



USS COLUMBIA COM LINK

"Live Long, and Prosper"

Oct/Nov/Dec, 2022

From the desk of your CO

Hello Crew!

This year has been a rough one for everyone, including myself. With the holidays approaching fast I just want to make sure everyone stays in touch with one another and family. I have been behind on a lot of my CO duties. I am catching up now and hopefully will be back in the full swing of things.

A few plans I have for the ship in the coming months:

Starting back up our watch parties- We need to pick a day and time that more people can join.

A chapter meeting- we need one ASAP

I am working on the Oct promotion list now. I am a little bit behind, but with the help of my XO we are getting caught up.

Also, with the help of our ComLink publisher we will be adding a new section for articles from Sister Ships. I will also be working on our website some more here in the next few weeks.

Also, if any has suggestions for ship actives, please let me know.

Your busy CO

XO'S CORNER

Are we seriously already at the end of the year? Wow. It seems like we were just starting 2022 and now we're at the end!

Although 2022 was personally bumpy for me, I think it was a very good year for *Columbia*! The role play has been outstanding, and Rear Admiral Lowell Whitaker has done tremendous work in that arena. We also had the opportunity for some of the crew to get together this year, and we've had a number of promotions among the crew as well! I'm looking forward to next year, especially in the roleplay and away team departments; the Lexington Comic Con in Lexington, Kentucky, AKA "enemy territory", will feature Anson Mount from *Strange New Worlds* and I am STOKED! I'm also hoping to make at least one other con next year, maybe two, and hopefully Lowell can make the Lexington con next year as well!

I once again wish to express my deepest condolences to Lowell on the recent passing of his mother. I also would like to note that it has been roughly one year since our dear friend Admiral Jason Schreck passed away. May Lowell's mom and Jason rest in peace.

Well, that's about it from me for now. I have a special "Christmas First Contact" article elsewhere in this edition, and there might even be another article or two from me floating around. Until next time, take care, and we'll talk again next year!

Fleet Captain Chris Kaelin



Remembering Nichelle Nichols

12/28/32-7/30/22

Bill Lemmond:

I still remember watching and listening to Nichelle Nichols sing the Star Trek theme, and another song, "Beyond Antares," at a small Star Trek convention at the Hotel John Marshall, downtown Richmond, Virginia, in the summer of 1976. Her singing was wonderful, and I wish my undiagnosed, untreated ADD had allowed me to focus more on her.

She was beautiful, and nice. I didn't try to speak with her, because I was shy, had some idea how socially clumsy I was, and thought she probably had all the attention she could handle.

I had way too little money for the dealer's room, which struck me as weird and somewhat opportunistic. One dealer was selling sheets of shiny, reflective, rainbow swirly. My convention highlight was seeing a short, maybe 5-minute gag reel of out-takes from the original series.

The convention hadn't attracted enough attendees and held an auction on the last day, trying to get enough money just to break even. I know Ms. Nichols did her part, but I couldn't afford her. I gave what little I could. I didn't have a summer job, not having a car (until I was 26).

That was the one and only time central Virginia has had a Star Trek convention. It's one of the reasons I made up my mind to help any local event, and I've been a volunteer staffer for local fan conventions for over 20 years.

In the last few years, Ms. Nichols came to Richmond for another convention, one that's mostly meet and greet and photo ops. Friends, a couple with whom I've been in tabletop RPGs since December 1996, got their picture taken with Ms. Nichols. They have the photo framed, on a wall in their living room. It's great to see it.

RADM Lowell Whitaker:

I had the honor of meeting her at one convention in 1998. This was back when my old Role-playing group was on good terms and one year before my friend home burned down taking with it 90% of our gaming stuff for which as hard as we tried, we never recovered and ended a few years later 2002.

The event was a smaller group named Slanted Fedora which sadly went out of business years later due to financial issues and lawsuits by fans, but at the time they held a good event in Charleston WV. This was back when the USS West Virginia was a chapter and Excelsior class. We drove to WV that Saturday and did it one day. Among the guests were James Doohan, Nichelle Nichols, George Takei and Walter Koenig.

Then the big event was the Q&A with the TOS members, and Walter, George and Nichelle made their way to the stage. Nichelle had hurt her ankle, yet she still wanted to come, and Walter helped her around. and you can tell they loved the fans. And when it came to autograph time, you could tell Nichelle was in pain yet she remained cheerful as I walked up to her and got my pic signed, "HI Honey!" That few seconds means a lot now.

