



# 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 July 4th** Issue, July 2023*

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## FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

**Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet SFDPP Certified**



**Hello!** By the time you get this newsletter July 4<sup>th</sup> will have come and gone and I hope you had a happy and safe holiday. Beth and Peter Hopkins invited the Heimdal to spend July 4<sup>th</sup> ... on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> ... with them for a day of swimming, picnicking and enjoying fireworks on the lake after dark. It's difficult to write about an event BEFORE it happens but I hope it was a wonderful day with good weather and good attendance. It's always a fun day with everyone at the lake enjoying ourselves and not having a meeting ...

We're just starting to canvas for our September 16 Charity Auction, which will be here in no time. I can't say it's my favorite thing to do but it's what pays for our Christmas donations to our charities and for sending kids to Space Camp, so that makes all that work worth all that work (huh?).

So far, we're off to a fun start to Heimdal's summer. Our first Game Night was a success and so much fun. I'm looking forward to our July meeting and having Richard Riley as our guest speaker and to our Annual Heimdal Picnic and Pool

Party in August. It's just nice to do some fun stuff. Summer NEVER lasts long enough.

OK ... let's get this show on the road ... blasting off this edition of our newsletter at least at WARP 6. See you soon.



**Do we know how to play Putt Putt or what?**



## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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



Hello everyone and welcome to another RainCon that Linda really puts her heart, talents, and time into. I know I used to have better writing abilities and I even did a RainCon or two when Linda's mom was ill. For a long time, I looked back at those issues and thought I sounded like the guys on "Dragnet" but I tried and the important stuff was passed along and we're still here.

Which brings me to the subject of *"The Real Auction"* that will be coming up in September. This is where we use our skills to ask for a donation in order to continue to have funds for our annual charities. The Auction Flyer is put together and most of you with e-mail should have a copy by now and if you need more copies, please ask us and I'll make sure you get them.

We found out the hard way when canvassing that a member can go pass around flyers for auction donations and even go thru a large stack, and then another member can go to the same place and walk away with something tangible. What gives? I believe it is in the presentation or

maybe a combination of things we haven't pinned down yet. We **do** know that most businesses have a certain amount things to donate in the first week of every month. If we miss that window, we can go back but eventually time catches up with us and time for the auction is almost here. In any case, if we never try in the time we have, **NOTHING** will come our way and this part of the Heimdal will be history.



What I am comfortable canvassing is the places I use all year round. They cut my hair, they fix my car, serve me food, and make my pizza ... the list continues except I must write it down like a shopping list. Also, we never want to look like those people with the cardboard signs that want something for themselves. ***This request is not for me personally, we support 9 charities and send a local middle school kid to Space Camp each year.*** Sometimes uttering those words will make eyes grow bigger and it may make all the difference, especially mentioning Space Camp. (And, ***psstttt***, canvassing can be fun if you go with a friend and mess around in department stores with the dummies ... see 2 photos at left)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER

### RAdm. Carl Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer's Report, July 2023



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Carl gets a break this month (a Get Out of Jail Free card??? LOL).

Bonnie had shoulder replacement surgery on June 20 and is doing VERY well (prayers answered). But that means that in addition to Carl's duties as Heimdal's Second Officer and Security Chief and his mundane job as a Baptist minister, he is also now Bonnie's caregiver (shoulder rehab takes a while). He is her transportation to physical therapy several times a week, the 'at home' bee keeper, the chicken caretaker, the housekeeper, the gardener and everything else he and Bonnie routinely do together. That leaves very little time for anything else so he's not doing his regular Second Officer column this month. He gets that pass.

Prayers for Bonnie's continued excellent recovery and Carl's stamina.

## MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

### JULY MEETING

The July Heimdal meeting will be **July 15 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Sugar Mill Recreation Area, 115 Dark Pines Lane, Amherst, VA 24521 in Sugar Mill subdivision. Please bring an item for refreshments and bring a guest / friend. The meeting will be in person and on ZOOM.

Our meeting guest speaker will be the amazing foam sculptor, Heimdal friend and newsletter columnist, Richard Riley. Richard



will be telling us about his most recent projects and giving us a foam sculpting demonstration. If you've seen / met Richard before you KNOW you'll want to see him again.

Tim Hazlett will be our ZOOM Coordinator for the meeting and the ZOOM 'coordinates' are:

**Tim Hazlett is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: July Heimdal Zoom Meeting**

**Time: Jul 15, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/9274947336>

**Meeting ID: 927 494 7336**

**Passcode: 273082**

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One tap mobile

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

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

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Dial by your location

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• 855 880 1246 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 927 494 7336

Passcode: 273082



## JUNE MEETING

### But Isn't Star Trek a Hobby?

#### June 2023 Chapter Meeting of the USS Heimdal

##### *By Commander Bud Walker, Navigator*

The Heimdal crew gathered at the Madison Heights Public Library (part of Amherst County Public Library system) and online via Zoom on June 17, 2023, for the monthly chapter meeting.

Admiral Linda Smith called the meeting to order and announced the summer program for the chapter.

- July 15 will be the next chapter meeting and will feature Richard Riley as our guest speaker. Richard will talk about his latest sculpting project and will provide a demonstration.
- August 19 will be the annual picnic and pool party and will be at the Sugar Mill Recreation Area.
- August 26 will be the last chapter meeting of the summer and will feature the Heimdal's Space Camp Essay Contest winner (tentative).
- September 16 will be the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Auction. There will be no chapter meeting for September.

Admiral Smith informed the membership of some developments regarding the most recent winner of the Space Camp Essay Contest.

Apparently, there was some confusion between the winner's mother and Space Camp personnel on some required medical release documentation. There is the possibility that this previous winner may not attend the camp at all. There was some communication to the mother that if this is so, that the Heimdal would be seeking reimbursement for travel expense funds already issued to her. However, Admiral Smith advised that the Chapter should be prepared to absorb this cost.

Admiral Smith announced that canvassing had begun for the charity



**Jonathan sharing one of his vintage comics**



**Glenda's ancestors**



auction. She asked the membership to review the guidelines for donations and to report any donations immediately on the Heimdal group email. She also announced that Beth and Peter Hopkins will host a July 4<sup>th</sup> party for Heimdal members at their home on the lake. Admiral Smith is looking for a new design for the Heimdal's newsletter page layout and is taking submissions until July 15.

Admiral Smith also announced long time member, Dan Blanks is recovering from surgery and the membership was asked to continue to keep him and Glenda in their thoughts and prayers.

Admiral Smith then asked the membership to give short presentations on their various hobbies.

- Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks gave a presentation on genealogy and passed around several old family photos.
- Commander Jonathan Hatter discussed his collection of Batman comics and other magazines.
- Admiral Willy Smith shared examples of his photo editing and other photography.
- PO3 Joe Arnold discussed his participation in organized "Volks Marches," and passed around several medals and pins that he received.
- Commander Zak Lyon explained his hobby of creating playlists of music, using mostly iTunes and Amazon echo, with some playlists being several hours long.
- Lieutenant Jody Lyon gave a presentation on her combined hobby of gardening and photography by showing several photos of her yard flowers.
- Admiral Linda Smith shared her writing of poetry and read some of the poems that she has published.
- Commander William Walker concluded the evening by giving a presentation on his study of Heraldry and the topic of "Coats of Arms."



