

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTH YEAR AS A STARFLEET CHAPTER

WINTER 1998



SUBSPACE STATIC

AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION OF THE USS WERNHER VON BRAUN

Star Trek: Voyager episodes now being shown at every meeting of the USS *Wernher von Braun*!



In This Issue:

- Important Event Descriptions
- Financial Report and Analysis
- Calendar of Events
- Proposed By-Laws Changes
- STARFLEET News
- Meeting Minutes
- and much, much more!

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***Subspace Static:*
Runner-Up for the 1998 Region 2
Newsletter of the Year Award**

Editor: Richard L. Trulson
Assistant Editor: Jim Dykes

Subspace Static
Winter 1998
Volume 6, Issue 1

**"A kinder, gentler," issue or
"What do you mean you can't supersize this?"**

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. If you produce it, they will come. See the inside back cover for more fine print information about the SS, WVB, STARFLEET and the IRS.

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COMMANDING OFFICER



Shuttle disbanding, error corrections, future plans, and Summit tidbits.

This year started off on a down note. For the past several months, our first shuttle, the *Alabama* under the Command of CMDR Bonnie Flanagan in Decatur, has been having some membership troubles. In addition to a few who transferred to our second shuttle, the *Celestial*, over all interest seems to have died out. Couple that with problems getting reports to ShOC (On a side note, Bonnie always reported to me and the Zone Coordinator every month on time.), the remaining crewmembers have decided to disband.

Furthermore, Bonnie, who has always been the main driving force behind the *Alabama*, has taken on a second job. As a result, much of her free time to devote to the shuttle has disappeared. Any one of these alone could have been overcome, but the combination of everything at once was too much. I regret that our first shuttle did not commission as a ship, but I fully support and agree with their decision to disband. I wish Bonnie the best in the future.

Perhaps at some point in a few years, she or someone else can make another attempt to launch a shuttle there, as I feel Decatur is a perfect source for a chapter. Until that happens though, all existing STARFLEET members of the *Alabama* will be transferred to

the *von Braun* unless otherwise requested. Of course, I'm not entirely sure what our numbers will be then.

The December 1997 crew roster from Fleet CompOps showed us as having sixteen members. As nice as that may be, that is also incorrect. A couple of those have already expired and will probably not renew, two of them should be assigned to the shuttle *Celestial*, and at least five crewmembers were not listed as even being assigned to us. The most notable of which was Don, who has been our Science Chief for over two years, and Russ, who is our XO! I know I corrected this with CompOps directly once, as well as having complained in a recent *Monthly Status Report*, still to no avail. When all is said and done, we should have twelve members.

To top it all off, they had our ship name misspelled. I had hoped when I corrected it in the Vessel Registry in early 1997, that would have solved our problems. But noooo... CompOps spelled it like the Warner Brothers. I know we're not the best, but we're not loony toons are we? Then when I got our most recent *Command Status Report*, I discover yet another misspelling. Suffice to say, I was not happy and sent a very terse letter to several people berating them on misspelling our name. For the

record, our name is spelled "Wernher von Braun", like the German rocket scientist in your history books. Apparently, there are three different databases running around to track basically the same information. This is just a bit silly in my honest opinion.

Anyway, while I was at the Summit, I sat down with the Commander, STARFLEET to correct some of our entries. I literally watched FADM Mike Smith key in the correct spelling of our name. (Heck, he even used my T-shirt as walking billboard to get it right.) He also reassigned Don and Russ, flagging Russ as XO as well. Now, I'm waiting anxiously to see if the correction carries over in the merry-go-round database they have. Many thanks to Mike for his efforts none the less. With these corrections, we should be right at twelve STARFLEET members.

While I'm ranting on membership, my recent re-up has taken over two months to process, as is cashing my check. I contacted CompOpsHelp@sfi.org to see if there were problems. Jeff Salamon, the CompOps assistant to Liz Woolf, promptly replied back that they were delayed. While I'm not happy with the delay, nor do I buy the "transfer delays to the Kansas operations" excuse Jeff gave



me, I do appreciate his prompt reply and thank him for it. This marks the first time in my eight years of STARFLEET I've had membership problems, even under McGinnis. I wouldn't bother you with my personal hassles if weren't for the fact that if a CO doesn't meet all the requirements, that could endanger the ship. According to Jeff's confirmation letter, I am safely renewed until February 1999.

Speaking of membership problems, everyone who has joined or renewed with STARFLEET before January 1, 1998 should have received not only your membership card and certificate, but also your remaining materials as well. This includes your *Technical Manual* (membership handbook and constitution), the current Vessel Registry (chapter listing), STARFLEET Membership application, and STARFLEET Academy application. If you were a member during the cover date, you should have received

all six issues of your *Communiqué* by now—Feb/Mar 1997 (#79) through Dec/Jan 1997 (#84). The Feb/Mar 1998 issue #85 should be here soon. If you are missing any of these, please tell me now or forever hold your peace on the subject.

The Command Staff sat through a five hour planning meeting on Saturday, March 29 beginning at 12 noon. We had a two page agenda to cover, and a page of by-laws changes to hash out. By the end of it, we were brain fried, but I think we accomplished a lot. Hopefully, this will shorten the boring business part of our meetings even more. Please read through the various articles scatted about the newsletter, particularly the meeting minutes. The minutes for the planning meeting are listed last.

However, I do have some important things I want you to pay particular attention too. The Special Events article goes into much greater detail,

but I want you to be aware that we have some very important events coming soon.

Panoply is the last weekend in April. This is perhaps the most important event for us. We need as much help as we can get. May is going to be host to two entirely new events for us. First, I hope to have a major recruiting event at a *Star Trek: Voyager Day*. While this will be mainly an episode marathon, the entire flavor of the event will be a miniature convention open to the entire public. Also we need to have a much needed fundraiser. The easiest and most profitable is probably a car wash which we will split half our proceeds to charity.

And finally, as many of you know, I went to the Region 2 Summit with Russ. I had a wonderful time yet again. Chyrstal Kimbro of our shuttle *Celestial* rode down with us. While Russ opted to sleep in his own room, I shared a room with two of the *Dark Silence* crewmembers, including the XO, CMDR Will Burhans. Many thanks to them for allowing me to split some of the weekend expenses with them. All three chapters had dinner together at Applebees on Friday night.

First, thanks to my work with the Region 2 Magic City Summit web site (<http://www.OmniFacets.com/r2summit/>), I've been offered the position of Region 2's Vice-Chief of Computer Operations.

Continued: See CO on page 7...

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Local happenings and *Trek* tidbits.

This is my second report as the XO of the *von Braun*. First, I would like to congratulate FCAPT Trulson on his reelection as CO of the *von Braun*. I am confident he will provide good leadership for the coming year.

I have been able to secure episodes of the new *Voyager* season, through the courtesy of FCAPT Pete Mohny of the Birmingham ship *USS Hephaestus*. Pete was kind enough to dub the episodes on tape, in which I paid for, along with mailing costs, which totaled \$6.00. Although the quality is not the best in the world, it's a whole lot better than not being able to see them at all. I am also grateful that the *von Braun* is able to show *Voyager* episodes at its regular meeting.

I would like to announce that I will definitely attend the Region 2 Summit, in Birmingham, this spring. I just need to fill out the proper forms and send my money in. This will be my third consecutive summit that I'm attending, the first as XO of this ship. I will be happy to represent the *von Braun* with honor and distinction.

I have changed Internet Service Providers since my last report. This is because I am trying, in vain, to keep up to date with the latest personal computer technology. I have upgraded from a 100mhz, 24mb

RAM, 28.8k modem, to a 200mhz MMX, 32mb RAM, 56K US Robotics X2 modem.

Airnet Internet Services of Huntsville supports the X2 communications technology, and is less expensive than my previous provider. This is why I have gone with a new provider. My new e-mail address, for those who don't have it yet is as follows:

russnutt@airnet.net

The *Trek* software has been picking up with the release of three new software items: *The Captain's Chair*, *The Star Trek Encyclopedia*, and *Star Trek: The Game Show*.

The Captain's Chair is a guided tour of five *Trek* ships, including the original *USS Enterprise* and the new *USS Enterprise-E* featured in *First Contact*. Very good software.

The revised *Encyclopedia* consists of four CD-ROMS, reference, video, and episode guides for TNG and DS9. One word of caution is in order. Be sure you turn off you wallpaper on your desktop if you run the video CD, otherwise you will get no sound, only the picture. Otherwise this is good software.

The Game Show is hosted by Q, played by, you guessed it, John deLancie. Karen Cornwill plays Q's Vanna White-like assistant who is also from the Q Continuum. This software covers all *Trek*

series, including *First Contact*.

This will test your *Trek* knowledge so give it a try.

More software is coming and I should have more info for my next report, so stay tuned.

That is all I have for now. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, and please remember that I am the eyes and ears for FCAPT Trulson here in Huntsville. If you have a problem that you feel uncomfortable referring to the Captain, please do not hesitate to come to me and I will do my best to help you out. As always, all information related to me WILL BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE UNLESS YOU GIVE ME PERMISSION TO DO OTHERWISE.

- CMDR Russ McNutt



SCIENCES



From the earth to the moon and Mars.

This quarter's big science news: We are going back to the moon! Actually, while any manned missions have been put on the back-burner for now, NASA is sending an unmanned probe to the moon to survey its features and also to look for signs of frozen water on the surface. On January 6, at 9:28:43.766 EST NASA's Lunar Prospector was successfully launched aboard a Lockheed-Martin Athena II rocket on its way to the moon. In about a month, the probe will begin sending back information on a mission that will last about a year. Further information can be obtained by pointing your web browser to the following web page: <http://www.nasa.gov/today/index.html>.

Astronomical highlights for the quarter (this information is courtesy of Skywatch '98 magazine):

January: Conjunction of five planets plus the moon and the sun. (Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus, and Neptune)

February 26: Solar eclipse. Unfortunately, only a partial occurring at around noon CST (the line of viewing for a total eclipse will be well south of here running from the Pacific through the northern tip of South America through to the Caribbean).

March 9-11: Conjunction of Mercury and a dimmer Mars.

March 21: Conjunction of a rising Mercury and Saturn.

Project Updates:

Unfortunately, due to a lack of adequate personnel and the fact that the state highway department wouldn't tell us which stretches of highway were available, the Adopt-A-Mile project has temporarily been shelved.

So far, I have been unable to reach the Von Braun Astronomical Society via many phone call attempts. My next step will be to write them a letter of inquiry regarding their planetarium.

And as always, the Sciences department is willing to step in to assist the other departments and the ship in general in all of our community service projects as well as STARFLEET and ship projects.

Got this e-mail sent to me (it's from *USA Today*, 3/1) - Enjoy.

"Evidence is stronger than ever that Jupiter's moon Europa has liquid ocean and the right conditions for life, scientists announced Monday.

Images of Europa that the spacecraft Galileo has sent back to Earth—the most detailed yet—have a resolution so high that the pictures show floating icebergs 20 feet across. The images show 'really positive evidence for a liquid ocean on Europa.' says James Head, co-investigator of the Galileo imaging team.

A liquid ocean is critical to the formation of life, according to current theory. Most experts agree that conditions including liquid water, heat, ice and extraterrestrial organic material injected from meteors and comets could provide the ingredients for life.



Head says the new images provide three key pieces of evidence Europa is really a giant 'slushy' just below the surface rather than rock-hard ice:

- Chunky objects that resemble icebergs.
- A shallow crater in which the bottom is at the same level as Europa's surface. Because of the slush just beneath the surface, the crater has filled in the way a jar of honey would close in around a spoon. If Europa were covered with a deeper layer of ice, a meteor would create a typical crater with steep walls and a hole.
- Gaps in which a thin skin of ice appears to have formed between continent-sized plates.

Head says these large plates of ice appear to be floating over a warmer liquid ocean in much the same way that the Earth's continental plates move over the molten interior. The strange surface features appear to be the product of the warmer interior interacting with the minus 270 degrees F. temperature at Europa's surface, says Torrence Johnson, chief of the Galileo project. Scientists believe Europa's oceans are kept warm by a 'tidal tug of war' with Jupiter and neighboring moons.

NASA is making plans to launch a spacecraft in 2003 to orbit the frozen satellite and search for water under the ice."

That's it for Sciences and keep your eyes on the sky!

- LT(jg) Don Daniel

...CO continued from page 4.

I accepted and will be working with the current Chief, Lesley Pike of the USS *Continuum* in Pensacola, Florida. Secondly, while at the Summit, I received a Regional Commendation for that work as well, which is my second one in a row. I guess I'm gonna have to start a collection or something now.

Of interest to everyone else, the *Wernher von Braun* also won the Sandra Bullock Mothership Award. I thought the irony of having lost our first shuttle and winning this award was just a bit much. In any event, I am proud to have won it as this was completely unexpected. On a side note, the shuttle *Celestial* won Third Place in the Overseas Coupon Project Competition. We entered with \$165, but didn't place. Since the *Celestial* won their award first, I was able to say how proud of their accomplishments that I was. I hope the *Celestial* crew realizes that I

will expect great things from them in the future as the USS *Spiritwalker*.

