



The RAINBOW CONNECTION

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

STARFLEET'S CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2008 & 2012

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

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

BEST REGION ONE NEWSLETTER 2011 & 2020

BEST R/1 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 2015, 2018 & 2020

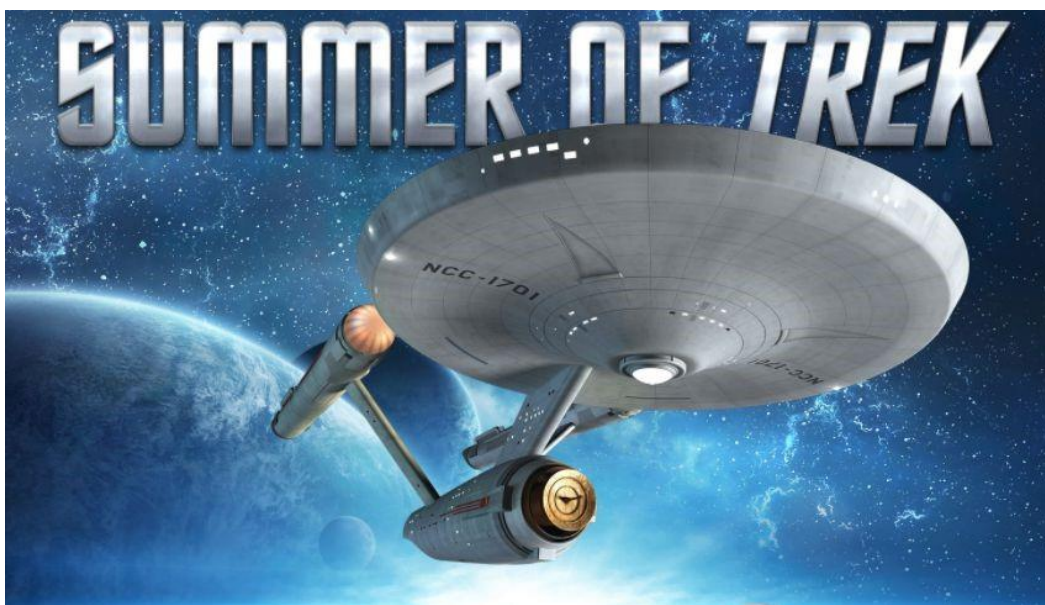
BEST R/1 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK 2020

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

*The **Summer is Ending** Issue, August 2023*

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FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet SFDPP Certified

What a lovely picture at the top of this page ... except that it reminds us that Heimdal's Summer of Trek 2023 is coming to an end. I ask myself how that can be? How did this summer come and go so quickly ... even if the last part of July seemed like a never-ending summer because of the heat? And if you were out in that heat desperately canvassing for auction donations you KNOW just how long that last July week seemed.

Our August meeting on August 26 will be the last meeting we have before the auction. And it seems like that happened really fast, too. But it's here and I will be telling you all about that a little later on.

I want to take this moment to thank all those that have been 'out there' canvassing for auction donations. With less-than-ideal numbers of us taking that monumental task on, those that DID are to be commended for their extremely hard work. It's pretty amazing what so few of us have been able to accomplish





and even MORE amazing what Carol Arthur has donated. We couldn't have done this without any of you and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. This chapter is what she is, in my heart anyway, the pride of the Fleet, because of every one of us and that just makes my heart happy.

We have a lot to cover in this issue so I'll stop talking and we'll *git to it*.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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



Just think, just a little more than 3 years ago the Heimdal attempted its first meeting during the Covid 19 Pandemic. We had a drive-in meeting in our church parking lot with our meeting guest performing from the outdoor church pavilion.

Carl and I stepped onto the parking lot and placed cones where each vehicle could be safely separated by a car-space and Carl had his handy-dandy transmitter where we tuned to radio station 87.7 to hear guitarist Tommy Cox play and Linda speak ... through our car radios. You had to be there ... Linda's BRIEF meeting was 4.54 minutes long ... there were cheers from the cars because there wasn't much to report. No Auction, no meeting, no anniversary party and most of us followed safety precautions because it wasn't good news if you got sick. It was like we were going thru dark matter, not sure how long it would be.

They were uncertain times, but the waters receded and while we aren't digging hands into potato

chip bags at meetings now or giving each other CPR for the heck of it, we **ARE** having good in person meetings again and wonderful guests (like last month and Richard Riley.)

Fast forward 3 years and a month and we've already had ONE Trek Auction this year from donated items and now we're working on our ANNUAL Heimdal auction where we canvass area merchants to get items for Carl to auction off and put the Heimdal in the "green" to cover our charities and maybe send another kid to space camp. But honestly, I believe our members are tired of working the streets and



without items for us to auction, it's sorta like a nail has gone into the excellent tire named Heimdal Charities. What do you do?

The few of us that are 'out there' covering places that have donated before, well, it's become a chore added to the normal things you HAVE to do and the things you LIKE to do. Holding car washes to make money was a thing of the past and I don't need a crystal ball to see into to know that won't work now. How many bodies would we have washing cars ...UGG!

SO right now, that excellent Heimdal tire is still able to carry us but that nail has to be addressed sooner or later. We have good people and people I'm honored to call friends and I'd sure like to keep it that way. We've lost a couple

of members helping canvas because of their work and a couple because of personal issues, which is not bad given the number. I don't have the answers but together we should be able to figure a solution to that nail in the excellent tire Heimdal. If it means anything to the people we have, we'll be able to make adjustments and continue using that tire and still have fun while getting it done.



FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER

RAdm. Carl Davis, 2nd Officer's Report, August 2023

I am pleased to be reporting this month on a new Dell computer. This is a big deal for me as my last computer was bought 13 years ago. I knew it was slow but "oh my goodness!" On the old computer I would turn it on and





then read a couple of chapters in a good book while waiting for it to load up. Then I could squeeze in a couple more pages while my emails loaded. This new wonder takes 15 seconds to be up and running and that includes it recognizing me as its master. It even reminds me to sit up straight so it can see me. I'm almost certain it would take voice commands if I were smart enough to know how. I tried Mr. Scott's *"hello computer"* but that didn't work. It's just nice to feel like I am in the 21st century, technologically speaking. It even corrected my spelling of technologically. (twice)

Anyway, hope everyone is enjoying this nice weather. It is a good day to be retired. I encourage anyone who hasn't tried it to make it so at your earliest window of opportunity. I wish I had figured out how to have done it straight out of high school.

Until next month, Eternal life and prosperity.

MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting will take place on August 26 instead of our usual 3rd. Saturday meeting date. We will be meeting in person at the Madison Heights Library and on ZOOM at 6:30 p.m. For those coming to the library, please bring an item for refreshments. And for our ZOOM people, please DO bring refreshments of your own and 'refresh' with us. That will just be cool,

Our guest speaker is tentatively Gabe Friedman, the winner of our 2022 Space Camp Contest that couldn't take his trip last year but did go on July 30 THIS year. He will be telling us ALL about that. It's always exciting to hear how our Space Camp winner enjoyed their trip, what they learned and if their career goals have changed or been made concrete because of their Space Camp experience.

FUN FACT: Gabe's mom, Erin went to Space Camp in 1992 and stayed in the same habitat (pictured) that Gabe stayed in. How Cool is THAT?

This will be our last meeting before our September 16 Annual Heimdal Charity Auction (how did that happen so fast?)

Darrell Millner will be our ZOOM coordinator for the evening & those coordinates are:

USS Heimdal is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Heimdal Zoom August 2023

Time: Aug 26, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 890 2483 9515 Passcode: spacecamp



Gabe his first day at Space Camp wearing his flight suit & standing in the habitat (camper's dorm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89024839515?pwd=TDBpSnZXaWdRQXBFUVlrUCtEekV6Zz09>

JULY MEETING

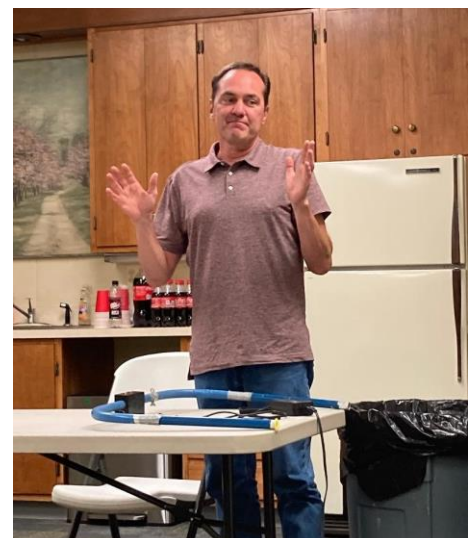
July 2023 Chapter Meeting on Zoom

By Jonathan Hatter

The July meeting of the USS Heimdal took place on Saturday the 15th at the Madison Heights Public Library and on Zoom. The meeting was originally scheduled for the Sugar Mill Pavilion near Admiral Linda Smith's home, but, because of the recent thunderstorms, the decision was made to move to the library for everyone's safety. Including our guest there were 19 people in attendance at the library, along with 5 crew members and one additional guest on Zoom. I was forced to attend online as a result of the weather and surgery on our family dog's leg.

Our CO held a brief business meeting to apprise the crew of the following issues:

- Canvassing for the Annual Charity Auction is now underway. Please help wherever and whenever you can. It is greatly appreciated.
- The Auction will take the place of the September monthly meeting.
- The August meeting will feature our 2022 Space Camp contest winning student detailing his experience.



- Recruitment Coordinator, Bud Walker has created a fantastic flyer and accompanying business card which feature a QR code that links to the Heimdal website. Thanks for the amazing work, Bud! We appreciate all the time you've invested and everything looks fantastic.
- Linda and the Executive Committee are researching dates in April 2024 for the Anniversary Party and for the entertainment to be provided.
- Security Department Chief, Carl Davis will host phaser simulation at Mountaintop Christian Adventures on July 22.
- Crewmember Dan Blanks is recovering from surgery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.
- Crewmember Bonnie Davis is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. Please also keep her in your thoughts and prayers. We all wish you both a speedy recovery!



Our guest was Heimdal friend and incredibly talented artist, Richard Riley.

He renders amazing sculptures using large blocks of foam. He's created a life size Chewbacca, a massive Jabba the Hutt sitting upon his throne as well as numerous other amazing pieces for companies like Disney and Lucasfilm.

Tonight, he demonstrated the fabrication of a large tombstone for a collector in South Carolina. The library ceiling barely had enough room for its full height. He is creating a large collection that this particular buyer uses to decorate for Halloween. Cadet Jonah Ryan helped Richard use the heat tools to form part of the art. After his assistance, he told Jonah, *"You're hired!"*

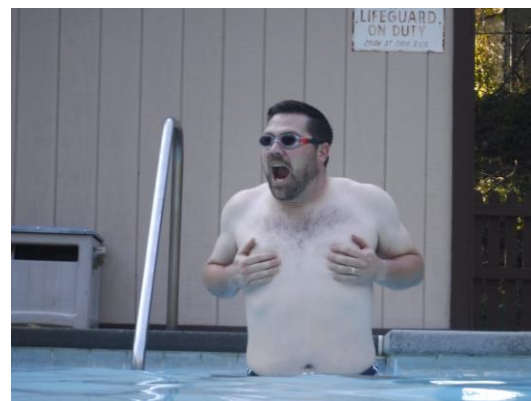
Richard then demonstrated how he creates the nameplate that is placed upon tombstones using stick-on letters and an epoxy mix. Richard made the process seem easy as he glided through his carving technique. He also described the materials and costs involved and how he tries to make his work cost effective.

I had to log off at the end of his demonstration but want to offer a great deal of thanks to Richard and everyone who came out in person and online. I always enjoy watching how he makes art look so easy.

Be sure to watch your email for Heimdal information and upcoming events.



ANNUAL HEIMDAL PICNIC AND POOL PARTY THIS MONTH



On Saturday, August 19 we will be having our Annual Heimdal Pool Party and Picnic at the Sugar Mill Recreation Area, 115 Dark Pines Lane, Amherst, VA 24521 in Sugar Mill subdivision starting at 5 p.m. We plan to have this in good weather or in cloudy weather but will cancel if it's raining or we're having storms.

Please feel free to bring a guest, spouse or friend but also let Linda know how many people will be coming with you. Please also bring enough picnic food items to include your guest(s).



Since this will be a picnic, we need more than munchies ... we need hot dogs, hamburgers, buns (both sizes), potato salad, macaroni salad, any other kind of salad, desserts, condiments, tomatoes, drinks and ice. We will have our grill there. I will send out an email asking what everyone is bringing so we don't end up with 2 hot dogs and 30 watermelons. **WATCH YOUR EMAIL.**

Please plan to swim if you want to and bring bathing suits and towels. There is a bathhouse for changing.

There will NOT be a meeting. This is just a chance to relax with friends and have fun. If you prefer a lawn chair to a picnic table bench, please do bring a chair.