Willy's 'manipulated' photography

## JUNE MEETING: THE ZOOM PERSPECTIVE

By Zac Lyon

*I am back doing a meeting report from the Zoom perspective. I think we've all gotten down the Zoom basics and the experience has been maximized.*

*This month Darrell Millner was the facilitator. I want to thank him for taking the responsibility to do this on top of all his other duties. On the other side of the screen was Bud Walker who made sure that we could all be seen and heard. And most importantly that the line of sight was perfect for us Zoomers. Thanks Bud. And a big Huzzah to the Engineering Department for making this happen on a regular basis.*

*As always, the meeting started out with a bit of chatting and catching up as we waited for the library to come on line. A great benefit of Zoom. When we connected with the library, there was a bit more chatting and then a bit more until we settled down for an important phone call. Through the magic of technology, we were able to talk with Dan who is in rehab recovering from surgery. Glenda had him on speaker and those of us at the library and scattered outside the area were able to hear his voice and let him know we cared.*

*All the important news, announcements, and club issues can be found in other places in the newsletter, so I will focus on the program itself – Hobby Night.*

The idea of hobbies has always been fascinating to me. What is a hobby? I have an interesting relationship with hobbies. I see so many activities, even when they are fun, as containing somewhat job-like responsibilities. Sort of like a weird reverse Mary Poppins spoonful of sugar. All of this is because, to paraphrase Huey Lewis **"I am taking what I'm given but I'm not working for a livin."**

I always think of hobbies as something you do on your own and after you finish your professional and other work. To me everything or nothing could be a hobby as I don't work for a living. Much of the "work" I do could be seen as a hobby, but as it has due dates and meeting times and doesn't involve the movement of small green pieces of paper, I don't define it as such. The line between work and down time can be very, very blurred and hard to make out for me. So, I was looking forward to seeing what other people think of as a leisure time hobby.





Eight Heimdal crewmembers shared a hobby. Time was given for each person to make their presentation therefore; this was a long meeting. But the time passed quickly as each hobby was so different and allowed me to get to know people better.

The evening began with Glenda and her hobby of Genealogy. She shared photos and stories that had been collected in four notebooks. The pictures brought you into her family history. She is lucky to have these memories. Next Jonathan broke out a number of books from his large comic collection. He had protected each with board and bag and he had some good ones! He also collected TV Guides that highlighted his favorite shows. I didn't know anyone but my mother collected TV Guides. I know she has the one introducing DS9.

On brand. Willy followed Jonathan with his Jib Jab and photoshop creations. This was quality work! I really enjoyed the motorcycle gang video and the photos were so cool. The next presentation by Joe was something totally new to me. Volksmarching. This is non-competitive fitness type of walking started in Europe and is now everywhere. He shared his medals, record books, and stories from his experiences exploring new places at a slower pace.

Next was Jody (mom) with her photographs of what's new from her garden combining two of her hobbies. I was next and talked about how during COVID I fought encroaching boredom creating playlists of music based on theme and mood. Linda then read poetry from books she had published. They were so funny. I wondered if a hobby could be at such a professional level.

Bud wrapped up the evening explaining his hobby of heraldry. I learned so much and want more! I hope that Bud can do a longer presentation on this topic for us sometime in the future. I now understand what Coats of Arms really are and am planning on putting my hand "unofficially" to putting together one for myself.

In the final analysis, it was good to see that, after all the hard work on behalf of the Heimdal, our crew has energy to spare.

This program was brought to life for Zoomers by Bud's dedication to making sure we saw all of the visual "exhibits" up close and personal. They all came out really great on my computer screen. And Darrell also ensured that Mom's photo presentation could actually be seen by those in the library by walking her through the tech. Then they seemed to all thoroughly enjoy it. All in all, a wonderful meeting. Hey...is writing this article a hobby? Hmm.



### \*\*\*ANNUAL HEIMDAL CHARITY AUCTION AT A CRITICAL PIVOTAL POINT\*\*\*

By Linda

This year's Annual Charity Auction will be held on September 16 at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel. The date is a little later than our usual August date because, even though I attempted to reserve the action space immediately following our 2022 auction, there were no available Saturdays in August. They had been reserved well in advance for weddings and sports events so September 16 was the earliest date I could get. The PLUS side of this is it gives us a little extra time to canvas for auction donations.

#### Which brings me to canvassing and a critical concern...

So far, we only have two teams of people plus one individual (which is 5 people) signed up to canvas – Tammy and Robin, Willy and Linda (me). Joe will be going with Willy and me to learn how we canvas and after that we hope he will



Beth & Linda canvassing together several years ago ... & finding a 'friend' along the way. Canvassing can be fun if you do it with a friend ... & run into a gorilla!

strike out on his own. Glenda, while she has had a little free time before Dan comes home from rehab following his major surgery, was able to get a very nice gift basket donation. After Dan comes home and starts chemo Glenda is unlikely to be able to canvas. Jody has graciously volunteered to 'canvas remotely' again this year as she did last year, which was a tremendous help. We have several gift card donations that Willy has gotten and I am waiting to hear if GLAD will be making a donation to us again this year and if Saunders Brothers will also be donating. So that's where we are.

We've **ALWAYS** believed that every Heimdal member should enjoy his/her membership the way that it is most enjoyable for each of us and we **STILL** mean that. As a group we have also voted year-after-year to continue sponsoring our 9 charities at Christmas and sending a local middle school student to NASA's



Space Camp annually. Our Annual Charity Auction is the **ONLY** fundraiser that brings in enough money to keep being that helping presence in the community and doing what we do. We've ENJOYED being a helping presence in our area and we finally have credibility in the community.

So **HERE** is where we have a growing problem ... we want everyone to do what they enjoy and WANT to do BUT we have to have canvassing participation if we're going to be able to hold our annual auction and support our charities and Space Camp Program.

Last year we had a lot fewer people canvassing for auction donations than in previous years, which made it **VERY** difficult for those of us that shouldered the full weight of getting auction donations. The hard cold facts are that those few of us **CANNOT** continue to bring in the number of donations we need to make the auction happen, which is how we support our charities. Personally, Willy and I canvassed Amherst, Madison Heights (with Carol's help) and did Wards Road, which in itself is at the very least a 3 or more-day undertaking if it's done right to get the optimum number of donations ... and they are definitely OUT THERE on Wards Road. **BUT** he and I **cannot** do all of those areas again. It wore us out and zapped so much of our personal time that we had time for little else.

**SO HERE WE ARE AT A CRITICAL TURNING POINT WITH THE AUCTION. IF WE DON'T HAVE MORE HELP CANVASSING THIS YEAR THIS WILL BE THE LAST YEAR THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD OUR ANNUAL CHARITY AUCTION AND SHORTLY AFTER THAT IT WILL BE THE LAST OF OUR ABILITY TO SPONSOR OUR CHRISTMAS CHARITIES AND SPACE CAMP. We can't continue to expect 5 or 6 of us to canvas for the donations that we need for the auction.**

So, **THIS IS A PLEA FOR HELP.** We have a sign-up sheet at the meetings and it will be there at the July meeting. We so hope we will have more people willing to sign up for canvassing areas and willing to help this year. AGAIN – we don't want ANYONE to do anything they don't want to do BUT it will be far less work for ALL of us if MORE OF US are sharing the canvassing load. If only a small number of us HAVE to canvas again to make the September 16 auction happen, we will do it. **BUT this will likely be the last year we hold our Annual Charity Auction.**

**I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help.**

After this year's auction we will decide as a group if we can continue with the auctions and support of our charities.

If we aren't able to get more volunteers and this will be the last year we hold the auction, **it's been an amazing 'run.'** We've done more in the past 17 years since we began the auctions and helped more within the community than most organizations and we can be proud of what we've been able to accomplish.



## HEIMDAL PEOPLE

### HEIMDAL PEOPLE

By Linda

I've been a Heimdall member for a very long time. In fact, I started the chapter way back when and have never found anything else like it or anything to replace it. It started out as my hobby but it has grown WAY past that now into something that seems to have a life of its own ... because it DOES.

Over the years, at numerous Heimdall meetings and events I have looked around the room at us ... all of us.

There's never been a more diverse group of people. We are all different ages and backgrounds (our most senior members are retirement age and our youngest is 10), all different occupations, all representatives of the most different lives. Yet looking at everyone at a Heimdall function, all I see is FRIENDS ... and that's a phenomenon.

What have we got in common? Well, not much except for a basic love of a science fiction TV show that was born, lived and died before some of us were born. Yet it is the reason we've found each other, the reason we all **enjoy** each other and the glue that holds us together. It's what has caused us to ignore ... or simply not notice that we are different in any way. That's a phenomenon in itself and, like that ancient TV show that just won't die, we could be such an example to our divided world. **Hey, Look at US!!!! THIS is how you do it!**

Every few years we have a meeting called Heimdall Hobby and Talent Night. We may THINK we know each other but we're nowhere close until we attend one of those meetings. That's where we see a different side of each of us ... our talents, our interests, our ... if you will ... diversity. And it's a beautiful thing. We leave at the end of the evening not only learning something about each other, we may actually often LEARN something.