In a related competition, we entered the Stampede contest with 8 ounces of stamps. I felt so... inadequate when Pete Mohny of USS *Hephaestus* out of Birmingham showed up with a huge storage box filled with stamps. However, we were the mouse who roared when the awards were announced. Our measly 8 ounces allowed us to win Third Place in the Stampede competition, which was a total shock to me. Not bad for only two months worth of collecting. I must, however, give many thanks to new member Mike Nazarek and LT(jg) Don Daniel for their contributions. Without their help, we wouldn't have won.

Finally, we didn't win the Newsletter of the Year Award as I had hoped. We did, however, place Second as Runner-Up. I'll refer you to my Communications Officers Report for more details. Overall, it was an enjoyable Summit, despite enough rain to earn the title Soggy Summit. Unfortunately, I did not have enough time to do a full Summit article, which will appear in the next issue. However, I wanted to pass along these few tidbits to wet your appetite for what's to come

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

COMMUNICATIONS



Future communications at the Region 2 Summit.

Wow! What an undertaking that last issue turned out to be. I didn't quite mean for that issue to turn out as large as it did. However, I wanted to do a thorough *Babylon 5* feature, and that was about a third of the newsletter. By the time I added everything else that I wanted to cover, it turned into a huge 68 page behemoth.

It didn't come cheaply either as it cost me over \$100 to print 25 copies of the newsletter. Ouch! However, I only charged the *von Braun* for the amount that's budgeted into your membership dues. Since I was only reimbursed \$50, you can see I've made a sizable financial contribution to the ship. I'd also like to thank long time member Johnnie Peterson and new member Mike Nazarek for their financial contributions to me. Thanks! If anyone else would like to help, I'm not above accepting donations. It is greatly appreciated.

And as you know, the newsletter was delayed a couple of months. The same old story here, so I won't bother you with those details again. I was, however, a bit more anal retentive with the last issue since I wanted that issue submitted as our entry in the newsletter of year competition. I think the end result was the best newsletter I've ever done. Thanks to

Jim Dykes, Dallas Vinson, and Rebecca Self for helping me proof it, especially Jim who remained on call the final week for last minute checks.

After last issue, I hope I gave you some idea of the hell I go through every time a newsletter comes around. And this time was no exception. After the last issue was finished, I didn't even bother to think about it for a month. I also got busy working on the Region 02 Magic City Summit Web Site. As a result, I didn't even touch any of the newsletter until after the Summit. As a result, I am yet again cramming three months of work into a period of three weeks. Oh well, that's the life of a newsletter editor.

Speaking of which, Pete Mohney, CO of the USS *Hephaestus* in Birmingham, suggested that the winner of the Newsletter of the Year host the Newsletter and Fanzine panel at the following year's Summit. As a result of winning in 1997 with the *Subspace Static*, I was the lucky host. Thanks so much, Pete. Fortunately, they got Dennis Evans of the *Anvil* to help me. But that wasn't enough, Pete had to set in on the panel and heckle, I mean support, me and Dennis since he is the newsletter of the *Hephaestus*. Thanks for your help Dennis!

What they didn't realize is that I have no official training in doing newsletters, or even layout and design. Everything I know I learned by observation and copying, I mean emulating. So, if the quality of my panel wasn't very good, it's Pete's fault for picking me. ::grin:: Anyway, I did my best even though I was completely unprepared. In addition to my web page work, I also co-hosted the Internet Fun panel with a focus on Internet Relay Chat. I was a busy boy that weekend.

Anyway, the panel went OK I think. I carried every single newsletter I owned to use as reference material. I had hoped to sell a few extra SS while I was at it, but no one bought any. Dennis and I talked about different layout formats (digest vs. full size), where we get our material (We both though the internet and the web was a godsend.), worrying about copyrights (We're too small to be noticed.), differing contents (whether to include finances or crew info), frequency of publication (I'm personally amazed and awed by Dennis' ability to produce a 40 page digest-size newsletter every month. I go crazy on a quarterly basis.), and a whole lot more.

I wanted to include a detailed report of the Summit in this issue, but I just ran out of time. I would postpone it another month, but due to upcoming events, it's imperative that people have a written account of what's coming up. So look for a full and detailed Summit Review in next issue. Also, you can look forward to a report on the writing process. Between that report and the previous two reports on how to write a review and a DC report, there shouldn't be any reason why more people can't submit an original article.

If you glance over at the financial analysis page, you will notice that per square inch of space, the magazine style (11"x17" sheet of paper folded in half) and the full-size (8.5"x11" sheet) are the exact same in cost. At the last planning meeting, I proposed going to the magazine style. Like anything new, the rest of the Command Staff was a little leery of trying it. However, they did agree to try it on a few issues.

One or two also expressed a desire to go back to the digest size (8.5"x11" sheet folded in half), but I'm not fond of that format from an editor's perspective. The full size format gives you over four square inches more of printable space than the digest format. Furthermore, I have many more layout options and other graphically attractive options. The same advantages apply to the magazine style as well. The only disadvantage, and the digest

size has this drawback as well, is that I must end on a page multiple of four instead of two. Trust me, that may not seem like much, but it can cause a few gray hairs. I will admit that there is a certain "feel" to the digest size that makes it appealing, but I think there are many more advantages to the other two styles.

Therefore, over the next two issues, I'm going to try a few changes to the newsletter. One of which will be the magazine style layout. I'm also going to tinker a bit with a few of the graphic elements as well. These

won't be too drastic of a change though, so it shouldn't be a traumatizing experience. At least not for the reader. I should probably listen to the saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." In this case, nothing is broke, but I've got to do something to make it even better, especially if I want to win any newsletter awards.

Continued: See Communications on page 15...

STAR TREK TERMS

Laymen Definitions to Common *Star Trek* Terms.

"*Enterprise*": vehicle by which a bold scientific crew seeks out new life forms to sell trashy "collector's items" to.

"Inertial Dampening": what happened to Kirk's career.

"Saucer Separation": medical symptoms brought on by Earl Grey withdrawal. See "Picard, Jean-Luc."

"Picard, Jean-Luc": oxymoron: French guy, British Accent.

"Time Warp": a loop of time, in which actions ceaselessly repeat themselves. e.g.: every episode of *Star Trek*.
Synonym: "Replicator."

"Wormhole": evasive and uncertain manner through which writers explain themselves out of unresolvable plot climaxes.

"Black Hole": investment/loss ratio based on *Voyager's* ratings.

"Anti-Matter": describes average fan's remaining brain cells.

"VISOR": what Picard uses to prevent scalp sunburn.

"Transporter Chief": drunkard with Irish accent. Not to be confused with "Chief Engineer": drunkard with Scottish accent.

"Nexus": shampoo and conditioner for bald starship captains.

"Genesis Planet": where dead plot ideas come to life once again.

"Cloaking Device": 1. What Riker needs to hide his growing waistline. 2. Shatner's wig.

Posted to the STARFLEET mailing list on April 22, 1997 by Sashi Alexandra German (sashi@feith.com).

SHUTTLE CELESTIAL

Accomplishments from the beginning.

The shuttle *Celestial* made their presence known at the Region 2 Summit. Not only did they help with planning of the Summit by attending the various meetings, they also hosted a couple of panels. Commanding Officer Rebecca Self and Executive Officer Alice Strange co-hosted the Members with Special Needs panel on Saturday. Alice also co-hosted the By-Laws and Policies panel on Sunday. Their Second Officer Chyrstal Kimbro was also in attendance at the Summit, having rode down to Birmingham with their mothership CO and XO.

The crew was also seen staying up late Friday night clipping coupons to enter into the Overseas Coupon Project Competition. However, sleep finally prevailed and they called it a night. On Saturday night at the Awards Ceremony, they were surprised to have won Third Place in the competition. Furthermore, they, as a shuttle, helped their mothership win the Sandra Bullock Mothership Award. Richard Trulson commented how proud he was that the shuttle had won an award.

Locally, they've gathered 14 food items for the Leeds Food Project. They have also collected an additional \$180.08 of coupons for OCP. Some of the other coupons are being given to the Decatur Humane

Society when they pertain to pet items. They're planning a birthday party on April 4 for Niles Kimbro and Suzane Magann, who are the two youngest members of the crew. The Executive Committee is rewriting their By-laws, Constitution, and Policies and Procedures. Alice has finished her training at the Crisis Center and is now working as a phone counselor for them. She is also training to be a tutor on AOL. Curtis Strange has finished collecting money for the Shriners Hospital.

If you thought there was confusion when the shuttle had members near Birmingham and some near Decatur, they now have two members from Australia, Lindie and Colin Magann. This came about when an unknown person contacted Rebecca, claiming to be her sister. After careful verification and several months of talks, this has turned out to be true. Rebecca has plans to go to Australia soon and meet her sister for the first time.

Ironically though, the *Celestial* is charted as a Meeting chapter instead of a Correspondence chapter. In addition to traveling between Decatur and Birmingham, Rebecca keeps in contact with her crew via the telephone. They also utilize American Online's Instant Messenger software to

hold internet meetings. As a result, I think the *Celestial* is the first global meeting chapter of STARFLEET, spanning over three cities, two continents, and an ocean!

- Compiled by FCAPT
Richard L. Trulson.

JOHN GLENN

Top ten changes at NASA to accommodate 76-year-old John Glenn's return to space aboard the Shuttle *Discovery* (STS-95) as a payload specialist:

10. All important devices now operated by the Clapper.
 9. Shuttle's thermostat set at 80 degrees.
 8. Shuffle board installed in cargo bay.
 7. "Early Bird" specials from Morrison's Cafeteria included on menu.
 6. One monitor specifically designated for Matlock.
 5. Little bowls of candy scattered randomly about the ship.
 4. Top speed of shuttle set at 25 miles per hour.
 3. Installed a new bifocal windshield.
 2. Space pants now go up to armpits.
 1. Left-blinker left on for entire mission.
- Found on the internet.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Upcoming events of great importance.

Panoply:

Panoply is Friday through Sunday, April 24-26.

Volunteer hours are:

5 PM - 10 PM Friday

Single Shift

9 AM - 11 PM Saturday

Shift 1 is 9-1.

Shift 2 is 1-6.

Shift 3 is 6-11

11 AM - 8 PM Sunday

Shift 1 is 11-4

Shift 2 is 4-8

I've requested the parking lots of Jacobs and Regions Bank, and the Mental Health Center so we will not be spread throughout the park. Other groups are handling the Haysland Plaza lot and the park entry gates. We are NOT working the Wild Bird Sanctuary lot this year. Our ONLY job is to make sure only people with proper passes are parked in the lots. We are NOT required to direct traffic or anything else.

We'll need at least 7 people the entire time, at least two at each location plus a relief and errand runner. Preferably, 10 or more volunteers would be nice and allow for people to socialize. All volunteers must sign our and Panoply's release forms, no exception. These release sheets are for all our protection. If you're under 18, you must also get your parent's permission. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the April meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, call me so I can

schedule you to work. If you need a ride to work at Panoply, that can be arranged as well.

Ardmore Aviation is providing meals for everyone. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon on Saturday and Sunday and dinner will be provided at 6 PM on all three days. Snacks and drinks will be available at all times. We will not have a 4-wheeler and very few radios. A Panoply walk-through will occur Wednesday, April 22 at 5:30 PM. It's recommended volunteers go to the walk-through so you can easily direct people to the proper location.

An information and map sheet will be given to our volunteers as well. The *Dark Silence* has offered to help some Saturday.



Basically what you will be doing is making sure that the people who park in the lot have the appropriate pass. The passes will be color coordinated to a particular lot. The info sheet that will be given to you will explain everything. The lots we are working will not be available for general public parking. You will encounter some rude people who insist they must park there. You are to be firm, yet courteous and nice in dealing with the public. Not only are you representing the *Wernher von Braun*, but you are also representing Panoply. We have developed an excellent reputation as being the best group to work with.

Dress comfortably, as you will be on your feet for most of the day. If possible, ship t-shirt or other sci-fi shirt would give us free publicity as a walking billboard. Uniforms are NOT needed or recommend, as

it will be a hot day regardless of rain. Consider bringing your own thermos or mug to keep your drinks in. While the exact food being provided is unknown, it will probably be pizza, BBQ, or burgers. There will probably be some slow times, so you might consider bringing a book or a fold-up chair.

Also, Panoply goes on rain or shine; the only exception is severe weather which will close the park down. Bring suntan lotion and rain protection. If you have any questions, please contact Richard or Dallas as soon as possible.

Voyager Day:

Since WAAY-TV no longer carries it, most north Alabama *Star Trek* fans have had to do without *Voyager*. I propose holding a *Star Trek: Voyager* Day on Saturday, May 16. Basically, I envision this as being a miniature convention with no stars, but all the fun, fan stuff. We'd show continuous episodes from 9 AM till midnight or so. We'd do major press releases and advertising to draw a large crowd. It would be free to public to avoid copyright infringement.