Hope to see you there.

****ANNUAL HEIMDAL CHARITY AUCTION****



We're just ONE MONTH and a few weeks away from the auction, so this will be the next-to-the-last newsletter before the event. At this point we STILL DESPARATELY need auction items so if anyone is willing to help us canvas, PLEASE let me know heimdalco@aol.com. It's been rough with so few of us canvassing so THANK YOU ahead of time for helping if you can.

The auction will be September 16 at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel at 601 Main Street, Lynchburg, VA 24504. Our doors will open at 12 noon so our guests can sign in, get a good seat and see what we have to auction. The auction will start promptly at 1 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. **All of us should arrive no later than 11 a.m.** Please DO try to have a late breakfast or early lunch before arriving. There is no restaurant in the hotel, although there are vending and drink machines.



**** **All Heimdal members should wear black pants / skirts and your Heimdal polo shirt. We're trying to present a uniform appearance. We also want to be easily visible if a guest needs assistance.**

We have some people in place already and will need volunteers for various jobs:

Carl Davis will be our auctioneer (for the 16th year ... WOW!)

Bonnie Davis will be computer tracking auction bids and accepting payment for purchases.

WELCOME TABLE - Tentatively Beth Hopkins, Angie Arnold and Carol Arthur.

Tammy White and Robin Hudson will be in charge of Door Prizes and 50/50 raffle

Glenda and Dan Blanks will be selling the few Heimdal Cookbooks we have left

Willy Smith will be accepting credit and debit card payment for purchases.

Bid Trackers – Tentatively Jonathan Hatter and Bud Walker

Bid Runner – This person will take the bids from Jonathan and Bud into the

hallway to Bonnie. Tentatively this is Angie Arnold. This is a VERY important job.



Carl will need at least 3 people to act as Security. Please let him know if you would be willing to help trekken05@aol.com

We need AT LEAST 3 runners. These are the people that will hold up each item as it is auctioned by Carl. They will show it to guests on both sides of the room for a closer look and will take the purchased item to the winning bidder. Tentatively Julie Witcher, Joe Arnold and Carol Arthur.

We need as many people as possible to be at the auction to help direct and assist our guests.

PLEASE DO let me know ASAP if you will be at the auction & if you are interested in volunteering in a specific area.

Thank you SO much for your willingness to help.

We will have Auction flyers at the meeting for you to take and leave in area locations that will allow you to for advertising purposes. Word of mouth is our best advertising tool so please tell your friends and relatives

about the auction. We need to make as much money as possible in order to continue sending local kids to Space Camp and to continue supporting our charities at Christmas ... our MOST IMPORTANT purposes.

Looking forward to hearing from you ... **and THANK YOU.**

NO SEPTEMBER HEIMDAL MEETING

As always on Charity Auction month there will be no chapter meeting in September. The auction takes the place of an actual meeting because everyone involved with the event, from canvassing to actually working the event will need a rest. So, we will see everyone back for a regular meeting in October, which will be our Annual Halloween Costume Party. Be thinking of that perfect costume that will win the Costume Contest.

HEIMDAL PEOPLE



STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!

FCAPT Darrell Millner (26 Courses, 7 Awards)

SFA Bridge Officer Certification Program

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| BOCP - Counselor Certification (COUN) | Awarded on Jun 18, 2023 |
| BOCP - Chief Tactical Officer Certification (CTO) | Awarded on Jun 22, 2023 |
| BOCP - Chief Security Officer Certification (CSEO) | Awarded on Jun 24, 2023 |
| BOCP - Chief Medical Officer Certification (CMO) | Awarded on Jun 29, 2023 |
| BOCP - Chief Science Officer Certification (CSCO) | Awarded on Jul 11, 2023 |
| SFA - Latinum Boothby (200 Courses) | Awarded on Jul 24, 2023 |

ADP – Associate of Technology Studies

Awarded on July 19, 2023

STARFLEET Academy

IOAE - College of Communications

DISTINCTION for COM 102 - Abbreviations and Acronyms on Jul 6, 2023

DISTINCTION for COM 103 - Netiquette and Emoticons on Jul 10, 2023

IOMA - College of Psychology

HONORS for SCM 101 – Stress and Coping Mechanisms on Jun 14, 2023

IOSC - College of Evidence

DISTINCTION for SEA 101 - The Lab on Jun 5, 2023

DISTINCTION for SEA 102 - Ballistics on Jun 5, 2023

HONORS for SEA 103 - Questioned documents on Jun 14, 2023

DISTINCTION for SEC 101 - Collection Guidelines on Jun 4, 2023

DISTINCTION for SEC 102 - Fingerprints on Jun 5, 2023

DISTINCTION for SEC 103 - Measurements and Sketching on Jun 8, 2023

IOSS - College of Space Psychology

DISTINCTION for SPSY 102 - Physiological Stressors Pt 1 on Jul 4, 2023

DISTINCTION for SPSY 103 - Physiological Stressors Pt 2 on Jul 4, 2023

IOAS - School of XenoAnthropology (IOAS:COXA)

DISTINCTION for AQ-THO 101 - Homeworld on Jun 22, 2023

DISTINCTION for AQ-THO 102 - Tholian Race on Jun 22, 2023

IOSC - College of Mathematics

HONORS for Math 101 - Early History to 1600 on Jul 5, 2023

IOMOS - CSTG-College of Strategy and Tactics (IOMOS:COST)

HONORS for CSTG 102 - Focus on Tactics on Jun 18, 2023

DISTINCTION for CSTG 103 - Military Strategies & Concepts on Jul 5, 2023

(IPSS) - College of VIP Protection & Convention Security

HONORS for SVP 101 - Introduction on Jun 20, 2023

HONORS for SVP 102 - Planning on Jun 21, 2023

HONORS for SVP 103 - Venue Protection on Jun 21, 2023

(IOSTS) - College of Security in Trek

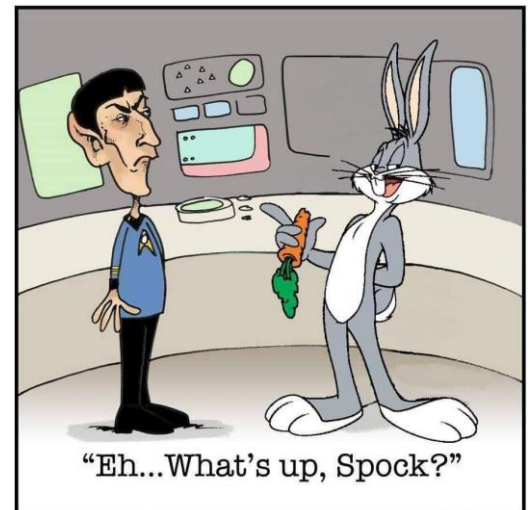
DISTINCTION for CST 001 General Security on Jun 20, 2023