Our June meeting was Hobby and Talent Night. The turnout was low, which was disappointing at first but later we discovered that less people meant we didn't have to put a time limit on anyone's presentation and no one had to rush through it.

Going home I realized I'd actually **LEARNED** something about the origin of Coats of Arms and the history behind them, as well as having been introduced to a lovely flower garden and a plant/flower I'd never seen.

Who would have guessed that Bud, with all of his obvious talents, was also a history buff **AND**, from my vantage point anyway, the closest thing I've seen to an 'authority' on coats of arms. He really knows his stuff.

Jody showed us some photos of her flower garden ... the lovely multicolored flowers; some recognizable and some not familiar at all. I'd never seen a 'bleeding heart' but I won't forget it.

Zac spent literally **DAYS/MONTHS** during the pandemic putting together music play lists ... many, many of them. What he's done is amazing as is the concentration that went into doing it. What talent and patience has gone into his hobby!

Glenda is into genealogy and showed us photos of grandparents and great grandparents and told us a little about their lives. Jonathan has an impressive collection of comics ... several that were 'hard-backed' and costly. Willy showed us some of his photography that he manipulated using Photo Shop. If you stay with the Heimdal long enough he will do a number of strange things to photos of **YOU**. Just ask Dan.

Joe is a Volkswalker. Volkssporting is simply a German word for popular sports. The Volkssporting program exists in more than 40 countries worldwide and has been in the US since 1976. Volkswalking or walking is a great addition to your regular fitness routine. It's a great way to explore new places, in your own community or communities all over the world. It's also a great way to meet new friends and hang out with old friends. The promise of fitness gets you started but the friends keep you coming back for more.

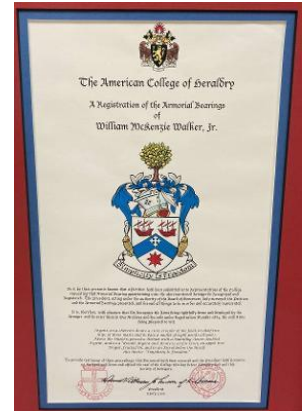
Joe has been doing this since 1979. He has walked literally all over the place, in and out of this country, and has the medals, pins, certificates and documentation to prove it. If he tried to wear **ALL** of his medals at the same time, he would be totally unable to stand up without support and maybe not then. He might need the help of a piece of heavy equipment like maybe a bucket truck or a fork lift.

Who would have guessed that Joe has the distinction of having walked **EVERY** county in the state of Virginia????

Now we all know, because I've just shared with you, some pretty amazing things about the Heimdal people that came to the June meeting and shared their hobbies, talents and passions with us. It will be difficult to sit together at the next Heimdal meeting and think of them as simply Heimdal members ... and that is such a blessing ... and one of the amazing perks we get from coming to Heimdal Talent and Hobby Nights. We have the opportunity to learn who we **REALLY** are.

Maybe that's another reason that we all get along so well in **SPITE** of the differences in age, occupations and backgrounds. Maybe the fact that we are so different, while sharing a little bit of 'sameness' is why the Heimdal works. I'd like to think so. (***Are you listening world????***)

Oh, and I read 4 of the funnier poems I'd written that are in my first published book. It made my heart happy that everyone laughed. And that's a huge part of it, too ... being ourselves with each other ... being able to **BE** who we are together.



**Joe**



## **STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!**

### **FCAPT Darrell Millner**

#### **School of SFA Awards**

Awarded for **BOCP - Chief Communications Officer Certification (CCO)** on Jun 4, 2023

Awarded for **BOCP - Chief Weapons Officer Certification (CWO)** on Jun 14, 2023

#### **SFA**

#### **IOAE – College of Communications**

**DISTINCTION** for COM 101 – Interspecies Interaction on May 30, 2023



### **IOSS - College of Space Psychology**

DISTINCTION for SPSY 101 - Human Factors in Space Exploration on Jun 4, 2023

### **IOAS - School of XenoAnthropology (IOAS:COXA)**

HONORS for AQ 105 - Q Continuum on Jun 4, 2023

### **IOSS - College of Rocketry and Propulsion**

HONORS for COR 103 Modern Rocket Design on Jun 3, 2023

### **IOMOS - COAA - School of Arms**

DISTINCTION for WPN 101 - Small Arms Identification Pt. 1 on Jun 13, 2023

DISTINCTION for WPN 102 - Small Arms Identification Pt. 2 on Jun 13, 2023

HONORS for WPN 103 - Small Arms Identification Pt. 3 on Jun 13, 2023

### **IOMOS - COAA - School of Star Trek Weapons**

DISTINCTION for STWPN 106 - Weapons: 2250 & Beyond on Jun 13, 2023

DISTINCTION for STWPN 102 - Weapons of Federation Enemies & Friends on Jun 13, 2023

DISTINCTION for STWPN 101 - Federation and Allied Worlds on Jun 12, 2023

### **IOMOS - CSTG-College of Strategy and**

**Tactics (IOMOS:COST)**

HONORS for CSTG 101 - Basics of S&T on Jun 16, 2023

### **IOMA - College of Medical Studies**

HONORS for CMDS 135 Psychiatry & Psychology, Part 1 on Jun 15, 2023

DISTINCTION for CMDS 136 Psychiatry & Psychology, Part 2 on Jun 15, 2023  
DISTINCTION for CMDS 137 Psychiatry & Psychology, Part 3 on Jun 15, 2023

### **STARFLEET Marine Corp Academy**

#### **School of Combat Engineer (CE)**

DISTINCTION for CE-212 - Combat Engineer Advanced Tactics on Jun 5, 2023

HONORS for CE-220 - Basic Bridge Facts on Jun 6, 2023

DISTINCTION for CE-230 - Breaching on Jun 6, 2023

#### **School of Leadership Development (LD)**

DISTINCTION for LD-102 Leadership Defined on Jun 14, 2023



George Washington says, "It's nice and all, Betsy, but uh ... I was just thinking of something on cloth." (It's a little hard to read)



#### **Commander William Walker Jr. :**

**AWARD: Institute of Leadership Studies** – Bridge Officer Certification - certification as Chief Tactical Officer – 6/4/23

#### **IOIE – College of Bond, James Bond:**

**BJB 105** – You Only Live Twice – Distinction – 6/2/23

**BJB 106** – On Her Majesty's Secret Service – Honors – 6/9/23

**BJB 107** – Diamonds Are Forever – Honors – 6/15/23

#### **IOIE – College of Military Intelligence (CMI):**

**MIH 103** - Military Surveillance Aircraft Part 2 - Honors – 6/7/23

**MIH 104** – Aviation in Intelligence Gathering – Honors – 6/9/23

#### **IOIE – School of Espionage (SOE):**

**SOE 107** – Spycraft – Distinction – 6/7/23

**SOE 108** – Counter Sabotage – Pass – 6/9/23



#### **CMDR Zachary Lyon:** ( 3 Courses, 0 Awards)

#### **IOAS – COXS - School of XenoAnthropology**

DISTINCTION for DQ 101- Delta Quadrant Overview on Jun 20,2023

DISTINCTION for GQ 101 - Gamma Quadrant Overview on Jun 20,2023

#### **(IOTK) - College of Engineering**

DISTINCTION for CENG 212 - B Elanna Torres on Jun 20, 2023



### **RENEWALS**

**A special THANK YOU to David Frankham, and Carl and Bonnie Davis for renewing and**



staying with our Heimdal “family” for another year.