Voyager Day's primary purpose would be as a recruiting tool to get more members. It would also serve as an excellent public relations and publicity event to give us some exposure. It could possibly serve as fund-raising event by selling drinks, snacks, or other food, as well as buttons. We could sell instant pictures with our star look-alikes, people in uniform, or with cardboard stand-ups. We could even have Laura and other dealers there. We could host raffles, competitions, and maybe even some panels.

We'd also need a good location. I thought we could either hold it at a cheap hotel conference room or at the Library's auditorium. The UAH Exhibit Hall was also recommended. Where ever we have it, we must have good audio and visual capabilities. Furthermore, we need to have excellent quality tapes. We might even consider seeing if WZDX or a radio station would like to help sponsor the event.



Car Wash:

If you read the Financial Analysis elsewhere in the this issue, or listen to me beg at meetings, you will know that the *von Braun* desperately needs to hold a fund-raiser. The easiest to organize and most profitable is usually a car wash. Since Memorial Day weekend is coming up, I would suggest we have a car wash on Saturday, May 30 from 10 AM till 6 PM. This is just long enough to get both the lunch and dinner crowds. Shift 1 would be 10 AM till 2 PM, and shift 2 would be 2 PM till 6 PM. Lunch could be provided around 2 PM. The Shell station at University and Jordan was the recommended location. If you can think of a better location, please tell me.

Even though our members may want to do family things that weekend, that would be a perfect time to have one since people would be wanting nice looking cars for the holi-

day. Also, that will hopefully be before the summer car wash rush. We will charge about \$3, with half of the fee and all donations going to charity. This will hopefully draw more people in. And hopefully at \$3, they will simply give us \$5 bill or larger and not want change. Again, we'd do some major press releases and try to get a story or two out of the papers or TV stations. It will be a fund-raiser for us, as well as a community service event, perhaps with a bit of publicity and advertising thrown in.

Obviously, we need the volunteers to help wash cars. The absolute minimum number we need is 5 people. Though in order to get the job done quicker and easier, we need at least 7 people. Maybe after everything is over, or during the slow middle part of the afternoon, we could do a water balloon fight. The rain date will be Saturday, June 13.

I'd like to do a quick price break-down for you to give you some idea of how much money can be made. If we charge \$3, we need to wash a minimum of 20 cars to break even. That would be a total income of \$60, with \$30 of it going to charity. That will probably cover our expenses, such as sponge and car wash solution purchase. I don't think we'll have any trouble reaching a goal of 20 cars. Don't forget, we'll probably have over \$25 in direct donations to charity too.

Now expand that out to washing 50 cars, which I think is very reasonable for that weekend, and we're talking about an income of \$150. Combine the \$75 half with a donation estimate of \$50, and we'd be making a \$125 donation to charity. That's not bad at all, and would do wonders for publicity. Plus, after our expenses, we'd probably be making at least \$50 of pure profit for us. Now you can see why I'm so eager to do this.

Movie premiers:

The *X-Files* movie premier is Friday, June 19. While not specifically Star Trek, this will be a perfect movie to recruit some of the more casual sci-fi fans. Furthermore, I see this as being a public relations dream. We'd work with WZDX to co-sponsor the event with us. WZDX would be the financial and professional clout as well as enjoying the publicity. We'd be providing WZDX with the volunteers, manpower, and eager enthusiasm.

As to what we could do: WZDX can do drawings during the episodes prior, and during the movie itself. We could do a creature costume/make-up contest, possibly with Enchanted Masquerade as a co-sponsor. We could do the best Mulder and Scully and other cast member look-alike contests. We could stage an alien abduction and do some skits outside of the theater and just before the movie.

With the next *Star Trek* movie premier scheduled for Friday, November 20, we'd do the same thing as above, but with more involvement with us.

Fifth Anniversary:

September 25, 1998 marks the Fifth Anniversary of our commissioning as a ship. As a CO, I think this anniversary should be a big event with much celebration. Most STARFLEET chapters celebrate this date as their anniversary though apparently, the *von Braun* celebrates their anniversary on their shuttle launch date on December 24. At the March Planning meeting, we discussed our options. We decided to hold one large party and one small one. The small one would be more for us and would occur near our shuttle launch date.

Saturday, September 26 was the recommended date for the large one if we held it by ourselves. However, the *Dark Silence* in Decatur has expressed a desire to hold a joint anniversary party with us. If we do that, it would allow us to have a more spectacular party, and probably draw a larger crowd. In any event, Kelly and Mike, and the rest of the Region would be invited. The drawbacks would be scheduling problems among the two ships and a location. Decatur may provide for a happy medium as well as easy accessibility for the rest of the region. Furthermore, the *Dark Silence* isn't sure when their fifth anniversary is.

Continued: See Events on page 15...

A scene from the new X-Files movie.



EVENTS CALENDAR

The tentative events calendar for the entire year.

Please pay particular attention to the items in **bold**, as they are rather important.

April:

5	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	Madison Municipal Complex
17-19	Friday - Sunday		Region 1 Summit	Gatlinburg, TN
24-26	Thursday - Sunday		Panoply Arts Festival Security Work	Big Spring Park
??	Saturday / Sunday		Community Day recruiting	Madison Square Mall

May:

3	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	Madison Municipal Complex
16	Saturday		Voyager Day	Madison Square Mall or Public Library
22-24	Friday - Saturday		Liberty Con	East Ridge, TN (Chattanooga)
30	Saturday	10 AM	Car Wash or ANY big fund raiser	

June:

7	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	Madison Municipal Complex
13	Saturday		Car Wash rain date or possible	<i>Babylon 5</i> movie party
17	Wednesday	9 PM	<i>Babylon 5</i> series finale	
19	Friday		X-Files movie premier	Hollywood 16 or Madison Square 12

July:

3-5	Friday-Sunday		STARFLEET International Conference	Lubbock, Texas
5	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	Madison Municipal Complex
18	Saturday		Possible joint activity with the	<i>Dark Silence</i> Station or other fun event

August:

2	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	Madison Municipal Complex
8?	Saturday		Runway Run	Huntsville International Airport
15	Saturday		Fun Event	
30	Sunday	2 PM	Planning Meeting	Madison Municipal Complex

September:

3-6	Thursday-Sunday		DragonCon	Atlanta, Georgia
7	Monday		Jerry Lewis Telethon	
13?	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	2 PM Madison Municipal Complex
26 (25)	Saturday		Fifth Anniversary Party	

October:

4	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	Madison Municipal Complex
??	Friday - Sunday		ConStellation	Huntsville
17	Saturday	5 PM	Chili Dinner or ANY big fund raiser	
24,25	Saturday & Sunday		Renaissance Fair in Decatur	or any Fun Activity
31	Saturday		Halloween, party on our own	or with the <i>Hephaestus</i> in Birmingham?

November:

Plan Christmas parade entry

1	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	MMC
8	Sunday	2 PM	Planning Meeting	MMC
13	Friday	8 PM	Friday the 13 th	Camp Out Party
20	Friday		<i>Star Trek</i>	movie premier

December:

?	Saturday		WAAY TV Christmas parade	
6	Sunday	2 PM	General Meeting	MMC
12	Sunday		Fun Activity	

APRIL FOOLS

Top ten April Fools jokes on the *Enterprise*:

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|
| 10 | Everybody act like Riker is the captain. | 4 | Lock Picard in the children's schoolroom with several children and no adults. |
| 9 | Pretend you've been taken over by an alien being. | 3 | Substitute some of Dr. Crusher's moss with moss showing 24 hours more growth. |
| 8 | Program the replicator in Troi's room so that it won't make chocolate. | 2 | Put a sign on Worf's back that says "Kick Me!" |
| 7 | Replay file tape of the Borg ship on main viewer. | 1 | Yell into your communicator "Captain, the anti-matter containment fields are collapsing!" |
| 6 | Tell Data that Starfleet has decided to dismantle him. | | - Borg82 via the internet, submitted by Scott Lowery. |
| 5 | Put a small speaker in Dr. Crusher's bedroom to garble voices. | | |

...Events continued from page 13.

If we can locate a date and location that's midway between the two, we'll have a huge, joint celebration. If not, we'll settle for one on our own. I'd appreciate the crew's input on what they'd like to do.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

...Communications continued from page 9.

Oops, I almost forgot. I'm sorry to say that the SS did not win Newsletter of the Year again. However, the *Subspace Static* did place second as 1998 Newsletter of the Year Runner-Up. ::grin:: This was a bitter sweet victory in some ways. I, of course, thought our newsletter was outstanding. The Fall 1997 issue that was submitted was perhaps the most perfect newsletter I had ever done. However, it was not the best of those submitted. Of course, I am happy with what we did win. Others need a chance to shine in the spotlight as well, and there is certainly plenty of room in the spotlight for more. Besides, other opportunities lie on the horizon. In fact, my specific goal is to win the 1999 award. Nothing would please me more than to win that during our ship's fifth anniversary year.

Anyway, I'm gonna bring this to a close so that I might actually get this newsletter finished eventually. Deadlines for the next issue will be May 1, so that I can have the newsletter ready by the June meeting. After that, we should be back on our regular deadline schedule listed in the back of the newsletter. See you next time.

- FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

CURRENT FINANCES

A correction, financial procedures, and recent finances.

No one seemed to notice a discrepancy in last issue's financial report. Either that, the IRS just hasn't knocked on my door yet. Either way, let me explain.

If you follow the running balance on the right hand column, you will notice that the last balance listed after the Postmaster check (#1123) on 10/19/97 was \$55.82. However, the final balance as of 12/1/97 was listed as \$75.82, which is \$20 more without a corresponding deposit. Well, CMDR Dallas Vinson, the Operations Officer, made a \$20 night deposit during December. However, our bank, First Commercial Bank, shows no such deposit as having occurred. Since it was all cash, there is no way to know what happened to the deposit.

Therefore, we lost \$20 somewhere, which is either two membership fees or two T-shirts. I, as CO of the ship, and Dallas, as the ship's designated finance officer, have both agreed to pay half of the missing funds, or \$10 for each of us. I apologize for the error in reporting, and for the missing funds. This is the first time we've ever had problems with night deposits not being made. We have made dozens of cash night deposits over the years and have had no problems till now. It will not happen again.

In order to assure that this never happens again, I request that all membership fees and other purchases be paid with either personal check or money order so we can have some type of paper trail. If you must pay in cash, make sure you get a receipt from us indicating the date, the amount, and what it is for. I'm also offering to accept cash on your behalf, and write my own personal check to cover ship purchases, if you so choose. This will create a verifiable paper trail and prevent cash from being stolen by an unknown party.

Furthermore, I will personally make all deposits during regular bank hours, especially if it involves cash. For example, if you look at the current statement, you will notice three deposits on March 16. The deposit slips are actually dated for February 1, though they weren't deposited for over a month. I didn't trust leaving cash in the night deposit again. I promise that future deposits will be made within a month, probably a couple of weeks, of the time they are made out.

Again, I apologize for the reporting error and for the loss of funds even though I had no involvement. It's my responsibility to ensure the integrity of our ship's finances.

On a side note, it is standard procedure for us to mark down all the pertinent information on funds we receive. Furthermore, all checks require at least two signatures, preferably one of which should always be mine. Those who can sign for checks include, Dallas, Kit, and me, and we're hoping to include Russ soon. Dallas keeps detailed records of all financial transactions. The monthly bank statements is sent to me since I have a more permanent address. After I make a copy for my personal records, at the next meeting I then pass it along to Dallas when I see him. Receipts or copies are kept for all purchases if possible.

Your money is not spent until after we vote on it. Usually, we have a couple of established, ongoing expenses that we may not take a vote on because they are required or are included in your membership dues. The two most notable ones include mailing postage for the *Mission Briefing* and the annual Chapter Charter Fee that we must pay to STARFLEET in order to remain a chapter in good standing. The CCF is used to pay for production and mailing of the bimonthly *Command Status Report* and other ship related expenses. Some of the copying expense of the *Subspace Static* is also allocated in your membership fees.



However, since I almost always go over budget, I generally get a vote to pay only a part of the actual expense.

If you ever have any questions about ship finances, please contact me or Dallas. We will both be happy to explain to you where the money goes and why. If you wish copies of the statements and records, we can provide that as well in exchange for a processing and copying fee.

- Compiled by FCAPT
Richard L. Trulson

Num.	Date	Payee	Debits	Deposits	Balance
Balance as of October 1, 1997					\$67.82
1123	10/19/97	Postmaster	(12.00)		55.82
		60 20¢ Postage Stamps for <i>Mission Briefings</i> (2 months)			
1124	1/4/98	STARFLEET	(12.00)		43.82
		Annual Chapter Charter Fee			
	1/5/98	General Deposit		10.00	53.82
1125	2/1/98	Richard Trulson	(50.00)		3.82
		Reimbursement for copying Fall 1997 SS, and purchase of T-shirts and name-tag materials			
	3/16/98	General Deposit		50.00	53.82
	3/16/98	General Deposit		10.00	63.82
	3/16/98	General Deposit		6.00	69.82
Balance as of March 31, 1998:					\$69.82

DEEP SPACE NINE

Upcoming *Deep Space Nine* episodes and news.