Later on, there was a dinner with the stars, and most of the group wanted to go to the mall which was across the street. They left me and did that while I got to get pics with Walter, Steven and George. Sadly Nichelle was in the room resting which we understood. I could stay longer yet we had a long drive so I departed, and met them at the mall, and we returned to KY. We had planned to do it in 1999 yet our RPG CO lost his home sadly. I went by myself with Brother and his wife. That's another story.



Dale Wilson

FCAPT Judy and I had the honor of attending two Dragon Con events featuring Nichelle Nichols, the First Lady of Star Trek.

In 2012 we attended a panel where she stole the show from the other panelists with pointed and funny anecdotes about her co-stars, politics, and her beloved space program.

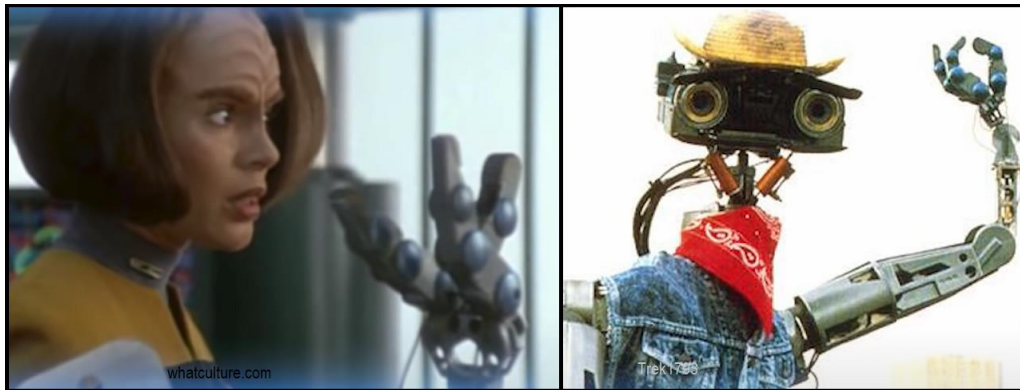
In 2015 she was Grand Marshal of the Dragon Con Parade and brought her limo to a stop directly in front of us.

It saddens me to lose any member of Star Trek's First Family. We'll miss her.



Origins Of Star Trek Props You Won't Believe

ST: VOY Episode "Prototype" The crew find a robot floating in space - self identified as an "Automated Personnel Unit". Brief summary they killed their creators the Preylor and are trying to make it possible for it to construct new members of its race which of course creates a moral dilemma for Captain Janeway and B'Elanna Torres. Engineering conflicts as so many do start as "I can do a thing" but what are the unintended consequences? After B'Elanna is kidnapped and provided a lab to work in, note what shows up in the scene – a Robotic Arm. Normal right? But "oh my does it look familiar?" It's actually the arm of robot Johnny 5 from the movie "Short Circuit" - Don't you love recycling in



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STAR TREK. Resource "[Whatculture.com/star-trek](https://whatculture.com/star-trek)" as seen on YT – Originally published in March 2022 Heimdals
The Engineering Link - Millner Out

EDITOR'S LOG

Greetings Crew! Thanks for contributing.

Hope you enjoy the guest article and the Holiday themed ones in this edition.

The headline quote needs no explanation. While it is rooted in logic, it is apt for a heartfelt wish to all.

May the galaxy embrace the spirit of the coming season so that everyone may truly "Live Long and Prosper."

Until next time, FCapt Judy

Report from Senior Liaison

Well, here we are past the early Fall and heading to the holiday, hopefully we are having a good second half of the year.

I'd like to thank everyone for a great away team in July. It's a Birthday weekend I'll long remember, seeing the crew and the fan film set.

The online IC gave both me and Uschi the chance to attend, though I was saddened I could not do the comic con in March, but hopefully next year.

We should know by September the new list for Comic Con 2023. I would love to see some from past ones I had to miss plus I plan to meet the Webster crew there and hopefully others. Depends on who will come and if I am able to do the autograph line. I have a wheelchair and a walker besides my cane.

Promotion time in October and I wish everyone good luck. I am up for VADM, but I doubt if I will be around in 2/12 years to get my last official promotion to full Admiral like Jason. I am up for renewal in Jan 2023 which I will complete, but after that I plan to retire due to health. I am becoming unable to do things I use to, some vital and not good.