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

**July – Carl & Bonnie Davis – July 30**

**August – Brett & Julie Witcher – August 6**

**Zak & Jody Lyon – August 7**

**Eric Merrill – August 27**

**September – Jimmy Farlow – September 2**

**Beth & Peter Hopkins – September 5**

### JULY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

**If you could have an all-expense paid vacation for the week of July 4th ANYWHERE in the Star Trek universe, where would it be & why?** (I think a few people didn’t read the entire question but just wanted an all-expense paid trip to the destination of their choice ... so I left those answers in. Maybe they just wanted to go to those places, free of charge, in ANY Star Trek universe ... & why not???)

**Bud Walker:** I would take a week vacation on the planet Vulcan. And the real Vulcan, not the Kelvin universe destroyed one. I would indulge my fascination with Vulcan culture, philosophy and history. And if the timing was right, I would observe “Rumarie” with Vulcan friends.

**Tammy White:** The Shore Leave planet. I don’t think they ever said the name. I’d choose that one because anything can happen. It would be a great adventure.

**Robin Hudson:** Risa

**Linda Smith:** Just on the starship Enterprise, original series. I can’t think of any better place because since I was a teenager I’ve wanted to BE there.

**Glenda Blanks:** Deep Space 9

**Willy Smith:** I would like to have a “working vacation” in Sciences aboard the USS Enterprise in Strange New Worlds. I think it’s the coolest Trek in SO long and to be hopefully working on new discoveries in the Science lab and maybe have dinner cooked by Captain Pike. (First thing I thought of,)

**Weston Webb:** Send me to Risa! Powerboard surfing, hunting for Horgons, island flight tours with individual jetpacks, sand castle competitions, dance parties on the beach, and so much more!!!

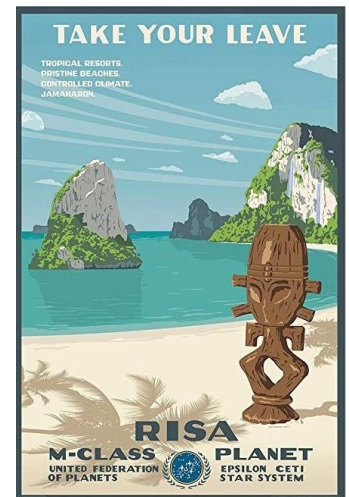
**Dennis Henderson:** Alaska

**Richard Arnold:** Risa, the planet of pleasure. The name explains it all.

**Cathy Fletcher:** Egypt

**Bonnie Davis:** I would be in the Picard vineyard in France. Specifically on a warm spring evening with lighting bugs glowing beneath the Milky Way. Off to the side is a bonfire with hotdogs and marshmallows on sticks held by my ST friends. Why? Because it would be restful and healing.

**Jimmy Farlow:** Risa. I’m all about trying out one of those 200 Nuvian masseuses. My back hurts and I’m down for relief. Not to mention, all the Bajoran daiquiris I can drink!



**HEIMDAL STUFF**



## HEIMDAL'S SUMMER CALENDAR

**JULY – July 15 –** Heimdal meeting at the Sugar Mill Recreation area featuring guest speaker and foam sculptor extraordinaire, Richard Riley. He will be telling us about his latest projects and giving us a demonstration.

**AUGUST - We have several date changes in August, so please take note:**

**August 19 –** Although this is our regular 3<sup>rd</sup>. Saturday meeting date, this will, instead be the date of our Annual Heimdal Picnic and Pool Party at the Sugar Mill Recreation area. Starting at 5 p.m. there will be swimming, a picnic, relaxing with friends and NO meeting.

**August 26 – THIS will be our August meeting** in person at the library and on ZOOM. Our guest speaker will be Space Camp Contest winner, Gabe Friedman who will be taking his 1-week Space Camp trip starting July 30 and he will be telling us all about it.

**SEPTEMBER – Annual Heimdal Charity Auction. This will take the place of our September meeting. There will be NO actual meeting in September.**

## UNFORTUNATE SPACE CAMP SITUATION

From Linda

Just letting you know about a situation with our Space Camp winner, Sadie Tate who should have been going to Space Camp in June.

On May 30 I got an email from Space Camp telling me there had been an issue with Sadie needing a written medical clearance from her doctor so she could attend Space Camp. The camp nurses had been working with Sadie's mom when she very abruptly emailed them that she was canceling Sadie's trip and any further communication should be done with Sadie's grandmother. Space Camp had attempted to get in touch with the grandmother with no luck. They asked if I had had any communication with the mom, which I hadn't and I didn't know ANYTHING about the mom canceling the trip. Because a medical clearance was needed and they could not reach the grandmother Sadie's trip was canceled and Heimdal's payment for the trip is being kept in an account to pay for our next winning student.

I emailed the mom, told her what I knew and said she would need to reimburse Heimdal Science Fiction the \$300 travel funds no later than July 15 that I had already sent to her. She said what Space Camp told me was an error ... that she was waiting for them to reschedule Sadie's trip and asked if I had heard anything. She said she didn't know how to reach Space Camp and asked if I would.

Again, I told Space Camp what the mom told me and they responded that there must have been a misunderstanding with the camp nurses and that they would reach out to the mom again and reschedule Sadie's trip. They contacted the mom on June 7.

I also emailed the mom telling her that Space Camp was leaving her a voice mail, they would reschedule Sadie, that I hoped this solved the problem and to please let me know. I sent that to her on Facebook Messenger on June 7, she read my message on June 7 and I have heard nothing from her.

I got another email from Space Camp on June 13 telling me they had gotten no response from her on June 7 and would try again. I responded that I was afraid she had told me the tale about Space Camp rescheduling the trip because I had asked that she reimburse Heimdal the travel funds. I asked Space Camp to keep me informed and apologized for the whole thing happening to them AND to us. As of today, almost 4 weeks since both Space Camp and I attempted to reach the mom, I have heard nothing from her.

In the meantime, Willy, Carl and I also decided the mom had no intention of reimbursing Heimdal the travel funds. While we HOPED the money would be returned to us, we doubted it and made changes in our Space Camp materials that go to the schools and winner's parents to reflect that ***travel funds up to the amount of \$300 will be refunded to the parents or guardian upon COMPLETION of the student's Space Camp trip and return home.*** We believe this covers us from future loss of travel funds in a similar situation.

I am waiting to hear from Space Camp again and will email the mom again and ask that she reimburse Heimdal the travel funds.

We realize getting the refund is unlikely. Willy, Carl and I believe attempting taking the mom to court for reimbursement would cost Heimdal more in the long run than just absorbing the loss. We also KNOW that one disgruntled parent, for whatever reason, has the potential to ruin Heimdal's excellent reputation in the community and we just can't afford to have that happen. We took this information to Heimdal's Executive Committee and they are in

agreement with the decisions the Command Staff made and the manner in which we have changed our Space Camp information materials.

I will let everyone know how / if / when this situation is resolved.

We have been fortunate to send 15 kids to Space Camp without incident. We hope we have changed the materials to protect Heimdal in the future from incidents like this.



## HEIMDAL WILL BE SENDING A STUDENT TO SPACE CAMP THIS YEAR

By Linda

The student that won Heimdal's Space Camp Contest in 2021, Gabe Friedman, could not take his trip in 2022 because his parents had already planned and paid for a summer-long cross-country vacation. Space Camp very kindly worked with Gabe's parents and allowed him to schedule his trip for this summer.

Gabe's mom contacted me 2 weeks ago and said he is SO excited, that, "***He is expedition 45, which starts 7/30. He's super excited!***" So, we DO have a student going to Space Camp the end of this month.

Gabe will be speaking to our August 26 Heimdal meeting about his trip providing he has no conflicts.

## HEIMDAL NEEDS NEW NEWSLETTER PAGE DESIGN

Let me hear from YOU

Our Heimdal newsletter, Rainbow Connection has been using the same page design for a number of years. While it allows extra room for our news and photos, it is starting to be a little bit tired and is due for an update.

If you folks with 'designing minds and ideas' would like to submit a page design / layout, that would be great. The winner will give it a much-needed uplift. If you have an idea, please submit it to me at [heimdalco@aol.com](mailto:heimdalco@aol.com) by the deadline of **July 31**.