Episode #	Air Date	Prod. #	Episode Title
142	4/06/98	542	"Inquisition"
143	4/13/98	543	"In the Pale Moonlight"
144	4/20/98	544	"His Way"
145	4/27/98	545	"The Reckoning"
146	5/04/98	546	"Valiant"
147	5/11/98	547	"Profit and Lace"
148	5/18/98	548	"Out of Time"

"Inquisition"

An internal investigation indicates Doctor Bashir may be a Dominion spy.

"In the Pale Moonlight"

Sisko attempts to trick the Romulans into declaring war against the Dominion.

"His Way"

Odo receives lessons in romancing Kira from a holographic 1960's lounge singer.

"The Reckoning"

Sisko must risk his son's life to fulfill his role as the Emissary.

Jeri Taylor sent the following letter to Brian Michael Scully on February 13, 1998:

"As we move into a new year, we also move toward the end of our production season. We will wrap up shooting on March 10, just weeks from now. It's hard to believe the fourth season is almost over.

"The end of the season brings mixed feelings to me, as this will be my last as Executive Producer of the show. I am retiring and turning the reins over to my very capable colleague, Brannon Braga. I will miss the show, the family of people I work with, and the interface with fans [like you], but the time has come for me to enter into a new phase of my life. I will, however, remain as a Creative Consultant to the show, and hope that I'll have the chance to write some scripts. I couldn't bear not to be involved on some level!"

- Compiled by FCAPT
Richard L. Trulson

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Overall Financial Analysis

For the March Planning meeting, I drew up a financial Analysis for the ship. While not a specific budget or expense ledger, it will hopefully give you some idea of where our money goes and in what quantities. It will also give you some idea of the financial strain that occurs in order to keep the current level of services that people want.

Membership Income:

Associate Membership (Associates), with \$10 annual dues, is for those who want to be made aware of what we're doing, but may not have the time to participate fully. They have no voting rights and are currently informed with the monthly *Mission Briefing* news postcard. We very rarely have anyone actually use this option though, maybe 5 people.

Active Membership (Actives), with \$10 annual dues, is the one everyone is encouraged to have. They have voting rights, subscription to the MB and the *Subspace Static*. Eventually, we will also be giving Actives a Membership Handbook that contains our by-laws and other important membership information. They will also eventually receive a Membership Certificate, similar to the "deckplates" we use to give. Unfortunately, I haven't had the time to design either of those yet, or the funds to produce the Handbook.

Household Membership, with \$15 annual dues, was well received by the Command Staff. Similar to STARFLEET's Family Membership, up to 5 people residing at the same address may belong under the Household Membership. Each member is considered to be an Active Member of the club with equal voting rights and Membership Certificate. However, only one MB, SS, and Membership Handbook will be given to them to be used by everyone under the Household Membership.

Our membership dues are currently our main source of income. Sure, every button, name-tag, and T-shirt sale adds a \$1 or so to our funds, but those sources are mostly self-sufficient and do not create that large or noticeable amount of income. Using the above figures, we better have a minimum of 10 Actives a year, which will give us \$100 a year. We generally have about 15 Actives at any given time. I'd say an upper end would be 20, which would give us \$200 a year. Since I'm always advocating we need to recruit more, I'm going to work with the 20 figure and hope we actually have that many.

Mission Briefing:

I produce these entirely by hand at home on my personal computer. Each postcard is produced on a double-sided cardstock sheet of paper. I'm going to use Kinkos prices to give you some idea of how much it costs me. They charge 16¢ for single sided sheet, plus 6¢ for the second side, or 22¢ before tax or 24¢ after 8% sales tax. Since I can get four to a sheet, that's about 6¢ per postcard to produce. They cost 20¢ to mail for a grand total cost of 26¢ each.

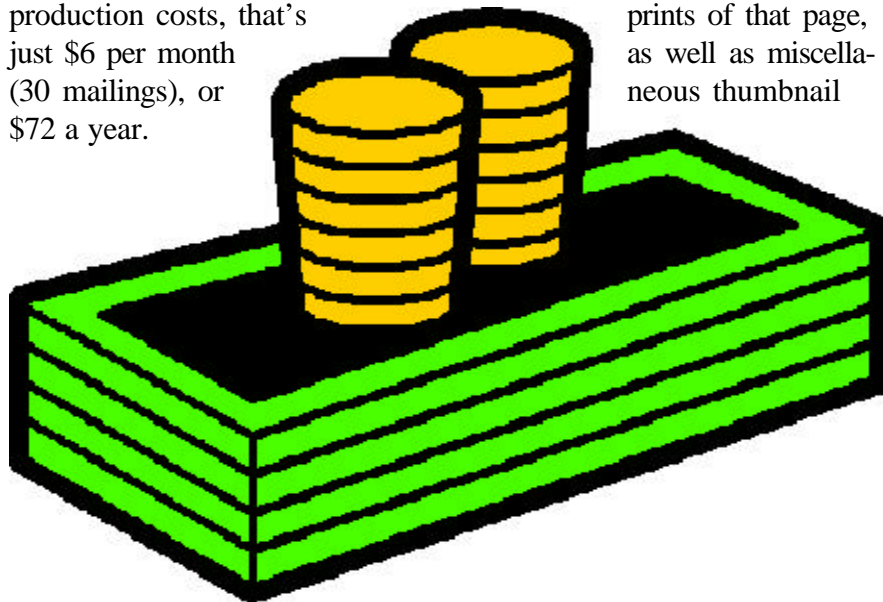
Mailing labels come with thirty labels per sheet, with usually 100 sheets per box. Office Depot offers a box for \$9, or \$9.72 after tax, which means individual labels are less than 1¢ each. That brings each postcard to 27¢ each. Everyone gets 12 per year, which means that costs \$3.24 per year. That leaves \$1.76 from Associates dues, and \$6.76 from Actives.

However, since 30 labels come to a sheet, I always print a full sheet of labels and use them all. I produce 9 sheets which gives 36 postcards. Two are saved for ship archives and one for me. (I don't print myself a label or mail my MB, thus saving the ship 21¢ a month or \$2.52 a year.) Three extras are left in case some are damaged during cutting or smudged during printing. These are often sent in along with the annual newsletter awards nomination.

You may notice that if we only average about 15 members at any given time, that means 10 to 15 MB are being sent to people that haven't paid membership dues. I hope by sending them a few sample copies of the MB that they will be enticed to join. Furthermore, some are used in newsletter and information exchanges.

I actually absorb the production costs myself, detailed as follows: 9 double-sided cardstock copies at Kinko's for 24¢ per sheet, or \$2.16 per month. A sheet of labels adds 10¢ per month, for a total production cost per month of \$2.26. Like I said, I can absorb that cost easily. Over the year though, that's \$27.12 that the ship would actually have to pay for if someone couldn't do it at home.

What does all that mean practically? At 15 Actives and \$3.24 costs per person per year, it costs the *von Braun* about \$48.60. However, because I actually mail out 30 per month, that would be \$97.20 per year. However, since I can absorb the production costs, that's just \$6 per month (30 mailings), or \$72 a year.



Subspace Static:

The newsletter is much harder to get solid numbers for since the costs vary with the number of pages and the number produced. However, I'll try to give you the average values.

Each 8.5"x11" sheet of white paper costs 7¢ per single-sided sheet at Kinkos. For a double sided copy, add an additional 6¢, for a total of 13¢. 8% tax pushes that value to just over 14¢ per sheet. I generally calculate 15¢ cents per sheet in order to cover tax and draft copy print costs. Magazine style paper (11"x17" paper folded in half to 8.5"x11" size) is 14¢ for a single-sided copy, with an additional 12¢ for a second side, totaling 26¢ per double sided copy. Since that holds 2 times as much as 8.5"x11" paper, they're both actually the same cost.

I generally do 2 full draft copy prints on the backs of scrap paper before printing a third run on high quality paper. Plus, I almost always have problems with certain pages and

must do several prints of that page, as well as miscellaneous thumbnail

size printings to evaluate the balance of the pages. I figure I average about 45 pages per issue four times a year. Therefore, draft printing probably runs me about \$5 to \$10 per issue depending on the number of pages. However, that's simply for you to know, as I don't bother to add those figures in. Stapling and folding can be done by me as well, so I don't bother to add those costs either.

Let's do a sample issue price breakdown. Let's assume the average newsletter runs about 40 pages, though the guarantee I used to make when it was a monthly digest size was 14 pages. At 40 pages, that's 20 doubles-sides sheets, or \$3 per issue. That means a yearly subscription (4 issues at the current quarterly rate) would run us \$12. As you can see, we don't charge that much. In fact, after you remove the \$3.24 for the MB postage costs, we're left with only \$6.76 for the entire year. That leaves \$1.69 per issue, or about 11 sheets of paper. That's not a very thick or informative newsletter in my opinion. It certainly doesn't allow for anything in depth.

Furthermore, that's just printing exactly the same number of newsletters as there are Actives. As with the MB, the SS needs at least two extra copies printed for ship archival purposes, as well as at least two of a particular issue to submit in the Regional Awards competition. And depending on how they do it, yet another issue may need to be saved for the Interna-

tional Awards competition. And don't forget that we have at least one newsletter exchange going on. Therefore, we need at least 7 issues over the number of Actives.

Let's do the price breakdown from the top down. If our income is about \$200 per year and we use \$72 for MB postage, that leaves about \$128 for everything else. Assuming 25 copies of each issue, a quarterly newsletter budget would be \$1.28 per copy, or about 8 sheets of paper. Again, that's not a very big newsletter.

Now, let me do a few other figures for you so you can see about how much we need to spend on a newsletter. If we stick with the quarterly rate with say 50 pages or 25 sheets of paper, the per issue copying cost would be \$3.75, or \$15 per year. If you assume we need to make 25 copies, that would require a newsletter budget of \$375 per year.

The SS went from a monthly rate to a quarterly rate because of lack of submissions and funds. While the amount of submissions has improved somewhat, it could certainly be better. However, the amount of funds has continued to decline. However, I'd like to provide the figures for a monthly newsletter in case we ever return to the former glory. It would probably be about 24 pages, or 12 sheets. That would be \$1.80 per issue, or \$21.60 per year. At 25 copies per issue, that's \$540 per year.

I have yet to mention mailing cost for the SS because we don't mail it. However, if

we wanted to, 4 8.5"x11" sheets of paper is guaranteed to be under an ounce with a mailer covering. Paper by itself could probably squeeze by 5 sheets. The first ounce is 32¢, and each additional ounce is 23¢. Our biggest newsletter at 34 sheets would cost over \$2 per issue, or over \$8 per year. It's so big, the \$3 flat-rate would probably be best to mail it at \$12 per year. The suggested 12 sheet monthly issue would cost 78¢ per issue, or \$9.36 per year. That's about \$150 per year for the entire ship at 15 Actives. As you can see, postage alone is a lot.

Miscellaneous Costs:

T-Shirts are mostly self-funding. Since they're simple iron-on transfers, we can't charge much for them other than the current price of \$10 each. Hobby Lobby S-XL pocket-less T-shirts are \$5 each. Office Depot sales iron-on transfers for \$17 a pack, with 10 transfers sheets per pack. Each transfer sheet costs \$1.70, and each ship T-shirt requires two sheets. Therefore, production costs of the T-shirt is about \$8.40, or about \$9.07 with 8% tax. To say we make a \$1 on every T-shirt would be a good, easy, general count.

We could charge more, but would you be willing to pay \$11 to \$15 for an ironed-on hand-made T-shirt? Also, that doesn't even factor in the cost of the color printing of all those transfers. Kinkos would have charged \$2 per sheet for color laser print, or maybe \$1 per

copy for over 25 color copies at once. I've absorbed the color inkjet printing costs so far.

Name-tags changed considerably once I started doing them. In order to get the size I wanted, I had to buy a pack of 25 lamination pouches from Office Depot for \$5.07, or 20¢ each. The alligator clips can be bought separately at Kinkos for 25¢. Therefore, production cost for them is about 45¢ each. Again, that doesn't cover the cost of color print output. The good news is that you can divide the output costs by 3 since you can fit 3 name-tags on a 8.5"x11" page. So let's assume about 67¢ per nametag, which brings the total production costs to about \$1.12. We're charging \$3, so that gives us \$1.88 profit.

The Shining Star Award would be much more costly to produce at Kinkos than it would be at home. The award paper is \$22 each for 100 sheets from Paper Direct, which is 22¢ per sheet. By the time you add tax and toner costs for me to print at home, the actual cost is probably closer to 25¢ per sheet. A pack of 240 laser-printable gold star seals is \$17, or about 7¢ per star. Therefore, the total cost each per Commendation of Excellence or Shining Star Award is about 32¢. I probably print at least 75 awards per year at a cost of \$25.

If you want to get fancy and add the beautiful gold foil accents, the cost is \$20 for a pack of 16 8"x11" sheets, or about \$1.25 per sheet. I can probably foil about 8 awards

per sheet depending on the amount of foiling needed. Therefore, a gold foil award cost is about 15¢ more than a non-foil award. Cardstock certificates cost about \$25 per 50 sheets, or about 50¢ each.

