



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 **THANKSGIVING** Issue*

November 2022

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COMMAND

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER
Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet SFDPP Certified



Hello! The fact that it's November is a surprise. It got here REALLY fast and I kind of wasn't ready for it. I actually wasn't ready for my aging computer to belly-up leading me to buy a new one. Time that I ordinarily would have spent working on this newsletter was delayed. Now that everything is hooked up and running, I am struggling with Windows 11 replacing Windows 7 that was comfortable ... like a nicely worn pair of jeans or an old pair of comfortable shoes. It's a challenge but I'm getting there.

Last month's Halloween Party was so much fun and it was especially good to see so many of us back in person at the library. Great costumes ... special fellowship.

Heimdal's Space Camp Committee set everything aside in order to read the essays we received for our Space Camp Contest and choose a winner. I'll be telling you all about that, including the name of the winner later on in this newsletter. No matter how many times we do this, it is ALWAYS exciting for me.

We've also started working on the Heimdal's float entry in the Amherst Christmas Parade on December 2. Participating in the parade is one of the fun things we do that makes the Heimdal so diverse. We really DO have something for everyone.

I so hope to see all of you at the library for our November meeting and on ZOOM. It's a special meeting with a special guest speaker. You don't want to miss Mary Hurst and I hope we can all give her the warmest welcome ever.

The Heimdal ONLY gets BETTER from here.

Join us for an exciting holiday season and an amazing 2023.

Heimdal ROCKS!



Willy & I won the Most Humorous prize at the Halloween Party as the Bearded Lady & Strong Man from the circus. So much fun & so funny.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
XO, Chief Science Officer, Adm. Willy Smith – Starfleet SFDPP Certified



Hello all,

Man, this has been a real busy month. I had a birthday, grandson turned a year old, and we got a flu shot and the new Covid booster. Then, one of my friends and I went to see Weird Al in concert and it was a great experience ... you should have been there! Weird Al rocked and it was a special experience to see him live and in person.

....and the leaves continue to pile up at the Smith estate.

In other exciting news, BIG thanks to everyone who sent articles in for the newsletter and served on the

Space Camp committee ... by now we should have a winner! I took the essays that were submitted and removed all the information that would give the judges any info about each of the contestants. It's just human nature to read something and possibly get swayed one way or another due to the sex, the school or even the name of an entrant. So, each have an equal start and their words do the rest ... one way or the other. This year it seems those 12 to 14-year-olds were a little smarter than some we've had before. Once upon a time there were kids that just said, *"I've never been to camp before ... it would be cool to be weightless"* or other things that make the intelligent ones shine even clearer. Many of the reasons given this year were well thought out and really sincere and gosh... before long WE will have to attend classes to make an intelligent choice.

For MORE details about Space Camp read the rest of this newsletter and ask Jonathan or myself about the Weird Al experience. It was amazing.



FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER

RAdm. Carl Davis, 2nd Officer's Report November 2022

I'm going to do my report a bit differently this month. I wanted to share a brief review of an experience I just returned from so I'm going to use this space to tell about an experience that is available for folks who feel the need for speed. I hope you enjoy the review.

Rusty Wallace Driving Experience. I had heard about the outfit for several years but never thought about taking part in the excitement. My first opportunity to drive at Charlotte Speedway had been when Jeff Gordon was partners with Mario Andretti and they offered a chance to drive a stock car or an Indy car. I think it was about \$300 back then to drive 8 laps and Bonnie and I made the trip. It was a blast to go about 140 miles an hour in an actual NASCAR machine. I remember that they put me in one of Michael Waltrip's old cars because he was tall. It was amazing.

Then I heard about the **Stock Car Racing Experience** when somebody offered a coupon on eBay to drive 8 laps around Pocono. I won the bid on the coupon and scheduled a date to drive there. 160+ mph on a super speedway was way cool.

Through the years I drove three times at Pocono and 2 more times at Charlotte with **The Petty Driver Experience.**

They all had a similar routine where you followed a lead car and as long as you stayed 3 car lengths off his bumper, he would continue to pick up speed. Still, the fastest speed around Lowes was always around 145.

Then Bonnie's sister, Rebecca came home with us after church and she had gotten an ad on Facebook for Rusty Wallace. They were running an end-of-the-year sale for about \$300 to drive 10 laps and she wanted to do it badly. I listened but it didn't strike me as something I needed to do. Then a week later I got the same ad. Driving without a lead car or someone riding with you. Pay extra per lap and get a car that would go 10 miles an hour faster. The idea kinda stuck and I checked with Bonnie to see if it was alright with her. Then I texted Rebecca to see if it was something she still wanted to do and she was excited at the prospect. We found a date in October and booked our rides for the same date and time. Then I booked rooms in Kannapolis and we waited for the date.

We drove down on Saturday morning stopping at antique malls along the way. Checked in at the motel at about 6:00 pm and went to get supper.

Sunday was cool but bright on 10-24-22 and after a later breakfast at Waffle House we made our way to the track for our 12:00 noon reservation. We were early so just hung out waiting our turn. In a few minutes the cars started making laps



as the 11:00 group began their experiences. Finally, we were able to check in and I opted to add the \$140 extreme package which gave me the fastest car they offered. After the usual drivers meeting, we headed out to suit up and make our way to the cars.

I was in the number 37 chili pepper car and managed to fit my bulk into the window and down into the Chevrolet Camaro. The driver seat was the same they run in the races and fit very tightly against the rib cage. It made shifting gears awkward but the steering wheel was easy to handle. Put ear phones inside the helmet and the spotter advised to give thumbs up if I could hear him. The pit guy hit the starter and it came to life. Listened to the spotter as he said to head out down the pit road and onto track. Listened to spotter as best I could as I floored the gas pedal.

To say that the car was responsive would be an understatement. 500+ hp moves out fast. I wish I had thought to check the tach but I was fully concentrating on the spots on the track that I was supposed to stay in between. Little strip of tape marked the preferred lane we were supposed to stay in, leaving it only to pass or be passed. In no time at all I came upon a slower car and went around it. I think I was passed once as the drivers giving ride-alongs were on the track at the same time. It wouldn't have been easy to pass me as I feathered the gas through the turns and went wide open as soon as I headed down the straight.



By the time I made the third lap my nerves were settling into a pace and each lap was wide open on the throttle until ready to dive into the turn where they said we should. I only had one problem and that was as I ran into turn one and found a slower car on the bottom of the track. I lifted off the gas waiting for the spotter to advise me to pass but he said nothing. I was going to have to pass or hit the brakes which we weren't supposed to do so I throttled and passed him in the corner. Then the spotter asked if I was making my own decisions now and if I did it again, he would call me into the pits. If he had been awake, I wouldn't have had to pass on my own but communications were one way so I kept moving along.

I'm pretty sure I ran more than the allotted ten laps because it certainly seemed so. I had trusted that Bonnie

would be running a video but she had only shot about 20 seconds so there was no way I could figure lap speeds and the track didn't give us any idea of how fast we had gone.

It was fun as usual and I was glad I paid the extra. Wish I had done the video just to have figured how fast I went but it was OK.

When I came into the pits and got out of the race suit Rebecca was just getting into her car. I videoed her whole time out and she did better each lap. Finally turning the mile and a half track at 47 seconds, which meant she probably hit 140mph at the end of the back stretch. I figured I had probably been in the 160-165 range.

Coming home it was obvious I needed to set the cruise control because I found myself running 80 and picking up speed as I relived the time out on track. I was impressed with the **Rusty Wallace Experience** and will recommend it to others.

MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

VERY SPECIAL NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting will be held November 19 starting at 6:30 p.m. in person at the Madison Heights Library and on ZOOM. Those at the library should bring one item for refreshments. While large drinks, cookies, cake and brownies are acceptable it is best to bring chips in individually wrapped packs to avoid many hands reaching into a large bag. We've learned this from Covid.

