



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 **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023** Issue*

January 2023

Email: heimdalco@aol.com

Website: <http://www.ussheimdal.co>

Visit & LIKE us on Facebook at Heimdal's Science Fiction Page

COMMAND

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet SFDPP Certified

Hello and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year's Eve celebration. Willy and I had a wonderful Christmas and a quiet and restful New Year's Eve. New Year's Eve is my birthday. It was raining and was a pretty miserable day so we just stayed home and enjoyed time in the family room. We'll get around to celebrating my birthday a little later.

2022 was an unusual Heimdal year. It was a time of renewal, return, patience and challenges as we attempted to go *back to the future* and reclaim our Heimdal life that was so rudely interrupted by COVID these past almost three years. We had a good turnout for the anniversary party



**Our Ugly Christmas
Sweaters**

that was delayed two years and ended up being our 37th and 38th Anniversary Celebration, but who's counting? It was our first giant step towards **Heimdal Normal** (almost) and was so much fun. The rest of this year we've been slowly drifting back to the library for 'in person' meetings, which have been the best thing for moral. It's just taking a while for everyone to come back.

We've lost several members ... a casualty of COVID, that breaks my heart. But most of us have hung in there and I appreciate it more than you can know. It's just been good to have the Heimdal feeling and looking more like "HOME" again.

We have so much to look forward to this new year. We'll be celebrating our 39th anniversary as a Starfleet chapter in April, we have a first-ever science fiction public auction in May and another Heimdal Charity Auction in September. In between we have some pretty amazing meetings and guest speakers lined up, a new Space Camp student winner going to Space Camp in June and another Space Camp Contest in early fall to look forward to. The universe is waiting for us to hit full WARP again and be the best starship in the fleet.

Thank you all for staying with us and making even ZOOM meetings productive and fun ... and thanks to the ZOOM members that have contributed so much and no longer have to read about meetings and events in the newsletter. They can be RIGHT THERE where the action is. Everything COVID hasn't been bad.

OK ... I'm optimistic and looking forward to 2023. After COVID I'm convinced we can do ANYTHING. *It's been a long time getting from there to here* ... but, oh, what we have learned from the journey.



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

With all the holiday cheer and stuff to do in the season, the last Heimdal meeting had 17 in person and 6 ZOOM members attending our annual Christmas Party and hideous sweater contest. We even held the Dirty Santa gift exchange with the ZOOM members playing as well. It was an experiment that surprisingly turned out well and didn't last until dawn (as some in the past).

Another part of our Heimdal experience evolved due to technology and the pandemic. Tim Hazlett was our guest speaker in December and he put together a super slide show that he could probably use for insurance purposes if necessary (hope not). Anyway, Tim's Trek ornament collection requires a 2nd Christmas tree. He had images of many pieces of his collection and since the library installed a 70-inch TV some of the items looked as big as my head (no head jokes please).

Linda brought us up to date on the charities we sponsor each year and even an update on our Space Camp winner. We have a TREK auction coming up in the spring that needs to be advertised LARGE for it to be a success. This will make room in our basement for the ANNUAL Heimdal auction items hopefully.

Oh, we had REAL prepared foodstuff this time at the December meeting ... a real Christmas dinner ... and it was all I could do to have "regular" portions of the items.

If you couldn't make it this time you missed a good meeting and keep that 70-inch screen in mind. Your mug might be zipping across there.

Lastly, Linda gave out different awards to every member for participation or at least staying with us and I made a file for each and most were emailed to you. EVERY Heimdal member is important and makes our family complete. Thank you for helping make the Heimdal one of the best in STARFLEET! (rough I know)

Willy



Tim's Star Trek ornament collection as seen on the library's 70" TV screen

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER RAdm. Carl Davis, 2nd Officer's January 2023 Report

Well, I warned everybody that Christmas was coming a week early but few listened. Some even argued that it couldn't possibly happen as the dates indicated that linear time was progressing at exactly the right speed yet, trust me, we lost a week.



Now we find ourselves moving into the New Year where it looks like time will again move at an accelerated rate. I suggest just enjoy each day as if it were shorter than they were once upon a time. And get an early start on Christmas shopping for 2023 because it will be here before you know it.

I hope that you all had a joyous holiday season.

Make good use of your time and be nice to one another. As the famous Red Green always said *"Remember, I'm pullin' for ya--we're all in this together."* (If you've never heard of Red Green then check his programs out on YouTube. He is hilarious.)



MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS



JANUARY 2023 MEETING

The January meeting will be both at the Madison Heights Library and on ZOOM. As Darrell is about to tell you, the program will be presented by the Engineering Department on ZOOM and presented at the library on the 70" TV screen in the meeting room. We will be able to interact with the ZOOM engineers through the TV. We invite everyone who is local to attend at

the library, enjoy the meeting / presentation together, share good conversation, fellowship and refreshments. Please bring one item for refreshments. Still too soon for large bags of chips that everyone dips hands into but individually wrapped will be just fine.

The meeting will be **January 21 starting at 6:30 p.m.** as usual. We'll see you there ... and now here's DARRELL ...

This month's Heimdal Chapter Meeting will be hosted by the Engineering Department. Yes, it's been a very long time, but we plan to definitely give you your money's worth LOL. (Wait, Money in STARFLEET? Thought we were past that).

After an exciting start-up including updates from Department heads, technical challenges, snack food teasing, calendar updates, and an expected 'short' update from CO Linda Smith (Now, Now stop snickering), we will introduce a new perspective about our department. Your fellow Engineering team will cover a number of things to hopefully inform, inspire, and entertain you with the course we are on as a department. From Anti-matter to ZOOM, get a peek behind the bulkheads and have some fun with us.

USS Heimdal is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Heimdal January 2023 Meeting**

Time: Jan 21, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89723633750?pwd=QW1wSzB3eTNOThgxUUxLUmtjU0xQUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 2363 3750

Passcode: propulsion

Mobile Phone Audio Only available on advance request.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING CHRISTMAS PARTY 2022 By Jonathan Hatter



The monthly meeting of the USS Heimdal was held at the Madison Heights Library on December 17th. This meeting also served as our 2022 Christmas Party and it was wonderful to be back in person. We had 17 people in attendance and 4 on ZOOM.

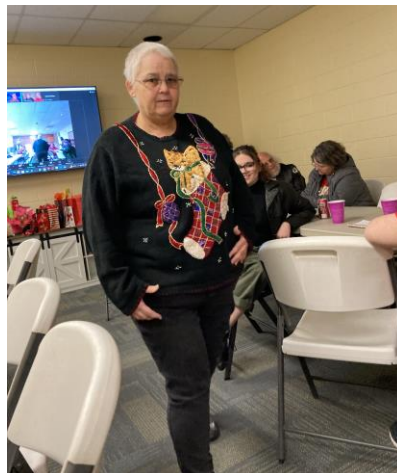
Everyone started with dinner at 5 PM. Many thanks to all those who prepared and brought the food. It was delicious.

The new library setup includes a large flat screen TV where we were able to enjoy an episode of *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* while we ate. The wonderful food and fellowship were a welcome change.

Around 6:15 we participated in a ZOOM meeting where crewmember Tim Hazlett shared his extensive Star Trek Christmas ornament collection. He has close to 100 pieces that he uses to decorate several trees. He showed us the silver tree located in his office.

Some of the beautiful pieces include an Enterprise tree topper that interacts with figurine ornaments sculpted as characters from the TOS episode "Mirror Mirror." Tim also created a PowerPoint presentation, complete with information about the years and series associated with each of them. Thank you, Tim, for sharing!

