



The RAINBOW CONNECTION

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the USS Heimdal, NCC 1793
Based (Space docked?) in Madison Heights, Virginia

STARFLEET'S CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2008 & 2012

REGION ONE'S CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 1996, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013

REGION ONE'S RUNNER-UP CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2007, 2011, 2017, 2018 & 2021

BEST REGION ONE NEWSLETTER 2011 & 2020

BEST R/1 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 2015, 2018 & 2020

BEST R/1 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK 2020

WINNER - BEST FLOAT AWARD, AMHERST CHRISTMAS PARADE – 2006, 2020, 2021

*The **Early Mid-Summer of Relaxation** Issue, July 2024*

Email: heimdalco@aol.com, Website: <http://www.ussheimdal.com>

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PHOTO FROM HEIMDAL'S AMAZING JUNE MEETING

Guest speaker, Richard Riley with his creation. His demo at the meeting was watching him work on his **SECOND** one of these bad boys and it was fascinating. See article about the meeting under the **JUNE MEETING** header later in this newsletter. If you missed this meeting, you missed something pretty special.



FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet 2024 SFDPP Certified



I know I say this A LOT ... but time is going by SO fast. I don't think I've EVER seen June go by this fast and that's a shame. I miss summer already ... LOL BUT I am forever grateful NOT to be out canvassing for auction donations in this terrible heat.

I hope you all are enjoying summer, even with the heat or maybe in spite of it.

AND here we are getting ready for the July meeting and it's a 'just for fun' one ... relaxed, watching a movie, doing some goofy stuff. I LIKE that in a meeting.

Once again, we'll be having PUSS TREK. I'll tell you all about it in a minute. We've done it before and had a lot of fun. Just for the sake of adding a photo or two in this newsletter, we all get to wear a little something feline like we did 10 years ago when we did this the FIRST time (could it really be that



long ago???)

Because of some household projects it seems like Willy and I have done nothing but work the last 2 months. We're glad to get it done and are looking forward to a little down time to relax and enjoy being retired and the projects we've finally finished.

We'll see you at the meeting and we can't wait to SEE you at the meeting rocking your feline side.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

XO, Chief Science Officer, Adm. Willy Smith – Starfleet 2024 SFDPP Certified

MYSTERIOUS 'REGION 90'

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ



I remember when things were more "laid back." If something was wrong the CO or XO was able to take care of it for our membership. Then from Starfleet comes along the acronym from across the ocean called PII (personally identifiable information) that is supposed to keep us safe even though the club we belong to **requires you to submit** that same information to them to BELONG. The only information they don't have for me is when and where I was conceived. Okay, that might be taking it a little far but just a few years ago I would have never believed that **EACH** of our members would be required to have an e-mail address or you would be shipped off to a **Region 90** (where nobody knows where it is, what the weather is like or if they even serve you meals.)

We knew this was coming and if you had an "infraction" in your info at Starfleet HQ, Starfleet let us know about it and you heard from me asking you to please make this or that right.

Thank you to all that have put up with my MANY requests to add your birth date and/or your email address to Starfleet's Database and made the changes. We ... Heimdal ... have only lost 1 member to R90 (*they say that's good!*) due to non-compliance.

So now we've moved into another "facet" of PII where ... *hold on...* you and your spouse you've been welded to for 50 years and some have even created *offspring*, cannot share an email address. Oh yeah, one of you will be headed to (some call it "**catville**," but we KNOW it's really R90) *where air smells like warm root beer and the towels are oh so fluffy...* anyway...



If you get a request from me, it's usually important and we want to keep the Mighty USS Heimdal one of the best in the fleet.

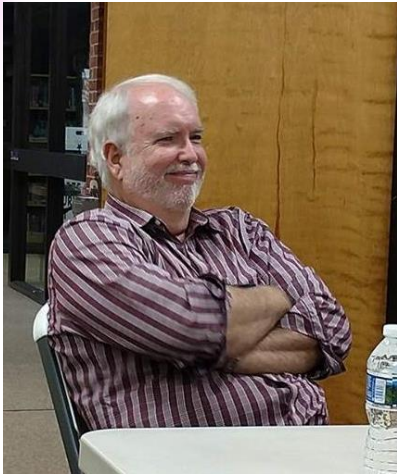


Linda doesn't spend weeks putting together a newsletter for kicks and Bud is keeping our website "top o' the line" for US. It's all done for us, really! We care and the meeting guests are for us; our enjoyment and education.

Thanks to everyone who helps keep our chapter GREAT!

I hope to see you soon. (**Please see Cmdr. Starfleet's message in Starfleet Stuff for more R/90 and Database info**)

**FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER
RAdm. Carl Davis, Starfleet SFDPP 2024 Certified**



Have been a little behind in the report department since our honey harvest has been good this spring and much time needed to harvest the golden nectar. Five hives have produced around 45 gallons over the past two months and that means at least two trips into the hives each week. Then comes the separating the honey from the frames and bottling for sale at the local farmer's market. We have several customers who swear by the medicinal value of honey in treating their allergies and it's also good for cuts and scrapes to aid in the healing process.

We enjoy hearing positive remarks from the customers but I still am a reluctant bee keeper since I only do the work because my wife isn't able to lift the honey frames from the hive. They weigh around 65 pounds when full of honey and may be stacked as high as eye level so it requires some



upper body strength.

The pain that a bee stinger can cause always catches me off guard and I find it difficult to have a positive attitude during the process. Fortunately, some days the bees seem to be in a good mood and appreciate that we are helping them to maintain optimum living conditions. I'm a much happier camper when all goes well and the process ends with no stings.

If you need some local honey (which is better for local allergies) give us a shout. We've got quite a bit bottled and ready for sale. Local is the best and ours is raw and only filtered once so it is best I am told. I also read that in an emergency a person can live off of a tablespoon of honey a day. I'd prefer not to have to prove that one. I still like a short stack of pancakes hiding under my honey.

Take care and stay sweet!

MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

JULY MEETING

The July meeting will be July 20 at the library and on ZOOM starting at 6:30 p.m.

This is going to be one of those FUN and SILLY meetings – short on meeting and long on silly and fun. The theme of the meeting is **PUSS TREK II** (2 because we've done it before). After the brief meeting we will be watching the most recent **Puss 'N' Boots** movie. We've probably all seen it but that's half the fun ... seeing it again with friends (or for the first time if you haven't seen it).

Everyone is asked to bring an item for refreshments **and all refreshments should have a Cat Theme** – for instance, hairball cookies, litter box cake, cat toy cookies. AND each of us should wear SOMETHING cat related ... ears, maybe a tail, a sweater with fake cat hair on it. ALL of us are creative so this will be our time to shine. Have fun with it and enjoy the humor.