The November meeting is special with a special guest speaker.

Our guest speaker will be Mary Hurst. Mary started working at NASA Langley in 1998 and retired in 2016. She served as the center's Historic Preservation Officer, documenting the history of the first NACA/NASA center. One of the subjects was the role of the women who served as computers, which led to her friendship with Margot Shetterly, the author of the book *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*.



When *Hidden Figures* was made into a feature film, our meeting guest, Mary Hurst was one of the several consultants on the film from NASA and is listed in the movie's credits. She will be telling us about her career, working on the movie, her friendship with Shetterly and the background of the film.

Mary will be joining us in person at the library and on ZOOM for those that can't make it to the library. But we hope you DO come to see Mary at the library and give her a huge welcome.

Darrell will once again be our ZOOM coordinator and here are the ZOOM coordinates:

Linda Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Heimdal November 2022 Meeting**

Time: Nov 19, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85358333351?pwd=V3dNNIIvTzZEBIVrOVpQSGhHSVJyQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 5833 3351

Passcode: turbolift

Mobile Phone Audio Only available on request

We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. Please DO bring a guest in person or on ZOOM.



Mary Hurst

OCTOBER MEETING CLOTHES MAKE A STATEMENT. COSTUMES TELL A STORY

October 2022 Chapter Meeting of the USS Heimdal

By Lt. Commander Bud Walker, Navigator

The Heimdal crew gathered at the Madison Heights Public Library (part of Amherst County Public Library system) for the October meeting and Halloween Party and Costume Contest.



Weston & Sarah win Best Science Fiction costume AND Best All Around costume as Emperor Palpatine with Imperial Escort

The first order of business was the Costume Contest. Costumes that were present included Grumpy Cat, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich, Toxic Lady, Count Dooku, the Bearded Lady & Strongman (from the carnival), Gary Seven, and Emperor Palpatine with Imperial Escort. Costumes seen on ZOOM were Dr. Who, Indiana Jones, the Wicked Witch of the West and the Headless Engineer. (My apologies if I got anyone's description wrong).

There was a brief moment on the catwalk for each contestant and then voting commenced in four different categories. The winner of the Best Science Fiction costume was Sara and Weston (Emperor Palpatine with Imperial Escort). The winner of the Most Humorous costume was Linda and Willy (Bearded Lady & Strongman). The winner of the Most Original costume was Dan and Glenda (Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich). And the final category, Best All Around costume, was won by Weston and Sara.

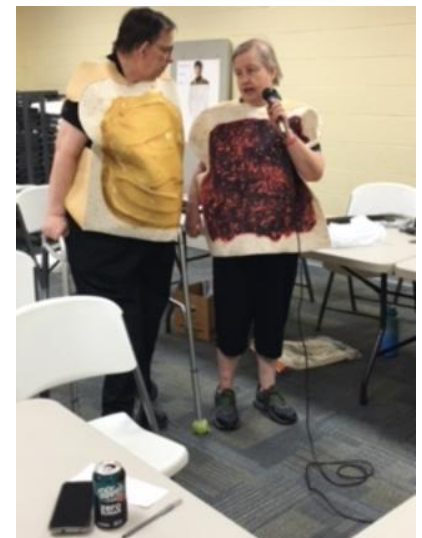
Admiral Linda Smith continued with the meeting covering several business items. Admiral Smith emphasized the need for volunteers for the Public Science Fiction Auction, tentatively scheduled for May 6, 2023, at the Riverviews ArtSpace. She also indicated a need for volunteers for the

Christmas Parade float. The Amherst Christmas Parade will be held on December 2nd and will be a true "moving" parade. The parade theme will be "Blue Christmas."

Admiral Smith announced the creation of an Advertisement Committee, chaired by Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks. The committee will be tasked with marketing and publicizing the Public Science Fiction Auction and the Annual Charity Auction.

The following announcements were made:

- November 1st noon is the deadline for the next newsletter.
- The next game night will be sometime in February
- The next phaser simulation will be on a Sunday in early November
- The next meeting is November 19



Dan & Glenda won Most Original costume as Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich

- The Anniversary Party will be on April 15
- The Charity Auction will be September 16

Following the business meeting, refreshments were served and several gaming stations were set up to include Black Hole Corn Hole, Tribble Transport, Destroy the Borg Cube (with paintballs), Help Spock Find His Brain and Pin the Butt on the Borg. On a personal note, I especially enjoyed torturing our ZOOM attendees by eating delicious donuts and cookies in front of the camera.

HEIMDAL HALLOWEEN TREAT **ZOOM Perspective Meeting Report for October 15** **By Zak Lyon**



ZOOM folks at Halloween Party. Top to bottom – L to R: Kathy as a witch, Darrell as a Detached Head (DC), Jody as Indiana Jones & Zak as Dr. Who

We apologize to the Madison Heights Public Library for the incursion of a Borg vessel on their premises. Be assured that the cube was neutralized and all drones affixed with butts. If you do not understand this, then you were not at the Annual Heimdal Halloween party on October 15 which included the classic Heimdal costume competition, snacks and games. And we on ZOOM were a part of it all. We were “there.”

My household often writes the ZOOM perspective for the newsletter. And there is always a little bleed over from the in-person meeting report. The costumes as well as the multi-fandom representation were inspiring and entertaining. The snacks looked yummy. The games were a

hoot. But it was the costumes that ruled. I trust you will get all the in-person details from our reporter on the scene in the full meeting report so

I will comment here on the ZOOM contributions and my reflections.

Our ZOOM frames were filled with Halloween magic. Kathy not only came costumed as the perfect green skinned witch, but had her home decorated in the background with all kinds of spooky creatures and characters. I had decided to come as a botched Doctor Who regeneration well before “that episode” aired. Who knew. With ZOOM, I was able to get that Whovian background with the Tardis in the distance. Since Mom had to share the screen, she invented a story that connected her Indiana Jones with Doctor Who. Hope you enjoyed. And through the marvels of ZOOM, I was treated to a vision of a costume that would have been impossible any other way. To see your chief’s totally detached head bouncing across the screen like in a pong game with a backdrop of eerie tools was priceless. I was proud of the imagination deployed. Bravo, Darrell!

Although I took a lot of care creating my costume this year, I vow that future ZOOM Halloween costumes will take full advantage of the medium. And it *is* a new medium. A new form of expression. No different than radio and television. Each of them took a little time to get used to but once they took hold and the tools were understood creativity blossomed and truly fascinating things were accomplished.

I feel that this meeting was the clearest sign ever that ZOOM participants will be a major part of our chapter going forward. I had wondered how the more “social” meetings would be once the majority of the crew was there in person. Would we feel included? To the extent that ZOOM allows, we definitely were. The camera was set up so we could see the costume presentations and hear the descriptions, though a closer examination of the detail would have been cool. And Bud made sure we “tasted” the snacks by savoring several for us. They were yummy. Thanks, Bud.

Over on our side, Darrell was on-top of moderating the session, making sure we had opportunities to comment and ask questions. I had agency when I requested and received a Star Wars encounter between Dooku and Palpatine from a couple hundred miles away!

When games were set up at the library, the ZOOM participants not being physically present was a difficulty in need of a solution. We worked together as Star Fleet (Starfleet – I’m sorry, I really mean that “both” ways) officers to solve the problem. Rather than to sign out when the party moved to game play, fellow engineer Bud Walker stepped up and guided us around each game. And we actually got to see the game play! When Bud wanted to disable the Borg Cube, he handed off his phone and we were observers as he made contact with the emitter. For the first time, paintball actually looked fun

to me. The enjoyment that I saw on the faces of those targeting and connecting with the Cube sold it. And there was no return fire! Possibly because the drones were involved in Pin the Butt on the Borg.