It was now time for the CO's *brief* business



meeting. She discussed all of the charities that we were able to support thanks to the auction and donations from the community. These include area seniors, local children in need, the Free Clinic of Central Virginia, the Salvation Army, as well as two local Humane Societies. She also discussed the Distinguished Service Awards that will be delivered electronically to crew members for their contributions.

The Co-Crewmembers of the Year are XO Willy Smith, 2nd Officer Carl Davis, and Chief Engineering Officer Darrell Millner. Congratulations guys and thanks for helping the ship run smoothly!

The Department of the year is.....**Engineering!!!!** This is in no small part due to the commitment of Captain Darrell Millner who works diligently at both the local and regional levels of Starfleet. You guys are fantastic!

The date is now set for a one-time Science Fiction Auction that will be open to the public at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel. Those helping will wear Star Trek uniforms to add to the atmosphere. Put it on your calendar for May 13th. The date for the 39th anniversary party is April 15, 2023. The theme is to **Be Your Favorite Star Trek Episode!**

It was now time for the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, which was won by Joe Arnold who sported a festive shirt with Freddy Kruger, and the tagline, "**He knows when you're sleeping.**" Joe's prize was a yard's worth of Snickers bars. Whew! Enjoy that chocolate over the holidays!

To complete the evening, the crew all played *Dirty Santa* where a wide array of gifts was exchanged, including games, candy, and cocoa as well as some small model starships. Thanks to Tim for making sure even the ZOOM attendees could participate.

We all had a great time. It was special to be able to get together again with old friends. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE – ZOOM PERSPECTIVE ON THE DECEMBER MEETING By Jody Lyon



As in-person meetings returned and life began to settle back into normality this fall, I anticipated that December would be a month that I would not be able to attend the monthly Heimdal meeting. I was excited for the local crewmembers to be able to have a real Christmas party of old. But of

course, a shared meal, gift exchange and festive camaraderie would not translate well to ZOOM. Well, wrong again. They pulled it off! And it was delightful.

First, I read that Tim was hosting the ZOOM from Chesapeake. Well, there would be a ZOOM component. Then I learned that he would be the “speaker.” It’s always great when the speaker is on ZOOM! Then he suggested that we on ZOOM could participate in the “Dirty Santa” game. So, we donned our Festive Apparel and jumped on.

I will not repeat the beats of the meeting and party, as that will be covered elsewhere. As much as I was pleased to just be enjoying the end of the year party, I was even more thrilled to take the tour of Tim’s Trek Christmas Tree. What a treasure! Since he had been collecting for such a long time, his ornaments and shelf displays were as varied as the Trek universe. From individual characters in multiple iterations to ships of all sizes (one adorning the treetop) to the depiction of memorable scenes from episodes to lighted displays, it was all there. But the real treat was the connected characters which told the story of the Mirror, Mirror episode. The voices were linked and the sound moved from one character to another causing our gaze to move through the tree, noticing other ornaments along the way. The tree topper provided the music. I bet if I owned this, others would get annoyed as I played it over and over again throughout the season. 😊

What a great meeting. The sweater judging and the gift exchange worked like a charm. But there was one particular miracle ZOOM provided that night. One of our group came to the meeting, gift in hand, and found herself feeling ill. Because of ZOOM she was able to return home, sign on, and continue in the comfort of her own home, participating in the gift exchange with the other four ZOOM participants. Bravo, ZOOM!

So, the Heimdal leadership came through again, and we were all included. I am sure that the dinner was fantastic, but I got what I needed. “Seeing” friends, laughing, sharing Christmas traditions and celebrating the season. Happy New Year all.

REMINDERS:

ANNIVERSARY PARTY



The Heimdal's 39th Anniversary Celebration will be April 15 at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel. The theme (& costumes) will be ***Be Your Favorite Star Trek Episode*** (any series). The possibilities are ENDLESS and it's going to be so much fun. Buffet dinner will be \$27.95 per person, which includes dinner, beverage (no soft drinks), dessert, tax and tip. Start saving your money and set aside the date on your calendars.

ANNUAL CHARITY AUCTION

The Heimdal's 17th Annual Charity Auction will be September 16 at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel, which means we will have an extra month to canvas for donations. Seems like a long way away but if you read Carl's Second Officer's Report at the first of this newsletter, you know how fast time flies and September will be here in no time.

HEIMDAL'S MAY 13 SCIENCE FICTION AUCTION

This will probably be our ONLY Science Fiction Auction because we won't ever have this kind of auction donations again. We received almost ALL of them during the pandemic ... 2 almost complete collections and some individual items, some that are hard to find and collector's items.

The auction will be May 13 starting at 1 p.m. at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel. The beauty of this auction is that we will NOT have to canvas for donations because we already have them. This will make this auction FUN for all of us.

We want as many of us as possible to work the auction, which means dressing in Star Trek and other science fiction costumes (Star Wars, Dr. Who ... whatever science fiction costume you have that you enjoy wearing). We want this to be especially fun for our guests AND fun for us, too. So be thinking about volunteering to help, clearing your calendar so you CAN be there and what wonderful costume you will be wearing. WE get to bid on stuff, too. It's going to be SO much fun.



HEIMDAL PEOPLE

PROMOTIONS

Special congratulations to Bud Walker on his recent promotion to the rank of **Commander**. This promotion was due to Bud filling out and submitting a Promotion Point Sheet. This promotion was more than deserved. Thank you for your service, Bud.

STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!

CMDR William “Bud” Walker (3 Courses, 1 Award)

SFA AWARDS

BRIDGE OFFICER CERTIFICATION AWARDS

BOCP - Chief Operations Officer Certification Awarded 12/06/2022

STARFLEET Academy

(IOPSS) College of Law Enforcement and Fire History

School of Law Enforcement History

SLEH 101 – Ancient Times to Middle Ages HONORS 12/05/2022

SLEH 104 – Police Badges DISTINCTION 12/09/2022

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

CSO-106 – Extreme Measures DISTINCTION 12/05/2022

LCDR Zachary Lyon (2 Courses)

SFA AWARDS

BRIDGE OFFICER CERTIFICATION AWARDS

ASTP 101 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 1 DISTINCTION 12/14/2022

ASTP 102 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 2 DISTINCTION 12/14/2022

Captain Darrell Millner (44 Courses, 3 Awards)



Commander Bud Walker



SFA AWARDS

BRIDGE OFFICER CERTIFICATION AWARDS

BOCP - Executive Officer Certification Awarded 12/11/2022

BOCP - Second Officer Certification Awarded 12/11/2022

BOCP - Commanding Officer Certification Awarded 12/16/2022

STARFLEET Academy

IOAS - Klingon Warrior Academy (IOAS:KWA)

KWA 101 - History & Government DISTINCTION 12/26/2022

IOLS - College of Chapter Development (IOLS:COCD)

COCD-103 - Introduction to Virtual Events DISTINCTION 12/07/2022

IOSS - College of Space Equipment

SSE 101 - Overview DISTINCTION 12/04/2022

SSE 102 - EVA Suits DISTINCTION 12/06/2022

SSE 103 - Space Suit Requirements DISTINCTION 12/06/2022

SSE 104 - Space suit Design DISTINCTION 12/06/2022

SSE 106 - Life support equipment HONORS 12/23/2022

SSE 107 - Space Tools DISTINCTION 12/23/2022

SSE 108A US Z TYPE SUITS HONORS 12/23/2022

SSE 108b US Z TYPE SPACE SUITS PART 2 HONORS 12/23/2022

SSE 201 - 22nd & 23rd C. Space Suits (Star Trek) HONORS 12/24/2022

SSE 202 - Space Emergency Primer (Star Trek) DISTINCTION 12/26/2022

IOSS - College of Spaceflight

GEMI 103 - Gemini 3 DISTINCTION 12/09/2022

GEMI 104 - Gemini 4 DISTINCTION 12/09/2022

ASTP 101 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 1 DISTINCTION 12/19/2022