I expect the Membership Certificates, once they are done, to be gold foiled, gold star, cardstock extravagances. After all, you're only getting this item once, and therefore, it should be nice and last. Each Certificate will probably be about \$1 to \$2 to produce, especially as I'd like to add some sort of frame. It will probably be a really cheap though nice looking picture frame, or a special jacket cover.

We can also speculate on the membership handbook cost. I'd imagine it will be about 40 pages long, or 20 sheets of paper. It too will use some special extravagances to look nice. Paper copying alone will probably run about \$3. A binder or report cover will probably add another \$2. I honestly expect each Membership handbook to cost about \$7-\$10 to produce. Granted, this is a one time only cost, but at 15 current active members, that's anywhere from \$100 to \$150.

Funding Costs:

Any organization needs to be completely self-sufficient, and we're no exception. A future CO may not be as willing to foot the bill for anything the membership dues don't cover. Therefore, we need to start doing some fund-raisers. Now let's take a look at our total expenses.

At our current copying and distribution volumes, that would mean an annual expense of about \$450. That \$72 for *Mission Briefing* postage and \$375 per year for copying the *Subspace Static*. If we subtract the \$150 or so we have in membership dues, that means we still need to raise about \$300 per year. If we want to include mailing the SS and reimbursing me for the award costs (and I feel the ship should be paying for that), then we're looking at an additional \$175. Or if you divide the actual total of \$625, we're looking at having to have membership dues close to \$40.

Heck, it's hard enough to get people to pay \$10. By the time you add \$15 STARFLEET dues, people are going to protest. As I see it, we're offering less than what our international organization is providing. As a result, our dues should be less as well. The reason STARFLEET can get by on such low dues is because they can get incredible bulk rate discounts that we can't. The

Continued: See Analysis on page 25...

SINCLAIR VS KIRK

Top ten reasons Jeffrey Sinclair was more of a sex symbol than James Kirk:

10. Sinclair had real hair, Kirk had a really awful toupee.
9. Kirk hangs a phaser on his belt, Sinclair tucks his PPG into his pants.
8. Lions and Tigers and Sinclairs, oh my...
7. James Kirk? No, not the One.
6. Real men hit an alien and can admit that it hurt their hand.
5. Sinclair's voice in a whisper... "Breathing in, breathing out... in and out" could melt the polar ice caps...
4. Kirk chased skirts; skirts chased Sinclair. Any questions?
3. Kirk never married, Sinclair was a would-be polygamist with DeLenn, Catherine Sakai, and a Minbari one thousand years earlier. What a stud.
2. Michael Garibaldi's favorite thing in the universe was Jeffrey Sinclair. Hello, old friend, indeed.
1. Kirk had one son. The children of Valen could not be counted.

Submitted by Lisa in *The Zocalo* e-zine #136 available at <http://www.highfiber.com/~katana>

TREK 411

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

All the latest games, books, and other collectibles.

Hello again STARFLEET fans, its time for our holiday peek into the *Trek* Collectible Universe, in order to see what kind of goodies Santa has in store for all you good little boys and girls of the Fleet.

For the book worms and PC buffs, the updated and revised *Star Trek Encyclopedia* in book form and PC CD-ROM is now in the stores.

I want to tell you that this is the most comprehensive *Trek* reference source to date. All of the *Trek* series are covered in detail including *Voyager*. The CD-ROM version has episode guide CD-ROMS for TNG and DS9, as well as super graphics. Cost for the book is \$50 and the cost for the CD-ROMS is \$44.95.

For the Klingons attached to the fleet, Paramount has announced its limited *Star Trek: Klingon* collection. This collection consists of three Klingon disruptor pistols, which are 1:1 replicas of the actual props used on *Trek*, and a detail scale model of the TOS Klingon D-7 warship. Both items come in attractive display cases with small plaques containing Klingon writing, as well as their Federation Standard English translations.

We are REALLY TALKING BIG BUCKS FOR THIS COLLECTION. The price for the pistol collection is \$995 and the price for the D-7 is also \$995 (that's nine hundred and ninety five!!). Payment plans are available in three installments of \$334.95. Check this month's edition of *Star Trek: Communicator* for more details.

Playmates has introduced its *Star Trek: Strike Force* playset. This set consists of miniatures of the *Enterprise-D*, Klingon, Romulan, Cardassian, and Maquis ships. Each ship also comes with a 6" figure of your favorite *Trek* character. Better grab them up quick, so that the little one on your holiday gift list won't go to red alert.

From the Klingon Language Disk CD-ROM



Quark's Bazaar is revved up for the holidays with some new items.

First off, we have some new sculptures from *Star Trek: First Contact*, Picard and the Borg Queen. Each work is very detailed and sells for \$79.95 each.

I also pleased to announce that the *First Contact* uniforms are now available at Quark's. All department colors are available, along with rank pips and pin. Each uniform sells for \$49.95.

For your business types who want to make a hit at your next business presentation, Quark's presents the TNG laser pointer. This is an actual working laser beam (and I'm not kidding either) that will make a lot of heads turn at your next meeting. This is exact replica of the TNG type 2 phaser, which emits authentic sound effects, which can be turned off or on when required. Cost for this one is \$149.95 at Quark's.

A quick word for the PC buffs, Interplay will release its TNG game *The Secret Of*

Vulcan's Fury some time in early 1998.

If you purchased *Starfleet Academy*, you can view a demo during installation. From what I've seen, this is going to be a GOOD GAME with SUPER GRAPHICS. More info as soon as I get it.

Well, that's all for now and for 1997. I hope Santa brings all of my readers all of the presents they want, plus many more. Don't forget to keep tuned in for more adventures to the *Trek* Collectible Universe in 1998

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL, and to all, until next time, a good night.

Hello again STARFLEET fans, it's time for our first peek into the Exalted Universe of the *Trek* Collectible for 1998.

We're going to start with the PC Buffs. A word of caution to those of you who have bought the four CD-ROM *Trek Encyclopedia*: Make sure you turn off your desktop wallpaper before you attempt to run disk 2, the video disk. Otherwise, you will hear no sound, you will only see the video. Yours truly found this out the hard way when I bought my copy.

On a little brighter note, *The Secret Of Vulcan's Fury* is set for release within the first months of the year. Another word of caution is in order. This game is graphics intensive and may require a Pentium 166Mhz, or better, PC system, along with a good graphics card, I use Graphics Blaster EXXtreme. Check your system before you buy and make any necessary upgrades to insure the best performance.

From the Star Trek Omnipedia CD-ROM



Now for the trading card sharks in our audience. Quark's Bazaar in the *Star Trek: Communicator* Magazine has a supply of various foil and chase cards, which were hard to get when you bought those \$2 packs. These cards cover TNG, DS9, and VGR and sell for \$60 a set. Check it out at Quark's in the current issue of the *Communicator*.

For the book worms: an interesting trade paperback is coming out in February. *Star Trek: Sciences*. It is an attempt to explain some of the science that is used in the *Trek* Universe. The price is around \$14.95.

If you have access to the Internet, you can check out upcoming *Trek* titles, up to six months in advance, at www.simonsays.com.

Well, that's about it for now, but keep tuned in on that good collectible so you can share with my readers in this column.

Hello again STARFLEET fans, it's time to go into *Trek* Collectible Universe and see what we shall see.

First off, for the PC buffs, as you may, or may not have heard, The *Star Trek Continuum* is now available on the whole World Wide Web. The contract with the Microsoft Network has apparently expired and was not re-negotiated. This should please the rest of the Internet world as Microsoft seems to be in a little hot water with the government.

However, the *Continuum* works best with the Microsoft Internet Explorer Version 4.0. But fear not all you Netscape users, such as yours truly, the *Continuum* is on its way to becoming friendly with Netscape software, so hang in there just a little bit longer.

Another item for the PC buffs: *Star Trek: The Game Show* is now available on CD-ROM. Your host is the all-knowing Q, played by, you guessed it, John deLancie. This is billed as the ultimate *Trek* Trivia game where Q makes an attempt to become Alex Trebek, with a somewhat Vanna White look alike, in a TOS miniskirt uniform (big grin here), played by Karen Cornwill, and complete with announcer (who is trying to become the next Don Pardo) and a know-it-all audience member who shouts the answer out, if the player is stumped.

This game does test your knowledge of *Trek*, from the Original Series right through to *Voyager*, and including all movies through *First Contact*. Cost is a mere \$29.95.

A quick diversion for the book worms: the trade paperback, *Star Trek Science Logs*, by Andre Boormanis has been delayed until the first of March. Cost is \$16.00

William Shatner is going to revive Kirk, again, in his latest *Trek* hardcover work, *Spectre*, due out in the March-April timeframe.

Captain Calhoun of *Star Trek: The New Frontier* will be appearing in new titles coming out in the next few months. Commander Shelby is still at his side as his first officer.

For those who missed the first printing of *The New Frontier* books, all four books are now available in a small hardcover edition.

The Best and the Brightest is a new book series featuring top cadets from Starfleet Academy. The first book in the series is due out in February.

Back to the PC buffs: Microprose Software, which published the *Generations* PC

Game, has announced that it is publishing a new PC Game based on *First Contact*.

Microprose stated that there will be a lot more to this game, such as playing multiple characters, and point-and-click play action. More on this game as info becomes available.

Well folks, that about wraps it up for now. I will include my full address in which you can write, call, fax, or e-mail me anytime with news of that good *Trek* collectible, or if you want to ask a question, or just want to say hello. I'm always glad to hear from the readers of my column.

Hello again Fans of the Fleet! It's time to do a little frolicking in the Exalted Universe of the *Trek* Collectible.

The PC buffs are going to see quite a few items of *Trek* Software hit the stores within the next few months.

For the computer pinball whizzes: *Star Trek: The Pinball Game* is now out in the stores. This game has not one, but three different pinball machine setups, including a Captain Kirk machine, and a Klingon machine. Guaranteed, I hope, to help relieve stress from a hard day of work and/or school.

Other games pending are: *The Secret Of Vulcan's Fury*, the anticipated 3-D graphics TOS game, due in the Spring/Summer 1998 time frame; *Star Trek: First Contact*, based

on the hit TNG Borg movie, also graphics intensive; and *Star Trek: The Birth of the Federation*, a strategy intensive PC game where the player creates his/her own Federation and deal with Klingons, Romulans, Ferengi, and other races to see how long his/her Federation will hold together.

A word of caution is in order for *Birth of the Federation*, this game is not a one night stand game. One game can consist of many turns, where the player must establish worlds, set up economies, and build defenses, as well as fight wars. This game is set up along the scale of *Dungeons and Dragons*, i.e. a continuing series, not just a one night stand. If you buy this game, please have a lot of patience and do a lot of good thinking, because that is the mark of a Federation leader.

A few items now, from Quark's Bazaar, in the *Star Trek: Communicator* magazine.

Playmates Toys has announced its *Star Trek: The Captain's Series* collection. This collection consists of Captains James T. Kirk and Jean-Luc Picard. These are beautifully detailed action figures that come in specially designed collector's cases, which comes with a hard cover book containing 50 pages of photos of the Captains.

This series is limited to 10,000 sets and sell for \$70 per set. This is a must have for the serious *Trek* action figure collector.

From the First Contact Web Site



For you trigger happy security buffs: The Starfleet Phaser is now available at Quark's. This is a replica, used in *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*. It comes complete with real lights, sound effects, a removable battery clip, and even a technical blueprint. Cost is \$17 at Quark's.

The STARFLEET Region 2 Summit is coming up on the weekend of March 6-8, 1998 in Birmingham, Alabama. I hope to see some of my readers there, so we can talk about some good collectibles.

I will be nosing around the area looking at some of the collectibles from the Region 2 chapters and I will provide you with a wrap-up in my next article.

I do hope to see a lot of you at the Summit, because they are a lot of fun, you get to meet folks from around the region, and most important, you learn new things.

That's all for now folks. If I don't see you at the Summit, please feel free to write, fax, call, or e-mail me at:

Russ McNutt
902 Drake Ave. SE
Huntsville, AL 35802-1035
phone: 256-650-3195
fax: 256-650-0173
e-mail: russnutt@airnet.net

Until next we meet, keep on Trekkin' and good collectin'.

- **CMDR Russ McNutt**

...Analysis continued from page 21.

only alternatives for us is to either have people donate money and supplies to the ship (Basically, that's what most CO's do, and I'm no exception.) or they do lots of fund-raising (which we have failed to do for the past two years).

Now, if you really want to cringe, let's do the math for a monthly newsletter and all expenses paid by the ship. We'd need to add approximately \$100 per year for full cost MB production and mailing, \$550 for SS copying, \$150 for SS mailing, and \$25 for awards costs. The total of \$825 per year would equal about \$55 annual dues for 15 people. At the current dues rate, we'd need to come up with \$675 through fund raisers.

Don't forget that we still need to produce Membership Handbooks and Certificates. That will be another \$150 on top of all that. Those figures are, of course probably a bit on the high side. If we had more members, then the excess in each membership would probably pay for the extra production of materials. However, more members also means increases to the newsletter production costs.

The simple fact remains that we must do some outside fund-raising.