But never have I had such a clear perspective that this medium has been accepted and embraced by my crewmates. And in a way, because of our situation, in embracing ZOOM they are embracing us - ZOOM style.

HEIMDAL PEOPLE

STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!

Bud Walker and Darrell Millner – WAY TO GO ... AMAZING!!!

BUD WALKER (22 Courses, 1 Award(s))

Awarded BOCP – Flight Control Officer Certification from the School of SFA Awards 25 OCT 2022

IOSTS - College of Starship Operations (IOMS:CO SO):

HONORS for CSO-103 – Rescue and Evacuation Operations on 10/19/2022

DISTINCTION for CSO-104 - Guidance and Navigation Operations on 10/10/2022

School of IOTK - College of Engineering ;

DISTINCTION for CENG 101 – Early Principles and Terms completed on Sep 29, 2022

HONORS for CENG 105 – Starfleet Engineers on Oct 27, 2022

DISTINCTION for CENG 209 - Montgomery Scott on Oct 27, 2022

DISTINCTION for CENG 211 - Miles O'Brien on Oct 27, 2022

IOSTS - College of Star Trek Rank & Insignia;

DISTINCTION for CORI 101 – ENT Rank Recognition completed on 10/24/2022

DISTINCTION for CORI 102 – TOS Rank Recognition completed on 10/27/2022

IOSTS - College of Starship Design (COSD):

DISTINCTION for COSD 122 - NCC-1701 Constitution Class Schematics on 10/10/2022

DISTINCTION for COSD 122A - NCC-1701 Constitution Class Schematics on 10/10/2022

DISTINCTION for COSD 122B - NCC-1701 Constitution Class Schematics on 10/10/2022

DISTINCTION for COSD 122C - NCC-1701 Main Bridge & Shuttlecraft Schematics on 10/10/2022

IOSS - College of Spaceflight:

HONORS for APPO 101 - Apollo 1 on 10/12/2022

HONORS for APPO 102 - Apollo 2 on 10/12/2022

DISTINCTION for APPO 103 - Apollo 3 on 10/13/2022

IOMOS - CSOS - College of Special Ops Specialties:

DISTINCTION for OPS 101 - Operations & Techniques on 10/17/2022

IOMOS - CSOR - College of Special Ops Resources:

DISTINCTION for COMM 101 - Introduction on 10/17/2022

IOMOS - CSOT - College of Special Ops Training:

DISTINCTION for COST 108 – Physical Fitness on 10/20/2022

IOMOS - CSOU - College of Special Ops Units:

DISTINCTION for USF 101 – US Special Forces on 10/20/2022

IOLS - STARFLEET Officers Leadership College (IOLS:SOLC):

PASS for IOLS:SOLC-101 - Commander, STARFLEET Exam on 10/12/2022

DISTINCTION for IOLS:SOLC-102 - Vice Commander, STARFLEET Exam on 10/12/2022

DISTINCTION for IOLS:SOLC-113 - Region Coordinator Exam on 10/11/2022



Bud Walker

DARRELL MILLNER (20 Courses, 2 Award(s))

Awarded BOCP - Chief Engineering Officer Certification from the School of SFA Awards Sep 30, 2022

Awarded BOCP – Flight Control Officer Certification from the School of SFA Awards 15 OCT 2022

School of IOSS - College of Spaceflight

DISTINCTION for MERC 101 - Mercury 1 completed on Oct 12, 2022

DISTINCTION for MERC 102 - Mercury 2 completed on Oct 12, 2022

DISTINCTION for MERC 103 - Mercury 3 completed on Oct 12, 2022

School of IOSTS - College of Treknology (IOSF:COT):

HONORS for TNG-104 - Technology completed on Oct 3, 2022

School of IOSTS - College of Starship Operations
(IOMS:COSO):

DISTINCTION for CSO-106 - Extreme Measures completed on Oct 6, 2022

School of IOTK - College of Engineering:

DISTINCTION for CENG 203 - Other Starfleet Engineers completed on Sep 29, 2022

DISTINCTION for CENG 205 – Ship Recognition completed on Oct 27, 2022

DISTINCTION for CENG 206 - Non-Starfleet Engineers completed on Oct 10, 2022

School of IOIE – School of Espionage (SOE):

DISTINCTION for SOE 101 Definition and Means completed on Oct 30, 2022

School of IOIE – School of Intel Tech (SIT):

DISTINCTION for SIT 101 Eyes in the Skies completed on Oct 30, 2022

School of IOIE – School of Intel Gathering (SIG):

HONORS for SIG 101 Who Does it? Completed on Oct 30 2022

School of IOMOS - CSOU - College of SpecOps Units:

HONORS for RANG 101 - History & Tradition completed on Oct 26, 2022

HONORS for RANG 102 – Training completed on Oct 27, 2022

DISTINCTION for RANG 103 – The Mission completed on Oct 27, 2022

PASSED for RANG 104 – Org, Equipment, Deployment completed on Oct 27, 2022

School of IOSTS - College of Starship Design (COSD):

DISTINCTION for COSD 126 - NCC-1701D Schematics completed on Oct 10, 2022

DISTINCTION for COSD 126A - NCC-1701D Schematics completed on Oct 10, 2022

DISTINCTION for COSD 126B - NCC-1701D Schematics completed on Oct 10, 2022

DISTINCTION for COSD 126C - NCC-1701D Schematics completed on Oct 10, 2022

DISTINCTION for COSD 126D - NCC-1701D Schematics completed on Oct 10, 2022

JODY'S PUMPKIN

By Jody Lyon

In keeping with showing our hobbies in the newsletter, here is a picture of my new Jack Skellington carving. (WOW! Amazing, Jody)

RENEWALS

A special THANK YOU to Tim Hazlett for renewing and staying with our Heimdal “family” for another year getting back to normal of the “before times” (thank you, Jody!)

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 in no less than 60 days following your renewal.**

XXX PLEASE NOTE: When Willy sends you your renewal reminder he includes in that email your SCC number and instructions on how to renew through Starfleet's web site, as well as your 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:

December – Carlos Neyre – **December 20**

January – Janice Lawson – **January 4**

Kathy & Larry Whately – **January 18 (already paid)**

Nikki Cole – **January 24**

February – No renewals in February



Darrell Millner



LANDING PARTY REPORT: WALT DISNEY WORLD

By LCDR Bud Walker



During the third week in September Karen and I traveled to Walt Disney World for our first vacation in five years. We stayed “on property” at the Animal Kingdom Lodge, which is one of the nicer hotels that Disney has, given that it is their newest hotel. The one drawback is that the Lodge is only close to the Animal Kingdom Park and travel to the other Disney parks always involved a 20-to-30-minute bus ride.

I can report that the climate on planet Florida was rather extreme, with daily high temperatures all over 90, with several days reaching 98. I estimate daily humidity levels to be somewhere around *“Oh my God, I am going to die.”* However, we managed around the heat by retreating to the hotel during the afternoons for naps and pool-time.

We were able to experience all the newer rides at the four parks, including the newest Disney ride, “Guardians of the Galaxy.” It is a fast-paced roller coaster, which switches directions more than once. The surrounding effects and videos included all the actors from the movies and just like the movies, there was plenty of action and humor. We also were able to do the “Flight of Passage” ride, which is based on the Avatar movie. This is a virtual simulation ride where we sat on devices similar to motorcycles and watched a wrap-around screen. But the effect

made us feel like we were on one of the flying creatures from the movies and it really seemed like we were doing dips and dives in the sky.

By far my favorite experience was spending time in the “Galaxy’s Edge” part of the Hollywood Studios Park. Disney did an excellent job of recreating the Star Wars universe and it was a joy simply to walk around and take in all the details. The “Rise of the Resistance” ride is probably the most elaborate and technically advanced ride that Disney has crafted so far. Part virtual reality and part mild roller coaster, it was very immersive and exciting. But I must say that my favorite ride was “Smuggler’s Run,” which recreates the experience of flying the Millennium Falcon. You must cooperate with five other guests in the cockpit of the Falcon, so it can be hit or miss on how good an experience you have. But even if your fellow smugglers miss some of their cues, it is still a fun ride and a very faithful recreation of the movie set.