ASTP 102 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 2 DISTINCTION 12/19/2022

ASTP 103 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 3 DISTINCTION 12/19/2022

IOSTS - College of Starship Design (COSD)

COSD 121A - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 11/20/2022

COSD 121B - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 11/20/2022

COSD 121C - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 11/20/2022

COSD 121D - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 11/20/2022

COSD 121E - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 11/20/2022

COSD 121F - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 12/11/2022

COSD 121G - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 12/20/2022

COSD 121H - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 12/20/2022

COSD 121I - NX-01 Schematics DISTINCTION 12/20/2022

COSD 127A - NCC-1701E Schematics DISTINCTION 12/22/2022

COSD 127 - NCC-1701E Schematics DISTINCTION 12/22/2022

IOTK - College of Engineering

CENG 201 - Early Principles & Terms, Part 2 DISTINCTION 12/30/2022

CENG 204 - Modern Principles & Terms - Part 2 HONORS 12/31/2022

CENG 207 - Tools of the Engineers HONORS 12/21/2022

CENG 208 - Charles Tucker III DISTINCTION 12/21/2022

CENG 209 - Montgomery Scott DISTINCTION 12/21/2022

CENG 210 - Geordi La Forge DISTINCTION 12/29/2022

CENG 211 - Miles O'Brien DISTINCTION 12/29/2022

CENG 212 - B Elanna Torres DISTINCTION 12/29/2022

IOTK - College of Laser Technology

COLT 102 - Lasers part 2 DISTINCTION 12/03/2022

COLT 103 - Lasers Part 3 HONORS 12/03/2022

COLT 104 - Lasers part 4 DISTINCTION 12/05/2022

COLT 106 - Lasers part 6 HONORS 12/09/2022

COLT 107 - Lasers part 7 DISTINCTION 12/09/2022

IOTK - College of Plasma Technology

CPT 102 - States of Plasma DISTINCTION 12/11/2022

CPT 103 - types of plasma DISTINCTION 12/12/2022

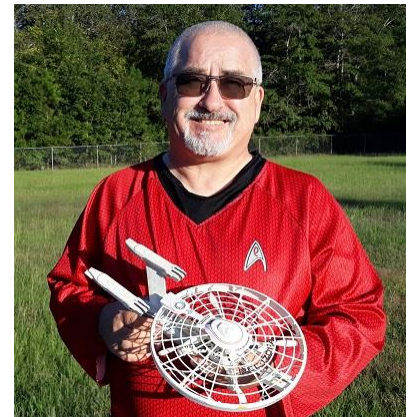
CPT 104 - Plasma in Space PASS 12/12/2022



Bud



Zak



Darrell



THE WEBBS HOLD 'GENDER REVEAL'

By Sarah Webb

It's a **BABY..... BOY!** 🍷

We decided to do our gender reveal out in Mississippi at Weston's family's late grandmother's little country house.

Weston and I are beyond excited that we will be welcoming baby boy Fenix Archer (or Luke if born on May 4 or 5) Webb very soon. We are itching already to meet you little one, but we don't mind waiting a little longer for your arrival. 🍷

I can't wait to be a mom! I can't wait to read to you at night, play with you, all the cuddles, and give you everything this world has to offer.

RENEWALS

A special **THANK YOU** Larry and Kathy Whatley, Nikki Cole and Janice Lawson for renewing and staying with our Heimdal "family" for another year ... getting back to normal of the "before times" (thank you, Jody!)

Sadly, Carlos has not renewed yet although Willy has sent him at least 2 reminders. I'm hoping it's just that language barrier and that he **DOES** renew and decide to stay with the Heimdal. Let us hear from you, Carlos. We miss you already.

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:

February – No renewals in February

March – Kenny Proehl & Chris Thompson - March 4

Cathy Fletcher – March 5

Jonathan, Karen & Allen Hatter – March 7

Dennis Henderson, Jennifer Long & Darrell Spencer – March 21

Tammy White, Robin Hudson & Madison Litchford – March 23

Kristina Contreras – March 31



HEIMDAL STUFF

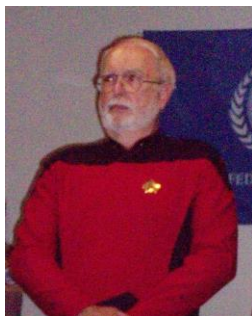
ANNUAL CORA AWARDS

At the December meeting / Christmas Party Linda announced that the Heimdal's Annual Commanding Officer's Recognition Awards were on their way to every Heimdal member. Each member received an award because Linda feels that **EVERY** Heimdal member is a valuable part of our family.

Willy put all awards on a certificate suitable for printing and displaying and sent them out to everyone.

Thank you to **ALL** of our members for making the Heimdal the wonderful chapter she is ... year after year.

CO-CREWMEMBERS OF THE YEAR



Once again there is no single Crewmember of the Year. Instead, that recognition is shared by XO Willy Smith, Second Officer Carl Davis and Chief Engineer Darrell Millner. Congratulations and **THANK YOU** for all you do to make the Heimdal run smoothly and to make it fun.

Pictured l to r: Willy, Carl and Darrell

ENGINEERING IS HEIMDAL'S DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to the Heimdal's Engineering Department and Chief Engineer, Darrell Millner for being chosen the Heimdal's 2022 Department of the Year.

The Engineering Department holds monthly departmental ZOOM meetings, produces an award-winning monthly departmental newsletter and writes most of the Interdepartmental Roleplay. Engineering members have taken and passed an astronomical number of SFA courses, contribute regularly to the Heimdal newsletter and participate monthly in Heimdal meetings on ZOOM. They also participated from a distance in the Annual Heimdal Auction

Chief Engineer, Darrell is also the Regional Department Chief of Engineering for Region One.

We thank the engineering Department for their participation in their department and with the Heimdal and to Darrell for his fun organizational skills.

HEIMDAL RECEIVES QUARTERLY AMAZON SMILE DONATION

Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that **Heimdal Science Fiction** (EIN: 54-1769848) has been issued an **\$8.93** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2022.

The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account between November 19 - 21, 2022.

Thank you,

Your AmazonSmile Team

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

The Heimdal Advertising Committee is getting off the ground and preparing to have our first meeting sometime this month. To advertise our auctions, and especially our first-ever Science Fiction Public Auction in May, we need the most aggressive advertising campaign we have ever done. We need to go way past what we've been doing for our Annual Charity Auction, which has been just advertising in the free Community section of a few area newspapers.

Co-chaired by Linda and Bud, Glenda is on board as our Senior Consultant and Robert has signed on as a member. We would like to have at least 3 more members, the idea being that the more diverse our members, the more creative we are likely to be and the more successful our advertising will become. We need to reach as many people as possible, especially those science fiction fans that will be interested in our unique Science Fiction Auction. Since we have rare and collectible items, we can't afford to take a loss by letting them go at the auction for much less than they are worth.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! Please volunteer for a seat on the Advertising Committee and help us make advertising for the Science Fiction Auction as well as our Annual Charity Auction **one of the best, most effective things the Heimdal does.**

Being on the Committee will also be FUN. Here is a fantastic poster Bud designed to leave in area businesses as well as to use on flyers advertising the S-F Auction. How cool is THAT?