If you look over to the Special Events article, you will see that I've got a car wash schedule for Memorial Day weekend. A car wash is typically the easiest to organize and most profitable of all ventures. That's why I'm doing it; we need money and we need it easily. Eventually, we may be able to expand on this idea and make even more money. Some other ideas for fund-raisers have been suggested. These include the usual raffles, bakes sales, rummage sells, selling drinks at meetings, dinners, etc.

The ideal fund-raiser would make us lots of money, involve very little seed money or man-power, and not require us to sell anything. If, as a side-benefit, it could also raise money for charity, then it will probably do that much better. And as a final perk, it should give us some publicity and be fun at the same time. After all, doesn't the first three letters of "fund-raising" spell "fun"? I'm open to suggestions.

- **FCAPT Richard L. Trulson.**

LAURA'S MERCHANDISE LIST

Con dealer and WvB member's sci-fi merchandise.

Most items are 10-50% off when bought here in Madison or Huntsville. All prices and items subject to availability.

9" Action figures	\$25.00
Action Figures, STNG	\$10-\$75
Action Figures, SW	\$10-\$25
Autographs	\$25-\$100
<i>Babylon 5</i> Insignia	
Bars	\$9.00
Half Bars	\$8.00
Earth Alliance	\$10.00
Psi Corps	\$10.00
<i>Babylon 5</i>	
Micromachines #6	\$60.00
Badges (clip-on)	\$2.50
Beanie Baby "Magic"	\$40.00
Buttons	\$1.00
Bookmarks <i>Babylon 5</i>	\$1.50
Card Protectors	\$7.00
Coloring Posters, STNG with markers	\$10.00
Communicators (all styles, incl. Klingon)	\$10.00
half-size	\$6.00
tie tack	\$5.00
pips	\$3.00
magnetic (<i>Voyager</i>)	\$35.00
Compact Discs	\$18.00
Collectible Card Games, single cards priced individually	
<i>Babylon 5</i> starters (all 4 races)	\$9.00
Classic <i>Trek</i>	\$9.00
CT boosters (packs)	\$3.00
<i>Highlander</i> Starters	\$10.00
Magic, single cards only	
STNG	\$10.00
STNG boosters	\$3.00
<i>X Files</i> starters	\$10.00
<i>Star Wars</i> starters	\$10.00
Vampires	\$10.00
Vampires boosters	\$3.00

Desk Organizer, Classic <i>Trek</i> , talking	\$25.00
Earring set, gold tone, two sets com	\$17.50
Ears, Vulkan	\$10-12
Hallmark Ornaments	\$20-150
Jewelry, Titanium	\$8-35
Keyrings	
<i>Quantum Leap</i>	\$3.50
Pewter	\$7.00
Electronic (clearance)	\$12.00
Klingon Insignia, resin	\$5-\$15
Micro machines, ST pewter finish	\$30.00
Mugs	\$10.00
<i>Quantum Leap</i>	\$12 ea.
or set of 3 for	\$30
B5 Logo, small black	\$10.00
B5 Ship, large black	\$12.00
<i>Xena</i> , Cobalt blue	\$14.00
ST 30th Anniv., gold on black	\$14.00
ST Ships, gold on black	\$14.00
ST Anniversary Pewter	\$15.00
Noses, alien	\$7.00
Patches	\$6-7
Photographs (clearance)	\$4.00
Playmates Equipment	
Klingon knife	\$25.00
Classic Medical Set	\$30.00
Medical Tricorder	\$30.00
Phaser, Type II	\$30.00

Postcards, Large	\$3.00
or 2 for	\$5
Postcards, Small	\$1.00
or 6 for	\$5
ST Limited Ed. Game	\$55.00
SW Film Cels	\$30.00
T-Shirts	
B5 3rd seas cast	\$17.00
B5 4th seas cast	\$17.00
B5 4th seas cast	
XXL	\$19.00
B5 Shadow Knows	\$17.00
B5 Shadow Knows	
XXL	\$19.00
B5 "Five"	\$17.00
B5 "Five" XXL	\$19.00
B5 "Five" XXXL	\$21.00
<i>Babylon 5</i> Orbit	\$19.00
Fur Wars	\$17.00
<i>Gar Trek</i>	\$17.00
Mos Eisley Cantina	\$17.00
Starfleet Academy	\$17.00
STNG 10th Ann (crew)	
	\$14.00
STNG 1st Contact	\$14.00
STNG Ship	\$17.00
<i>Voyager</i> Ship	\$17.00
<i>X Files</i>	\$17.00
<i>Xena</i> Flame	\$17.00
<i>Xena</i> Tusk	\$17.00
30th Anniversary shirt	
	\$17.00

Continued: See Merchandise on page 36...



MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 1996:

Departmental Reports:

CO: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Showed the holiday cards that were sent to the ship, including one from the Commander, STARFLEET.

Thanked everyone for re-election and showed the new WvB flyers that were posted around Huntsville.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

Updates on the latest *Trek* games and books. The *Star Trek* Continuum is moving from MSN to the general web so everyone can view it.

Johnathan Frakes is directing the next *Trek* movie. They're releasing a *Deep Space Nine* Technical Manual.

Operations: CMDR Dallas Vinson

\$55.82 is the current balance. Need to work on recruitment as we're close to falling below 10 minimum requirement.

Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Problems with the newsletter. Please read specific articles when you get it. Deadline for the next issue will be at the next meeting on February 1.

Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel

Took some time off.

Shuttle *Celestial*:

Got some new members.

Business:

Planning meeting set for January 25 at 2 PM. Room will be announced.

No fun activity was wanted for this month.

Plans for the Region 2 Summit on March 6-8 in Birmingham were announced. Everyone was encouraged to go. Registration is \$40 and includes the buffet at the Awards Banquet. Richard will be getting at least one room.

USS *Rodger Young* commissioning party was moved a week earlier to January 10, 1998 in Monroe, LA. Cost is \$15 per person for the dinner. For more info, contact Adam Thompson at rodgeryoung@region3.com. This is the ship of former WvB member Dustin Williams, who is XO.

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

There is a computer show at the VBC on January 10-11. \$5 admission. IEEE is last weekend in February with free admission.

Laura Peterson won the Shining Star Award by acclimation for hosting the holiday party.

Babylon 5 premieres January 4 on TNT. "In the Beginning" at 7 PM CST and "The Gathering." at 9 PM. And then on Monday through Fridays at 6 PM CST, season 1 through 4 repeats. Beginning

January 21, the fifth season episodes air every Wednesday at 9 PM CST.

There's a new B5 customizable card came available.

Wireless One Cable carries a UPN station (38) out of Boston. It airs at the network time of 7 PM of Wednesdays on cable channel 42.

Two *Star Trek: Voyager* episodes were watched.

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

February 1, 1998

Departmental Reports:

CO: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Received an erroneous crew roster from CompOps. They show us at 16 members, but in reality we only have 11 since some of those belong to the shuttle *Celestial* or otherwise are in error. Please make sure you join or renew.

Scott Lowery and Francis Lowery were assigned the rank of Petty Officer, Third Class for having joined STARFLEET. This should have been done at the January meeting but was overlooked.

The planning meeting was canceled due to schedule conflicts. It is rescheduled for February 15 at 2 PM somewhere in the Madison Municipal Complex.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

ALL STARFLEET membership materials have been mailed as of January 16, 1998. Let us Russ know if you are missing anything. Remem-

ber, you need to be a member during the month of the *Communiqué* cover date in order to get that CQ.

New E-mail address is russnutt@airnet.net.

Several new *Star Trek* games are available, including a pinball game and a game show. Operations: CMDR Dallas Vinson

Marlene Miller confirmed receipt of our 1998 Chapter Charter Fee.

A vote passed to allow Ops to absorb the duties of Engineering and Security until we can get DCs for those departments.

\$53.82 in the bank. Will work on a crew directory, but needs everyone's approval to be included.

Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Fall 1997 newsletter is now available for real. Please read the articles, especially the CO's report, the STARFLEET News, and the Challenge article. Today is the deadline for submissions for next issue, which should be ready by March meeting. Even though copying costs were \$142.80, the amount taken out of the WvB account will be only \$50. Donations are appreciated, as are buying of buttons.

Medical: Anya Funderburk

Will be attending UAB classes. She's been assigned to serve aboard the real USS *Enterprise*. The Red Cross will also need help at their booth at Panoply if you have any medical training at all.

Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel

Been searching the web and have heard discussion of the possibility of another lunar mission.

Shuttle *Alabama*:

They elected to disband since Bonnie is now working two jobs.

Business:

Live *Voyager* episode viewing hosted by associate member Louise at her house on February 25. Arrive around 6:30-7 PM with your own snacks and drinks. Confirm with Richard if you are going or need directions. She gets *Voyager* on Wireless One Cable channel 42 (Boston channel 38).

1998 Region 2 Summit is March 6-8 in Birmingham. Registration is \$50 until February 28 and includes the Awards Banquet. We will share a room with the *Dark Silence* crew to cut costs. Richard has done a web page at <http://www.OmniFacets.com/r2summit/>.

The crew voted to submit the Lursa ad B'Tor autographed picture card to the Region 2 auction. It originally went for \$50 in the *Communiqué* auction, but the winner never paid for it.

Pete Mohny is raising money to bring Commander, STARFLEET Mike Smith to the Summit.

The Overseas Coupon Project and Stampede was explained. Please collect manufacturer's coupons (expired up to three months) and stamps (except common flag stamps.) and bring them to the March meeting. Since this will

be an ongoing project, a DC will be needed to handle this in the future.

The USS *Hephaestus* invited us to a fun day at the Riverchase Golf and Games in Birmingham (Hoover) on February 21.

Panoply is April 24-26. The official times are 6 PM -10 PM Friday, 10 AM -11 PM Saturday, and 12:30 AM - 8:45 PM Sunday. If you can work, please sign up and indicate the day and times. *Dark Silence* has offered to help us as well.

Saturday, February 21 from 5 to 9 PM is the Cub Scout dinner party at the Asbury Church. Kit Ramsey will serve as coordinator. We will do a little skit for them. In exchange for serving as judges for their desserts and centerpieces, they're giving us free food. Please sign up to participate if you have a uniform. Kit Ramsey won the Shining Star award by acclimation for getting the Cub Scout dinner event.

MidSouth Con on March 20-22 in Tunica, MS (1/2 hour south of Memphis). STARFLEET International Conference in Lubbock, TX on July 2-5. Dragon*Con in Atlanta, GA on September 3-6. \$40. Pete Mohny is working for a Fleet group discount at \$30. Richard has E-mail or flyers about all of these.

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

Two *Star Trek: Voyager* episodes were watched.

March 1, 1998

Departmental Reports:

CO: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Richard thanks everyone for their participation in the Cub Scout dinner and apologized for being too ill to attend himself. Commendations of Excellence were given to everyone who helped including Kit Ramsey, Russ McNutt, Dallas Vinson, Wayne Cole, and Laura Peterson. Mark Godsey also helped and will receive one at the next meeting. Louise Bennett also received a Commendation for hosting the *Voyager* party.

XO: CMDR Russ McNutt

Will be attending the summit and eligible for the pie in the face. Told about the various *Star Trek* books and games. He was unable to get a *First Contact* uniform because they were available only for a limited time.

Operations: CMDR Dallas Vinson

Panoply is April 24-26. They need 1 person for each of the 5 gates and 2 people for each of the 6 lots. If you can work, please sign up and indicate the day and times. We are unable to have an ATV, so you might want to bring your own bicycle. Nor will we have the RV as a base of operations.

We have \$69.82 cents in the bank as of the last statement.

Dallas has the last NASFA newsletter if you wish to see it.

Communications: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Due to work with the Summit, the newsletter is postponed until next month.

Medical: Anya Funderburk

Local blood banks are extremely low; donate if you can. Only qualified staff are able to work the Red Cross booth at Panoply now. They do offer First Aid and CPR courses if you're interested in getting certified.

Science: LT(jg) Don Daniel

Contact was finally made with the Von Braun Astronomical Society's answering machine.

Business:

Region 2 Summit is next weekend. Richard and Russ are going. Stamps and manufacturer's coupons were collected for the competition.

Pete Mohny is trying to gather enough registrations in order to get a group discount to DragonCon on September 3-6. The cost is \$30 per person, checks payable to him. He needs to receive your money and registration form by March 20. Contact him at (205) 680-5723, pdmohney@aol.com or 1105 Oak Creek Trail, Birmingham AL 35215. Your registration fee is refundable and transferable if you are unable to attend.

Majority of the crew voted to have a regular meeting on April 5 as originally scheduled even though it is Palm Sunday. Due to continued attendance/schedule problems, the planning meeting was discussed and will be held March 29 at 12 noon at the Madison Municipal Complex.

A fun activity was discussed. If possible, we will have a planetarium visit on the Saturday they have it. Watch the *Mission Briefing* for info. Cost is about \$2.

Received in the mailbag: Dec/Jan *Communiqué* (#84), Jan/Feb *Command Status Report, Region 2-Zone 3 Newsletter, Watcher's Log, Rudder*. They were made available to look through after the meeting.