**What we NEED – 1)** as much room on the page as possible because we have a lot of news and a lot of cool photos and we don't want a new page design to compromise the space we need. **2)** something that has a tie-in with what we are and who we are and maybe our newsletter title, but that's just a suggestion. YOUR creativity and imagination are what we're looking for. Just a simple banner might be an idea.

**What we DON'T want:** The main thing we DON'T want is to use the LCARS layout. While that looks good and is certainly Star Trek-like, there are a HUGE number of Starfleet chapter newsletters that use that design. Our goal is to be different, imaginative and unique. LCARS is FANTASTIC for our website but not so much for the newsletter.

OK ... see what you can come up with, make this fun and we hope to have a new page design by fall. There will be a small prize for the winner.

## HEIMDAL GAME NIGHT



everyone enjoyed a Mexican dinner ... for energy and speed ... before moving on to Putt Putt for the Heimdal's first Game Night of 2023.

Not our usual luck and thankful for that, the weather was dry, warm and perfect for a night of miniature golf.

Divided into teams, we played all 18 holes, then sat and talked for a pleasant evening afterward. Playing Putt Putt was fun and just relaxing and it was a delightful Game Night.

On June 10, 13 people showed up at La Carreta Mexican Restaurant at 4

p.m. to have dinner. Seated at a long table in the back,



A special THANK YOU to Angie Arnold, Game Night Coordinator with Richard, for organizing this event. We look forward to more of our quarterly Game Nights.

## HEIMDAL RECEIVES FINAL AMAZONSMILE DONATION

Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that **USS Heimdal NCC 1793** (EIN: 54-1769848) has been issued a **\$16.4** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation that includes a one-time bonus donation and an extra amount from the reallocation of undisbursed funds. Below is the breakdown of the amount that was deposited:

- **One-time bonus donation: \$10.15**
- **One-time extra donation from reallocated funds: \$6.25**
- **Total Deposited: \$16.4**

The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account between **May 17-20, 2023**.

**This is the last donation from the AmazonSmile program to your organization.** We are proud of the difference that AmazonSmile has made over the past ten years, and we thank you again for your support and partnership.

Thank you,

Your AmazonSmile Team

## HEIMDAL'S RECRUITING PROGRAM AND WEBSITE

### LIVE LONG AND RECRUIT!

By Cmdr. William Walker, Recruitment Coordinator



The trifold recruitment brochure has been reviewed and approved by the Command Staff and the Executive Committee. After many reviews and much assistance (special shout out to Darrell for the Star Trek fonts), I believe we have produced a quality product that reflects well on our organization.

I sent a PDF copy to everyone on the group email, in case anyone has the opportunity to recruit a prospective member. The copy I sent was a "print quality" PDF, so it should translate well to any printer. But please be forewarned, the brochure is color intensive and could drain much toner or ink if you print several copies. My recommendation is for you to keep the electronic file handy and only print one if you have a prospect for membership. Or you could forward the electronic file itself.

I have designed a business card that we would also use for recruitment, which is still under review. The idea is to keep it simple and get the prospective recruit to use the QR code or go to the web site and/or Facebook page. Once this is approved, we will distribute them so folks can keep one or two in their wallet or purse.

Both recruitment products have QR codes that link to a new recruitment page on the Chapter's web site. If you have not seen it, you can check it out at <https://www.ussheimdal.com/enlist>. On that page will be the full "sales pitch" to join, as well as some brief instructions on how to navigate STARFLEET's web site to join up. Hopefully by distributing our two recruitment products, we will create lots of traffic to this recruitment page and ultimately encourage people to become new members.

Ultimately the best recruiting tool is **you**. If you encounter someone you feel would be a good addition to our group, do not hesitate to ask them. Hopefully the brochure and/or the business card can assist you in making that introduction. However, it is your enthusiasm for the Heimdal that will be best "convincer" for anyone considering joining our crew. Do not hesitate to talk up our club and all the many activities we engage in!

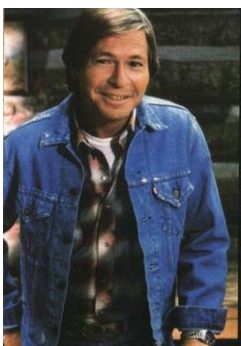
## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### BEING THERE

By Beth Hopkins, Counselor

*"I believe that we are here for each other, not to be against each other."* John Denver.

If you were in your teens or twenties in the 70's or 80's or are into the music of this era, you will remember John Denver, iconic musician, singer, humanitarian, environmentalist, actor, and song writer...I recently ran across this above quote from him, and it gave me pause.



John Denver





I believe we very much need to hear this message again and to remind each other of the truth of how we should be treating one another.

We need not delay in “being there” for someone or sharing acts of kindness when needed. If we do delay, we are likely to miss chances, which may never come again. (Am I the only one who delayed too long to reach out to someone in need who is no longer here?) Our challenge is not to wait, but to act and commit the time to call that friend or family member, visit, or even text an ill friend or someone in despair. Who doesn’t know someone who wouldn’t appreciate these small acts?

“Being there” and available connects us as humans and challenges all the negativity we are bombarded with each day; reminding us of how much good is in the world and that we are a part of that.

Sadly, John Denver ran out of time, dying because of an accident at the age of 53, but as of today, we have not.

## **RILEY’S RAMBLINGS ...**

### **MERMAID By Richard Riley**



Hello an I hope that everyone is doing well! Looks like we are going straight into the summer heat which I can live without! Oh well, not a lot that I can do about it so how about we jump right into my latest column!

This is a piece that I built a few years back. This was made for a museum in Maryland that showcases Mermaids throughout history, from their mythological origins to their use in motion pictures and TV shows. This build was a little unique; customers were going to be in direct contact with this piece since it is a photo op. The museum provided a claw foot bath tub, which I needed to add a tail in it so that customers can get in the tub and appear to have a tail to get their photo taken. I had to build this piece strong enough to withstand countless numbers of people getting in and out of the tub to have their pictures taken! Most of my work is out of reach of the general public so special considerations needed to be taken to insure years and years of trouble-free use.





First thing I needed to do was to make the tail of the Mermaid. The client provided some reference images of the style and pose that they needed. The overall shape was pretty straight forward, however the biggest obstacle to overcome was the scales. I thought about carving them into the foam but that would be hard to keep any kind of consistency and also hand sculpting them would be very labor intensive and again making that many all the same would be an impossible task! I ended up coming up with the idea of using small foam circles and stacking them in rows overtop of one another to give the shape of a fish scale. I lost track of how many I used but it was well over 300 of them. After that I coated the piece in an epoxy to lock them all down so they would not lift or be pulled off.

After that came the fun part, the paint! I was able to find some iridescent paint, which gave a sparkle effect, which the client loved. You can see from the pictures that I truly had a lot of fun with this project!

I have heard from the museum and this photo op is a huge hit with the customers. Everyone wants to get in the tub and become a mermaid!

## FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS



## <<<SECURITY>>>

### AFTER ACTION REPORT

#### Phaser Simulation Practice: Stardate 47634.44.

**By Commander Jonathan Hatter, Assistant Security Chief**

On June 24th crewmembers and guests were hosted by Security Chief Carl Davis for paintball. In attendance were Jonathan, Joe, and Carl representing the Redshirts. The Science Department had Willy, Jeremy Greemun and Cadet Allen Hatter. This would be Allen's first time participating in a live fire exercise. He served as an observer in the last simulation, so it was now time to test out the skills he had learned.

At the safety briefing, Allen made it clear that he wanted to shoot Dad. Nothing says *I Love You*

like a well-aimed paintball! I was glad he decided to join us, even if I would regret it later. He borrowed a paintball shirt from Bonnie that has additional padding to absorb any hits. Thanks, Bonnie!