Please email Linda at heimdalco@aol.com no later than

January 31 to join the Advertising Committee. No special qualifications needed except the ability to think outside the box and be creative.



NEWSLETTER 'PET FLEET EDITOR' POSITION AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION

From Linda

I am still taking applications for the Heimdal's newsletter **Pet Fleet Editor** position. I think it would be such a fun position. There are so many topics that are endless to tap into.

The monthly newsletter articles for the Pet Fleet section do **not** have to be articles about our pets every month. The Pet Fleet Editor may ask various Heimdal members with pets to write a monthly article as we have been doing but the editor can write something about **pet safety, pet medical problems, aging pets and their problems and care**. For instance, chronic osteoarthritis in declawed cats can actually come from the declawing surgery and is another reason NOT to declaw. What a good article that would be.

There are SOOO many things to write about and it is so easy to research. I think people will be more inclined to read the Pet Fleet section if it isn't the same thing every month and if they can actually **LEARN** something about **pet care, pet illnesses and treatments, cancer and treatment in pets, entertaining our pets, pet toys, pet abandonment, how Humane Societies cope with full capacity at shelters, fostering, feral cat colonies, the catch, neuter and release programs** (see this month's article by Annette), **how cats behave in colonies, laws that protect dogs from being left chained in critical weather the topics are ENDLESS, interesting and so helpful in increasing our knowledge about animals / pets. . .**

If interested, please email me no later than **January 31 at 12 noon**. This can be such a wonderful position for someone interested in pet care that loves animals and enjoys writing. The person in this position will receive points towards promotion.

Thanks so much for considering the **possibilities**.



HEIMDAL RECEIVES 'THANK YOU' NOTES

Thank You notes are coming in from the nine charities we sponsored at Christmas. We have received very nice notes from **Lynchburg Humane Society, Amherst Humane Society, Gleaning for the World and The Free Clinic of Central Virginia**. I will have the notes at the January meeting for those that wish to read them. All of us that worked so hard on the 2022 Heimdal Charity Auction can feel especially proud of what we **CONTINUE** to be able to do within the community. *Thank you, everybody.*

THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Did you make a New Year's Resolution? If you did and don't mind sharing, what is it?

How long do you think it will last????

1. **Darrell Millner** - "To improve on consistency and follow through, avoid procrastination" - and I hope to get around to that soon.
2. **Robert Ward** - Nope. Never have. I'm old and stuck in my stodgy ways of just winging it.
3. **Tammy White** - Mine is to do better handling my diabetes. I have started working out at Planet Fitness a couple months ago. Yes, it will last.
4. **Gary Burley** - New illustrated project, 'Jules Verne from the Earth to the Moon.' Hope to finish before 2028
5. **Linda Smith** - Never make them anymore. Always made me feel guilty when I broke the things and I always did.
6. **Jimmy Farlow** - I don't make resolutions. Most people don't keep them, anyway. I just try my best to be a decent human and let the rest sort itself out.
7. **Beth Hopkins** - I have 12 this year. Here is one that is measurable: Call and speak with my two 97-year-old aunts each Sunday and my favorite cousin twice a month. My one aunt and I have been doing this for over 10 years. I am adding my two other relatives starting this year because of how precious they are to me. Once I get this part of my Sunday routine, I very likely will be successful with this 80% of the time across the next 56 weeks.
8. **Willy Smith** - To stop telling people they have Rickets or Beriberi when they tell me a symptom they have. I found out if it scares them, they will go to the doctor and they **REALLY** don't like that when they find out I was lying ... well ... stretching the truth.
9. **Zak Lyon** - I don't make them. I made a big one in 2020. Now I just go with the flow.
10. **Jody** - I did make a new year's resolution this year. And I already blew it. Oh, well.
11. **Angie** - I don't do resolutions anymore.
12. **Bonnie Davis** - Having come through a "rough" year I resolve to continue keeping my eyes on Jesus and not be afraid no matter what is going on around me.



RILEY'S REPLICAS

ITALIAN BISTRO!

By Richard Riley



Hello everyone!
I hope that everybody had a great Christmas and New Year!

This should actually be part 2 from last month's newsletter. Last month I showed the model of the Roman Coliseum

that I made for the Italian theme for the Orthodontist office. Well, this is the second piece to go with the Coliseum, a more modern piece, an Italian Bistro! The look that the client was going for is an old-world

style café with the clay tile roof, outdoor seating and stone sidewalk.

The first order of business was the furniture. Making furniture would be very labor intensive so I was on the hunt for doll furniture! I found these bistro sets that are made for a doll called American Girl. Really nice metal tables and chairs that could be used 'as is' since the client liked the color.



With that out of the way then I was able to scale the restaurant to the furniture. Since no dolls were going to be used it made it a bit easier. If an item is not exactly the right scale it would not show up or be out of place since no dolls would be there interacting with the set.

I found reference pictures of restaurants in Italy and went to work figuring how the height and width of the building, window and door sizes and of course the scale of the roof tiles. On a build like this the details are what make it come alive! I wanted to have exposed brick under the chipped off stucco to show the age of the structure. I was able to find some small vines that worked for the ivy around the archways.

Other items such as the apple crates and boxes were items that I found at Hobby Lobby. I just weathered the boxes for the apples and created the company logo for it. I made the table cloths and the centerpieces for the tables along with the folded-up newspapers. The violin I was lucky to find in the proper scale. I wanted to tell a story with this display so you can imagine a violin player setting up to play music for the lunch crowd!

The final details to add were the interior pictures. I found some images online that had the proper perspective and look so I printed them and placed them behind the Plexiglas windows.

This was an enjoyable piece to make, my first job many years ago was to make sets like this for dolls. The company I was working for at the time would then take pictures of the set up and include them in their monthly magazine. It was fun to be able to revisit that type of work again!



FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS





<<SECURITY>>

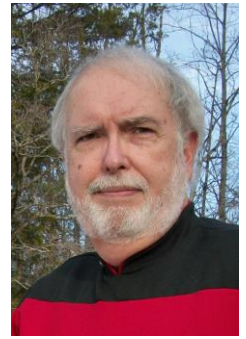
SECURITY REPORT, JANUARY 2023

By RAdm. Carl Davis, Security Chief

I'm hoping to have the first Phaser Sim of 2023 on January 7 at 2:00pm. I know some folks got new gear and are anxious to try it out. I must have been really good last year because Santa brought me a new face mask and goggles that are supposed to be the best available against fogging. They look pretty intimidating so I want to put them to use ASAP.

We also need to get our crew back into practice just in case we should need to use personal phasers during our duties aboard the Heimdal.

Remember that participation in Phaser Sim counts towards the points needed for rank advancement. Hope to see you all there.



<<<SCIENCE>>>



JANUARY 2023 SCIENCE REPORT

By Adm. Willy Smith, Chief Science Officer, Starfleet SFDPP Certified
TAIKONAUTS VS ASTRONAUTS

(**Taikonaut** - A person who travels in space for the Chinese space program; a Chinese astronaut. en.wiktionary.org/wiki/taikonaut)

Well, whether you like racing or not, it appears we're in another "Space Race" of one kind or another. The U.S. has spent decades and who knows how much money in locating the best places to land on the moon only for another country to sit back and collect data we've spent decades gathering. Now that Artemis 1 has returned with its uncrewed Moon Flyby data, we've posted 2024 as our



next Artemis 2 mission plan to send a live crew into the moon's orbit. They have seen what it will take to get a moon lander there and back and there are only so many places on the south pole of the moon that are adequate for what we need for harvesting water and our setup of our first base.