In STARFLEET News: Jesse Smith replaced Sal Lizard as CompOps Chief due to his business doing well. Jeremy Trent replaced Scott Akers as Marine Commandant due to inappropriate conduct. Dustin Williams replaced Donna Freason as Fleet Division Chief Director. Fleet is filing paperwork to abate the IRS fees, since the Dallas office seems much friendlier and helpful. They're also re-filing for the CQ Periodicals class permit, which the post office lost. Credit cards are now accepted for Academy and quartermaster purchases, as well as new and renewing memberships.

Kit Ramsey won the Shining Star Award again for her work with the Cub Scouts. Louise Bennett was also a nominee for her hosting the *Voyager* party. The vote was 4 to 1.

Laura Peterson has a price list on the sci-fi and *Trek* items that she carries in stock. They're cheaper if you buy direct from her since she doesn't have to pay for a dealer's table.

MidSouth Con on March 20-22 in Tunica, MS has been canceled. You can get a refund or apply it to next year. STARFLEET International Conference in Lubbock, TX on July 2-5. \$25 until April 1. \$30 until June 1. Then \$35.

Next Meeting is April 5, 1998 at 2 PM at the Madison Municipal Complex.

Two *Star Trek: Voyager* episodes were watched.

Planning Meeting Minutes:

The entire existing Command Staff was on hand for the planning on March 29, 1998 at 12 noon. In attendance was FCAPT Richard L. Trulson (CO), CMDR Russ McNutt (XO), CMDR Dallas Vinson (Ops), LT(jg) Don Daniel (Science). Rebecca Self (CO), Chyrstal Kimbro, and Niles Kimbro from our shuttle *Celestial* were also present. Richard provided pizza lunch from Papa Johns.

Upcoming Events:

Thanks to STARFLEET Comp-Ops, we are eligible for a vanity web address for having paid our Chapter Charter Fee. We'll vote on our choice at the general meeting.

We decided to continue with the regular *Voyager* episode viewing after the meeting instead of going to see *Lost in Space*. We also decided not to try another event during April so we could focus on Panoply work.

Louise B. is hosting another *Star Trek: Voyager* party at her house on Thursday, April 2. They are doing a special 2 hour viewing of both parts of "Scorpion", the season finale and premiere. Take Memorial Parkway (231) North into Meridianville. Turn left (west) onto Wells Road (Texaco station is on the right/east side) at the light. Go about 1/4 mile to 235 Wells Rd on the right with red and blue reflectors on the driveway, and a small house. Call or e-mail me so I can inform her you're going.

Details of Panoply were discussed. See the "Special Events" article elsewhere in this issue.

Madison Square Mall Community Days will probably fall on Panoply again. If it does, we won't participate. If it falls on May's meeting, we'll have our meeting at the mall.

Some major, important events were discussed in detail. Since they all tie-in closely together, a separate, special article has been written especially for them. See the "Special Events" article elsewhere in this issue.

The Events Calendar for the entire year was looked over briefly.

Ship Operation:

Promotion recommendations were discussed. Francis and Scott Lowery were nominated and approved to be promoted to Petty Officer, Second Class. A request for a

form to track promotions was made, and Richard said one would be designed.

Recruitment was discussed in detail. It needs to be our number one goal for a little while so as to increase our numbers which are dangerously low. Word of mouth is best. Excellent opportunities coming up at local movies this year. Some discussion was had on why people had left in the first place. The general consensus was that we have improved from where we were. Real-life just seemed to take a major toll on people. It was suggested that we staple our flyers to Fleet applications, as well as have Fleet aps already labeled with our ship name and NCC number.

Some fundraising options were discussed. They included: Selling buttons, T-shirts, name-tags, car wash, chili dinner, raffles, selling drinks and snacks at meetings, swear jar, and returning to the dime-a-dip dinners.

We discussed our meeting format and if we were doing enough fun activities. We discussed going to a separate fun and business meetings. Instead, we decided that later in the year, we'll try to have the business portion begin an hour before the fun portion, though having both on the same date. Hopefully, that will eliminate the lengthy planning meetings and allow for people to attend the part best for them. For now, *Voyager* episodes will continue since most people can get *Babylon 5* on TNT, though a B5

movie day was requested, possibly on June 13. Overall, people seemed pleased with the balance of fun and community service activities we had planned.

Richard expressed his desire to increase ship participation in Fleet-wide activities including the Overseas Coupon Program, Operation: Eagle, Stampede, Challenge of the Heart, and Hershey's Power of Purchasing. He pointed out that everyone could participate in the Stampede, that it is the easiest of them all, and that it requires the least amount of effort. The Hershey's Power of Purchasing was explained as well. He also suggested that a DC be assigned to the task.

Finances were discussed somewhat. Hopefully, we'll have more funds coming in this year, which will require better tracking of income and expenses. Richard had a rough budget and cost analysis available for the entire ship. [*See the "Finances" article elsewhere in this issue. - Rich*] Once we have more money due to fund-raisers, individual departments may be allocated funds, so it may be a good idea to go ahead and prepare a budget or plan individual fund-raisers.

A family membership option was proposed. It was pointed out that they all basically had to have Active memberships, which might be costly to a family. The cost was set at \$15 and would include up to 5 people with Active membership options. However, only one

newsletter and other such items would be sent to the family. They may all get membership cards and such. The name was changed to Household Membership. Everyone liked the household option, which will be brought before the chapter to vote on at the next meeting.

Over-all Goals:

Increase membership by 15 total STARFLEET members by July 1, and 20 total October 1. In addition to that, another 5 and 10 more on top of that for ship only membership. This can be accomplished by lots of personal word of mouth recruiting, as well as the movie, mall days, and *Voyager* day opportunities.

Better funding: Hopefully, this will can be done by getting more members as well as doing fund-raisers. We know we've accomplished this goal when we're able to pay for all newsletters, materials, bills, etc., and still have plenty left over to donate excess to charities. Furthermore, most ships are funded by the CO or fund-raising efforts. Few typical ships are able to survive on membership dues alone. A good long-term goal would be the ability to not have to charge for local membership dues.

Produce membership certificates, handbooks, promotion forms, financial forms, etc. by year's end.

Win every award offered by the Regional and International Awards Program at 99

Summit. Since those awards are based on this year, people need to be working now. Richard has challenged all Department Chiefs to win officer of the year. He also challenged our shuttle Celestial to win Shuttle of the Year. He, himself, is working on winning Newsletter and CO of the Year. General members can work toward winning crewmember of the year. Other awards are also available to win, though you must be a STARFLEET member to win any award. He would be glad to work with everyone to achieve this goal.

Participate in more charities such as the Fleet-wide programs, as well as more local charities.

Miscellaneous:

Eventually we'd like to get our own postal mailbox and voice mail. It's too expensive at over \$50 a year now for even a small mailbox. The reason being is that we would have a stable, permanent address that would never change even if the CO changes.

While most everyone has finally received what they need from Fleet, anyone needed anything else need to be taken care of. Richard thinks everyone who has ordered a T-shirt or name-tag, or who is due a *Subspace Static*, has received them.

Continued: See Minutes on page 37...

STARFLEET NEWS

News about our parent organization.

1998 started off with upheaval of course. On January 6, Major General Scott A. Akers announced that he was relieved of his duties as Commandant, STARFLEET Marine Corps. Mike Smith appointed Brigadier General Jeremy T. Trent as his replacement. It was a mystery as to why this occurred until someone accidentally posted what was suppose to be a private person to person e-mail to the STARFLEET mailing list. It basically said that Akers was violating his power as Marine Commandant by prohibiting a certain Marine Strike group from forming due to personal reasons. Smith had to relieve him because of that. I'm sure there is more to it than that, and that both sides are equally right.

However, not much of that really matters to us now since we no longer have a Marine Strike Group stationed aboard. We did at one time, under the command of former ship XO Jim Martin. However, I haven't heard anything about it, so I'm sure it has long ago been disbanded the Fleet Marine Corps for failure to report among other things. While I personally do not understand the need for the Marines on an

already established ship, I won't stand in the way of anyone who wishes to pursue this option. However, I don't think we have enough people currently to actually support them. Dallas or Kit probably has more information if you're interested.

January 12 was the official resignation date of Fleet Awards Director Marian L. Murphy-Tompkins and her entire staff. They have worked diligently over the past few years to establish a remarkable and robust awards program. However, I think her parting has as much to do with disliking Mike Smith as anything else. While she didn't come out and say that in her resignation letter, that's the way it reads between the lines to me. I've had the opportunity to work indirectly with her while I was starting out in Fleet in Region 12. Murphy-Tompkins was a very strong-willed woman. She was, however, very good at what she did. Her successor, which should be appointed by now, will have to work very hard to replace her.



Vice Chief of Communications Brittany Sloan, editor of the *Communiqué*, announced that they were doing away with the brown paper bags the CQ was being mailed in. They will now be mailed in clear, sealable plastic bags, which should eliminate the possibility of any CQ's slipping out. This is good news, though I was starting to get some sort of perverse thrill in getting something out of a plain, brown wrapper. ::grin:: Hopefully, the Periodicals Class Permit will be available soon. However, even then, it will only be forwarded to a new address for period of 60 days after your first file the change of address. After that, it's returned to Fleet.

However, you should make a change of address notification to CompOps Help to insure the CQ is sent to the proper location in the first place. In fact, it is your responsibility to make this change a good month before it occurs. The address is compopshelp@sfi.org or write:

Liz Woolf

CompOps Staff Coordinator
146 Crescent Manor, Bldg. 16
New Brunswick,
NJ 08901-1691

FCAPT Donna Friesen, Chief of Staff to the Vice-Commander, STARFLEET, announced the following appointments to the Fleet Division Chief program: Monica Waldron: FDC-Command, Rhonda E. Green: FDC-Sciences, Ken Oziah: FDC-Operations, Jason Sadeghi: FDC-Cadets, Louis Lance: STARFLEET Chocolate Of-

ficer, and Amy Alexander:
Acting International Charities
Coordinator.

If you remember last year I asked if anyone would be interested in paying for Fleet items by credit card? Well, our Regional Coordinator Kelly Hilliard chaired the committee to look into the feasibility of Fleet accepting credit cards. Just in time for the Region 2 Summit in early March, Mike Smith announced Fleet is now able to accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and any bank debit card with the MasterCard or Visa logos on them for memberships, quartermaster items, and all-purpose vouchers. I applaud this action, as it is a nice convenience.

Chuck Freas continues to make wonderful headway with the IRS tax situation. Last year, they finally completed all the forms and began a repayment schedule to the IRS due to failure of previous administrations to file correct tax forms. In January, Freas was contacted by the Dallas IRS office to inform him that Fleet could file for abatement of any pending fees as well as possibly be reimbursed for fees already paid. On March 30, the Fiscal Year 1995 and 1996 Failure to File penalties were confirmed to be abated to bring the "Balance Due" to "none." As a result, \$3790 was abated. They're trying to get a sworn affidavit from former Commander, STARFLEET Jeanette Maddox to abate Fiscal Year 1992.

Stellar Visions III will be the only issue of the STARFLEET Fanzine published in 1998. However, *Stellar Visions II* is still being produced and is already several months past due (even later than the SS). Subscriptions to all three *Stellar Visions* are accepted. Checks made out to STARFLEET should be sent to:

Wendy Fillmore
72 Dickens Road
North Brunswick,
NJ 08902-3448

\$10 for one issue, (Please note which one you would like in the memo field), \$18 for two, (again, please note which two), and \$27 for all three. Please add \$3 each for postage; i.e., if you order all three for \$27, please add \$9 for postage, for a total of \$36. For more info, send e-mail to kitten@excaliber.net or visit <http://domion.excaliber.net/~kitten/fanzine/> on the web.

Several of the Regions have been restructured. Region 9 and 21 has been restructured to the way they were before Dan McGinnis took office. I believe both were combined together to be listed as Region 9. Both regions were raging quite a war during the 1997 IC. Furthermore, Michigan has been moved out of Region 12 and now resides in Region 13, joining two Canadian provinces. Supposedly, the chapters in Michigan were contacted, but there are rumors that some weren't. Of course, some felt that all chapters in both regions should have been consulted for a vote.



Region 2 News:

According to the March/April *Command Status Report*, Kelly Hilliard has a 100% reporting record for Region 2 in 1997. Furthermore, Region 2 is listed as the Operations Region of the Month for November 1997. Good job to Kelly and his support staff, particularly Mike Henigan and VRC Jennifer Rosbury, for what was undoubtedly a tremendous amount of team work during some very difficult times. In fact, Kelly was unable to attend the Region 2 Summit due to another family emergency. Jennifer was appointed as Action RC for a brief period.

Mike Henigan made the announcement at the Region 2 Summit that has resigned as Region 2 Treasurer. He has also resigned as Region 2 Chief of Staff, though he is remaining on as Summit Director at Kelly's request. Mike cites burn-out and lack of fun as being the reasons for his resignation. However, this does not affect his being Kelly's Partner and Significant Other. As a result, Mike's new e-mail address is tdbear@mindspring.com.