I made a short video of my experience at Galaxy’s Edge, which anyone can view by using this link:

(<https://youtu.be/ISKQTIU40NI>). And for you true Star Wars fans ... yes! I drank the blue milk!

GABE FRIEDMAN, 2022 SPACE CAMP WINNER IS SUPER VISABLE

Gabe Gets Response from Astronaut, Chris Hadfield

Gabe Makes Amazing Halloween Costume



For Halloween Gabe, our Space Camp Contest winner for 2022 decided he wanted to wear an Artemis costume and began following through by putting one together. His mom, Erin Friedman helped just a little bit with the actual sewing part of it but the idea was totally his.



HEIMDAL STUFF

2023 SPACE CAMP CONTEST: WE HAVE A WINNER!!!

After finding out in late August that NASA's Space Camp was already booking Space Camp trips for the summer of 2023, Heimdal's Space Camp Committee cracked into action ... big time ... updated our Space Camp Contest materials and got them into local middle schools by mid-September. We wanted to make sure our winning student got to go during the summer of 2023 the week that best suited our winner and the family.

The Heimdal Space Camp Contest ran from September 21 until October 21 with all essays (Why I Want to Go to Space Camp) being turned in by school liaisons no later than October 28. We received 9 essays and the committee read them and decided on a winner by November 2. This year's contest was fast-paced and the essays were excellent.

Our winning student is Sadie Tate. She is in the 8th. Grade at Monelison Middle School. She and her mom are SO excited about her winning this trip. Linda has made all the arrangements with Space Camp and Sadie will be going to Space Academy the week of June 4, 2022. We are looking forward to pictures from her trip and hearing all about it. CONGRATULATIONS, Sadie!

A very special THANK YOU to the Heimdal's Space Camp Committee for spending time pulling the contest together quickly, reading the excellent essays and deciding on a winner. *"This is ALWAYS exciting,"* said one committee member. *"It just never gets old"*



Space Camp winner, Sadie ...

DALY DONATION

In October the Heimdal received yet another extremely generous donation from the Daly Legacy Fund in the amount of \$2000. Jim Daly and his wife, Lynn have been making donations to the Heimdal for the past several years because they believe in what we do within the community. Their annual donations have helped sustain us through the pandemic and have made it possible for us to continue to donate to our Christmas charities without dropping any or reducing the amount of our donations. The donations have also assured us being able to continue sending local middle school students to Space Camp annually. Our gratitude is immeasurable.

Because of this most recent donation we were able to add money to the Heimdal's recently opened savings account. THANK YOU, Jim and Lynn, ...

HEIMDAL GAME NIGHT



Originally scheduled for September 10, the Heimdal's quarterly Game Night planned at Putt Putt was rained out. Since we all thought we really needed a Game Night out, Angie Arnold, Game Night Coordinator moved the event to October 1.

Following weeks of BEAUTIFUL weather, Hurricane Ian came along and hit us with barrels of rain on October 1. Once again Angie rescheduled, this time for October 8.

The third time was finally a charm and 7 of us showed up on a cool fall evening that got colder later on and had a blast FINALLY playing Putt Putt (and warming up). We met before Putt Putt and shared a delicious meal at La Carreta, which was just good food and fun.

In keeping with our quarterly Game Night schedule, we will plan to have a Board Game Night in February at the Madison Heights Library ... date to be announced. (WOW! Cool 'action shot,' Carl!!!! You were moving FAST)



AMHERST CHRISTMAS PARADE – HEIMDAL'S FLOAT

The Amherst Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 2 at 6:30 p.m. and Carl has signed the Heimdal up to have a float entry again this year. After two pandemic years of REVERSE PARADES (the floats were stationary in a parking slot and the parade attendees drove by in cars looking at the floats), the parade will once again be a 'moving parade.' Floats will be driving down the parade route with people standing along the parade route watching as they go by. The theme is **Blue Christmas**.

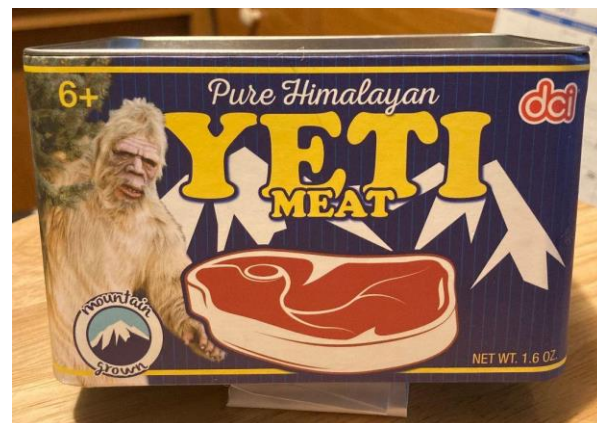
Heimdal's Float Committee – Carl and Bonnie, Weston and Sarah, and Willy and Linda ... met and kicked around float ideas. Not wanting to do the obvious blue angels and Smurfs and Elvis singing 'Blue Christmas,' we decided to have a float decorated with large blue decorative ball ornaments, blue lights, 2 fog machines and two of the special Blue Christmas M&Ms as the focal point. Weston and Sarah will be the M&Ms.

We will need volunteers to come in Star Trek uniforms wearing Santa hats to carry two banners ... at least two people in front of the float and two behind to carry the Heimdal and Starfleet banners. We would love to have as many people in uniform walking beside the float as possible. Come to the November meeting and volunteer.

CANNED GOODS DONATIONS DUE AT NOVEMBER MEETING From Willy

Please don't forget that your canned good donations are due at this November meeting (or the 19th). The Heimdal doesn't have chapter dues but does ask that everyone donate a canned good per month and that was easy-peasy when we met in person each month. Even with inflation, one canned good cost \$1.00. Donating to this is NOT mandatory but it is a nice thing for us to do and helps feed the hungry during the holidays in our area. I have a list of who has already given and I'm sure Santa will be giving them drones or something else cool.

Some people donate 1 can per month, while others wait until November and donate 12 cans when canned food goes on sale at many grocery stores. *Still* other Heimdal members make a monetary donation of \$12. (or more) with checks or money orders made out to: The Salvation Army Food Pantry.



CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

We are planning to sponsor the charities we have been sponsoring for the past 10 years or longer since they have come to depend on us. We have no plans to add new ones at this time. Those charities are:

Salvation Army Food Pantry
Free Clinic of Central Virginia
Amherst and Lynchburg Humane Society shelters
Gleaning for the World
Friends of Madison Heights Library
Gifts for 4 seniors through Home Instead
Gifts for 4 Angel Tree Children
Sponsorship of a Social Services Foster Child

We have been so blessed, even during the pandemic, to be able to donate \$500 to each of these charities and that is the plan for this year as well. This MAKES Christmas for so many of us because we couldn't do this as individuals but as a club, and because of our hard work on the auctions and the Daly donations, we are able to perform small miracles.



RILEY'S RAMBLINGS ...

By Richard Riley



Hello everyone! For this month's newsletter I wanted to show something a bit different. This is a project from several years ago. I had a client call me up and they needed a Greek style statue made of the Mythic figure, Hercules fighting the 3 headed dog, Cerberus. It was to be based off of a statue that is in Italy. The client had been to Italy and loved those statues and his wife wanted to have this made as a decoration for a Halloween party. The piece went into a fountain at their home.

The budget was not that large and also the turnaround time was 30 days. There was no way that I could make a full figure of a man holding a 3 headed dog in 30 days from scratch so I went about the task of finding a mannequin that could be altered along with a taxidermy form of a dog. Since an actual dog form would be too small, I went with a lion form since it is supposed to be a

large magical beast anyway! You can purchase foam forms of animals such as lions, bears, deer, etc. that are used by taxidermist's when they make their displays.