Tim will be our ZOOM Coordinator and here are the coordinates:

Tim Hazlett is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Heimdal's Zoom Coordinates

Time: Jul 20, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9274947336?omn=99099217990>

Meeting ID: 927 494 7336





Passcode: 273082

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,9274947336#,,,,*273082# US (Washington DC)

8558801246,,9274947336#,,,,*273082# US Toll-free

Dial by your location

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• 855 880 1246 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 927 494 7336

Passcode: 273082

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/9274947336>



JUNE MEETING
By Bud Walker with Jonathan Hatter
Breaking the Mold
June 2024 Chapter Meeting of the USS Heimdal
By Commander William M. Walker, Jr. – Operations

The Heimdal crew gathered at the Madison Heights Public Library (part of Amherst County Public Library system) and online via Zoom on June 15, 2024, for the monthly chapter meeting.

Admiral Linda Smith called the meeting to order and reviewed upcoming events for the chapter:

The next meeting will be “Puss Trek II” on July 20th and will feature cat related treats / refreshments.

Admiral Smith stated that the August meeting will feature the latest winner of the Space Camp Essay Contest, Ethan Mason and that the September meeting will feature a presentation on Scouting from the Hatter’s.

Admiral Smith also announced that there will be a Pool Party and Pizza Picnic at the Sugar Mill Recreation Area at 5:30 on August 3rd. IN ADDITION to the meeting.

Before turning to the Department Heads, Admiral Linda Smith made two announcements:

The latest Certificate of Deposit (CD) has returned around \$700 for the Chapter.

The Chapter has submitted its web site to be considered for



SFI’s Annual Web Site Awards.

Admiral Willy Smith reported that Region One (First Fleet) has a new logo and passed a copy around for the membership to see. Admiral Smith also advised that if Admiral Linda Smith asks you to move furniture, to politely decline ... LOL

Rear Admiral Carl Davis stated that the next phaser simulation will be on July 13th starting at 2 pm. Admiral Davis further stated that no furniture would be moved at the event.

Fleet Captain Darrell Millner reviewed the last meeting of his department and the progress of the inter-departmental role-play team. Captain Millner further stated that in Engineering, the furniture moves itself.

Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks reported the recent discovery of cockroaches in her furniture.

PO3 Angie Arnold announced that she will be attempting to host a Board Game Night in September and asked the membership to suggest Saturday dates to her.





At the conclusion of chapter business, a presentation by Richard Riley was given. Mr. Riley is a world-renowned foam sculptor, previous speaker at Heimdal meetings and a regular contributor to the Chapter newsletter. Mr. Riley brought in one of his current projects, a musical Star Wars character from Jabba's Palace, which was seen in the movie, *"Return of the Jedi."* His presentation focused on the process of creating molds for his creations, and how they are utilized.



After asking those in attendance to help move furniture in the meeting room, Admiral Linda Smith adjourned the meeting.

By Jonathan Hatter

Richard was sculpting Max Tebo, the organ player from Jabba the Hutt's band for a collector who is turning his basement into a replica of Jabba's Palace. Richard said the client actually dug a 2-foot-deep hole in his concrete basement floor to accommodate the size of the piece. Mostly no one there could imagine, not just this sculpture in their basement, let alone Jabba's entire palace. Linda asked Richard if the client was married and everyone laughed.

Bud already hit on the molds and process Richard described. The only thing I have to add is that Richard invited me up to help stir the resin that got hot to the touch almost immediately and we passed it around. It was cool to help him and have a hands-on moment.

I am ALWAYS amazed at Richard's amazing talent. We thank him for sharing his evening with us.

HEIMDAL PEOPLE



WALKER IS NEW HEIMDAL WEBMASTER

Weston is attempting to juggle his time keeping up with all of his obligations and being the dad to a toddler, which is a full-time job all by itself. Bud has been his assistant webmaster for a year and Weston has passed the Webmaster position along to Bud. We thank Weston for all his hard work revamping the site and doing an



exemplary job. His upgrades added so much to the site.

As we all know, Bud has been doing an amazing job not only maintaining the website, but updating it regularly, adding the QR code that ties into our recruiting materials, adding some pretty spectacular sections and an occasional interactive game that has kept us all interested and entertained. Each month our website statistics have gotten better and better with quite a number of 'hits' and returning visitors.

Recently Bud entered the Heimdal's website in Starfleet's Website Contest, which can be entered directly to Starfleet and doesn't have to be associated with any Regional contests, which is wonderful.

Again, a HUGE THANK YOU to Weston and a HUGE welcome to Bud as Heimdal's 'official' webmaster.

WESTON BUILDS A MEDIA ROOM ... PART 2

From Basement to Death Star: My Epic Star Wars Theater Conversion

By Weston Webb





In the heart of our home, an unfinished basement sat neglected and empty for years, a stark contrast to the bustling life above it. But three months ago, I embarked on an ambitious project to transform this space into something truly extraordinary—a Star Wars Death Star theater. Today, I'm thrilled to share the journey of turning that bare basement into an immersive cinematic haven.

Vision Takes Shape

The idea was sparked by a desire to create a unique and engaging space for our family and friends. As a lifelong Star Wars fan, the theme was an obvious choice. The goal was to craft a theater that captured the essence of the Death Star, complete with movie-accurate mannequins of Imperial gunners, a dark trooper (shadow stormtrooper), and Darth Vader himself.

The Build

One of the most fascinating aspects of this project was repurposing materials. A local family's old 1960s kitchen provided the perfect source for the Death Star panels. The retro cabinetry, once the backdrop to countless family meals, was meticulously cut and reshaped to mimic the iconic aesthetic of the Empire's ultimate weapon. This was not only environmentally friendly but also added a personal touch to the theater.



Relentless building sessions, often stretching late into the night and starting early in the morning, were essential. The project spanned a total of three months with planning, framing, electrical, plumbing, drywall, fabricating, sourcing, customizing and requiring many coats of paint to achieve the perfect finishes on every surface.

Each step brought the vision closer to reality, from spending many nights staring at a single wall to finally positioning the mannequins.

Advanced Features

The technological features of the theater are just as impressive as its visual elements. The LED panels, which all change colors and are easily accessible for customization or repair, add a dynamic ambiance to the room. I built a custom Han Solo in carbonite table inspired by the Regal Robot piece, adding to the immersive Imperial experience.

Seating nine people comfortably, the theater is designed for group viewings. A 100-inch smart TV, coupled with Apple Home Pods, delivers a booming sound that makes every viewing experience spectacular. The setup is perfect for watching movies and TV shows, making it a favorite spot for family gatherings and movie nights.

Multifunctional Space

In addition to its entertainment value, the theater is equipped with ample power for any device, making it a convenient space for working from home. The combination of comfort, technology, and thematic design creates a surreal environment that feels like stepping into a galaxy far, far away.

The Final Result

Walking into the finished theater is an indescribable experience. The intentional attention to detail, from the costumes to the panels, transports you directly to the Star Wars universe. It's my testament to what can be achieved with creativity, hard work, and a passion for the subject matter.

This Death Star theater is more than just a basement renovation; it's a dream realized. It stands as a tribute to the timelessness of Star Wars, a nod to theater construction, and the joy of creating something special from scratch.

Whether it's for movie marathons, working from home, or simply enjoying the unique atmosphere, this space has become a cherished part of our home.



STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!