DISTINCTION for CST 002 Section 31 on Jun 21, 2023

DISTINCTION for CST 003 Federation Security on Jun 21, 2023

(IOTK) - STARFLEET Officers Radio School (IOST:SORS)

HONORS for SORS 201 - Beginnings of Radio on Jul 4, 2023





STARFLEET Marine Corp Academy
School of Leadership Development (LD)

HONORS for LD-103 Types & Styles of Leadership on July 02, 2023

School of Armor (AR)

PASS for AR100 - Armor Basic Course on Jul 13, 2023

School of Aerospace (AE)

HONORS for AE100 - Aerospace Basic Course on Jul 9, 2023



CMDR William Bud Walker (12 Courses, 2 Awards)

SFA Awards

ADP - Associate of Intelligence Operations Studies on 07/16/2023

BOCP - Chief Tactical Officer Certification (CTO) Awarded on June 6, 2023 *

IOIE - College of Military Intelligence (CMI)

HONORS for MIS 101 - Military Intell Officers Pt. 1 on 07/14/2023

HONORS for MIS 102 - Military Intell Officers Pt. 2 on 07/14/2023

DISTINCTION for MIS 103 - Military Intell Officers Pt. 3 on 07/14/2023

DISTINCTION for MIS 104 - Military Intell Officers Pt. 4 on 07/14/2023

IOIE - College of Intel in Movies (CIM)

HONORS for CIM-142 - Mission Impossible III on 07/15/2023

HONORS for CIM-152 - MI: Ghost Protocol on 07/18/2023

IOIE - School of Espionage (SOE)

HONORS for SOE 109 Sabotage 1 on 07/13/2023

PASS for SOE 110 Sabotage 2 on 07/13/2023

HONORS for SOE 111 Spies Everywhere on 07/13/2023

IOIE - School of Intel Gathering (SIG)

DISTINCTION for SIG 101 - Who Does it? on 07/13/2023

HONORS for SIG 102 - Intelligence Gathering on 07/13/2023

IPSS - College of Law Enforcement and Fire History

DISTINCTION for SLEH 107 THE F.B.I. PART 2 on Jun 1, 2023



CMDR Zachary Lyon (4 Courses, Awards)

IOSS - College of Space Equipment

HONORS for EPS 201.1 - Escape Pod Tech I on Jun 30, 2023

HONORS for EPS 201.2 - Escape Pod Tech II on Jul 11, 2023

DISTINCTION for SSE 103 - Space Suit Requirements on Jul 17, 2023

IOTK - College of Engineering

DISTINCTION for CENG 211 - Miles O'Brien on Jun 22, 2023

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – CONGRATULATIONS!



Darrell Millner - has been awarded the Latinum Boothby (200)

Has also been awarded an "Associate of Tech Studies" from SF Academy Degree Program

Bud Walker – has been awarded an "Associate of Intelligence Operations" from SF Academy Degree Program



FLEET CAPTAIN MILLNER COMPLETES SFA BRIDGE OFFICER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

By Darrell Millner

Are you familiar with the SFA - Bridge Officer Certification Program?

The SFA Course Catalog links to and explains it this way.... The Bridge Officer Certification Program (BOCP) is a program for STARFLEET Officers who wish to qualify themselves as command-ready in the department of their choice.

This opportunity is not one to be taken lightly. The BOCP was created for members of STARFLEET to become "certified" in their chapter department(s) as a command level officer. --- It is awarded in the STARFLEET Database as an Academy award. --- This award is earned by successful completion of the program requirements. This involves earning credits in a specific set of courses from STARFLEET Academy. You must complete and send in the application in order to earn the certification.

You may certify in one or more of thirteen (13) different positions, ranging from Flight Control Officer to Commanding Officer. – Participation in this program is entirely voluntary and is **not** required to hold **any** position in STARFLEET. For more specifics visit the programs page at <https://es.sfi.org/academy/course/index.php?categoryid=30>

What started as a challenge to complete 'Engineering Related SFA Courses' became a personal goal to have a better understanding of my fellow Department Heads divisions and the 'Star Trek' side of things. Let me be absolutely clear, as stated above "Participation in this program is entirely voluntary, and is **NOT** required to hold any position in STARFLEET" either at the Chapter or Regional level. We are all on our own individual STARFLEET journey, we are only in competition with ourselves. After completing the Chief Engineer BOCP (which included OTS, OCC plus 8 additional courses), to me completing the remaining 12 was, as Spock would say, "Only Logical". As of 11 July, I've been awarded my final Certificate

SFA - Bridge Officer Certification Program

BOCP - Commanding Officer Certification

BOCP - Executive Officer Certification

BOCP - Second Officer Certification

BOCP - Chief Communications Officer Certification

BOCP - Chief Engineering Officer Certification

BOCP - Chief Medical Officer Certification



XO Willy asked me one day, "*Where do you find the time to do STARFLEET Academy?*" I responded "*Dude - I gave up commercials.*" Not far from the truth, that plus wrapping my head around "Beginning is Half Done" was the spark I needed. After almost forty years it was a personal choice to get more out of my 'very expensive' renewal (\$5 ha ha), and challenge not only myself, my fellow engineers, and you the RainCon reader. I invite you to jump in, too. It only takes 'one course to get started'. Remember Jeanne "Be Love" Wilson? From what I can confirm she completed more than 250 courses during her time with the Heimdal. So, if I may be so bold and quote the book by William H. Danforth "I Dare You!". Again, "It's your STARFLEET Journey – You Choose". – Millner Out.

RENEWALS

A special **THANK YOU** to Mike Davis, Bonnie & Carl Davis, Julie & Brett Witcher, Zak & Jody Lyon, Joe Arnold, Eric Merrill and Tyler St. Clair 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

September – Jimmy Farlow – September 2

Beth & Peter Hopkins – September 5

October – Dan & Glenda Blanks – October 11

Karen Delano – October 18

November – Tim Hazlett – November 18



HEIMDAL STUFF

JULY 4TH AT TIMMBERLAKE By Tammy White



Peter and Beth Hopkins were gracious enough to invite the Heimdal members to their house on the first of July for food, fun, and fireworks. When Robin and I arrived, we were greeted by our hosts and other members of the Heimdal - Joe, Glenda and Dennis along with

some of Peter and Beth's other guests.