I was able to cut the arms of the mannequin so that it would be holding the lion form. I then went about the task of sculpting the heads of the dog along with Hercules's face, hair and beard. I finished it off with a sculpted bear hide that is wrapped around Hercules and a base that resembles stone. The final piece is then painted and weathered to look like an ancient statue. Pieces like this are always fun, taking bits and pieces to create something totally different, I feel a bit like Dr. Frankenstein when mixing and matching up all these parts!

I found out after the fact that this Halloween party was an annual event in Long Island New York; that a lot of celebrities and politicians attend the event. The year I made this the main guest of honor to the Halloween party was the President of the United States. I have made a lot of pieces over the years but this one was one of my favorites!



FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS





<<SECURITY>>

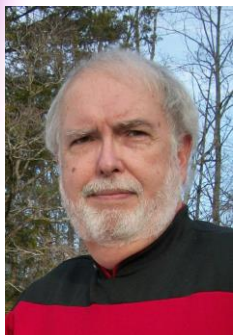
SECURITY REPORT, NOVEMBER 2022

By RAdm. Carl Davis, Security Chief

My report will be short as I used a lot of space for the 2nd Officer's Report. Excited to have another Phaser Sim scheduled for November 6 at 2:00 pm.

We decided to try a Sunday afternoon to see if more would be able to attend and I look forward to a good group taking part in the exercises. The long-range weather report sounds like a good day for some simulated phaser fire.

Security's Halloween Party station was a hit as crew members got to take part in firing bursts at a Borg cube hanging in space. Many made good hits on the cube taking out it's tractor beam but Bud was the outstanding marksman disabling the tractor beam and eliminating a small Borg scout ship during his turn. I look forward to seeing him during a phaser sim real soon.



Bud 'taking out' the Borg Cube

<<SCIENCE>>

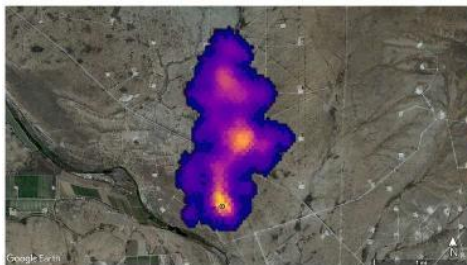
NOVEMBER SCIENCE REPORT

By Adm. Willy Smith, Chief Science Officer, Starfleet SFDPP Certified
NEW KEY TO LIMITING GLOBAL WARMING

NASA scientists, using a tool designed to study how dust affects climate, have identified more than 50 spots around the world emitting major levels of methane, a development that could help combat the potent greenhouse gas.

"Controlling methane emissions is a key to limiting global warming," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in a press release on 10-25-22. "This exciting new development will not only help researchers better pinpoint where methane leaks are coming from, but also provide insight on how they can be addressed—quickly."

NASA said its Earth Surface Mineral Dust Source Investigation (EMIT) is designed to foster understanding of the effects of airborne dust on climate.



New Mexico oil well

But EMIT, which was installed on the International Space Station in July and can focus on areas as small as a soccer field, has also shown the ability to detect the presence of methane.

NASA said more than 50 "super-emitters" of methane gas in Central Asia, the Middle East, and the southwestern United States have been identified so far. Most of them are connected to the fossil-fuel, waste or agriculture sectors.

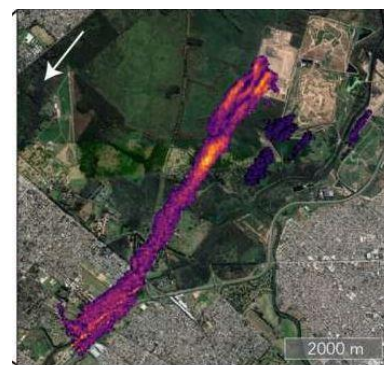
Kate Calvin, NASA's chief scientist and senior climate advisor, said EMIT's "additional methane-detecting capability

offers a remarkable opportunity to measure and monitor greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change." While far less abundant in the atmosphere than CO₂, it is about 28 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas on a century-long timescale.

Methane is responsible for roughly 30 percent of the global rise in temperatures to date.

While far less abundant in the atmosphere than CO₂, it is about 28 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas on a century-long timescale. Over a 20-year time frame, it is 80 times more potent. Methane lingers in the atmosphere for only a decade, compared to hundreds or thousands of years for CO₂.

"EMIT will potentially find hundreds of super-emitters—some of them previously spotted through air-, space-, or ground-based measurement, and others that were unknown," NASA said.



Methane capture

This satellite image from NASA/JPL-Caltech shows a methane plume two miles long that NASA's Earth Surface Mineral Dust Source Investigation mission detected southeast of **Carlsbad, New Mexico**, one of the largest oilfields in the world. (Aliso Canyon gas leaks) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliso_Canyon_gas_leak#Emissions

Andrew Thorpe, a research technologist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory leading the EMIT methane effort, said some of the methane plumes detected by EMIT are among the largest ever seen. What we've found in a just a short time already exceeds our expectations, NASA said.

It said 12 plumes from oil and gas infrastructure were identified in Turkmenistan, east of the Caspian Sea port city of Hazar. A methane plume at least three miles (4.8 kilometers) long was detected south of Tehran from a major waste-processing complex, NASA said.

A landfill in Buenos Aires turns out to emit tens of tons of methane per hour, comparable to the climate impact of one and a half million cars. They also detect large emissions from landfills in India and Pakistan. The work was published on August 10 in *Science Advances*.

<<MEDICAL>>>

NOVEMBER MEDICAL MINUTE

By Commodore Tammy White, Chief Medical Officer



Sometime next year one of our meetings will be focused on our hobbies. I thought this would be a good time to talk about hobbies and their benefits.

According to Goodhabits.com there are roughly 22 benefits of having a hobby. I won't list them all but will focus on the highlights.

What is a hobby? The dictionary defines a hobby as an activity done regularly in one's leisure time for pleasure. A hobby is something you do for your own pleasure. You don't do it to please anyone else. Hobbies can be a great stress reliever and give you a sense of purpose. Many people use their hobbies to bring in extra income too. They can help you discover things you're good, or bad, at and that might surprise you.

There are many hobbies to choose from and there's no need to limit your hobbies to just one. I like adult coloring books, binge watching things on TV, solving Sudoku puzzles, and more recently I have discovered diamond art. But hobbies can also include physical activities like running, riding a bike, playing a sport like swimming, basketball, baseball, football and more. There are more leisure types of hobbies, too, for example painting, stamp collecting, or simply reading a book. If you don't have a hobby, think about something you've always wanted to try and give it that try.



Dennis showing us his cross-stitch hobby at 2019 Heimdal Hobby Night

Don't worry if things don't turn out as well as you thought they would at first. Like I already said, a hobby is something you do for you. Each time you progress with your hobby, you are pushing yourself more into a mentality of being able to accomplish anything.

Your hobby should be a completely pleasurable activity that allows you to take your mind off of the demands of your daily life or negative emotions. It's a healthy and productive distraction from work or personal troubles. Hobbies offer you an opportunity to take a break from the stresses of daily life while also giving you a sense of purpose. Incorporating a hobby into your life can add excitement and spark that it may need to increase your personal satisfaction.

Having a hobby helps you learn how to handle work-life stress and think creatively. It also shows employers that you have passions and a drive to do something with your time.

While the idea of retirement may seem like a great thing, many people find that their lives lose purpose once they stop working.

Retirement means a big lifestyle change, and having a hobby will help to ease you into that change. You might find yourself with enough hobbies to keep you busy without the stress that going to work every day was.