Admiral Willy Smith

23 courses completed - 1 SFA Award

ADM William Smith has been **Awarded Boothby 0150 - Gold (150)** from the School of SFA Awards - Jun 22, 2024.



CRYPTO 001 - **Introduction to Recreational Cryptography** from the School of IOIE - College of Cryptography (COC) completed on Jun 27, 2024 - HONORS

IOSTS - College of Starship Design (COSD)

COSD 125B - NCC-1701C Schematics - Jun 17, 2024 DISTINCTION
COSD 125C - NCC-1701C Schematics - Jun 17, 2024 DISTINCTION
COSD 125D - NCC-1701C Schematics - Jun 17, 2024 DISTINCTION
COSD 125E - NCC-1701C Schematics - Jun 17, 2024 DISTINCTION
COSD 125F - NCC-1701C Schematics - Jun 17, 2024 DISTINCTION

IOIE - College of Military Intelligence (CMI)

MIH 101 - Military Intelligence History - Jun 13, 2024 HONORS
MIH 102 - Military Surveillance Aircraft Pt 1 - Jun 16, 2024 HONORS
MIH 103 - Military Surveillance Aircraft Pt 2 - Jun 16, 2024 DISTINCTION
MIH 104 - Aviation in Intelligence Gathering - Jun 16, 2024 DISTINCTION
MIS 101 - Military Intelligence Officers Pt 1 - Jun 17, 2024 DISTINCTION
MIS 102 - Military Intelligence Officers Pt. 2 - Jun 21, 2024 HONORS
MIS 103 - Military Intelligence Officers Pt. 3 - Jun 21, 2024 DISTINCTION
MIS 104 - Military Intelligence Officers Pt. 4 - Jun 21, 2024 - HONORS

IOMOS College of Strategy and Tactics (CSTG -COST)

CSTG 103 - Military Strategies & Concepts - Jun 23, 2024 - HONORS
CSTG 104 - Historical Battles & Figures - Jun 23, 2024 - HONORS
CSTG 202 - Military Deception - Jun 25, 2024 - HONORS
CSTG 204 - Command of the Seas - Jun 26, 2024 - HONORS
CSTG 205 - Air Supremacy - Jun 26, 2024 - HONORS
CSTG 206 - Guerilla Warfare - Jun 26, 2024 – DISTINCTION

IOMOS - College of SpecOps Specialties (CSOS)

OPS 103 - Counter Insurgency Ops Pt. 1 - Jun 27, 2024 – DISTINCTION
OPS 104 - Counter Insurgency Ops Pt. 2 - Jun 28, 2024 – HONORS
OPS 105 - Counter Insurgency Operations Pt. 3 - Jun 28, 2024 - DISTINCTION

IOMOS – CSOS – College of SpecOps Specialties

OPS 107 – Psychological Operations



CDR Zachary Lyon

(3 Courses, 0 Awards)

IOSS - College of Spaceflight

HONORS for GEMI 101 - Gemini 1 on Jun 10, 2024
HONORS for SKYL 104 Skylab III on Jun 10, 2024
HONORS for SKYL 105 Skylab IV on Jun 10, 2024

FCPT Darrell Millner

(6 Courses, 0 Awards)

IOAE - College of Mythological Studies

DISTINCTION for EGY 101 - Egyptian Deities on Jun 1, 2024
DISTINCTION for CEL 101 - Celtic Deities on Jun 1, 2024
HONORS for CEL 201 - Irish Celtic Deities on Jun 1, 2024

IOTK - STARFLEET Officers Radio School (IOST:SORS)

DISTINCTION for SORS 205 - CB, FRS, GMRS on May 27, 2024

IOIS - College of US Historical Sites

DISTINCTION for AZHS 101 - Grand Canyon National Park on Jun 7, 2024
DISTINCTION for KSHS 101 - Fort Leavenworth on Jun 8, 2024

RENEWALS

A special THANK YOU to Joe Arnold and Bonnie & Carl Davis for renewing and staying with our Heimdal “family” for another amazing year.

Our Membership Coordinator (one of the many hats he wears), Willy Smith sends out email reminders to everyone a month in advance of your renewal date. THANK YOU, Willy! And he will renew for you with the Heimdal’s PayPal account and you can pay us back if you’d rather do it that way. To pay the Heimdal back if we renew for you, please make your check out to Linda Smith and she will deposit it into the Heimdal’s account. We ask that you reimburse the Heimdal within in 60 days following your renewal.



Remember the increase in membership rates went into effect on January 1 and congratulations to those of you that renewed 'under the wire.' **You may also renew for multiple years with Starfleet ... not just a year at the time.**

XXX PLEASE NOTE: When Willy sends you your renewal reminder, he includes in that email your SCC number and expiration date.

Remember, Starfleet suggests you renew a month before your expiration date so you won't risk being removed from the Heimdal's roster, which happens at the stroke of midnight on your expiration date if you haven't renewed.

Those needing to renew are

August – Julie & Brett Witcher – August 6

Zak & Jody Lyon – August 7

Tyler St. Clair – August 10

Eric Merrill – August 27

September – Jimmy Farlow – September 2

Beth & Peter Hopkins – September 5

October – Glenda & Dan Blanks – October 11

Karen Delano – October 18

HEIMDAL STUFF

ETHAN MASON RETURNS FROM SPACE CAMP

By Linda Smith

The Heimdal's 2024 Space Camp Contest winner, Ethan Mason made his trip to Space Camp the week of June 22 through June 29. Both his mom and his dad told me he had an AMAZING trip and hasn't stopped talking about it since he got home.

Ethan and his dad, Nick joined us for our September meeting so we have already met them and will know him when he is our August 17 meeting guest speaker. His parents will be coming with him and he is looking forward to telling us all about his trip. He also has a brief video from the trip that he will be sharing with us. We're really looking forward to hearing about his Space Camp experience.

Personal Note: Every time one of our winning students comes to speak to us about the Space Camp trip my heart fills with joy. I think to myself, "We DID this." There aren't many groups of people that can say that and I'm eternally happy that the Heimdal CAN.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

With many thanks to Bud, we have an exceptional web site. In fact, he has recently entered it in Starfleet's Web Site Contest (crossing our fingers). Each month our site statistics show more and more people are visiting the site, RETURNING to the site and enjoying it.

What TWO things do you like best about the Heimdal's website (ussheimdal.com)?

Darrell: - Video for the Interdepartmental Role Play, and the eye sensitivity note below it.

The tremendous work being done on the site, what a powerhouse of information.

Tim: I love the Holodeck Fun Page and the video for Role Play! I also like Heimdal's Lower Decks comic strip!

Willy: I found out all kinds of stuff while looking for the TIME CRYSTAL and I thought I was the only one who got a charge out of finding it.

I keep thinking I'll join the role play after watching the cool video – but right now I only have time for real-life stuff.

I especially like the photos ... why don't more people take pics?

I cannot think of anything I DON'T like ... WONDERFUL website ... Bud is the MAN!

Jody: I love puzzles and like that treasure hunts have been included. It also leads me to look around the site.