The U.S. Space Agency is under intense pressure because it has been forced, as a cost-saving measure, to reuse all the avionics inside the Artemis I capsule for Artemis II. Since it didn't develop a fully outfitted spacecraft for Artemis II, NASA has to strip the capsule that just returned of all its spaceflight systems and reinstall them in another. That is costing us time.

The goal is still to fly Artemis II in 2024 and they can't speed things up because they need that time to redo and recertify sensitive gear. Then there's the goal of Artemis III to land astronauts on the moon by the end of 2025, which is already a year late.

So now we've put ourselves in this "race." We don't know if the space suits will be



ready and since NASA has given SpaceX the job of building the [Human Landing System](#), "Starliner" and a competition for a second lander that is now underway. These **MUST** be ready and on schedule because they are the essentials of a mission.

Many are clearly worried about China gaining ground — and eyeing some of the same locations for its moon landings as United States. China within the last decade has had enormous success and advances. It is also true that their date for landing on the moon keeps getting closer and closer based on the country's announcements, with deeper space being planned.

Still, not everyone is convinced Washington and Beijing are spiraling toward a moon brawl. China, like the United States, is a party to the [Outer Space Treaty](#), which bars nations from making territorial claims on any celestial body, including the moon.

It also will be difficult for any nation to maintain a long-term human presence in deep space. It is going to be extremely challenging.

"That's where we have made the argument that there is a need to engage with China," Victoria Samson said, "because of the possibility of landing near each other or having to provide emergency services to astronauts or taikonauts."



LOBSTROSITIES AND OTHER ODDITIES *FROM THE GENE POOL*

By CSO Willy Smith



Cheddar

MERIDIAN, MISS. (WPDE) — Another [rare orange lobster](#) has been saved from becoming someone's dinner. Red Lobster said it discovered the lobster at its restaurant in Meridian, Mississippi and contacted Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. (R/1 Summit too!)

The lobster was named Biscuit, in honor of the iconic Cheddar Bay Biscuits. In July, a rare orange lobster from Hollywood, Florida [found a home at Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle Beach](#).

THIS lobster, affectionately named “Cheddar” as a nod to its vibrant color and the restaurant’s iconic Cheddar Bay Biscuits, found a new home at Ripley’s Aquarium of Myrtle Beach in South Carolina.

Orange lobsters are extremely rare – one-in-30 million – because their bright, unusual coloring makes them very attractive to predators,

according to a release.

When the lobster arrived in Red Lobster’s live lobster shipment, employees at the restaurant immediately noticed its bright color and went on a mission to rescue it.

The lobster, affectionately named “Cheddar” as a nod to its vibrant color and the restaurant’s iconic Cheddar Bay Biscuits, found a new home at Ripley’s Aquarium of Myrtle Beach in South Carolina.

“Sometimes ordinary miracles happen, and Cheddar is one of them,” said Dick Steele, a manager at Red Lobster who led the rescue of Cheddar. “A group of incredible people helped us make this possible. We are so honored to have been able to save Cheddar and find her a good home.”

<<MEDICAL>>

MEDICAL MINUTE: JANUARY 2023 – DRIVING DROWSY

By Comm. Tammy White, CMO



We all know the dangers of driving while intoxicated. Even a little alcohol can impair one’s driving ability. This month I want to write about a different driving danger and that is driving drowsy. I wanted to write about this because it’s something I’ve experienced lately.

Many of you know I work nights and lately as I’m driving home, I find myself driving drowsy to the point where I have almost run off the road a couple of times. I don’t think I need to say just how scary this has been. I will be changing a few things to make sure this does not happen again.

I found this information about drowsy driving from the CDC:

Drowsy driving is the dangerous combination of driving when sleepy. This usually happens when a driver has not slept enough, but it can also happen because of untreated sleep disorders or shift work. Prescription and over-the-counter medications can also cause drowsiness, and alcohol can interact with sleepiness to increase both impairment and drowsiness.

No one knows the exact moment when sleep will come over their body. Falling asleep at the wheel is clearly dangerous, but being sleepy also affects your ability to drive safely, even if you don’t fall asleep. Drowsiness makes you less able to pay attention to the road, it slows your reaction time if you must break or steer suddenly, and it affects your ability to make good decisions.

A CDC survey found that, an estimated 1 in 25 adults reported having fallen asleep while driving in the past 30 days, drivers who snore or usually sleep 6 or fewer hours a day were more likely to report falling asleep while driving, and drowsy driving involved in 91,000 crashes in 2017 and that resulted 50,000 injuries and 800 deaths.

Those at risk for driving drowsy include teen and young adults, drivers on the road between midnight and 6am or later in afternoon, drivers who do not get enough sleep, commercial truck drivers, drivers who work night shift or long hours, those with untreated sleep disorders, medication use.



Some of the warning signs of driving drowsy include yawning or blinking frequently, trouble remembering past few miles, missing exits, drifting from your lane, following other cars too closely, difficulty maintaining proper speed, and hitting the rumble strip on the side of the road.

To prevent drowsy driving there are steps that you can take and the first is to get enough sleep. Other things you can do include talking to your doctor if you have a sleep disorder about treatment options, avoid taking medications that make you sleepy and avoid drinking alcohol.

Studies have been conclusive that opening your windows to get a little breeze on your face or turning up the radio is not an effective way to keep you awake when extremely tired or fatigued while driving. Driving drowsy is simply dangerous. It can take the same amount of attention off the road as if you were distracted by your phone or cause the same amount of delay in your reaction time as if you are near the legal limit of blood alcohol content.



If you find yourself driving drowsy the best thing you can do is to pull over and take a break. Drink a couple cups of coffee or other caffeinated drink and take a short nap of about 15-20 minutes.

If I think I am tired when I leave work, I will go to my sister's house which is a lot closer than mine. If I am already on the way home and notice I'm getting drowsy I will pull over and walk around the car or take a short nap. For the most part I have been getting enough sleep but still find myself getting sleepy driving home. I will pay more attention to how I feel when I leave work and my drive home.

<<<ENGINEERING>>>



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

ENGINEERING: MONTHLY UPDATE JANUARY
Monthly Ops Report - Engineering SD: 202301.01

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

I like to think my high level of expectation will land on (18) and payoff like I'm at the gaming table on DS9. Unfortunately, I find myself peeking through the curtain into 2023 *Wondering Out Loud* "Is that a train coming my way," "Should I hide under the console" or "what will be happening next?" WHO Knows? (No that's not a Doctor Who reference).

2022 with all its 'Character Building' moments, and there were many, had many highs and lows, yes even here in Engineering. As a department and in my role as Chief, We/I officially gained a crew member, lost a crew member, were awarded R1 Departmental Newsletter for 2021, we had a number of page ones of the same that confirmed Darrell stays up too late. We hosted Chapter ZOOMS, held Department ZOOMS, role played, and lost our heads and dressed up for Halloween.

Jumped in with both feet and now work directly with Region One administration, SF: Corps of Engineers, and I had my first article posted in STARFLEET Communique. There have been, and continue to be, health challenges impacting several of our families.

Ending this on a high note, as a Department in 2022 Heimdal Engineers had a strong showing in SFA STARFLEET Academy completing 159 individual courses, achieving 10 certificates, and earning 2 Associate Degrees (most in the last four months of the calendar year).