I'm not sure how this will affect Mike's plans to coordinate the Fall Frolic. This was conceptualized as purely fun region-wide event. The initial plans were for it to be held at campgrounds with bunkhouse and full shower and bathroom facilities. The opportunities for softball, swimming, camping, crafts, and other camp fun are pretty much unlimited. People would need to bring their own bed linens, though the registration fee would include all meals and rooms. Let Mike know if you like the idea.

The 1999 Magnolia Summit (Sunny Summit IV) will be in Jackson, MS on March 5-7. The USS *Haise* is the host chapter. As a special guest, they have managed to convince real astronaut Fred Haise to attend. The 2000 Summit (Sunny Summit V) location has not been decided yet. Bids are being accepted by any chapter in all four regions until September 1, 1998. The 2001 Sunny Summit VI begins anew the Rotating Zone schedule. Any Zone 1 chapter in Florida can host the Summit.

Several new appointments were announced at the Region 2 Summit. Your very own CO, FCAPT Richard L. Trulson, was appointed to the Vice-Chief of Computer Operations position, where he'll be working with Lesley Pike on the regional web pages. The RDC Medical position has been given to USS *Continuum* CO Michael George.

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

BY-LAWS CHANGES

Proposed changes.

Add a Part E to Article II, Section 1, to include household memberships:

E. Household: Each member of the household will be considered the same as an Active member as far as voting and membership rights are concerned. However, when it comes to materials such as the newsletter, only 1 of the item will be given to the household to be shared among them.

Add a Section 4 to Article II to cover materials and money:

Section 4: Materials and Money

A. No member is to incur debts on behalf of the ship unless approved by the Command Staff.

B. Ship funds or materials may not be used by, given to, or loaned to individuals or groups unless approved by a majority of the Active Membership.

C. All funds must be carefully tracked by the CO or a designated DC and reported at meetings and in the newsletter. Any member may request copies of financial transactions in exchange for a processing fee.

D. Any member that keeps materials that belong to the ship must turn over those materials to either the CO or their successor if they are no longer responsible for keeping

those materials. These materials are not to be used for personal uses.

Change Article III, Section 3 to the following to make CO removal less complicated, allow resigning, and hopefully allow smoother transition from person to person:

Section 3. Removal And Resigning From Office

A. At least two Command Staff Officers are required in order to instigate a CO removal vote. The vote will then occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting after the vote has been announced to the membership. A 2/3 vote of the Active members who are also STARFLEET members is required to remove the CO. The XO shall serve as acting CO until an election can be held.

D. Anyone may resign from his or her position at any time. They are encouraged, however, to help train their successors before they leave.

Change Article IV, Section 2 Quorum, to the following in order to conduct business easier:

General meetings shall require at least 5 Active members, at least two of which must be Command Staff Officers. Planning meetings require at least half of the Command Staff, including the CO or XO. Departmental meetings require at least the DC or ADC.

BABYLON 5

Some more rumors and episode synopsis.

Air Date	Ep#	Prod#	Title
98/04/08	100	513	"The Ragged Edge"
98/04/15	101	514	"The Corps is Mother, The Corps is Father"
98/04/22	7:00 PM		<i>The Gathering</i> (Special Edition)
98/04/25	10:00 AM		<i>The Gathering</i> (Special Edition)
98/05/27	102	515	"Meditations on the Abyss"
98/06/03	103	516	"Darkness Ascending"
98/06/10	104	517	"And All My Dreams, Torn Asunder"
98/06/17	105	518	"Movements of Fire and Shadow"
98/??/??	106	519	"The Fall of Centauri Prime"
98/??/??	107	520	"Objects in Motion"
98/??/??	108	521	"Objects at Rest"
98/??/??	109	522	"Wheel of Fire"
98/??/??	110	522a	"Sleeping in Light"
98/07/19	TV Movie		<i>Thirdspace</i>
98/11/23	TV Movie		<i>The River of Souls</i>
99/01/03	TV Movie		<i>A Call to Arms</i>
99/01/06			<i>The Babylon Project: Crusade</i>

Beginning the first week in April, new episodes from the fifth season will be aired at 7 PM CST every Wednesday. Basketball will cause disruptions in the regular schedule in late April and early May. Please note the actual dates listed.

"The Ragged Edge"

Garibaldi draws closer to the source of the mysterious attacks on Alliance ships. JMS has also commented on how "visually interesting" the CGI in this episode is, and how it was "more difficult to shoot."



"The Fall of Centauri Prime"

This gives a somewhat thorough explanation of what happens: Someone within the Centauri government is going to attack the Narns. The Narns fight back and surround the Centauri homeworld. White Stars are also engaged in the battle. Sheridan and the Rangers intervene to try to stop the Narn (but try to avoid conflict themselves). Eventually Sheridan realizes they can't stay neutral any longer. The Narns want the Alliance's help, but Sheridan won't give it. The Narns mention that when the Centauri fleet arrives they'll think the Alliance is involved and will attack both the Narns and the Alliance, so they should join up anyway. Sheridan learns that Delenn's White Star is missing and damaged. Delenn and Lennier, thinking they're going to die, say their good-byes to each other. They're eventually rescued. Sheridan learns that the attack was done by a rogue group supported by the Keeper-controlled Regent. G'Kar and Londo are captured at some point and end up in a cell together.

"Objects at Rest"

As the last episode to be filmed, Peter Jurasik said it was his favorite. The last scene that they shot takes place in the Zocalo. Delenn, Sheridan, Lochley and Lennier are in the scene, as well as over 100

extras (made up of crew members from the show). Delenn and Sheridan give a speech as they are leaving for good. Watch for Peter Jurasik playing a human in the crowd.

“Wheel of Fire”

The title may be a reference to Shakespeare’s “King Lear,” act 4, scene 7. The quote is from King Lear as he lies on his deathbed and he replies to attempts to save his life. If that analogy holds true, the episode might have something to do with Sheridan approaching death (“Falling Toward Apotheosis.”) Another possible reference is to Greek mythology (and in fact, the Shakespeare quote might itself be a reference to the myth.) Ixion, son of the god Ares, tried to seduce Zeus’s wife Hera. As punishment, Zeus bound Ixion on a fiery wheel, which rolled unceasingly through the air.

“Sleeping in Light”

The credits feature the cast and crew making an appearance, by department. The scene has appeared in the bloopers where JMS is being wheeled down a hall on a stretcher clutching his keyboard. The following characters are involved in the episode: Sheridan, Ivanova, Vir, Garibaldi, Delenn, Franklin, and Zack. But Lennier, Londo, G’Kar and Marcus are mentioned in memory as “absent friends.”

Thirdspace

The crew discovers a mysterious, ancient artifact in hyperspace. Chronologically, the movie takes place during season four, after “Into the Fire.” Some reports claim it takes place after “Rising Star,” but JMS says otherwise. The object found in hyperspace is a jumpgate. This jumpgate leads into Thirdspace. In Thirdspace lurk the ‘Old Ones’ who have been waiting eons for someone to open the way into our universe. According to producer George Johnsen, it contains 27 minutes of CGI, which is more new special effects shots than all of season one combined.

A clip from the B5 Mall Tour’s stop in Dallas wasn’t terribly long and was very hard to hear. It begins with an all out brawl in the Zocalo (the same fight scene they shot in the *Guide to Babylon 5* with Franklin, Zack, and Vir). Outside, Starfuries and Minbari Sharlin-class cruisers (and possibly some Nial fighters as well) are attacking the “Artifact.” Force fields surround the Artifact and the attackers are trying to open a hole in the field to allow Sheridan to enter (via EVA suit). After several scenes of great CGI a hole is opened in the field allowing Sheridan to get inside (the scene is reminiscent of *2001*’s “My God it’s full of stars!” psychofest). Once inside, it looks like Sheridan heads for the Artifact’s power core.

Other Rumors:

Early rumors say that if an actual theatrical feature film is released, it will be about the telepaths warring with the humans. Garibaldi, by virtue of gradually inheriting the Edgars Industries empire, will begin to stumble across black projects that he didn’t know existed. There’s going to be lots of travel between Mars, Earth and *Babylon 5*.

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

...Merchandise continued from page 21.

Trading Cards	Chase cards
	individually priced
<i>Babylon 5</i> Series 1	\$60.00
<i>Babylon 5</i> Series 2	\$6.00
<i>Babylon 5</i> Sp Ed.	\$12.00
<i>Babylon 5</i> 4th Season	\$15.00
DS9 1	\$12.00
DS9 ind. boxed sets	\$12.00
DS9 Profiles	\$15.00
<i>First Contact</i>	\$12.00
<i>Jurassic Park</i>	\$10.00
ST 25th Anniversary	\$15.00
ST Episode1	\$15.00
ST Episode2	\$15.00
ST Episode3	\$15.00
ST Episode4	\$15.00
ST Episode5	\$15.00
ST Episode6	\$15.00
ST Master S1	\$12.00
ST Master S2	\$15.00
ST Orig. Series	\$15.00
<i>Voyager</i> 1 - 1	\$15.00
<i>Voyager</i> 1 - 2	\$15.00
<i>Voyager</i> 2	\$15.00
<i>X Files</i> 1	\$15.00
<i>X Files</i> 2	\$15.00
<i>X Files</i> 3	\$15.00
Bumper Stickers	\$2.50

TOO MUCH B5

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

you want to build a statue to Zathras.

your car sings to you while you're asleep.

you ask people "Who are you?", and when they don't answer correctly, you stick their fingers in an electrical socket.

you rack your brain trying to figure out how the Forces of Light are going to defeat the Shadows, especially considering how dangerous the Shadow ships are to other ships.

you check the WWW Lurker site every day for the latest news, and spend your lunches and breaks at work studying the home page sections.

you have memorized "Signs and Portents" and "The Coming of Shadows", after having seen each episode on tape about a hundred times.

you have memorized an enormous quantity of B5 trivia, and consider yourself an expert on the subject, even challenging people to quiz you on anything about the show.

you plan an expedition to Z'ha'Dum to rescue Sheridan's wife.

you consider killing President Clark yourself, but then realize that it wouldn't really help the situation.

you threaten someone you hate with the phrase "You will know pain, and you will know fear, and then you will die."

you actually have said "Absofraginglutely."

you want a "Ba-bear-lon 5" of your own.

you wonder why the UN has not passed a resolution condemning the Centauri for their aggression and use of outlawed weapons.

you want UN peacekeepers sent to the Narn homeworld.

you accidentally cut yourself and all you can say is, "Dead, Dead, Dead..."

you check for Narn before entering a elevator.

you try to buy a TV station that runs B5, and then try to have its call letters changed to KOSH.

you don't trust anyone named 'Sebastian'.

you panic when someone asks "Who are you?"

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

you worship JMS as a god.

The previous list is maintained by Miguel Farah at http://www.webhost.cl/~miguel/index_eng.html on the web. An occasional entry from personal experience and *The Zocalo* e-zine (available at <http://www.highfiber.com/~katana>) were included as well.

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

...Minutes continued from page 31.

Richard asked opinions about changing the paper the *Subspace Static* is printed on to a magazine style 11"x17" sheet of paper folded in half, which is the original format Cliff used. The cost would be the same as simply stapling 8"x11" sheets together since you can hold twice the amount of information per large sheet. Not only does it look more professional, but it's easier to bind when you're dealing with over 10 sheets of paper. The digest size (8.5"x11" folded in half), which feels more like a newsletter, wastes about 4 square inches per sheet of paper due to the internal gutter size. While no-one was opposed to the idea, some were concerned that we wouldn't be able to do color covers as cheaply, or do the gold foil overlays like we did on the Thirtieth Anniversary Edition. Everyone agreed to do a trial issue.

The tabled By-Laws amendment was discussed. In addition to a new CO election procedure involving pre-stamped, pre-addressed post-card ballots as proposed by Dallas, Richard also had a few other recommended changes. The proposed changes can be found in the separate "By-Laws Changes" article elsewhere in this issue.

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

Wernher von Braun Command Staff

(And then there were none.)

Commanding Officer	FCAPT Richard L. Trulson	423-6638
Executive Officer	CMDR Russ McNutt	650-3195
Communications	needed	
Engineering	needed	
Medical	Anya Funderburk	(Unavailable)
Security	needed	
Science	LT (jg) Donald Daniel	882-2024
Operations	CMDR Dallas Vinson	720-6266

E-mail: USS.Wernher.von.Braun@sfi.org

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:

Commanding Officer:
Richard L. Trulson
28825 Airport Lane
Ardmore, AL 35739
RichLT@HiWAAAY.net
(256) 423-6638



Executive Officer:
Russ McNutt
902 Drake Ave. SE
Huntsville, AL 35802
russnutt@airnet.net
(256) 650-3195

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:

Richard L. Trulson
28825 Airport Lane
Ardmore, AL 35739
(256) 423-6638
RichLT@HiWAAAY.net

Preferred submission format is on PC disk or E-mail. Contact me before you submit something to make sure I can import your file. Plain text files are guaranteed to work. If you mail a disk, please include a printout just in case the disk gets damaged. Handwritten materials (typed is preferred) can be mailed as well.

Any ship or science-fiction related submission is acceptable. This includes reports, interviews, cartoons, artwork, reviews, poetry, short fiction, etc. We will also accept other genres. If you wish your submissions returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Donations are also accepted.