The recruitment section has some really cool posters. The inclusion of illustrations and images add so much throughout.

Zak: Return visits to the site are rewarded, there is always something new to catch your eye.

I like the humor sprinkled through the site.

Linda: I love the recruiting page, the Calendar of Events for a full year, the page to honor our lost members, the fun and the videos. I love it all.

I am the person that receives the Monthly Stats in my mailbox and I get more excited each month seeing that we have so much interest. I love passing the stats along to Bud and our Executive Committee.



RILEY'S RAMBLINGS

SUPERMAN By Richard Riley

What is going on with this HEAT!!! I am ready for Fall or Winter! Oh, well, nothing that any of us can do about it except stay inside where it is cool or jump in a pool!

For this month's newsletter I wanted to show something that is a bit "cool" since we are stuck in this heat! This is another themed desk but this time it is for Superman! The client is a huge Superman fan and actually owns quite a few props from the original movies that starred Christopher Reeve. The desk design draws inspiration from the 'Fortress of Solitude' shown in the 1978 movie, *Superman*. In the movie Superman's home is located at the North Pole and it is constructed from ice using technology from his home planet of Krypton.

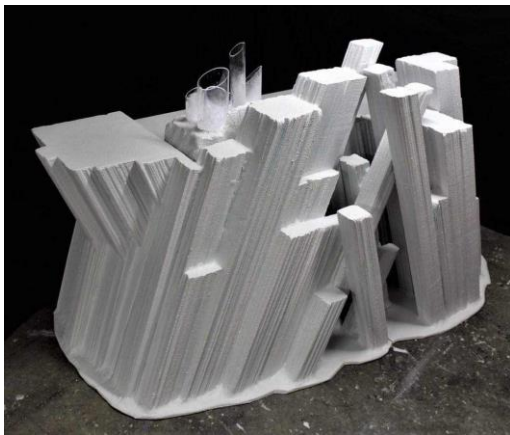
This piece needed to not only have the look from the movie but to also be functional. I was able to purchase a white desk which would be used for the base of the build. I cut and added



foam around it to mimic the look of the 'Fortress of Solitude.' All of this was spray coated with truck bedliner then painted white with highlights of blue and silver.

I had to take care that the piece could be broken down for not only shipping, but to be able to go into the clients home. It is 3 components, the desk and the wrap around sections which are in two halves. As an extra bonus I added a control panel to the desk which is actually a desk organizer. In the movie the control panel is made up of clear cylinders that hold various crystals from the planet, Krypton, which contain information - just think of a flash drive for a computer! I installed a light underneath so that it can have the glow that was shown in the movie.

The client loved this piece and it now sits in the home office that he works from but my biggest compliment came from a gentleman on Facebook by the name of Brian Muir. He is a special effects artist that has worked on movies such as Star Wars (he is the sculptor of Darth Vader's iconic helmet) but he also worked on Superman. He reached out to me to compliment me on the way it looked and the creativity of the desk after seeing pictures of it.



A fun piece for sure and this is one I would not mind making another one of if the opportunity ever arises again!





FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS



<<<SECURITY>>>

SECURITY REPORT: JULY 2024

By RAdm. Carl Davis, Chief of Security, Starfleet SFDPP Certified



We had a few members brave the hot June play date at Mountaintop Christian Adventures and enjoy a few games of Phaser Sim. Bonnie Davis and Willy Smith represented the Science Department and Joe Arnold and Carl Davis played for Security.

Play favored Sciences in the first game as both Security members were zapped pretty quickly. It was noted that Willy had received an earlier hit and would have been eliminated but sometimes it's just Impossible to know that an impact has hit the mark.

2nd game went to the Security Department as Joe was the last man standing unmarked.

Equipment was repaired and play moved to the big field as Joe and Carl took the trek to Far Point Station. The game began and paint filled the air between the two teams. Joe shouted that he was out as Willy hit him mid stomach. Carl retreated to find better cover as team Science came hunting.

Willy again made a good shot and the Science team took their second game of the day.

With the score at 2-1 everybody agreed that the exercise and drain of the heat was enough for that day. All had fun but in the interest of self-preservation the vote was unanimous that we return to the staging area and rehydrate.

We replayed the games verbally and cleaned up the gear while patting ourselves on the back for how tough we were to have braved the heat. Cooling down in the a/c would be a welcome occurrence and a shower would finish the day off just right. Sciences had bragging rights until the next time and Security was happy that they were happy. See you in the woods.



Joe and the 'pink paint attack'

<<<SCIENCE>>>

INDEPENDENCE DAY

By Admiral Willy Smith – Chief Science Officer, SFDPP Certified



With our country's Independence Day recently behind us and SO many things going on in our great country, it's good to take a step back and look at our Constitution of the United States. It was seen briefly on Star Trek (The Omega Glory) and every time I hear the Yang chief speak the first 3 words it reminds me that WE THE PEOPLE are the real power in this country. It's worth a few minutes to get familiar with the basics in simple terms. I like it and wanted to





share. We are fortunate to live in the United States.

<https://constitutioncenter.org/education/videos/constitution-101-walkthrough-of-the-constitution>

<https://youtu.be/uGO-SldLrNA> (The Omega Glory)

<<<<ENGINEERING>>>>



ENGINEERING UPDATE

**FCAPT Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer
R1 RDC ENG., Starfleet SFDPP Certified, SFA RED Squad,
KQ4SUP**

Monthly ENG/OPS Report - SD: 202407.02

CO Smith, it's been a busy and productive month in Heimdal Engineering. Here's a quick recap:

June 13th Interdepartmental Role Play, July 15th hosted Heimdal Monthly zoom, July 17th Engineering Department had its monthly meeting via zoom.



For July this issue of *The Engineering Link* is running behind due to health issues but will be ready any time now.

We are looking forward to a robust and exciting departmental meeting in July and the CEO has a few surprises in store. September will mark the 3rd anniversary of the relaunch of "The Engineering Link" which continues to evolve thanks to this amazing team.

You are encouraged to come check out what all the fuss is about - ha ha. <https://trek.millnernet.com/home/eng-link/>

Wishing you all the very best and suggesting.... "Put a little TREK in your day" – Millner Out

<<<<MEDICAL>>>>



MEDICAL MINUTE; JULY 2024

COPING WITH THE HEAT

Commodore Tammy White, Chief Medical Officer

I hope we all have a safe, nice summer. There are a lot of fun and exciting things to do outdoors when we're allowed shore leave. (A little birdie told me that we will all be getting a lot of shore leave this summer.) This summer is on track to be one of the hottest we've experienced in recent history with temperatures already well into the 90s and 100s in some areas. I thought it would be prudent to send this reminder about the different heat emergencies we may experience and the best ways to avoid them and still enjoy the outdoors.