#### The Alpha Quadrant

Our first game was in the Alpha Quadrant, the smaller field where the action goes fast. Security took the high side to start, and when the whistle sounded and we took off, I advanced toward the closest half satellite dish for cover. Paintballs were knocking down leaves and banging loudly off of the dish. I got to cover and peeked up to find Cadet Hatter bobbing up and down like a prairie dog with a paintball marker. I spent a lot of ammo but couldn't get a hit. Suddenly Chief Davis yelled, "Out!" But luckily for me, Cadet Hatter had run out of

paint. I advanced and he yielded, but, unknown to me, Jeremy had flanked me on the left. He won the game for Team Sciences with a clean shot to my arm. Cadet Hatter pumped his arm and yelled, "Yes!"





Our second game in Alpha commenced with Allen and Willy advancing toward us while Carl took position behind some nearby trees. Jeremy went into stealth mode and Army crawled to a flanking position. I saw him and called out, "There he is!" and after a hail of blasts, he was out.

It was now tied at one game each.

### The Beta Quadrant

We moved to Beta for the next game. Security went to the low side behind some metal drums. Chief Davis went toward the far side of the field and got Jeremy. Joe got hit, but I was able to advance and take out Willy. Game 3 went to Security.

We switched sides to begin Game 4. I volunteered to go to the far part of the field to try to advance forward. I was searching for a well concealed spot when I saw Jeremy in the distance. I thought I had good cover and started to creep forward when Cadet Hatter got a shot in on my ankle. A solid shot that splattered green all over my leg. I announced that I was out and added, "Good shot, Allen!" The Cadet

had traversed the field a lot faster than I expected, and he had gotten into a position that allowed him to fire down the hill toward me. Well done! I was now forced to sit on the sidelines and listen to the phaser blasts. I watched as Chief Davis was hit, leaving Joe to make a last stand at the base. The battle continued as Carl yelled, "3 minutes!" Jeremy crept up to the base and started firing. Joe attempted to take cover but he was hit with 6 seconds left in the match.

It was now tied at 2 games each.



### The Delta Quadrant

The Championship would be held in the Delta Quadrant, aka, the big field. Team Security made the long walk to Farpoint Station and planned their attack. We decided on a slightly different course of action for this game. We would stay on the high side of the field, moving slowly, and keep within eyesight of one another.

Midfield, Carl called out, "Straight ahead!" I made hand gestures to be sure I was looking the right way. Upon his confirmation, I took a knee and studied my surroundings. Suddenly, phaser blasts erupted and Joe was eliminated. Carl and I advanced and had almost reached the opposing base when a blast found him. It was now me versus Jeremy, the problem was that I couldn't find him. I took cover back at the base and looked around. I waited for a few more minutes when Chief Davis started the final countdown.

I stayed at the base a bit longer until deciding to try and take another look. I eased forward in a crouch when I saw his pant leg. I quickly got in range and opened fire. I hit everything except Jeremy – paint blasted all around him. He reacted quickly while I took cover behind a tree. He returned a lot of fire, but I thought I was safe. Nope. I got nailed on the visor of my helmet with a few seconds left to go. Great game, Jeremy!

That was the day. Congratulations to Team Sciences, including Cadet Hatter. Cadet Allen performed excellently for his first real engagement, and he thanked all the participants with a handshake. He now says he will certainly be back for the next game! Be sure you come and join us as well. I promise you'll have a great time!

<<SCIENCE>>>



## **ROCK & SOIL SAMPLES FROM MARS BEING COLLECTED**

**By Adm. Willy Smith, Chief Science Officer, Starfleet SFPP Certified**

Check out the scientifically curated collection of rock and soil samples – on another world with NASA's Perseverance rover team. The diverse set of scientifically curated samples could help scientists answer the question of whether ancient life



ever arose on the Red Planet.

On Jan. 29, 2023, the Perseverance rover placed a 10th sample tube on the surface of Mars, providing the NASA-ESA Mars Sample Return campaign a backup option to



recover rock and soil samples for potential return to Earth in the future.

As you will see, most of the samples have been safely tucked within Perseverance but as a backup, samples have been dropped on the surface for retrieval in case something awful happens to the rover within the next 10 years. This is a monumental task but we've let the machines do the heavy lifting to locate a suitable place for us to make camp or possibly find water.

Enjoy the links ... without viewing them this article is useless. Check out the Mars lander that takes the rock samples, then springs a rocket up 12.5 feet before it's journey back to Earth. AWESOME!

- To select the links from my computer, I press & hold "CTRL" then click the mouse.

Learn more about Mars Sample Return: <https://mars.nasa.gov/msr>.

Learn more about Perseverance: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>.

For details on each of the samples see: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars-rock-samples/>.



<<<MEDICAL>>>

## MEDICAL MINUTE – DEHYDRATION

July 2023

By Commodore Tammy White, Chief Medical Officer

With summer here I thought it would be a good idea to warn everyone about the dangers and symptoms of dehydration. All of this information came from the Mayo Clinic web site.

Dehydration occurs when you use or lose more fluid than you take in, and your body doesn't have enough water and other fluids to carry out its normal functions. If you don't replace lost fluids, you will get dehydrated.

Anyone may become dehydrated, but the condition is especially dangerous for young children and older adults.

The most common cause of dehydration in young children is severe diarrhea and vomiting. Older adults naturally have a lower volume of water in their bodies, and may have conditions or take medications that increase the risk of dehydration.

This means that even minor illnesses, such as infections affecting the lungs or bladder, can result in dehydration in older adults.

Dehydration also can occur in any age group if you don't drink enough water during hot weather — especially if you are exercising vigorously. You can usually reverse mild to moderate dehydration by drinking more fluids, but severe dehydration needs immediate medical treatment.

Thirst isn't always a reliable early indicator of the body's need for water. Many people, particularly older adults, don't feel thirsty until they're already dehydrated. That's why it's important to increase water intake during hot weather or when you're ill.



Tammy hydrating at Smith Mountain Lake

The signs and symptoms of dehydration also may differ by age. In infants or young children, they can have a dry mouth and tongue, no tears when crying, no wet diapers for 3 or more hours, sunken eyes or cheeks, they can become listless or irritable.

Adults may experience extreme thirst, less frequent urination, dark-colored urine, fatigue, dizziness, or confusion.

Call your doctor or go the emergency room if the affected person has diarrhea for 24 hours or more, is irritable or disoriented and much sleepier or less active than usual, can't keep fluids down or has bloody or black stools.

Dehydration occurs for simple reasons: You don't drink enough because you're sick, busy, or because you lack access to safe drinking water when traveling, hiking, or camping. You can also become dehydrated due to diarrhea and vomiting. Severe acute diarrhea is diarrhea that comes on suddenly and violently and can cause a tremendous loss of water and

electrolytes in a short amount of time. Fever is another cause of dehydration. The higher your fever, the more dehydrated you may become. If you add a fever along with diarrhea and vomiting the problem worsens. You lose water when you sweat. You need to replace fluids when exercising or doing vigorous activities. Hot humid weather increases the amount you sweat and the amount of fluid you lose. Increased urination is another cause of dehydration. Diabetes and certain





medications, such as diuretics and some blood pressure medications, also can lead to dehydration because they cause you to urinate more.

Infants and children are the most likely group to experience dehydration due to diarrhea, vomiting, and high fevers.

As we age our body's fluid reserve becomes smaller and our ability to conserve water is reduced. These problems are compounded by chronic illnesses such as diabetes, dementia, and the use of certain medications.

Having uncontrolled or untreated diabetes puts you at high risk of dehydration. Kidney disease also increases your risk. Even having a cold or sore throat makes you more susceptible to dehydration because you're less likely to feel like eating or drinking when you're sick.

Dehydration can lead to serious complications, including:

**Heat injury from not drinking** enough fluids when you're exercising vigorously and perspiring heavily, you may end up with a heat injury, ranging in severity from mild heat cramps to heat exhaustion or potentially life-threatening heatstroke.

**Urinary and kidney problems.** Prolonged or repeated bouts of dehydration can cause urinary tract infections, kidney stones and even kidney failure.

**Seizures.** Electrolytes — such as potassium and sodium — help carry electrical signals from cell to cell. If your electrolytes are out of balance, the normal electrical messages can become mixed up, which can lead to involuntary muscle contractions and sometimes to a loss of consciousness.