Where are we now moving into 2023? Engineering will be hosting, what I truly hope, will be an exciting Heimdal Chapter Meeting in January, several department projects are to be completed this year, making a concerted effort to support our fellow departments, we will be enhancing our recruiting efforts, fine tuning and expanding our SFA progress, and having even more fun along the way.

In closing, I have said it before, this team continues to amaze me with creative writing, reporting, video conferencing, ideas and more. The Engineering Link (<https://trek.millnernet.com/home/eng-link/>) has expanded into a something truly special and taken on a life of its own. We have a total of 8 members in our department, four that are very active (plus one), four that are always welcome to jump in at whatever level suits them best. We know this is a voluntary group and each participates at the level that works best for them. The door is open, the opportunities ever expanding, the galaxy awaits.





<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks, Communications Chief

Regarding my recent accident: the state trooper told Dan had I not been driving a Buick, not been wearing my seat belt, or the air bags not deployed, I would be dead. Whenever you come close to death, you realize how important family and friends really are.

I have made a New Year's resolution to communicate more with the people I care about, because one thing I learned the hard way is that none of us are promised tomorrow. So, make the most of today.

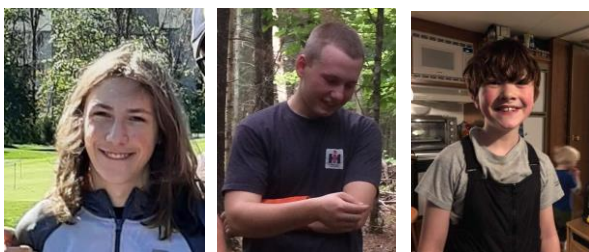
That said, I wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year!



CADET NEWS

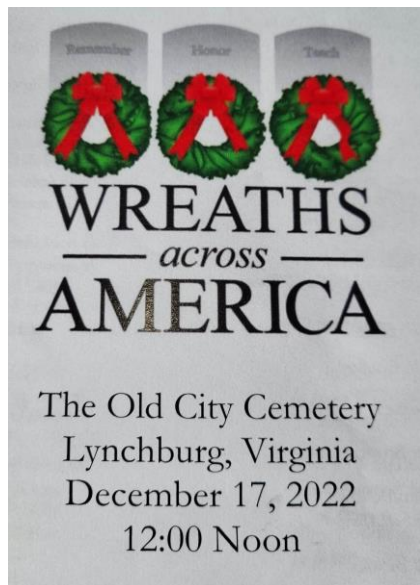
HEIMDAL'S CADET CORPS:

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



CADET HATTER ATTENDS 'WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA'

By Jonathan Hatter



December presented several service opportunities for Heimdal Cadet Allen Hatter. On Saturday, December 3, Allen and some other Scouts from Troop 29 rang the Salvation Army bell at the Food Court entrance to River Ridge Mall. It was wonderful to see the generosity of others during the holiday season.

Then on December 17th, Allen and I both participated in the *Wreaths Across America* ceremony at the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia. According to their website, Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath laying ceremonies at more than 3,400 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad. It is meant to honor all veterans who sacrificed for our freedoms and show appreciation to their families.

The service is open to the community and a large number of citizens attended. Honors and prayers are rendered by Armed Service Members and local officials. We arrived at 10 am to help set up, and then our job was to pass out programs and small American Flags to attendees as they arrived. Local school children began the musical program that would also include the Lynchburg Fire Department Bagpipers and a Naval bugler.

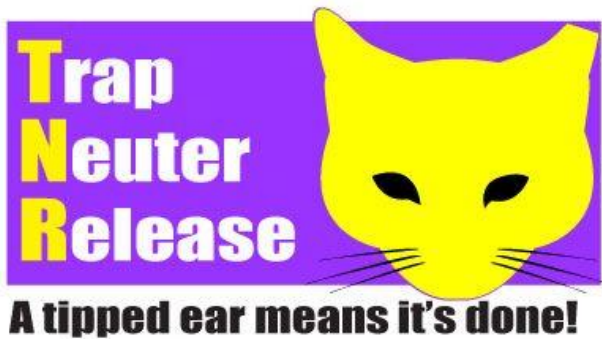
After the program, all participants will take a wreath and place it on the grave of a veteran. This is a special ceremony that Allen makes sure we attend each year. It is always an honor to attend with other members of Troop 29.

For more information about the organization and its mission, please visit <https://wreathsasscrossamerica.org>.

HEIMDAL'S PET FLEET

THE TNR PROGRAM

By Annette Overstreet



TNR. You may have heard the term and wondered what those letters stand for. So, what is it, and how does it benefit the parties involved?

The initialism stands for Trap-Neuter-Return. In its broadest definition, it is the trapping of colony cats, also known as community cats or stray cats, in order to reduce the population in a humane way.

Colony cats are those who have no human home. Some are feral, having been born into the colony without ever knowing human contact. Others are somewhat approachable but still wary. These are the ones who probably once belonged to someone and are not considered feral. At some point they have been

socialized but were forced outside or simply left behind when their people moved. Many reasons may contribute to such abandonment, not the least of which include problems with the animal's health, having outgrown its cute, playful stage, the owner's lack of time or interest, and allergic reactions. Regardless of the reason, colony cats somehow find each other and group together for safety. There can be as many as 20 or more animals in a colony, and they will congregate wherever there is a food source. Sometimes they are lucky enough to attract a caregiver, some kind human who feeds and looks after them.

The difficulty with these colonies stems from their ability to reproduce. A female can become pregnant as young as 4 months old and have 2 to 3 litters per year with 1 to 8 kittens in each litter. During her reproductive life, she can give birth to upwards of 100 kittens. Multiply that exponentially through each of her female offspring and one can understand the situation. It is when these colonies grow large enough to be disruptive in some way that they are noticed by the general public and action requested. The issue then becomes one of how to negate the increase in population without being unnecessarily cruel. This is where TNR steps in. TNR is organized and run by groups of volunteers within a local area. Most have strict bookkeeping and follow set protocols. Often, these groups will overlap each other's territory and work together. One such group, Bedford Cares, TNR'd almost 1,000 cats in this year alone.

The procedure begins with trapping the cats with permission from the land owner or in coordination with the person who requested the help. This process can take anywhere from a few hours to overnight. Humane traps are set with food and placed where the animal frequents. Once the animal is trapped, it is held overnight and taken to either a spay/neuter clinic or local veterinarian the next day to be checked over, spayed/neutered, given a rabies shot, and any obvious wounds treated. In addition, the left ear will be "tipped" to indicate that it has been altered so that if trapped again by mistake, it can be released immediately. It will spend the day at the clinic or hospital and be picked up that evening by a volunteer and held for feeding and observation. The following morning, it will be released back to its own colony. This return to the cat's original location is extremely important for several reasons. First, it is illegal to relocate feral cats or any wildlife in the state of Virginia. Second, it is important to return colony cats to their established territories to eliminate fights for space and leadership among remaining residents due to the vacuum created by displacement in the original colony. With the continued trapping and altering of all the cats in the colony, both male and female (because it takes two to tango, you know), the colony will begin to shrink and eventually die out.

This method of population control has proven to be quite effective. It has saved countless numbers of kittens from being born into a world that requires them to fight for survival against hunger, disease, and the environment. It has given a second chance to each cat in the colony by reducing overcrowding which leads to disease and fighting among residents. It has offered the humans who care for them an opportunity to, in some cases, re-socialize them for adoption.

TNR is a win-win for all involved.

TNR organizations receive no government funding and rely on donations, private grants, and fundraising. Volunteers are up at the crack of dawn to collect the trapped cats and transport them either to surgery or back to their colonies, and they do so out of their own finances and concern for these homeless beings.