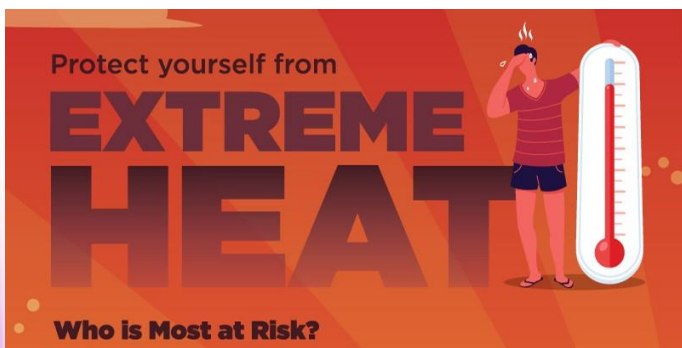
We all enjoy at least some of what the summer months have to offer however, summer comes with its own set of dangers. Every year thousands of people suffer from heat related illness, some of them are fatal. The three main heat related illnesses are **heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.**

Heat cramps is the mildest form of heat related illness and consist of painful muscle cramps and spasms usually during, on or after intense exercise and sweating. The treatment for this type of illness is to rest, get cooled off, and drink fluids. If you pay attention to this warning sign of fluids you may not experience the next symptom, which is heat exhaustion.

Heat exhaustion is more severe than heat cramps and results from a loss of water and salt. It occurs in conditions of extreme heat and excessive sweating without adequate fluid and salt replacement. The body is unable to properly cool itself. Symptoms can include muscle cramps, pale moist skin, usually a fever over 100.4, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, fatigue, weakness, anxiety and faint feeling.

Heat exhaustion can be treated much the same way as heat cramps. Moving to a cool place and resting is very important. You should also remove excess clothing and place cool cloths on the skin, fan the skin, and drink fluids that contain salt and sugar. If there is no improvement or the victim is unable to drink fluids you need to get to the hospital or urgent care facility for possible IV fluids. This can quickly turn into the next heat related illness, which is heat stroke.

Heat stroke is a true medical emergency and can include many of the same symptoms as heat cramps and exhaustion in addition to an increased temperature of 104, rapid heart rate, loss of appetite, confusion, agitation, lethargy, stupor. It can also include seizures, coma and even death. If you have or



loss of appetite, confusion, agitation, lethargy, stupor. It can also include seizures, coma and even death. If you have or



come across anyone with any of these symptoms it is vital that the victim get to a cool place and rest. Call 9-1-1 immediately as this condition needs to be treated by a doctor.

As with heat exhaustion remove excess clothing. Don't just place cool cloths on the skin but drench the victim with cool water and fan the skin, if available ice packs should be placed on the armpits and groin areas, and if the victim is conscious and can drink offer cool liquids.

These heat related illnesses can be avoided if you pay attention to the early warning signs and follow these simple preventative measures. Drink plenty of fluids when outside performing vigorous activities. Drinks should include water and sports drinks not alcohol or fluids which contain caffeine. Wear light colored, light weight, and loose-fitting clothing on the hotter days. If you must perform vigorous activities do them in the cooler times of the day, either early morning or late afternoon. Take plenty of rest breaks in a cool place out of the sun. Wearing a hat and sunglasses are also recommended as well as using sunscreen of at least SPF 15. Increase your time in the heat gradually to allow your body to get used to the heat. Wet down or mist yourself self during the time you are outdoors with a hose or spray bottle.

I found some tips for traveling during the summer. I always make sure I fill a couple of bottles of water ahead of time and put them in the freezer along with plenty of other water that's not frozen but cold. It's a good idea to pack snacks in case you get in a traffic jam or stuck somewhere.



Ideal snacks for travel include ones that will keep in your backpack, purse or carry-on without melting or falling apart. If you're traveling by plane, you'll want to make sure the snacks are [TSA-compliant](#), so no liquid or gel food items over 3.4 ounces. Most importantly, the best snacks should have a combination of protein and fiber to keep you fueled and satisfied. Try to aim for about four grams each of protein and fiber, and keep added sugar to a minimum (under eight grams is ideal per snack, which is the equivalent of two teaspoons). Always prioritize fresh produce when possible, since they offer a great combination of fiber and antioxidants to keep you feeling your best during your travels.

Fruits and vegetables also are packed with water, a smart way to [stay hydrated](#) during your trip. Hydration in general is the key to savvy travel — especially for long plane rides, so don't forget to bring an empty [water bottle](#) with you to fill after you go through security at the airport. Since the altitude is dehydrating, and turbulence/delays can make beverage service unpredictable, it's worth the investment to buy a second, unsweetened drink at the airport. Pair that with these nutrient-dense snacks and you'll be sure to have a great vacation.

If you can stay indoors during the height of the midday heat, drink plenty of water (can't stress this enough), wear cool clothing.

I had never heard of reef-safe sunscreen but if you're going to the ocean you may want to look into it. It is designed to be biodegradable and not harm ocean life. Regular sunscreen bleaches coral and ensures humanity's swift death from climate change. I read that it's actually required by law in some destinations.

If you are traveling by car, make sure to get your car ready for the trip, too. It's best if you can avoid busy highways and roads where you may get stuck in traffic. Extreme heat can do a number on your vehicle and can cause some serious problems and ruin your vacation.

Check your tires and tire pressure. Pressure can fluctuate in different temperatures. Top off all coolants, fluids, and oils so they are full for travel. Check to make sure your air conditioner is working properly. It might also be a good idea to change air filters if you have not already. Make sure to check your battery.

Fluids that you should check include:

- Coolant: This is the big one. If your coolant/antifreeze level is too low, it can cause overheating.
- Motor oil
- Transmission fluid
- Brake fluid
- Power-steering fluid
- Windshield wiper fluid

Heat can also cause damage to you belts and hoses. Check them, or have mechanic check them, before traveling.

I hope these tips will keep you happy and out of Sick Bay during shore leave this summer.

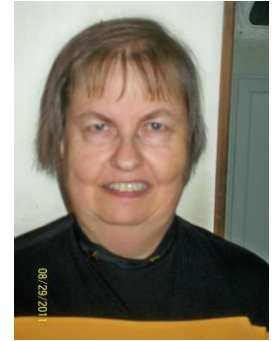
Is anyone going anyplace special this summer? Be safe out there.



<<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>>



JULY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
By Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks, Communications Chief,
Starfleet SFDPP 2024 Certified



Due to Dan's illness, I have not had time to do a Communications article this month. Instead, I will update you on Dan's condition.

As you may or may not know, Dan developed a hole in his colon 2 weeks ago. The surgeon determined the area needed to heal before it could be fixed. He has a colostomy. We're not sure how long he'll keep that, at least a couple of months. Right now, he is at the Summit, room 101. If you would like to send him a card, you can send it to our home address, 63 Knoll Woods Drive, Rustburg, 24588. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

HEIMDAL'S PET FLEET

SOMEBODY SAVE ME!

By Niki Kessler

“Lassie! Timmy is in trouble! Go find help!”

The blank looks told me my kids had no idea what I was talking about. I elaborated, they laughed, I sighed. Funny how common knowledge—aka old-fashioned memes—is not necessarily common knowledge anymore and isn't being passed along. I suppose every generation has something, and maybe if we, instead, open with ***“The phone...the phone is RING-ING!”*** (IYKYK—Wonderpets) we'll welcome some Gen Z and Gen Alphas to the conversation.