[Eustress is a positive type of stress that makes you excited about what you're doing.](#)

Hobbies are one of the greatest ways to experience this kind of stress. When you're only doing something because you actually want to do it, you feel excitement that can translate to your life in general. Hobbies can not only relieve stress but they can also help with depression, anxiety, focus, improve memory, slow down your heart rate and decrease the frequency of your brain waves at night allowing you better sleep. They can also increase your productivity and help you stay in shape.



Keep hobby night in mind and if you don't have a hobby now is a great time to find one, or two. I look forward to seeing everyone's hobby.

<<<<ENGINEERING>>>>



ENGINEERING UPDATE OCTOBER **Captain Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer, Starfleet** **SFDPP Certified**

ENGINEERING: MONTHLY UPDATE FOR OCTOBER

Monthly Ops Report - Engineering SD: 202210.31

Capt. Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer, R1 Chief Engineer

Is October over? Somedays I feel like I'm in that 1988 movie 'Beetlejuice' - my head spinning reminiscent to the movie the 'Exorcist.' Not sure If I am coming or going but knowing I am enjoying the journey.

I hope you will all take time to see the updates in The Engineering Link (T.E.L.) (<https://trek.millnernet.com/home/eng-link/>) - bet you will be amazed at what's been going on. Our team had its monthly Departmental Zoom (3rd Monday every month) and what a great exchange we had. Seriously - fun, Trek, discussions, information and lots of laughs.

I'm aware I use certain words way too often trying to get information across - "I," "Zoom" & "Engineering" - it's the way it is, but the ability to video conference in order to connect with the Heimdal and its crew is a life line for this member.

The Engineering ZOOMS usually include Lynchburg VA, Fairfax VA, Byron GA, and I hope sometime soon, Scotland. To be able to attend the Heimdal's monthly meeting (and often host it remotely) helps me to stay connected and be a part of this stellar organization. Mind you, I MISS PAINTBALLING.

From a department perspective 'Engineering has kicked butt this month' and as is often the case I could not be prouder of this team. With more than 40 SFA courses completed by its members, multiple certificates earned, spectacular articles and reporting (T.E.L.), plus kicking off the next stage of 'Interdepartmental Role Play,' October was full to the brim. Lord knows that's not counting Space Camp Essays & R1 RDC responsibilities (all of which I am humbled and blessed to participate in). Watch out November - Here We Come!!!

What an exceptional Halloween session last month, congratulations to all the players, what amazing outfits. BTW, do we have a paranormal activities team on board the Heimdal? "Asking for a crewmember" nudge nudge.

As always, special shout out to the Engineering Team, they keep me on track - motivated - and humble. And if you are wandering the corridors of the Heimdal and don't currently have a department, stop in - we'll have a Raktajino and discuss the possibilities. - Millner Out.



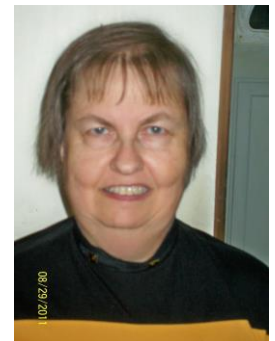
<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>



NOVEMBER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT **By Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks, Communications Chief**

Now that we are communicating in person again at the library, I encourage our members who can to do so. Our meetings are so much fun and it's nice to get out and see everyone in person.

The October Halloween meeting was great with the costume contest and games. This month's meeting will be interesting, with the lady speaking on the movie "Hidden Figures." And then comes December with Dirty Santa, ugly sweaters, etc. Meetings are better when people come, so please make an effort to come to the meetings.



CADET NEWS

HEIMDAL'S CADET CORPS:

Heimdal's Cadet Corps: Left to right – Allen Hatter, Darrell Spencer and Jonah Ryan





CADET ALLEN HATTER

At the Troop 29 Court of Honor last month Cadet Allen Hatter received the Merit Badges that he completed at summer camp. These include Rifle, Nuclear Science, Citizenship in the World and Forestry. He also participated in a camping trip to a farm near Palmyra, Virginia where he and the other Scouts in attendance got to practice navigating with the compass on an orienteering course. The weekend also included shooting sports where everyone studied firearm safety and got to practice firing rifles and shotguns under the guidance of certified instructors. He did well by

hitting the rifle targets and the clay pigeons on the shotgun range. Everyone also cooked some meals in a Dutch oven over hot coals. You can make some great food this way!

The weekend was pretty with a couple of very cool mornings. I'm glad that we have nice warm mummy bags to curl up in for the nights. Next up will be a short hiking campout in mid-November, we'll be sure to share the details with you!



HEIMDAL'S PET FLEET



THE KITTIES GET READY FOR SPOOKY SEASON

By Nikki Cole

It's almost Kiki, Crumpet, and Iggy's favorite time of the year: Halloween. Even though Iggy really shouldn't be out too much on the night since she's an all-black cat and people tend to be a little superstitious.... With that fact in mind, Iggy promises her siblings she'll be home early.

All the kitties have had their decorations up since mid-September and they were satisfied with the way the front porch looked. They had fun banners next to the door that read: "Hocus Pocus" and "Trick or Treat," a skull candle holder with a fun battery-operated tea light so they don't burn the house down, a real skull from a deceased pig and bones of a deceased deer found in the garden (sorry to anyone against hunting/is a vegetarian/is a vegan), a black ceramic pumpkin, a couple of real pumpkins, some Michael Myers themed things (one of their favorite horror movie villains), and various other spooky stuff.

The inside of the house stays mostly spooky all year round, so that wasn't too hard to transition *wink.* The only thing they had left to do was put their final touches on their costumes and buy some Halloween candy to leave out.

The three siblings decided this year they would all go as horror movie villains because, why not? You can't ever go wrong with the classics. Kiki decided he wanted to be Jason Voorhees (the one who wears the dirty hockey mask) from Friday the 13th, Crumpet was most fitting to go as Captain Spaulding, the clown from Rob Zombie's House of 1000 Corpses, and Iggy wanted to be Ghostface from the ever-classic Scream. This was not because she liked Danny Rolling, a.k.a. the Gainesville Ripper who was an American serial killer in the 90s, whom Ghostface was based off. He was/is a horrible man who got what he deserved for his crimes. He did indeed perish in prison, so no need to worry if he's still around.

With Halloween finally here, the kitties prepared for their night out, or in Iggy's case: just an evening out. They put on their costumes and met up with their friends: ButterNutts, Caligula, Twizzy, Vince, Twiggy, Leo, and Spookie (she was adopted on Halloween and is also an all-black kitty).

They patrolled the Buena Vista neighborhoods for the best houses, like ones that give full-size candy bars, and said hi to their other friends that live over by the Vet's office. Once they felt like their bags were sufficiently full, they all headed back to Kiki, Crumpet, and Iggy's house to sort through their candy, always gotta make sure it's safe first, and watched horror movies the rest of the time, enjoying the pure spookiness of the night.

REGION ONE STUFF

ANNUAL REGION ONE AWARDS

By Pam Michaud, R1 Awards Director

Region One 2022 Annual awards deadline will be January 31, 2023.

The chapter categories are as follows:

Best Shakedown - Chapter in training that was "in training" most of the year (minimum 6 months) falls into this category. CO of chapter in training should submit this.

First Mission - Chapter that has performed their first year (after being commissioned) of service. CO should submit this.

Support Ship - Awarded to the R1 chapter that encourages and fosters the growth of a new chapter in training. CO of R1 chapter in training should submit this.

Chapter of the year - Chapter with 2 or more years in service. CO should submit this. It's recommended that the chapter's senior officers be involved in writing the submission.

Region One Medal - Enlisted, Officer, Flag Officer. CO or XO can submit this. Said officer doing the recommending may submit one Flag Officer (not CO), Officer or Enlisted.

CO of the year (class of excellence) - Each chapter XO is encouraged to submit CO for this award.

Rookie CO (Archer Award) - CO first year of command. XO should submit this award.