**Low blood volume shock (hypovolemic shock).** This is one of the most serious, and sometimes life-threatening, complications of dehydration. It occurs when low blood volume causes a drop in blood pressure and a drop in the amount of oxygen in your body.

This may all sound pretty bad but there are ways you can prevent dehydration.

Drink plenty of fluids and eat foods high in water such as fruits and vegetables. Letting thirst be your guide is an adequate daily guideline for most healthy people. Remember to drink even more if you have one or more of the risk factors. Have a good summer and drink more water than normal.



## <<<<ENGINEERING>>>>

### ENGINEERING UPDATE

**Fleet Captain Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer,  
Starfleet SFDPP Certified**

**Monthly Ops Report - Engineering SD: 202306.26**

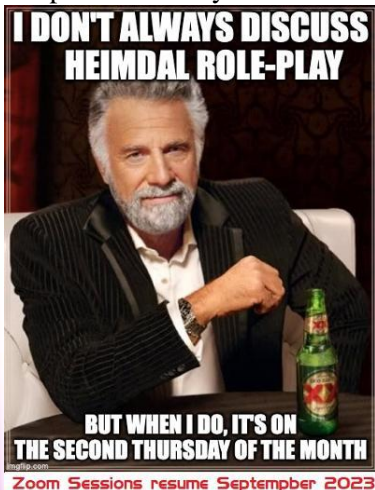
And in the 'Blink of an Eye' another month has come and gone. Greetings from Central Georgia Heimdal Family. I want to begin with a few notes to the crew.... I truly regret missing another phaser sim, thank you Carl and Bonnie for hosting and keeping the dream of *zapping Willy* with paint balls alive for so many of us. Also, thanks to the Arnold family for arranging Putt Putt, and Beth and Peter for hosting the upcoming Independence Day Celebration. Our chapter is more dynamic thanks to your (and others) selfless energy and support. And let me wrap this section with thanks to the senior staff for sharing wisdom and perspective, WOW, what a team.

Speaking of teams, our departmental newsletter "T.E.L. The Engineering Link" <https://trek.millnernet.com/home/eng-link/> continues to expand, and might I say develop. We invite you to check out the articles, reports, information, trivia, images and more. It is the best way to stay informed on our small but active department. Wait, did you say you don't have a department yet???

The department is proud to report the collective completion of 39 confirmed SFA courses in June (plus 7 pending), 6 SFA Awards, and additional courses in the process. There are so many interesting areas of study, as I explain to family "It's not all warp core and phasers," but thousands of courses. I wish Jeannie was still available, would love to compare notes with her. Come join us on campus and share the energy. Interested in finding out more? Let's meet in the café' and discuss how to get you started. I can at least provide you with one members perspective and suggestions.

Plans have been modified and we postponed the Engineering Open House Zoom till August so keep your comm channels open.

In closing, remember, "Tribbles and Pasta pair great with Klingon Blood Wine" - Millner Out.





## HEIMDAL'S PET FLEET



### WHY DO DOGS HAVE WHISKERS?

Can dogs, like cats, suffer from 'Whisker Fatigue?'

By Alyssa Mercante, *Pets Radar*

Reported by Linda Smith

#### Do dog whiskers have a purpose?

Chances are that at some point in your life you've asked 'why do dogs have whiskers?' What purpose do these spindly little hairs serve? Do you need to have the [best dog grooming kit](#) to handle these interesting hairs? Are dog

whiskers similar to cat whiskers, which help with vision and sensory input?

Well, as it turns out, whiskers serve a number of very important purposes, from acting as radar sensors that help dogs to detect the objects around them to helping them to communicate their emotions.

We've compiled the answers to all of your whisker-y questions below. Let's take a look....

Dog whiskers are in fact similar to cat whiskers in that they help transmit information. They're sensory equipment that act as literal extensions of your dog's eyes, helping them navigate their surroundings better by taking in even more information than their eyes can. In a way, they're like insects' antennae, but somehow so much less gross.

There are different types of whiskers. **Mystacial whiskers**, which are long and extend on both sides of the snout are the most like a cat's whiskers in that they provide tactile info to your pup. **Genal whiskers** are the whiskers on your dog's cheeks, the widest part of their face. These help them determine how large a space is so they don't get their head trapped in it. **Supraorbital whiskers** are the ones right above a dog's eyes - these help protect them from incoming objects. And **interramal tufts** are the cute little whiskers under a dog's chin, which helps them sense objects below their head.

Whiskers are technically "tactile hairs" but they don't have the necessary nerve endings to transmit any sort of feeling - they only transmit information, like when they detect movement or objects in a dog's peripheral vision.

Wild dogs use their whisker to detect prey, their pack, or potential predators, while domesticated dogs use their whiskers to find their food bowls or their favorite toys. Whiskers help ensure dogs don't bump into things, or scratch their eyes, or get stuck in narrow places - in short whiskers serve many purposes!

#### Should you cut a dog's whiskers?

**No! Never cut a dog's whiskers.** They are important sensory receptors and help your dog maneuver through the world, so cutting them could confuse them and may even result in them bumping into things. Unless there's a medical reason specified by your vet, there's no need to cut or trim your dog's whiskers.

#### Do dog whiskers grow back?

Yes, but that doesn't mean you should clip them! If a whisker gets accidentally clipped your dog will likely adjust to life without it after a few days, and the whisker will grow back in as quickly as two weeks in some cases. If a whisker is plucked entirely however, it'll take even longer to grow back.

#### Do dogs get 'Whisker Fatigue?'

[Whisker fatigue](#) is a term commonly found in the online cat community after a 2017 article from the [New York Times](#) introduced it as a reason why cats may be having eating issues.

"Whisker fatigue is a fairly new diagnosis, one that many (but not all) veterinarians take seriously. When cats have to stick their faces into deep bowls and their whiskers rub up against the sides, the experience can be stressful, prompting them to paw the food onto the floor, fight with other cats or grow apprehensive at mealtimes."

According to Andrew Roost at Pet Fusion, dogs don't have the same **kind** of whisker fatigue as cats but DO have similar whiskery responses.

## REGION ONE STUFF

### REGION ONE CO / XO MEETING

From Linda

On June 25 Willy and I attended the R/1 CO / XO Meeting. So here is what we learned and are passing along to you:

- 1) There are currently 44 chapters in R/1. This past month R/1 had 100% reporting through Monthly Status Reports, which is amazing
- 2) In the past month R/1 had 448 Starfleet Academy graduates
- 3) \*\*\* **Regional Coordinator, Phillip Cox** made a special announcement regarding conduct on social media and just generally among R/1 members. He said if he receives reports/complaints about or actually personally learns of ANY R/1 member verbally abusing or bashing another member he will investigate the situation and if found to be true, he will do everything



within the power of his office to see that the offending member is **removed** from Starfleet. There is no place in this Region for that kind of behavior.

## STARFLEET STUFF

### STARFLEET INFORMATION

From Linda

- 1) Currently Starfleet is discussing future Membership fees. Raising the annual fee and renewal will most likely take place and be raised to \$9 or \$10. No determination has been made yet and a fee increase is not likely to take place for at least 6 months.
- 2) Chapter COs MUST reside in the region where their chapter is based. XO's may be from outside the residence region.
- 3) Regions can only have one RC and one VRC.
- 4) The revised / updated Starfleet Membership Handbook is completed and will be coming out July 1 to the membership. Chapters that have non-Starfleet members may not use those members towards the required number to maintain the chapter and may not add those people to their Starfleet roster. Starfleet paying members can only be included on a chapter roster.
- 5) The Commander Starfleet must have liability insurance.
- 6) The Starfleet Auxiliary Services website is up and running. No website address was given.
- 7) The rank of Retired Commanding Admiral will now be an approved rank for former CSs.
- 8) Starfleet has the authority to remove 'fake memberships.' These are memberships from Starfleet's Database and from chapter rosters. These memberships are animals, deceased persons and there has been one case of a stuffed animal having a Starfleet membership that will be removed. These are members and entities whose names are being used to boost membership for specific chapters.
- 9) \*\*\* Starfleet's Membership Processing has taken over membership payment processing. When everything is in place and functional and it will be working shortly. Membership / payment processing will be much faster as processing will be done several times a week instead of the current once a week.