So, has your pet saved you from something?

We've all read the wonderful stories of brave dogs and cats going back into burning buildings to save other pets, or waking up their owners in the middle of the night to warn them of fires, earthquakes or other disasters. After all, it's speculated early man first domesticated wolves to take advantage of the wolves' natural instincts as early warning systems. Those abilities are now appreciated by those with disabilities and for law enforcement backup.

Official jobs aside, our pets are true blue and loyal to us, even the ones that aren't stereotyped as loyal.

Do you want a few hours of fun reading? Enter a quick Google search for “cat who saved his owner” and be amazed. All the experts and philosophers might argue lofty things in long boring books, but WE all know that our pets really do love us. We know that the things we attribute as human qualities aren't necessarily exclusive to humankind.

Here's something funny. I can say my cats (indirectly) saved me from a bad relationship. The person in question was deathly allergic to cats and wouldn't even come in my house. After ending things, a short couple of going-nowhere months, I quickly came to realize as he hopped into another relationship that he was the type to use his charms to get things for free, including a place to stay with each of his girlfriends. Disaster averted! Thanks, cats! But you know, after all, as the caring and open-hearted pet owners we all are, we might be especially prone to the allure of those ‘puppy dog eyes’.

“Emotional support animal” is an all-the-rage buzzword these days. It may be over-used in an official setting, but you know what? As pet owners, wouldn't you agree that they ALL fit this description?

Coming home from a bad day and being greeted by barking or purring, an outpouring of love and trust, all wrapped up in a fuzzy bundle we happily can snuggle and hold is just exactly what the doctor ordered. Even the littlest ones charm us with their personality and silly antics. And we all know the internet was invented SOLELY to share funny pet videos.

So be sure to take the time to give treats, pets and love to your favorite pet today. We may have ‘saved’ them from the shelter, but they save us every single day: because it's just as important to be saved from boredom and sadness as it is to be rescued from danger. Who rescued who?

Find someone who looks at you like this little potato looks at it's hooman.





REGION ONE STUFF

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- 1) Vote on approving the revised / updated R/1 Handbook deadline is July 10.
- 2) The USS Tanasi, the USS Saratoga and Yorktown Station together have won the bid for hosting the R/1 2025 Summit. Details will follow as they become available.
- 3) Starfleet has adapted all regional logos for uniformity and they will appear as adapted on the Starfleet website only. Regions may continue to use their regional logo. (See photo)

STARFLEET STUFF

FROM CMDR. STARFLEET, DAVID NOTTAGE - **IMPORTANT**

We are getting closer and closer to the Database migration. As the administration comes into compliance with AB resolution 20-01, members that have updated their emails and birthdates will migrate to the new system. Those members that do not have updated records will be transferred to a holding region until they do so ... **Region 90**.



As points of clarification, first, unique approved format emails for a member ≥ 18 (adults) **must have a unique individual email** which becomes your username in the new system. Second, **birthdates for all members must be in the new system as well**. As a reminder, **only Gmail and Vanity emails are approved**. **Specifically, Yahoo, Hotmail, Outlook, AOL and some others are not valid emails for the database. If you are using any of these you need to change it. (NOTE: Willy and I believe this will be part of Phase 3 but are unsure. We will send out a Heimdal email when we get clarification about this)**

Birthdates are to distinguish voting vs non-voting members bringing the membership into compliance with AB2—01. Members ≤ 17 years of age will use the primary members email with a unique identifier which will exclude them from voting and receiving communications from the organization. (**We BELIEVE this is what he means ... for instance, Karen Hatter does not have an email but uses Jonathan's. Jonathan can add a 1 or 6 or some other number ahead of Karen's name on his family membership to work around this**)

We are taking steps to protect the PII of every member. These changes should be nothing new to the membership as they have been part of the governing documents since 2020.

As a reminder, minors cannot join SFI as individuals. They must be attached to a family membership for the protection of that member as the responsibility is that of the parental unit/guardian.

Make note, anyone not meeting these criteria will not transfer to the new system and that will knowingly cause issues for your chapter numbers, regional verification, academy usage and time to repair and transfer you after the fact will take more time than you will like.

Further protections of your PII will be installed in the new database. All new and renewing members that do not have a rank to distinguish your age group will be auto generated for search purposes not using protected PII. All minors ≤ 17 will be given the lowest Cadet rank and members ≥ 18 will be set at Crewmen. By doing this we don't have to use your protected data and allow us to parse the members for voting and communication preferences. Chapters have the ability to update those ranks depending on the nature of the individual chapter organization. This will additionally add value to the person joining by giving them a rank within the organization.

• Please note that we will do our very best to accommodate the needs of the many. Details will come out with collaboration of all to ensure we are compliant with SFDPP/GDPR, NC Law and membership access.

Commander Starfleet, *David Nottage*

FROM STARFLEET'S HELP DESK RE: REGION 90

Greetings from the Help Desk,

I just wanted to update everyone - we are working hard to make the corrections and getting your members back aboard their assigned vessels. Please, when you are submitting a ticket for those in R90, please include the **SCC, DOB, and unique email, along with the original chapter**. This will help speed things up as it is hard to make changes without it.



We really appreciate the help, and look forward to resolving everyone's request.

FCAPT Chris Pittarelli, SCC 62551
Help Desk Director



STARFLEET ACADEMY From Linda

Willy and I recently attended the Regional CO / XO meeting and here is some SFA information we were given:

Jill Rayburn, Director / Commandant of Starfleet Academy attended and passed along new information regarding the number of related Academy courses a student may take at the same time in the same school:

There is a new **Rule of Tens**:

Students may take as many as 10 SFA courses associated with the same school at a time, **but no more**. After the student receives a grade for 1 course, he/she may take another related course as long as it is NOT more than 10 at the same time.

The Director of the school has up to 10 days to grade, process and enter the student's grade into the Database and make the certificate available to the student.

The previous number allowed at one time (courses in the same school) was 5, so this is better for students wishing to be taking several related courses at the same time.

Any questions, just email me.



STAR TREK STUFF

REMEMBERING JOHN G. TRIMBLE

Reported by Glenda Blanks, Star Trek Editor from StarTrek.com

StarTrek.com is saddened to report the passing of John G. Trimble, who passed away the morning of April 19, 2024, as confirmed by his daughter, Lora Boem in a post.



Star Trek and fandom as we know it all stems from the efforts and passion of John and his wife Bjo Trimble, the couple who launched a grassroots letter writing campaign to 'Save Star Trek' following NBC's cancellation of the Original Series, resulting in a third season. With enough episodes then, Star Trek was able to enter syndication, propelling it into a phenomenon that warranted an animated series in 1973 and big-budget feature in 1979.

Recalling their efforts after a visit to the Original Series set, following the 50th anniversary honor, John Trimble told StarTrek.com, *"When we saw the change in the cast and crew during the filming of 'The Deadly Years' from what it had been before, we knew something was going on. It had been a very up cast and crew, and now it was very down - the mood. We found out by*

going to craft services, the underground gossip source, that they were probably going to cancel the show after the second season. We had to leave and go back to Oakland, where we lived at the time, and on the way, we were talking about what a change it had been in the cast. I turned to Bjo and I said, 'There ought to be something we can do about that,' knowing full well that that was throwing down the challenge."