Edith Keeler - Awarded to best all-around member who unselfishly and repeatedly during the award year and had made the most impact as a volunteer or in community service (excluding personal monetary donations) on an ongoing basis.

Cadet of the year - member up to 18 years in age. CO or XO can submit this award.

Staff member of the year - Open to any appointed member of R1 staff as defined by the region one handbook, excluding members who already have award categories. The RC selects staff member of the year.

RDC of the year - For the most active and efficient R1 RDC. Generally awarded to the RDC who generates interest in his/her program and fosters communications between the program participants.

R1 dept of the year - Chapter dept- CO submits this

To try and garner more interest in the 2022 annual awards I'm bringing back the **R1 sector of the year**. This recognizes the best all-around sector in the region as defined by the R1 handbook.

Each chapter in R1 is encouraged to submit entries to the 2022 annual awards detailing their activities in SFI R1.

STARFLEET STUFF

FLEET ADMIRAL ELECTION

By Stephen Stott, Starfleet Inspector General

Greetings STARFLEET. As of this message, there are 1626 total votes submitted so far out of a total of 4720 eligible voters or 34% of the electorate has voted so far. Remember that voting ends on November 15, 2022. There are only days left to vote so please get the word out to your fellow chapter members that have not voted.

If you have not received a ballot and you are eligible to vote, shoot me an email at ig@sfi.org. Include your name, SCC#, and email and I will find out what the issue is.

Live long and prosper,

RADM Stephen Stott, IG, STARFLEET

STARFLEET NOVEMBER MEDICAL CHALLENGE

From Cmdr. Pip Slack

I am very happy to announce the Solar System Challenge for November - Mercury!

This month you will be making a trek around the planet, with the following landmarks:

Starting point, Borealis Planitia— 5 miles

Van Eyck – 10 miles

Sobkou Planitia – 20 miles

Caloris Basin – 30 miles

Sophocles – 40 miles

Philoxenus – 50 miles

Tolstoj – 60 miles

Bello – 70 miles

Valmiki – 80 miles

Michelangelo – 90 miles

Shelley – 100 miles



Fram Rupes- 110 miles

Wagner, Finish – 120 miles.

Your report weeks for November are:

Week 1: November 1st to 11th

Week 2: November 12th to 18th

Week 3: November 19th to 25th

Week 4: November 26th to 30th

Until then, you have a few more days to try and get as far as you can with the Venus, so come all, let's make a final push to reach that next landmark!

If you're enjoying these challenges, why not try to get some of your crewmates involved too; the more the merrier! You'll all help cheer each other on 😊

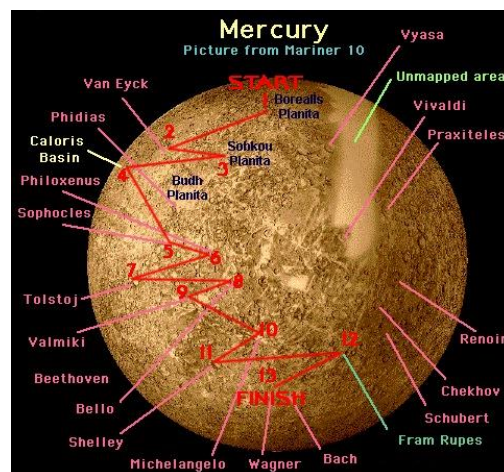
Have fun,

LLAP

Capt. Pip Slack

Deputy Surgeon General

STARFLEET Medical



STAR TREK STUFF

LITTLE KNOWN STAR TREK FACTS

Star Trek strived for ethnic and gender diversity,
but the women still had to look sexy

From Mental Floss

While Gene Roddenberry strived to push boundaries as much as he could, women were still sexed up for the show. Consider that Lieutenant Uhura, Yeoman Rand, Nurse Chapel, Dr. Helen Noel, and other female members of the *Enterprise* crew all wore mini-dresses. Further, close-ups of the female crewmembers were given a slightly softer focus to make them look dreamier, which was a common Hollywood trick at that time. While some of the female characters were strong, others—like Lt. Marla McGivers in the "Space Seed" episode—were rather frail when it came to men. Things got better for women in later *Star Trek* series, but then they came about in more enlightened times.



PARAMOUNT PLUS

By Glenda Blanks

If you're not subscribed to Paramount Plus you're going to really miss out. The 3rd season of Picard will be the last, but it's going out with a bang. Beverly Crusher sends out a distress call and the whole TNG crew responds-Picard, Riker, Troi, LaForge, and Worf.

Recently the crew on "Lower Decks" visited Deep Space 9. Nana Visitor and Armin Shimmerman supplied the voices of their characters, Kira and Quark.

In the new episodes of "Prodigy" holographic Janeway meets Admiral Janeway.

And Discovery season 5 will be starting soon. All this and more on Paramount Plus 11



REVIEWS

PERSERVERING TO SHIELD THE SKIES OF TOMORROW

Review of Streampunks and Star Trek Adventures Live TTRPG

By Zak Lyon



Like so many things lately, this story begins with DC Entertainment not knowing what to do with itself. I was a charter member of the DC Universe streaming service which began in 2018. They had a free period where Kevin Smith exhorted us to sign up (his daughter, Harley Quinn, was one of the hosts). But I didn't need his hard sell. I was immediately drawn into their talk/news

shows and the fanboys and girls that ran them. These commentators quickly became “friends.”

And then the sudden implosion of the DC Universe streaming service happened. Would I ever see those comrades in fandom again? They were my people! I particularly connected with two of the commentators – Hector Navarro and Amy Dallen. What does this have to do with Star Trek Adventures? Well, I missed these guys and on a random day in the summer of 2020, I tried to find out if these two people were doing/had done anything else.

I started with Amy and I promptly found her on YouTube. She and her colleague, Hector, were performing in what turned out to be the first ever live role-playing session of Star Trek Adventures. (I have since found out that role-playing performer is an actual job!) *Geek and Sundry* was hosting the game sessions of this new game that was not yet released to the public. Wow! I could keep up with these guys and be hooked into a new Star Trek game. These games turned out to be my salvation when the pandemic stretched longer than anyone thought. Each TTRPG (tabletop role playing game) session lasted 2 ½ to 3 hours long. I was totally engrossed while killing time on a lot of days when there was nothing to do. Now I am hooked.



This group of role-playing performers, later to be named the “Streampunks, reminded me why I liked Star Trek. I love Star Trek Discovery now. But that wasn’t always the case. Then there was a certain speech in the middle of the first season – the one where Saru says “We are Star Fleet.” Up until then, I thought Paramount was trying to do a dark version of Star Trek. I didn’t feel the optimism. The heart of Discovery had not synced up yet with the level of exploration, compassion and a spirit of fierce nurturing. Disco’s crew eventually came to care for one another, but this was while trying to save all of existence! So that aspect started off slowly.

All of these virtues were fostered from day one in what I think of as the CampbellVerse of Star Trek - seeing as many of these games were “GMed” by gamemaster Eric Campbell. Recently, the moniker “game master” was transformed to “storyteller.” It is a much better description. In the CampbellVerse you would get the nurturing, the uplifting storylines *and also* the exploration and action. It was Star Trek through and through. I was elated. One of my major goals in life is to not give up the spirit of play. Maybe why I have always been involved with theater and loved roleplay – so I could keep playing and imagining. This new pastime was right up my alley.

The first Star Trek Adventures series I watched was named *Shield of Tomorrow* and had over 50 episodes. Six players.



An active storyteller who embodied multiple non-playable characters. And one heck of a story. The ship, USS Sally Ride, was crewed entirely from the players imaginations – improvising within the story and building true Star Trek characters. In the vein of new trek, all races, species, creeds, genders and orientations are represented. The human captain, the Andorian Doctor, Trill First Officer, Vulcan Chief Science officer, Bajoran Helm Officer and later, Betazoid Engineer.

