with the TNG card game and it can also be played as a stand-alone game, with a few variations in the rules. This game hopes to continue the phenomenon that was started with the introduction of the TNG card game.

For the serious collectors: The Franklin Mint has announced its *Enterprise-E* pewter model. This model will sell for around \$100 and continues Franklin's distinguished line of *Trek* models. This is a definitely a must for serious collectors, like myself.

For you plate collectors: The *Trek* newsletter *Dateline: Starfleet* reported that The Hamilton Collection, producers of *Trek* collector's plates, has not renewed its contract with Paramount Pictures to produce collectible plates. More info on this story as it becomes available.

For you music buffs: 1999 will mark the 20th anniversary of the release of *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*. Sony Music is celebrating a little early by announcing the release of a 20th anniversary soundtrack on November 2. This music provided the theme for TNG. Included in the new soundtrack are seven tracks not included in the first release and a bonus copy of Gene Roddenberry's *Inside Star Trek* album, which was first released in the 1970's and has since been out of print.

For you Tribble fans: Paramount Video is announcing the release of its Talking Tribbles Gift Set, on October 6. This set includes the classic episode "The Trouble With Tribbles" and the .DS9 remake "Trials And Tribble-Ations." As a bonus, the set includes a plush

Tribble, which shrills when squeezed. This is a must have for all you Tribble fans. So don't Tribble around and get yours quick.

Well folks, that's all I have for now, but please feel free to write, call, fax, or e-mail me at:

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35802-1035

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Until next time, keep on *Trekkin'* and good collectin'.

- CMDR Russ McNutt

**...Dragon continued
from page 10.**

women I spoke to had pleasant experiences with them. I am only sorry that I missed out (due to a dwindling of funds) on autographs from Jonathan Harris (Dr. Smith), Herbert Jefferson Jr. (Boomer, *Battlestar Galactica*), Wayne Alexander (Lorien), and Jeffrey Willerth (Kosh).

I would most definitely recommend Dragon*Con to anyone that wants to attend a fairly large convention, but doesn't want to spend a fortune just to get in the door. See you there next year (July 1-4, 1999).

- LT Don Daniel

TOO MUCH B5

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

You look for an investigative reporter to do an exposé on the Nightwatch.

You put a Vorlon on top of your Christmas tree.

You start looking for "at-tributes" on your stomach.

You have just been through a life threatening situation and all you can think of saying is "Thank the Great Maker."

You decide that your wife would look good bald.

You begin to become attracted to Vir.

You start talking to household appliances and your car.

You see the headlights of an oncoming car and you think it's a couple of Vorlons.

You begin wondering when the Rangers are going to overthrow the Grey Council.

You wonder how to hide a Narn war cruiser in your backyard for sanctuary.

You begin to plot the death of Psi Corps for what they did to Talia.

You mark the upcoming episode titles in your datebook.

You decide it's better not to tell yourself what it is that you do not need to know.

Entering a church, you find the Holy Water but can't help wondering where the Minbari and Human blood is.

While driving, you suddenly have an irresistible urge to "punch it".

Your boss tells you he expects you to read his mind and you immediately suspect he may be a Psi Corp spy.

You are suddenly afraid of your own shadow and want to ask Delenn what it means.

You start having romantic feelings for G'Kar.

Someone asks you what time it is and you reply, "It's the dawn of the third age...".

You listen to the music instead of the song when you seek meaning.

You arrange a meeting with someone at the hour of scampering.

You are happy now that the case of Jack the Ripper is finally closed.

You consider the possibility that the world is right and you are wrong.

Instead of pulling the emergency brake in a train, you tap the back of your hand and shout "Computer, emergency override! Open train doors!".

You wonder how the *Milennium Falcon* can go into hyperspace without a jumpgate.

Your goal in life is to become a Technomage.

You name your newborn daughter Delenn.

You think the FBI has been remiss in not using monks to seek out the Unabomber.

You're driving on the Cross Bronx expressway, and upon seeing the exit for the Sheridan Parkway you think "Wasn't Sheridan born in 2214?".

You go to the sporting goods store to get a cat hunting license.

Your bedroom starts looking like Downbelow.

People get irritated by your talking in Vorlon-esque statements, like always saying "Good..".

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

You worship JMS as a god.

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

- SS

*Captain Sheridan plays with a StarFury model.
Picture taken from the Warner Brothers web site.*



U.S.S. *Wernher von Braun* Command Staff

(They went that-a-way!)

Commanding Officer	FCAPT Richard L. Trulson	423-6638
Executive Officer	CMDR Russ McNutt	650-3195
Communications	FCAPT Richard L. Trulson	423-6638
Engineering	needed	
Medical	LT (jg) Anya Funderburk	(Unavailable)
Security	needed	
Science	LT Donald Daniel	882-2024
Operations	needed	

E-mail: WvB@OmniFacets.com

World Wide Web URL: <http://www.OmniFacets.com/wvb/>

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

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

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Submission Information

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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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. Financial donations are also accepted.