My aunt offered to take me back to Lexington to shop. Although it would be fun to meet you guys again eat at Malone's and shop at Target, I wait. as I shop in town while I hope March will happen. Plus, you guys have 3 cons you can do.

Now, my wishes for the crew and some suggestions:

1. I do hope The Commodore advances to RADM as there should always be an Admiral on board the Columbia. So far, I'm the only one now.'
2. Upgrade Columbia. With 5 new series and 2 more on the way, I would like to see the crew

move up. The Excelsior and Sovereign were Jason's ships, and by moving on, we start a new chapter.

3. There are many opportunities for the crew as they need to go back to many departments for Role playing such as Counselor/Chaplain, Intelligence officer, JAG, Diplomat. Rec Officer Quartermaster and Academy officer.
4. SFMC The Columbia marine detachment is a Maritime unit and given that it is capable of all ops I think these units would be better suited to Shuttle carriers like the Discovery or Cerritos. I like to suggest to the CO and Arden they consider doing a special ops force like the Macos yet still be SFMC.

In my personal life my depression, Diabetes and bad heart are giving me pause with some things. I'll try to pull another year though and help Columbia move into the future.

RADM Lowell Whitaker
Senior Liaison



CHRISTMAS FIRST CONTACT

BY FLEET CAPTAIN CHRIS KAELIN

It was Christmas Day aboard *Columbia*, but more than that, it was also First Contact Day, as the ship hosted a delegation of the Druinna, a warp-capable humanoid species residing on a planet not far from the Romulan Neutral Zone. Fleet Captain Kaelin was assigned the task of escorting a group of dignitaries on a tour of the ship. As he did, one of the luminaries took note of a Christmas tree in one of the briefing rooms below the bridge.

"These trees are very interesting," R'u'an said. He was the chief of police in the capital city, Dre'x'a. "Are they symbolic among your people?"

"On my home planet, Earth, today is known as Christmas," Kaelin explained. "According to ancient texts, this is the day the prophet Jesus Christ was born."

"This Jesus Christ is a prophet of a *launmah*?" Pur'et, a prominent doctor, asked.

"Yes," Kaelin replied. He recalled from a briefing that on Druinna, a *launmah* was a higher power. "My ancestors were adherents of a *launmah* known as God, and Jesus Christ was his chief prophet."

"And how do you celebrate this Christmas?" R'u'an asked.

"Everybody is different, but exchanging gifts is a very common practice," Kaelin replied. "In fact, in my family, we always exchange gifts in the morning, after my mother and father have had coffee."

"Coffee?"

"An Earth drink. People commonly drink it in the morning, but some drink it all day."

"You consume coffee and exchange gifts," Pur'et said.

"Yes," Kaelin affirmed. "And then later that day we have a large family dinner."

"Dinner?"

"A feast."

"Ah, I see! We feast often on Druinna. Do you feast often on Earth?"

"My family does, particularly on Christmas and an earlier day we celebrate known as Thanksgiving."

"This Earth has many observances," R'u'an opined.

"Yes, we do," Kaelin said in agreement.

"And they come with feasts," Pur'et said.

"Almost all of them," Kaelin said.

"But if you are here, then how can you celebrate a feast?" R'u'an asked.

"Oh, we celebrate the major Earth feasts here," Kaelin replied. "Plus many other feasts from other worlds. I may not be home, but I can bring home out here. And the crew has become a second family to me."

"I see," R'u'an said.

"Will we partake in a feast today?" Pur'et asked.

"In your honor, absolutely!" Kaelin replied. "In fact, gentlemen, it's getting close to time for that feast to start. Shall we return to the lounge?"



Inktober 23 "rip" RIP HUNTER AND RORY WILLIAMS:
 AT ALL ALIKE? OUR RORY'D KNOW HOW TO USE
 (HIS OWN TIME AND SPACE SHIP!



HE'D PICK A TEAM THAT WOULDN'T TRY FIGHTING THE BIG BAD:
 RIP TAYLOR, BEN STEIN, ROOSEVELT, RALPH SMART
 FRANKLIN



AND WITH FRED ROGERS, THEY'D GO FIND BABY VANDAL SAVAGE,
 AND RAISE HIM WELL.