Everyone had a good time hanging out inside the house, out on the porch, or watching TV. Beth put a lot of snacks on the table and we all munched out.

At six a friend of Beth's put the burgers and hot dogs on the grill and the rest of the food was set out. And there was a lot of good food, which included potato salad, 2 kinds of macaroni salad, chips, several drink options, several dessert options. No one went away hungry. If they did it was their own fault.

Peter and Beth have 2 wonderful Boxers, Orion, who is about 10 and Cassie who, I believe Beth told us, was just a couple of years old. We all played with the dogs, especially Cassie who is a real sweetheart. She is a large lap dog, or wants to be. Both dogs love people and I think they had as good a time with everyone as we did with them.

The fireworks started about 9. Although, some were blocked by the trees we were able to see most of them. It was a good display.

A good time was had by all and I'd like to thank Peter and Beth for their hospitality.



SPACE CAMP WINNER 'BLASTS OFF' IN LATE JULY

Gabe Friedman won Heimdal's Space Camp Contest in 2022. Because of a planned cross-country family trip, he was unable to go to Space Camp until this year. On July 30, he **blasted off** to Huntsville, AL for the trip of a lifetime. His mom said he was so excited. He's home now with that wonderful experience behind him and we hope he will be able to speak to our meeting on August 26 and tell us all about it.

In this photo Gabe is standing on the catwalk in his Space Camp habitat (dorm). In 1992 Gabe's mom, Erin went to Space Camp and in an unusual quirk of fate, she stayed in this same habitat that Gabe stayed in on his recent trip. How cool is THAT?



Every year we are just as excited about our winner's trip to Space Camp at they are ... well, ALMOST. Most of us would love to go ourselves and live vicariously through our winners when they speak to us about their trip.

AUGUST QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Question of the Month for August: If you could only eat 3 foods for the next 5 years, what would they be & why? That's with the understanding that you could still have water. Would you eat all 3 at every meal or only one for each meal & space them out for an attempt at variety???

Darrell Millner: Breakfast : Toffee Scones topped with coffee beans (so I can utilize the water in a more satisfying way), Lunch: Texas 5 Way Chili (for flavor, digestive health and its entertainment properties), Evening meal: Deviled Eggs. (**Editor's note & solitude goes along with your diet. Condolences to Barbara**)

Tammy White - #1 would be potatoes because you can do a lot with potatoes. Cooked different ways I could eat them daily. #2 would be pasta again a lot of variety. Not sure about third one. I would eat different items each day.

Linda Smith – 1) **Chicken** – protein & low cholesterol – can make all sorts of dishes from chicken (chicken salad, fried chicken, baked chicken, chicken tenders, chicken fricasee, chicken parmesan & more). 2) **Potatoes** – can make ALL sorts of things out of potatoes & some that don't taste like potatoes (creamed, French fries, potato salad, potatoes au gratin, boiled, pan fried, baked). 3) **Fruit Cup** – can separate the different fruits & have a larger variety or mix & match for more variety & fruit is GOOD for us

Beth Hopkins - Chicken (bc it is so versatile) with mashed potatoes or Mac n Cheese....I would partner chicken with one or the other.

Gary Burley - Beef casserole with dumplings, salt and pepper bread, mature cheddar cheese spread

Robert Ward - Ugh, I'm awful at picking these things. I don't think I could do the same 3 foods for 5 years or even 1 year. I love the discovery of new flavors & new interesting combinations too much.

Dennis Henderson - Pizza spaced out with the option of toppings.

Willy Smith - #1 **BEEF**: I could cut it into steaks, cut into chunks for gravy, thin slices to dry out for beef jerky & grind it up for burgers. The cat will get smaller pieces or leftovers. Protein.

#2 **POTATOES**: Bake them, whip for mashed, sliced or added to beef stew. Potatoes are a good source of vitamins and minerals, including potassium, folate, and vitamins C and B6¹².

#3 **PIZZA**: here's where I'll get my bread and veggies. I'll get the SUPREME pizza. Save the crust for hamburgers and bread to push my steak around with. Wouldn't try to eat them all at each meal, could save parts to make other meals for variety. I'm hungry!

Bonnie & Carl Davis - Carl said he would like to have Frito Pie, chef salad, and a loaded baked potato. He could eat these items by themselves or together and never get tired of them.

I guess I will have to have what he eats as I am the cook! Also, I do like these items too. This is making me hungry....lol.



RILEY'S RAMBLINGS ...

IT'S A FIREBREATHER!

By Richard Riley

Hello everyone! I hope that everyone is staying cool in this heat! Fall cannot get here fast enough for me!

For this month's column I wanted to discuss a piece that I just wrapped up and will be shown in an upcoming issue of Lynchburg Living magazine. I recently sat down with them for an interview and their photographer did a photoshoot with me and the piece.





I was commissioned by the Orthodontist that I work with from South Carolina to make the dragon, Maleficent from the Disney movie Sleeping Beauty. The Orthodontist wanted Disney villains as his office theme for Halloween. He was able



to find most of what he wanted but needed a statement piece with this dragon!

As I always do, the first thing I needed to do was to find reference images of the dragon. This was fairly straightforward since there are so many pictures, toys and statues of this character. We

were originally going to have the dragon flying but after looking at all of the images from the movie as well as the toys and statues, we discovered that this particular dragon may have wings but she is never actually shown flying! We shifted from the flying version to a more upright version to fit the location that he wants to place it and to keep the look truer to the movie.

I started out by cutting the profile shapes of the dragon and rough carving it. I knew it was going to be a bit different than most; it would need to be finished as much as possible then it would need to be cut up to remove from my basement. I have to do this from time to time. The doorway from my basement is only 30 inches wide but the dragon is close to 48 inches wide! I have found that it is much easier to work in my basement and cut the piece up and reassemble in my shed rather than to build in my shed from scratch and deal with the heat out there. *A bit of an inconvenience but easy enough to do.*

The challenge for the dragon was to try and keep the look of the animated movie. This can be difficult to translate a two-dimensional piece to a three-dimensional piece but I am always up for the challenge! The dragon stands well over 7 feet tall and the client requested that I include the green flames shooting out the characters mouth. I wanted to do this with some sort of lighting effect but where this piece will be displayed it would not work well since it is a brightly lit area, so I went with just carving the flame from foam and painting it neon green.

All in all, a great piece to work on and also my first dragon build! I had been wanting to make a dragon for years and I am glad to finally get the chance!



FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS





<<<SECURITY>>>

SECURITY REPORT: AUGUST 2023 By RAdm. Carl Davis, Chief of Security

I'm sorry to have to report that we didn't get in our monthly phaser practice in July. We had to reschedule once and our makeup date wound up calling for one of the hottest days of the summer. While the Heimdal crew that normally attends phaser sim is a "tough as nails" group, it seemed unreasonable to risk heat stroke. We'll schedule for August and hope for better weather.



I was really looking forward to having some good games. We were fortunate last month to have a new ~~target~~ player join us. Sciences Cadet 3rd class Allen Hatter made a good showing for his first outing at phaser sim. His youthful speed and better than average opponent targeting ability made him a force to be reckoned with. Perhaps it was beginner's luck but I think we can expect great things from this young man. Of course, all those who joined us that day represented the Heimdal well. We look forward to having Bonnie back soon, as she is recovering quickly from bionic shoulder surgery.

Stay close to a climate-controlled environment if possible. Drink plenty of water. I intend to stay inside and catch up on paperwork and reports. Carl.....out.



<<<SCIENCE>>>



Report from the Botanist of the U.S.S. Heimdal By Chief Botanist, Cmdr. Bonnie Davis

As I look at the garden we have on "our ship" I am quite pleased with the beans growing up their fencing as well as the zucchini and yellow squash that are producing some lovely fruit. The three green pepper plants have young fruit on them and the rhubarb produced this year. My joy, however, is looking at the lush, green tomato plants growing tall and FULL of GREEN tomatoes that just will not ripen!

After a bit of research, I was amazed to learn that there is a simple reason why they are still green. It is too hot in the garden this year!

Yes, despite tomatoes needing a good 6 to 8 hours of full sun a day, extreme heat can throw off the ripening process and, in some cases halt it entirely. From the time a tomato flower is pollinated, it takes between six to eight weeks for it to ripen to maturity. And all that happens during that time period is triggered by two important elements - heat and hormones.



It seems that to achieve superior quality tomatoes the temperature range is 59-68 F...Surprise...lower than you would expect. They do fine in 60-70 degrees but once temperatures go above 75 degrees, the ripening process begins to slow. And at about 85-90 degrees and higher, tomatoes stop ripening altogether.

There is a plant hormone at the center of the fruit - ethylene - that triggers the synthesis of lycopene, a carotenoid that gives tomatoes their characteristic red color. Higher temps will slow lycopene synthesis resulting in slow ripening, but extreme temperatures of 90 or higher will halt tomato ripening as it can't make lycopene at those

temperatures. There is not a lot we can do except wait out the extreme heat. As temps come down, the natural ripening process will start again. So, take care of your plants and keep them healthy and happy and in time they will turn red!

Now you can amaze your gardening friends the next time you hear one of them say their tomatoes will not turn red.

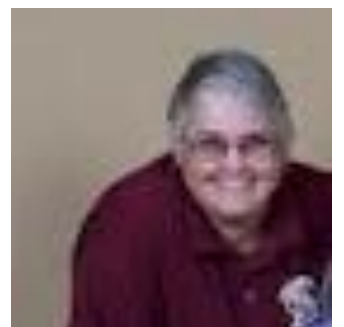


Botanist Bonnie

<<<MEDICAL>>>



MEDICAL MINUTE AUGUST 2023 By Commodore Tammy White, Chief Medical Officer





As many of you know this is convention season. I'd like to offer a few suggestions to make your convention going go as smoothly as possible.

Robin and I got back last night from Galaxycon in Raleigh and I will post an article about that later in this issue. When you attend a convention there are a few unspoken things you should remember to maintain your health, physically and mentally.

The first is to plan ahead. There will probably be a lot things you want to buy, autographs, photo ops, memorabilia, and such. Make a budget and stick to it. I've heard of people who later regret spending their grocery money on a whim at a con. I will leave cash at home to make sure I have enough money to last until my next check.

I carry a back pack when at conventions so my hands are free and it's easier for me. Robin prefers to carry a tote bag and I've seen people do both. Figure out what works best for you. Conventions are busy and crowded. If you don't want to bump into people or be bumped into, stay home.



You wake up early and get to hotel late and tired but please, shower. Enough said on that.

Remember to take plenty of water and drink it. I froze bottled water and put it in the side pockets of my back pack.

Bring food, too and remember to eat.

To avoid a lot of frustration, get a schedule or download one and look at it. There will be a lot of things scheduled at the same time. You'll need to make decisions and probably miss some things you wanted to do. Also schedules change and celebrities cancel sometimes. It's disappointing but there are always other things to do and see.

If you see someone in a costume and would like your picture taken with them, and you will, just ask them first. Most are eager and very willing to have their photos taken but, just walking up to someone and standing next to them while your friend snaps a photo is rude and creepy. Taking a photos from a distance of a crowd is fine.

You will be standing in long lines, if you have a medical condition that makes that a problem there are now telescoping chairs you can easily carry with you so you can sit. Remember to take all you medications with you and take them as prescribed.

Pack an extra bag, you'll come home with more items than you left with. I hope this was informational.

<<<<ENGINEERING>>>>

ENGINEERING UPDATE

ENGINEERING UPDATE

FCAPT Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer
Starfleet SFDPP Certified, BOCPP Graduate, R1 RDC ENG.

Monthly Ops Report - Engineering SD: 202307.31

Do you remember the first time you saw the USS Enterprise starship on the big screen? For me* it was ST: The Motion Picture at the Plaza Theater in Lynchburg, VA and between that, Wrath of Khan, and its destruction in The Search for Spock I still get giddy and chills at the same time thinking about it. Do you know the feeling? I still try to hold on to that feeling today. From Zooming with the crew, engaging with Engineering, SFA, reports, Paramount Plus, the R1 RDC program, picking up my TNG Technical Manual, etc; there is still that underlying buzz in my being – like the floor panel vibration rates when at warp – that keeps me energized. As you may be tired of hearing me write – “we are all on our own STARFLEET Journey” – and it's a choice of what fires your TREK.

As a team, Engineering has had a very productive process this month. From restarting stalled projects, starting several new, duty roster updates, having an outstanding process of collaboration at the monthly Departmental Zoom**, STARFLEET Academy Degree Programs ***– watching last month's guest carving tomb stones, and more to come. This has to have been the second most exciting month in our department (other than the “Day in the Life of a Heimdal Engineer” presentation back in January).