The couple immediately sprang into action. John Trimble added, *"We spent the rest of the trip going up the Central Valley, before Interstate 5, back to Oakland, discussing how to do it and putting together the Save Star Trek campaign."*

Bjo Trimble credited John for building out the framework of their grassroots campaign, *"We knew, of course, we were going to have to both mail letters. John went down to the post office, learned all about mail rules, and brand new was the zip code system. They told us, flat out, that if material wasn't zip coded it wouldn't go out as bulk mail, that it would just sit in the post office. John got all the books in those days, and it was stacks of them, and learned about the zip code rules. And we came home and put those into effect when we mailed out letters. John was downstairs with a hand-cranked mimeograph machine, turning out the letters, which we still have a copy or two. We folded them, labeled them and stamped them, and put them in bulk mail. He was doing a whole bunch of the physical work, the grunt work. I was more getting people over to help us. It was actually wonderful. We would work the volunteers hard all weekend. John was everywhere; he was the one who ran the errands. He's the one who lifted, toted, and basically it simply was not possible for me to do it alone. This is why we're a pair."*

The decades following their legendary writing campaign, John and Bjo Trimble remained ambassadors for science fiction, the space program, and the Society of Creative Anachronism. The pair continued to attend Star Trek premieres and events, meeting

fellow fans and sharing their enthusiasm for each new iteration of Star Trek and generation of fandom, including last year's Star Trek: Picard Season 3 red carpet premiere in Hollywood, CA.

REVIEWS

THE ZAK PERSPECTIVE

Tomorrow Gets Ready for My Generation: Review of the documentary *In Search of Tomorrow, part 2*

By Zak Lyon



So, what does time travel look like to the time traveler? Studio heads, directors and special effects artists want to know when creating their worlds. But Bob Gale, producer and writer of *Back to the Future*, says that the three most important things are 1. character, 2. character, and 3. character, in that order. If the characters are believable, those other things are secondary. I tend to agree.

Through the character of Doc Brown, you KNOW he can invent something “way out there” and it will work. You KNOW that Doc and Marty have a long-standing friendship. From **character** you can build the world without explaining the tech or backstory.

You can trust that I will comment on more than Bob's three points in this Part 2 of my review of the David Weiner produced documentary, *In Search of Tomorrow*. In addition to continuing to move through the 80s year by year, interstitials focusing on important themes of 1980s genre films are sprinkled throughout. I will continue with the chronological look at the movies while taking a few fascinating side trips highlighted in the doc.

Starting with Building Better Worlds, the director took us through nine mini features which are of interest to fans of the genre. From marketing, to musical scoring, to VFX and creature creation, these features explore the contributions made by 80s films to the science of genre filmmaking. In addition to focusing on these technical aspects of filmmaking, the documentary looks at more thoughtful, less technical topics as well and how they impacted future genre filmmaking. These include the Effect of the Space Shuttle and Challenger, Futuristic Visions and Cautionary Tales, Heroes and Antiheroes, and Looking to Tomorrow Today. These interstitials looked past the 1980s and were equally enlightening for genre fans. I'll give you a taste of a few of my favorites.

Just as the cold war affected the early sci fi movies of the 50s-70s, the hope and despair of the Space Shuttle program was reflected in the messages of the subsequent movies. It wasn't all doom and gloom like in earlier genre films. Things were different now. Manned space flight was now history for us, no longer fantasy. Our reality and our imagination of the future were coming together. We had mourned the loss of a mission in real time and survived. To paraphrase Wil Wheaton, Star Trek let us know that these brave adventurers would be remembered into the 23rd century in The Voyage Home's dedication to the Challenger. We knew we would come back and continue our journey into the future.

I also found the features on Scoring and Marketing interesting. The genre films of the 80s brought us beautiful symphonic scores with huge orchestras. Scores that can be hummed. (Today's scores have moved on to simply sound effects according to the doc.) Directors like Zemeckis and Gayle told composers to make our movies sound better than they are and Alan Silvestri writes his first symphonic film score for *Back to the Future*. This was the age of Goldsmith, Williams and Silvestri – long may they reign. Right? You hear the music and your mind goes straight to the movie.

This connects with the feature on Marketing. In the 80s, there was no internet, no YouTube, no podcasts... But we didn't need them. From the moment you saw that Michelangelo poster of ET or the futuristic Tron poster, the movie played in our minds and imaginations. This was the new world of the movie poster... where Drew Struzan was king. The posters gave a new landscape to play in ... we didn't need trailers and people to “break them down” for us. After all, seeing the poster was the first time I fought alongside the Rebels. (BTW It is still hanging up in my bedroom.) This is also a world where Reese's Pieces shot to fame for being the favorite snack of an alien. (There should be a guy whose job it is to keep kicking M&M executives daily for turning down Spielberg on this marketing opportunity.)

There was so much to ponder from these interstitials. But I need to get on to the movies. The ones that were waiting for me.



1985: Some say that *Back to the Future* was a “perfect movie.” There was adventure, time travel, great characters, humor and more. But it also had something that all genre movies strive for. It was a human story. What would I do? What would I change? What would happen if I was there?

Another human story of that year was *Cocoon* with Ron Howard’s desire to get to the heart of man’s struggles and his great respect for older actors. And of course, the Cat in the Hat story for all awkward kids, *Weird Science*. These movies had technology as a device, but were really about the human condition. In 1985, genres and subgenres had been established. We knew how to build worlds, create rules, and stick with them. Sequels were emerging and filmmakers were experimenting with finding a balance between their responsibility to fan expectation and their creative visions.

In **1986**, *Short Circuit*, *Aliens*, *the Flight of the Navigator* and *The Voyage Home*, to name a few, were the results of experimenting with the genre. These movies were about Joy, Life, War, and Wish Fulfillment. Robots had personalities. Females took charge of a war in space. Kids were given their own special fantasy. And we see humanity as the villain in the conclusion of a *Star Trek* trilogy. When I think of 1986, however, I hear Johnny 5 cry **“I am alive!”** I learned the message of the joy of life from a sentient machine who was built as a military weapon. Something to think about.

In **1987**, we find Mel Brooks understanding of the genre and ability to make fun of it and the world we lived in at the time. *Spaceballs* was just one joke after another. You know genre films had come fully into the mainstream when Mel Brooks gets his hands on it! Existential movies continued with *Predator*. Technology goes awry in *Inner Space*. *The Running Man* predicts reality tv. (Hope we aren’t that sick.) And a fight for dignity happens in the violent *Robocop*.

1988 opens the door to Japanese Anime and animation for adults with *Akira*. Do we have to destroy someone to save them? You can see where this led when you see how prolific adult animation is now! Sci Fi continues its tradition of sending messages to society in *Alien Nation* where a cop/buddy movie highlights the issues of race, discrimination and immigration. *Cherry 2000* is ultimately about love. Love in a post-apocalyptic world. What would you be willing to do if your *Cherry 2000* broke? Even Ronald MacDonald had a genre cross-over in 1988 with *Mac and Me*.