Please consider supporting your local TNR group in the effort to save innocent lives.





STARFLEET STUFF

STARFLEET MEMBERSHIP IN 2023: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

From Linda

When we renew in 2023, we **MUST** have an email address. All Starfleet business will be conducted through email and a member **MUST** have an email address in order to be included as a member. I spoke to Commander, Starfleet elect, David Nottage about how we should handle our members without computers and our children and teens that are included on their parent's family membership. Both Adm. Nottage and R/1 RC Phillip Cox have promised to look into this and get back to me. Willy and I attended the December R/1 ZOOM meeting where this was discussed and Adm. Nottage was present.

Starfleet, with Regional support, will be checking records for all chapter COs and XOs to make sure they are SFDPP certified / recertified and in compliance. If not, the chapter will be put on 'stand-by' and the CO or XO or both will lose their privileges to use Starfleet's Database. Eventually the chapter may lose all chapter privileges. This may affect annual awards and promotions.

PLEASE NOTE: Both Linda and Willy are compliant and are recertified for the third time.

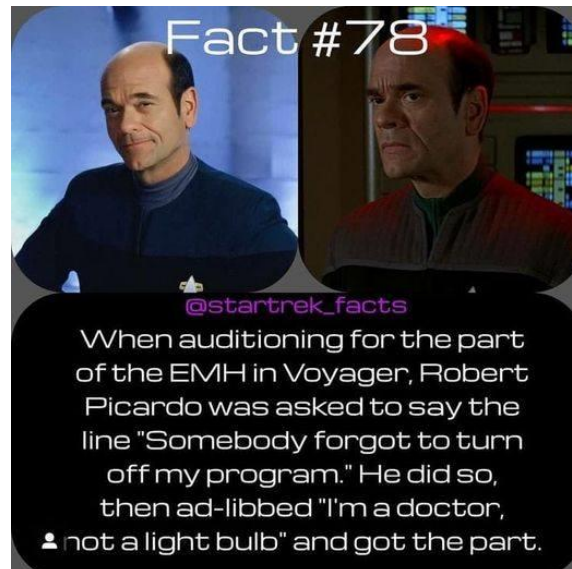
STARFLEET JANUARY MEDICAL CHALLENGE

~ Not Posted Yet ~

From Cmdr. Pip Slack

STAR TREK STUFF

LITTLE KNOWN STAR TREK FACTS



PICARD SEASON THREE REVIEW

From Star Trek News - By Glenda Blanks

DECEMBER 19, 2022 - When Sir Patrick Stewart agreed to revive Jean-Luc Picard, he wanted to do something new and interesting with the character, which the first two seasons of **Star Trek: Picard** represent. For season three, even though we are going to see his Star Trek: The Next Generation colleagues together again, that is apparently going to be new and interesting as well.

Stewart sat down with Den of Geek to talk about some of what we can expect come February 16, when the final season of Picard premieres.

Overall, the message seems to be that season three is not going to be a warm and fuzzy family reunion. First, there is conflict between Picard and Dr. Beverly Crusher. Stewart



said that this season “we learn that life-changing things have actually happened for Beverly Crusher and Jean-Luc Picard. His fury about the way in which Beverly has lived with this unexpected event led to some of the most interesting scenes that I played. The scenes I have with Gates in season three are among my favorites because they were emotionally naked, both of them...and vulnerable. I don’t think we’d ever seen both of them at the same time at that stage.”

The hugs around the pizza oven will be giving way to some intensity between Picard and Will Riker as well, “when we learn that Picard was perhaps not right in the choices he was making....”

Stewart points out that Picard is a “different individual living in a different world” and that season three “is not a reunion sequel, and this is one thing that I wanted to make clear. I didn’t want the show to be just sentimental: ‘Oh, we all love one another, and here we are again, playing poker and raising our glasses and so forth.’”

THE ZAK PERSPECTIVE

THE ZAK PERSPECTIVE

Happy Birthday DS9

By Zak Lyon



I am not part of the House of Dawn in *The Game of Thrones* universe, but I do share something with Alexander Siddig. Something about our early upbringing. He explained that at a very young age his father sat him down in front of the TV to watch Star Trek. So, it was always a part of his psyche. At a *very* young age my mother sat me down and said watch this. And I just sat there wide eyed exposed to *Star Trek: TNG* for the first time. At first it was the lights and colors that fascinated me. As I started to see it as more than that, I became more interested in the stories and then the Star Trek universe as a whole.

Everyone always asks: “When did you become a Star Trek fan?” I was never quite sure because, like for Alexander Siddig, it was always there. I was thinking about the deadline for article submissions for the Rainbow Connection and wondering if I would have time to find something to contribute, January 3, 2023. I found the answer to the question in that moment – a moment 30 years ago. I became a committed Star Trek fan on January 3, 1993. The day *Deep Space 9* became part of the Star Trek universe.

I had just turned 9 years old. I had seen all of TOS and was watching TNG weekly. I didn’t know why then, but DS9 really spoke to me. It was the same future that I had seen portrayed in TNG. Why was it so different? I think that

recently I have figured it out. The people were more relatable. This future seemed more achievable.

In TOS, the people didn’t seem so far removed from the world as I knew it despite the sci fi tech and situations. There were long friendships, passionate debate, and easygoing kidding, TNG didn’t seem to come out of the same world. It seems that society could not have gotten from TOS to TNG in such a short period of time. In TOS the characters were individuals. Individuals who looked at things differently. Somehow in TNG the characters seemed to, at least initially, be homogenous in their beliefs and philosophies. They made the right decisions because society had decided it at large. In TOS, the characters made the right decisions because of what was in their individual hearts. That’s what DS9 showed me again. Relatable characters. In TNG Gene Roddenberry wanted to show a future where all of the things that caused suffering and division in society were eliminated. No money, no poverty, no religion, no consumerism...synthohol. It was aspirational. I enjoyed the stories. Don’t get me wrong, I love TNG. DS9 was just different in a way that meant something to me.

On that pilot episode on Jan 3, 1993, where Benjamin Sisko burns his feet on the sand and flirts with his future wife, we learn about his passion for keeping the memory of baseball alive. We learn that his family owns a restaurant in New Orleans. We learn of his love for his son and the great loss he had suffered which made him question his role as a Starfleet officer. From day one, he was relatable. An individual. In that pilot we learned about the Bajoran religion and the diversity of backgrounds, opinions and goals on the station. We saw money, shopping, and faith all represented. We saw unique and varied species of humanoid and non-humanoid life existing together – and not without conflict. People changed and grew. I feel like O’Brien was allowed to be more Irish on DS9 and certainly Worf was allowed to be more Klingon. They didn’t need Spock to remind them of earth history as if it was alien.



O'Brien and Bashir remember the Alamo if a somewhat romanticized version of it. Jadzia was familiar enough with money to out gamble a table of Ferengi. And religion was a constant thread, not an outdated concept that had been left behind centuries earlier. These were people who did things that I did. I could see myself there. I could see all of us getting there.

All in all, diversity isn't infinite if everybody agrees. You can't get rid of conflict and still grow. And as Joseph Sisko knows, the world gets less delicious if you start taking out flavors. That's life as I know it. That's what I connected with and that's what I am celebrating today. Happy Birthday Deep Space 9.