For the full updates, be sure and check out our departmental newsletter “T.E.L. The Engineering Link” <https://trek.millnernet.com/home/eng->





[link/](#) The department is also proud to report the collective completion of 42 confirmed SFA courses in June (several pending), and 9 SFA Awards. Thank you, Linda, for highlighting the team's success.

I am continually blessed to have CMDR Z. Lyons, LT J. Lyons, CMDR W. Walker, and liaison from Communications Lt Cmdr K. Whately actively engaged in all our efforts from the T.E.L., Departmental Zooms, Interdepartmental Role Play (and Thank You CMDR J. Hatter), plus great attendance at the Heimdal Monthly meetings (Thanks CMDR D. Henderson – hope you are well sir). PO3 G. Burley's humor and insight, and ENS L. Whately's waves and M-M's. There is room for more at the table if you are without a department – "let's have a coffee".

I'll close with a memorable quote from ST:SNW:

"Ortegas: Put on the Starfleet face? M'Benga: It's a *good* face." – Millner Out.

((*If my hole punched memory serves, **See article Engineering Open House, *** Scones in the mess hall celebrating recent SFA/ADP Awards.))

<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>

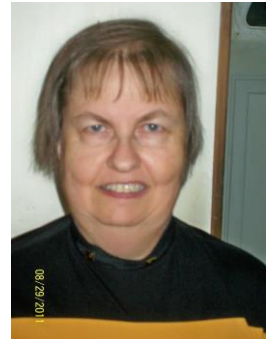
AUGUST COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks, Communications Chie

Folks, we are in great need of items for the Auction. I realize that some of you are not comfortable communicating by seeking donations, but think about the places you go on a regular basis. When you eat out, take a solicitation letter. When you have your car worked on, take a letter. When you have your hair done, take a letter there too. You'll be surprised at the results. Willy took a flyer when he got his car worked on, and came away with a \$250 gift certificate! It



works!



CADET NEWS

HEIMDAL'S CADET CORPS



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

CADET ALLEN HATTER CAMP CHEROKEE 2023

By Jonathan Hatter



From July 2nd through the 9th, Allen and I attended the Week 3 camping session at Cherokee Scout Reservation. Located in Caswell County, North Carolina, the Reservation is housed on 1700 acres near the town of Yanceyville. The property offers six weeks of summer camps and is available all year to BSA troops for their camping activities. It even offers a winter camp for those who want to brave the cold.

We arrived on Sunday and set up in Campsite Sioux, located near the dining hall. There was a mix of tents and Adirondacks, each one which housed four bunks.



Our first day included a tour of the site and the procedures for flag ceremonies and dining arrangements. All troops must attend opening flags in the morning and the evening closing flags ceremony in their Class A uniforms. Sunday evening also included the opening campfire program, after which everyone gathered back in our campsite for some games and to prep for bed. We had to be at breakfast at 7:10.

After Monday morning flags, the program activities began. Each Scout had picked classes to earn Merit Badges that would contribute toward rank advancement. Allen had picked the following this year:



- Welding
- Leatherwork
- First Aid
- Electricity
- Fishing

This was his first experience with welding and he really enjoyed it. He has expressed the desire to learn a lot more.

His final project was a replica of Thor's hammer, Mjölner. In Leatherwork, he made a knife sheath stamped with the BSA emblem and his Troop number. First Aid taught all



the necessary skills for general cuts and scratches then advanced toward the treatment of major wounds. The instructor also taught everyone how to build a stretcher using t-shirts. Electricity demonstrated the how and why, as well as the dangers associated with working on the necessary equipment. Finally, Allen had fishing for his twilight activity. All Scouts discussed some basic knots and laws that apply to fishing. We moved down to the lake where they cast their bait and reeled in some fish.

The food was great and made even better by the fact that the dining hall was air-conditioned. One of only three buildings that had AC, it quickly became one of the Scouts' favorite spots.

In addition to his 2023 classes, Allen completed the stargazing requirements for the Astronomy Merit Badge. He had completed all the classwork last year, but thunderstorms prevented the stargazing hikes.

That concludes another year of BSA Summer Camp for Cadet Hatter. He had a fun time earning badges and making new memories and friends.

HEIMDAL'S PET FLEET

DOGS CAN RECOGNIZE A BAD PERSON AND THERE'S SCIENCE TO PROVE IT

Science confirms that dogs can recognize a bad person

By Heidi Lux, GOOD on-line magazine

www.good.is/articles/dogs-know-when-youre-lying

Shared by Linda Smith with input from Dee Stinson

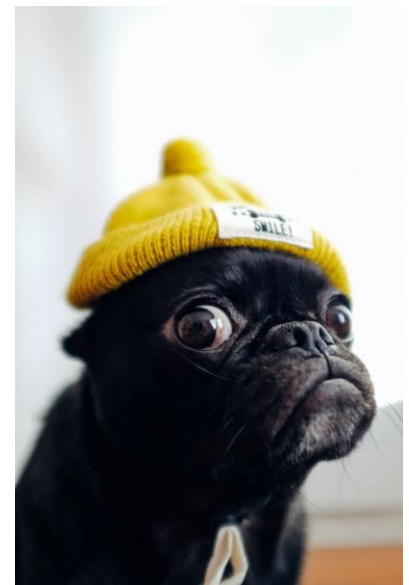
Dogs can smell fear, but can they sniff out the truth? Your dog might actually be smarter than you're giving it credit for.

It turns out, dogs are pretty good at picking up on human behavior. Science says so. A team led by Akiko Takaoka of Kyoto University in Japan conducted [a study](#) which found out that dogs actually know if you're to be believed or not.

The study involved tricking dogs in the name of science. Humans have known for a long time that if you point at an object, a dog will run to it. Researchers utilized this information in their study. During the experiment, they pointed at a container that was filled with hidden food. Sure enough, the dog ran towards the container. Then, they pointed at a container that was empty. The dogs ran towards it, but found that it had no food.

The third time the researchers pointed at a container with food, the dogs refused to go to the container. They knew the person pointing wasn't reliable based off their previous experience. 34 dogs were used in the experiment, and every single dog wouldn't go towards the container the third time. This experiment either proves that dogs can spot a liar or that dogs have major trust issues.

In other words, if you lie to your dog, your dog forms the opinion that your word isn't good and will behave accordingly. *"Dogs have more sophisticated social intelligence than we thought. This social intelligence evolved*





selectively in their long life history with humans," said Takaoka, who was also surprised that dogs were quick when they "devalued the reliability of a human."

John Bradshaw of the University of Bristol in the UK, who wasn't involved in this study, says that the results indicate that dogs prefer predictability. When gestures are inconsistent, dogs tend to become nervous and stressed.