### 2023 STARFLEET VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Starfleet's International Conference will take place August 11-13 Virtually. There are 15 confirmed celebrity guests including Doug Jones, Captain Sulu from *Star Trek: Discovery*.

Special VIC merchandise is available NOW through the website.

Register TODAY through the official website at <https://vic23.sfi.org>. Further updates will be sent **ONLY** to those that are pre-registered.

**Enjoy all the events, see the celebrity guests and meet other Starfleet members from all over ... from the comfort of your chair.**

## STAR TREK STUFF

### SIR PATRICK STEWART WANTS TO MAKE ANOTHER STAR TREK MOVIE

By Justin Harp – Reported by Glenda Blanks

Sir Patrick Stewart is ready to board the USS Enterprise once again, following the conclusion of his series *Star Trek: Picard*.

The legendary Jean-Luc Picard actor has only just finished promoting the final season of his *Star Trek* spinoff series, where he reunited with his *Next Generation* co-stars to battle the Borg.

Given Sir Patrick recently expressed his willingness to play Picard again someday, fans have speculated that a new film for the *Next Generation* crew would be ideal.



Speaking to IndieWire, Sir Patrick backed the film spinoff idea: "I think we could do a movie, a Picard-based movie. Now, not necessarily at all about Picard but about all of us. And to take many of those wonderful elements, particularly from season 3 of Picard and take out of that what I think could be an extraordinary movie."

He went on: "I keep telling people and mentioning it, and so far, there's been no eager response, but it might well happen. And that would be, I think, a very appropriate way to say, 'And goodbye folks'."

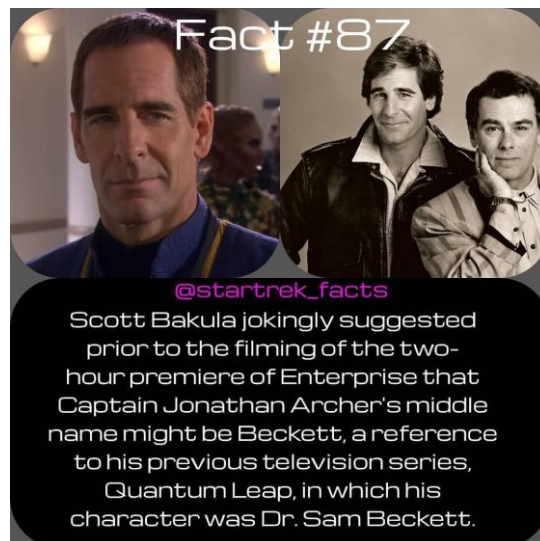
Sir Patrick previously starred in a series of Star Trek: The Next Generation movies back in the 1990s and 2000s, starting with the crossover film Star Trek Generations in 1994 alongside William Shatner.

The Next Generation crew went on to appear in three further feature films — culminating in 2002's Star Trek: Nemesis, where Picard faced an evil clone of himself, played by Peaky Blinders' Tom Hardy.

Star Trek: Picard picked up 20 years after the events of Nemesis and dealt with the former USS Enterprise captain returning to duty to save the Federation from an invasion of the Borg.



## LITTLE KNOWN STAR TREK FACTS



## CONTINUING ROLE PLAY

Part 9 of *The Bound Dog Shall be Loosed:*  
"Bound in Friendship and in Chains"  
By Kathy Whately, Jody Lyon, and Zak Lyon

### Aboard the USS Heimdal...

Ensign Jody Lyon rushed back to her quarters at the conclusion of her shift wanting to wash up, get into something more comfortable and then just relax. She noticed the message waiting for her and played it as she pulled on the loose-fitting clothing she preferred. *Hi Jody, I'd like to talk with you about something.* Kathy's voice was less up-beat than usual, so Lyon immediately

responded.

They arranged to meet in her favorite spot – shuttle bay observation. 1400 hours. Ten minutes and she was there. *By the prophets, I can't believe that I forgot to bring something warm to sip on. Oh well...* she thought. As if on cue, Kathy rounded the corner carrying two mugs, steam wafting in swirls advertising the comfort to come.

"Thanks." She reached for the drink and took a hardy mouthful. "Let's sit over here." Lyon pointed to a bench off to the side. "There is a great view." Lyon started to flop down, when she noticed the liquid in her mug splashing. Instead,



she eased down on the bench balancing the mug. **"Looks like you just avoided another disaster."** The twinkle in Kathy's eyes returned for just a moment. ***"Captain Millner will be happy!"***  
***"So, what's up, Kathy? You look troubled."***

Kathy says, ***"Jody, I hate to burden you with this, but I have to tell someone who will listen and understand. I thought Jonathan would be helpful, but he was uncharacteristically rude. I promised him I would keep it between him and me, but I need another pair of ears and eyes. I don't know what else to do."*** Kathy's brave front broke and she began to tear up. Jody put her arm around Kathy and softly said, ***"You can tell me anything and I will do my best to help in any way I can."*** Kathy quickly explained her concerns about Bud and his unusual encrypted communication, his lie, and Jonathan's rude response.

Then she turned to her friend with hopeful eyes. **"What do you think, Jody?"**

\*\*\*

### Aboard the ISS Garmr...



Had Dr. Zachary Lyon's torture stopped for a moment or was he just dreaming? Dreaming or wakefulness were things that he knew not to depend on *his* perception of them. Anyone else observing him could tell that the equipment had been momentarily powered down and that he was alone. No rest period was the same length. The inability to anticipate anything was a cruelty chosen especially for him. His tormentors knew "knowing what came next" was important to the Doctor. As he floated in the blue "fluid," he tried to see what he could do to exert some will.

*Pull yourself together, Doctor, he thought. A smile crossed his distressed and wrinkled features. Well, if they wouldn't let him count on anything, he wouldn't let them anticipate his moves. They want me to "look" into the other ship for their purposes. I will do it for mine.*

The Doctor closed his eyes and allowed himself to rise. His vision moved beyond the hull of the Garmr and through the hull of the Heimdal. He caught a glimpse of two friends in honest conversation. He reveled in it.

*Love. Love works. Somewhere. Kindness persists. As I rise and descend in this tank - a ghost of an ancient form of earth torture - I glory in the knowledge that somewhere what we instinctively know as children turns out to be true. Put out your hand to make a friend. And that bond is stronger than any chain. And yet even in the midst of this, I know the sword master comes. And if he does not find what he seeks...if I cannot show him...he will rip this idyllic place apart.*

He could not let himself connect with this. It was a mirage. Not of his world. Then a glimpse of someone not unlike himself in contemplation. He focused to see if he could touch him. But was denied, as he was drawn back to his cold reality.

***To be continued...***

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From Linda



OK ... we're OFF and beginning canvassing for the auction. I so hope we will get more volunteers to help with that task. The more help we have, the less time it will take for any of us and the September 16 auction can't help but be a success. Our charities and Space Camp Program **DEPEND** on it.

For the **IMMEDIATE** future we have an excellent July meeting planned featuring Richard Riley. You certainly do **NOT** want to miss that.

Summer will be over before we know it, sadly, but we have a full fall and winter ahead and what better way to spend it than with our friends aboard the Heimdal ... the best ship in the fleet?

### THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

We thank all of you for contributing to this newsletter and we hope you enjoy reading it. It is unique in the universe. It doesn't 'take a village' to put it together, for us it takes a **STARSHIP**.

We'll see you in person and on **ZOOM** on July 15. **AND we'll see you around the galaxy ....**

We'll see you at the meeting. It's going to be so much fun.

***Linda, Willy and our staff of THOUSANDS.***





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*We'll see you around the galaxy...*

***REVISITING A FAVORITE: HEIMDAL'S FILK BAND, "FILK SALAD" (AKA Duck Salad)***  
*(Occasionally available for private parties and small events. DVDs available 'On Demand' ...)*