REVIEWS

AVATAR – THE WAY OF WATER

A Film Review by Linda Smith



The week following Christmas Willy and I went with Beth and Peter to see *Avatar – The Way of Water*. Because of COVID, this was the first movie Willy and I had seen in a theater in almost three years. That made it a SPECIAL event in itself and even more special because, like all of the *Guardians of the Galaxy* movies, we've seen them all with Beth and Peter and this gave us the chance to see the second Avatar movie with them as we did the first, continuing a tradition.

Released 12 years after the high-grossing, award-winning original AVATAR, this film was costly to make and most of those years were spent in actual production.

The hype was huge. We weren't disappointed.

It was delightful revisiting the characters from the original film; seeing where they had gone and how their avatars had fared in their lives on Pandora. The beauty of Pandora remained the same ... the graphics breathtaking. The first part of the nearly 3-hour long movie was centered around that ... seeing the avatar families, the progress on the planet and the connections, good and bad, with Earth.

The second part of the film involved the return of the very bad people from Earth ... those with greed predominately guiding their actions with no thought of the lives their plundering would affect. We approached that with an almost palpable feeling of dread.

The latter part of the movie involved a defensive move to the "water habitat" of Pandora and its inhabitants. Not wanting to be responsible for a review filled with 'spoilers,' that's all I'm going to tell you about the movie. The last thing I want to do is ruin this beautiful experience for people yet to see it.

In closing I WILL say that in the end, the movie with so much to offer and see, really came down to a message about family, loyalty, equality, acceptance, determination and LOVE. During those three hours I found myself sitting on the edge of my seat, clapping my hands and crying. It was an emotional roller coaster that wore me out but left me feeling good and left my heart feeling full.

I fell in love with a whale!!!

Although it was a little long, it was well worth seeing and I recommend it highly. DO see it in 3D. It definitely calls for more than a 2-dimensional experience.

CONTINUING ROLE PLAY

Heimdal Interdepartmental Role Play

**** The Saga Continues: SD: 202301.02 **** Hatter / Walker

Clarifier: *"The timeframe for the Heimdal written roleplay within the Star Trek canon universe is after the episode Darmok (TNG) and before the Dominion War. This is a standalone creative exercise amongst Chapter members and does not impact real-time activities or reporting."*

Phase One: *"Hatter – Is that you?"*

He was gliding through the clouds like a large graceful Atlirith as the cool air rushed across his cheeks, and like that beautiful Andorian Eagle, he swirled and dived as he enjoyed the open blue sky.

"This is truly living!" he thought out loud. An infectious smile stretched across his face; he was deeply content. He closed his eyes, tilted his head back, and let himself fall down through the fluffy clouds.

"What's with that stupid grin?" the short and stocky guard asked his duty shift companion.

They were both staring at the Federation officer through the clear tube that encased him. He had been placed into a forced sleep and yet a look of joy painted his face.

The taller guard shrugged his shoulders. *"I got no idea. These Prime Universe guys are fruity as nutcakes."*

"Does he at least have some sort of designation?"

The tall guard tapped a control panel beside the tube. *"Hatter, Commander, United Federation of Planets, service num....."*

"Yeah, yeah. I got it. Don't need his pathetic life history for the Emperor's sake."

The tall guard glared down at his companion, and the light reflected off of the scar that traversed the right side of his face.

"Easy," said Shorty. *"All good,"* he replied, as he offered a 'just kidding' gesture.

"We get to babysit this guy while his Terran counterpart is on that ship out there," Mr. Tall nodded his head toward outer space.

"So that's why we're just sitting out here." Shorty glanced up, offering a confident look.

"Oh, you're a quick one. We have a true genius here," Mr. Tall grinned. His smaller counterpart offered only an insulted grunt in response.

"It's a shift change. Let's get outta here. This dude's smile is creeping me out. I'd rather just vaporize him."

* * *

OUR STORY PICKS BACK UP ON THE HEIMDAL AT THE END OF BUD'S DECEMBER ENTRY:

QUIET REFLECTIONS – Part 2.

Across the galley, Hatter and Davis watched Lt. Walker as he exited the room, then nodded at one another.

Hatter took a gulp of his cold coffee and slowly turned to the Admiral. *"I have an odd feeling, Sir, like out there in the Delta Quadrant odd. I just have to put my trigger finger on it."* Hatter stroked his beard. He missed tugging on the long goatee he'd had to shave. Just one of the many changes he was forced to make to replace his Prime Universe doppelganger.

Hatter turned to Admiral Davis. *"Permission to investigate Lt. Walker further, Sir?"*

Chief Davis gave an approving nod and Hatter rose to leave the galley. Lt. T'Polth calmly glanced at him as he exited. Her eyebrow lifted and her face formed that look only an intrigued Vulcan can make.

Hatter paused to watch Walker make his way down the hall and thought to himself, *"No doubt. I know you're a Terran as well, Lieutenant. I think you may be just the diversion I need."*

The Mirror Hatter's face contorted, and his mouth formed into a sinister smile.

(Meanwhile) Walker made his way through the corridors of the ship, heading back to his quarters. He was scheduled to be on the bridge within the hour, and after his disastrous lunch with T'Polth, he needed to change uniform shirts. As he rounded a bend, Walker suddenly had the eerie feeling that he was being followed. He glanced quickly over his shoulder but only saw the normal coming and going of other crew members behind him. Walker shrugged and dismissed the feeling as residual paranoia on his part.

Walker stepped through the doors to his quarters and his eye caught the indicator light on his desk console. Curious, he sat in front of the console and pressed the activation button. The screen illuminated and displayed a message in the standard Starfleet font, *"Secure Communication Request. Gamma level encryption."* Walker swallowed hard as he immediately knew who the message must be from.

Remembering the decryption code that he had been given, Walker typed in "CPE 1704 TKS." The screen remained blank for several minutes, presumably while the other party was notified that Walker was ready to talk. Then the face of an Asian human male appeared on the console screen.

"Hello Bud."

Walker just nodded.

"Just to let you know, we have arranged for your promotion to full Commander. Your CO, Admiral Smith, should be informing you shortly. Try to act surprised."

Walker replied, *"But I just got promoted! Half the crew doesn't even know that I am a Lieutenant Commander yet."*

"Nevertheless, to be of any use to us, we need you to be at least the rank of Commander."

Walker remained silent for a moment. Then he mumbled, *"One of my crewmates figured out that I am from the Mirror universe"*

"Dammit Bud! You need to be much less sloppy! Is your cover blown?"

"No. She is a friend and said she would keep my secret."

"What does she know?"

Walker answered, *"Just that I am from the Mirror universe, not much else. I told her that I am a refugee, which is true of course. But I also told her that it was Starfleet Intelligence that placed me on the Heimdal, so I am sure she will keep quiet."*

The man on the console considered for a moment, then spoke, *"OK, I think we are good then. But you better be more careful from now on! We got you out of your universe, we can always send you back!"*

Walker swallowed hard and said, *"Yes, I know"*

"You better remember, you owe us everything. If it wasn't for Section 31 You would be a dead man!"

Without waiting for a reply, the other man deactivated the connection, and the screen went blank. Walker stared at the blank screen for a long time, lost in his thoughts.

... To Be Continued ...



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From Linda

OK ... if you've actually READ this newsletter then I don't have to tell you ANYTHING about the future with the Heimdal. It's all right here for you to read and get excited about. I'M excited about it and excited that the Heimdal is back to a place where we can actually plan for the future and have stuff to look forward to again. I look forward to sharing that with you.

THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

*We'll see you at the January meeting AND we'll see you around the galaxy ...
Linda, Willy, Glenda and the newsletter staff of thousands*

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We'll see you around the galaxy...

Happy 70th birthday Alfred E Neuman!