Also, in these games the NPCs or non-player characters created by the writers were respected just as much as the characters created by the performer and they had stats just like the playable characters. In certain cases, they were beloved characters. There was a Bolian engineer who was kidnapped in session zero and mourned as assumed dead at the hands of Orion pirates. There was a tall Caitian nurse that played a big role in the story. Each of these beloved characters formed the basis of two new characters in the next series, *Clear Skies*. (“Clear Skies” is what Capt. Martinez of the

Sally Ride used to sign off communication with Star Fleet command.) Again, after 50 + episodes *Clear Skies* and the adventures of the USS Ross ended. We did however see the Ross depicted on the first episode of *Star Trek: Picard*, season two. A third game – *Clear Skies: Perseverance* is in the works and should be starting soon. And it will address the cleanup on Mars after the events of *Picard*.

You will notice I haven’t given you a lot of specifics about the episodes or the characters - because I want to preserve the surprises and enjoyment for you. Let’s just say that I have taken as fact from the CampbellVerse in my head cannon: a Trill host can live even when the symbiont is partially assimilated.

Long before *Lower Decks* there was the first Orion officer in Starfleet. The Prophets draw lots of people into Orb Experiences not just Bajorans and their DS9 friends. El-Aurians taste blueberries if time is being manipulated. Not only do Andorians have spousal units in groups of four, but they really don’t get how it is supposed to work with only two. And the most indisputable fact of all: life from lifelessness can never be destroyed and is the genesis of many strong bonds.



Through becoming familiar with this group, I met again my friends from DC Universe. And I've made new ones. The breadth and depth of the characters that they imagined I will leave for you to find. But to do that I have to tell you where to find them. Their first game, *Shield of Tomorrow*, can be found on the Geek and Sundry YouTube channel. The second game, *Clear Skies*, exists on the Streampunks crowd-funded YouTube channel Queuetimes. The upcoming show, *Clear Skies: Perseverance*, will be on the official Star Trek Online YouTube channel. There was also a Klingon game, *Blood of the Void*, on Queuetimes and is also available on YouTube.

I am looking forward to the new game. I can think of no group better equipped to bring hope back to the Red Planet. The Streampunks sure did that for me. Whether inside or outside or skirting the edges of cannon, these games are still quintessential Star Trek. And now in the words of captain Martinez of the USS Sally Ride: Clear Skies. And enjoy the journey.

JELLY BELLY ANYONE?

Engineers Millner and Burley



Gary and I were chatting about interest outside of the STAR TREK Universe and as one might imagine there is always that one that will snag you. For us it's Doctor Who. He waxed on regarding his favorites John Pertwee and Tom Baker

(Definite Classic Dr. Who) and his 'Fave' episodes City of Death, Pyramids of Mars, Sectarian Experiment and Genesis of the Daleks.

For me, my first was Tom Baker (you never forget your first), but in more modern times I really lean towards David Tennant. My top four episodes cross several actors, The Five Doctors, The Girl in the Fireplace, A Goodman goes to War, & Dinosaurs on a Spaceship. I've often thought that on a STAR TREK episode wouldn't it be clever to show a TARDIS parked somewhere, or a cameo of the crew asking for directions and a 'person' responding "sorry, not from around here". Heck even just seeing K-9 in a display window of a shop.

How about you: Any timey wimey inclinations? Cravings for Fishfingers and Custard?

CONTINUING ROLE PLAY

Heimdal Interdepartmental Role Play

– Bud Walker SD:202210.30 – Quiet Reflections – T'Poth

Bud entered the mess hall and quickly surveyed his surroundings. Even though he kept telling himself that he was in a safe place, Bud still preferred to eat alone and with his back against the wall. But sitting alone at a table seemed to be an invitation to his crewmates to approach and offer their company. Bud did not want to antagonize anyone and often agreed to let others join him, despite his preferences. Bud then spied a Vulcan lieutenant named T-Ploth sitting at a table by herself. Just at that moment a crewmember approached her and said something. T-Ploth looked up from her PADD and shook her head. The crewmember then walked away. An idea came to Bud in a flash.

Bud went over to the replicator and retrieved his meal and then walked over to T-Ploth's table.

She must have sensed his approach because she looked up with the barest hint of annoyance on her face.



"As I have already said several times, I do not desire companionship as I ingest my meal."

Bud did not move but cleared his throat instead. ***"I understand Lieutenant but sitting alone amongst humans is considered odd and only invites them to offer their company as a favor to you,"*** Bud said.

"Well, Lieutenant, I am hardly concerned with what humans consider to be odd," T-Ploth replied.

Bud winced slightly as she was clearly annoyed.

Bud stated, ***“My apologies. But I have a proposal for you. And if you reject it, I will cease bothering you.”***

T-Ploth raised an eyebrow but said nothing.

Bud continued, “I submit that despite your preference for solitude during your meal, you will continue to be interrupted for some time to come. As it happens, I also prefer to be alone while I eat but know that I will be interrupted as well. I suggest that we sit together for the purpose of discouraging others from feeling the need to relieve either of us from our perceived loneliness. And we would agree to say nothing to each other and allow ourselves to enjoy the quiet and solitude of our own thoughts or to read.”

T-Ploth looked at Bud without expression for several moments. She then spoke slowly, almost reluctantly, ***“That is a surprisingly logical proposition.”***

T’Ploth considered for a moment and then continued, ***“Your proposal is acceptable.”***

T’Ploth returned her eyes to her PADD and said nothing further. Bud knew that was all the permission he was going to receive, so he put his tray on the table and sat down. True to his word, he ate his meal in silence as T’Ploth read and occasionally took a bite of her salad. Bud’s plan worked, as no-one approached the pair from that moment on.

After finishing their respective meals, Bud and T’Ploth stood and nodded to each other without comment and returned their trays. As Bud left the mess hall, he thought to himself, ***“That is the first relaxing meal I have had since I boarded the Heimdal.”***

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From Linda

Looking forward to this November meeting, Christmas and the new year, which is bringing with it some really exciting things for the Heimdal. Stick with us, kiddos and you will have an amazing new year full of fun, excitement and adventure.

It was so good seeing so many people back for the Halloween Party. Let’s make that a habit and before long you will remember why you signed aboard the Heimdal and have stayed with us all this time.

Looking forward to sharing every third Saturday of the month with you.



THAT’S IT - WE QUIT ...

A special THANK YOU to all that contributed to this Thanksgiving issue of the Heimdal’s newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on November 19 at the meeting. This would be an excellent meeting to bring a friend ... in person and on ZOOM.

We’ll see you around the galaxy ...

Linda, Willy, Glenda and the newsletter staff of thousands

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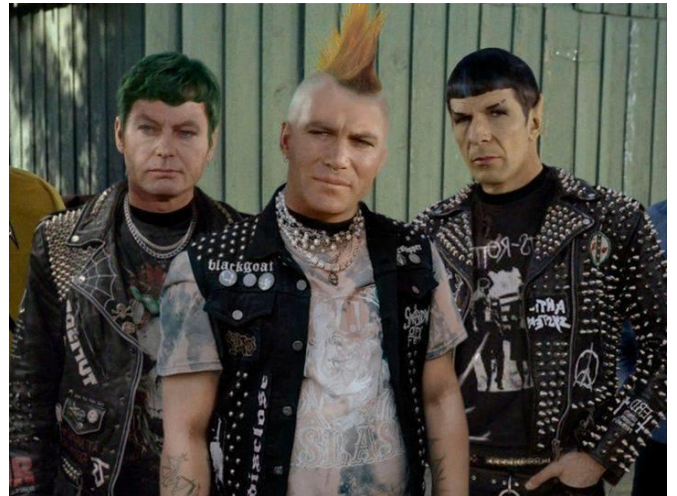
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We’ll see you around the galaxy...



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!