1989 asks what if you had all the power in your hands and were too innocent to do anything about it? *Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure* worked because it was being played with complete sincerity. The characters were believable and you were pulling for them even as their decisions were cringe-worthy. Time Travel movies were getting tighter. The mechanics in this movie were realistic. The key ring is the best example. *Miracle Mile* was one of those “what if” films. Its desire was to be audacious. To take away hope. And to make people take action in the real world.

Experimentation continued with *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*. Its effects were all practical and multiple solutions were used in each scene. It showed the creativity of filmmakers prior to computers being available as a tool. And James Cameron took experimentation almost too far in *The Abyss*. It was shot in a nuclear silo filled with water. Cameron almost drowned, he also had to give a rat CPR when demonstrating the bends to the crew. This was dangerous filmmaking to build a fantastical world which would amaze viewers. It was basically the reverse of *Aliens* which was brought to life with the reveal of this alien – an ILM water being that introduced what computer animation could do for the future of genre films.

And, finally, we return to *Back to the Future...2* which kind of forecast our obsession with the 1980s. This film picks up exactly where the last one left off, gets dark, and places the viewer firmly in Marty’s futuristic shoes. 2015 didn’t turn out to be much like it was portrayed in this film but it projected the time it was made. In the end, however, these movies are always about us.

1980s movies. We watch them over and over. We have our favorite movies, our favorite moments. These movies of the 1980s helped youth to figure out what they thought about “things.” (Think about the half black/half white aliens – simple but available.) The documentary states that “story belongs to the person that it made an imprint on.” It’s about who you were with, where you were, what you were doing when you first saw it. Nostalgia connects us with imagination and helps us learn. We want to relive these stories because they made us what we are.

Before looking at this documentary I thought that improvement and evolution in genre films occurred gradually rather than seeing the huge jump-start provided by 80s films. It is said that these filmmakers were just kids themselves. Their stories showed who they were. I am glad that these pioneers took the creative risks to get their stories ready for my generation.

You can stream this documentary on Amazon Prime.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL ROLE PLAY

“Methinks I could not die anywhere, so contented as in the King’s company, his cause being just and his quarrel honorable.” - Henry V (Shakespeare)

ACT II of *The Bound Dog Shall be Loosed*

Part 20: “A Goodly Vessel Driving Before the Storm”



By Darrell Millner, Bud Walker, Kathy Whately, Zak Lyon and Jody Lyon



Aboard the Shuttle Quantico 1793/37

As the Heimdal shrunk into the distance, the members of Davis's Special Reaction Team busied themselves preparing for...nobody knew. The sense of fear and anxiety permeated through the whole interior of the shuttle as no one spoke.

Chief Millner was hunched over the main console as he piloted the shuttle with one hand, while his other hand manipulated a touch screen below. While technically not a cloaking device, the Chief had jury-rigged an emission dampening field to disguise the shuttle as background particles, which would, hopefully, keep them hidden from the Terran

warship.

Lt. Commander Whately adjusted the transmitter enhancer to her comm badge. She and Commander Hudson had worked out a protocol for the team to report back as they were able, while monitoring their life signs and location. Robin would remain on the shuttle while the other four team members beamed into the Terran warship. Kathy had to ensure that she could maintain a link back to the shuttle, as she would have the only way the team would be able to escape once their mission was accomplished.

"I sure hope this works," Kathy muttered to herself. She was feeling a huge weight on her shoulders. *"I've never done anything like this and I'm scared."* Robin simply nodded while continuing to study the communications protocol Kathy had completed for her. It covered all contingencies, but she was still nervous.

Lieutenant Lyon adjusted the tactical vest she was wearing and took a hand phaser from the weapons locker. She attempted to put the phaser in her holster, but it would not go in. Like every Starfleet officer, Jody had basic training in phaser use, but she had never worn any tactical gear before. She pushed the phaser into the holster again, without success. Frustrated she looked down to see a small "hood" covering the top opening of the holster. She pushed at the hood, but it stubbornly resisted her pressure. Completely exasperated, Jody could no longer hold it in.

"This is not my job!"

Kathy wanted to reply, *"Mine either,"* but she headed over to Jody to put her hand on her shoulder as Millner leaned forward and pushed a small button on the side of Jody's holster and the hood snapped down. Sensing that she was the center of attention in the small cockpit, the lieutenant put her phaser in the now open holster, grinned slightly and whispered, *"I am not supposed to be here. I am not trained for this. I'm not supposed to be here."*

"I know how you feel, Jody," Kathy whispered back as she patted Jody's shoulder comfortingly. *"We are all out of our element here. But as a team, we have a chance."*

Commander Lyon had been watching, but more importantly **listening** to his crewmates. The brief time spent communicating with his Terran counterpart had heightened his nascent El-Aurian skills. He sensed the apprehension, their questioning. He allowed the moment of quiet to continue. The crew calmed and centered themselves on their various tasks and preparation for the larger one to come. Then he spoke.

"No one knows what to expect on the mission. None of us has had the training or experience to deal with the Terran universe. We just all need to pass through the looking glass. Keep our eyes open and the mission central. But there is one thing I know."

The crew of the Quantico looked up from their work and scanned the faces of their comrades.

"All of you are needed on this mission. I am not sure exactly what you will need to do. After we board and I am in closer proximity to Dr. Lyon, I think I will sense it and I can help you. I have learned that each of you has a part to play. Especially Commander Whately... I'll let you know when it becomes clearer. And you, Lieutenant Lyon, yes, especially you. We will need you to get to our hostages."

Zak caught the Lieutenant's eye. His gaze bore into her as he sensed her growing confidence.

"You are exactly where you need to be." He turned to address the whole crew. *"We all are."*



There was a second quiet moment as the crew processed what had just been shared. Commander Lyon's words had been designed to ease Jody's discomfort, but the rest of the team knew that those words were also meant for them. Lyon inhaled deeply and listened. The feeling inside the shuttle was one of determination and quiet resolve.

They were ready.

Recognizing the need to break the tension and get his team focused, Chief Millner returned to his tasks, head lowered and grumbled. *"Well, guess I picked a bad day to try decaf."*

Following his lead, the crew resumed their duties, heads in the game before them.

And the shuttle sailed on into the inky darkness of space and the unknown.

To Be Continued

THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

I hope you've enjoyed this issue of our newsletter. And THANK YOU to EVERYONE that contributed to it. It's pretty spectacular because of the diversity and contributors.

We'll see you at the July meeting (and can't wait to SEE your feline side).

Linda, Willy and our staff of THOUSANDS.



Disclaimer: No part of this newsletter is intended as an infringement on the Star Trek copyright held by Paramount, CBS, Disney or any other company or entity. This is just us doing good and having fun.

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We'll See You Around the Galaxy ...

PUSS TREK I ... 10 YEARS AGO