The researchers have plans to repeat the experiment swapping out the dogs with wolves because wolves are closely related to dogs. The point of this isn't to get bitten by wolves, but rather, to see the "profound effects of domestication" on dogs.

REGION ONE STUFF/ STARFLEET STUFF

REGION ONE CO / XO MEETING

From Linda

Region One

- 1) **Starfleet Academy** – Regional participation is good with 247 courses completed this past month
- 2) **Regional Promotions** – 18 promotions in the Region
- 3) **Regional Awards** – Awards Director, Pam Michaud has posted through the R/1 Facebook page a link for submitting both annual and non-annual Regional Award nominations
- 4) **RDC Updates:** RDC Director, Michael Wilson reports only one RDC vacancy – that of RDC Paranormal. If interested see Linda for submitting link
- 5) **R/1 Sector events** – Regional Coordinator, Phillip Cox plans to visit each of the 4 Regional Sectors in the near future. He will be visiting Sector D in January to meet with chapters / crews from Virginia and West Virginia. Date and location to be announced.
- 6) **Regional Diplomacy** – If any chapter / CO / staff needs help managing, please ask for help from the regional staff.

Starfleet

- 1) **New SFI Database should be up and running soon.**
- 2) **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 Suru 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

LITTLE KNOWN STAR TREK FACTS

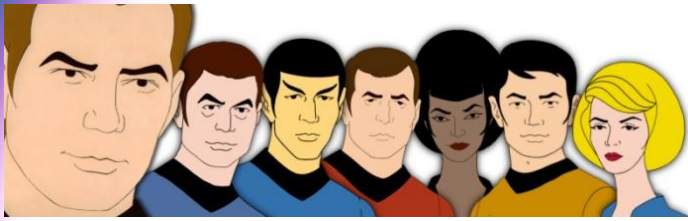


The character of Geordi La Forge was originally conceived to be Jamaican. When LeVar Burton was cast in the role, this plan was dropped; although a Jamaican actress (Madge Sinclair) later appeared as Geordi's mother.



STAR TREK THE ANIMATED SERIES CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

by Startrek.com staff
From Glenda Blanks



Today, during the Official 50th Star Trek Animated Celebration panel at San Diego Comic-Con, fans received a sneak peek into this year's salute to the 50th anniversary of

Star Trek's first foray into animation, Star Trek: The Animated Series.

To commemorate this golden anniversary, CBS Studios is creating five all-new animated promotional spots in the style of Star Trek: The Animated Series featuring fan favorite characters voiced by cast members from across the Star Trek universe including icons "Neelix," Jonathan Frakes as "Will Riker," Doug Jones as "Saru," and Armin Shimerman as "Quark."

Debuting later this year, these all-new animated spots come from Creative Consultant Casper Kelly, best known for the viral smash hit **Too Many Cooks**, and his work on Star Trek: Short Treks and Adult Swim. Kelly announced the program alongside fellow panelist John Van Citters, Vice President, Star Trek Brand Development.

Casper Kelly will also release a new comic book with IDW Publishing, Star Trek: The Animated Celebration Presents the Scheimer Barrier. The comic will debut digitally in September on StarTrek.com with physical copies available at New York Comic Con in October. IDW revealed two first-look images from the comic during the panel.

THE ZAK PERSPECTIVE

AHSOKA TANO AND MY ENLIGHTENING FRIENDSHIP IN THE FORCE

By Zac Lyon



I'd like to congratulate a *friend*. A *friend* who came to mean a lot to me. But that is getting ahead of the story.

First, a little bit of background and a bit of stuff that never got included into my last Star Wars article about Obi-Wan Kenobi. I am one of those fans who liked *The Phantom Menace*...for the most part. I saw it with my Boy Scout patrol. We came up with a theory of what was going to happen in Episode One. What if Darth Vader fell in love with someone called The Dark Queen? We spent a great deal of time speculating and felt our version might have been a tad bit better. 😊 The point is I wasn't part of the prequel hate, so the animated *Clone Wars* didn't necessarily have to win me over as it did for many fans.

The one thing that I did have to be convinced of was: who would trust Anakin Skywalker with an apprentice while the guy was still an apprentice himself? It would take a remarkable student to glean wisdom from all of the angst of prequel Anakin. What *The Clone Wars* series gave Anakin was time to be a hero. and a mentor.

But now on to the mentee. Ahsoka Tano. I was concerned that Lucas added the young Padawan to show how easily a corrupt teacher can corrupt the student's light of youthful excitement. Until the end of the Clone Wars nothing dimmed her light. She never saw light as an abstract concept. Light side. Dark side. Light was

expansive and radiated through her prism to those around her.

The idea of Ahsoka Tano seemed to have the same effect on people around the world. When the *Clone Wars* ended it was a sad but forgone conclusion that she must eventually die at the hands of Darth Vader. Concerned fans began the "Ahsoka Lives! Campaign." They would not let go. They cosplayed her and distributed Ahsoka Lives! T-shirts. At a Convention, her creator, Dave Filoni, wore a shirt at a panel. "Ahsoka Lives?" A trailer was screened and he had changed the shirt to "Ahsoka Lives!" She lived on in *Star Wars Rebels* animated series.

But how does this relate to me personally, you ask. I am also a Disney fan and when I am at Disney World, I always enjoyed meeting the characters. Suspending disbelief. Engaging in play and having fun. I don't do many thrill rides, but really enjoyed the pixie dust. When I was about 25, I was on a trip during "Star Wars Weekends." I was feeling self-conscious at the beginning of the trip about meeting characters in the easy fun way I used to. Would I be seen as too old? Had the magic left me or, more in theme with this article, was the force not as strong with me as it used to be. But that



feeling wouldn't last long, thanks to Ahsoka. If you spend any time with her, you discover she is really good at making friends.

When I spied Ahsoka that day, I was not that familiar with her character. The Clone Wars movie and a few TV episodes had come out. I was concerned her character would be used to speak to relatable teen issues not as a way to move the story forward. Standing there she seemed much more confident than her character had been depicted in the animated show so far. As I rolled toward the rust-skinned girl that afternoon, my "soul patch" gave no doubt about my age. She started talking to me and asked me what planet I was from. I was just as worthy of the spirit of play as anyone! She asked how my chair worked. She had never seen anything like it before. I remarked on what a beautiful day it was. She said ***"The sky isn't this color on the Tagruta homeworld."*** I was relaxing. She asked me if I was a Jedi. I think I said I was learning. And excitedly she said that she was too. And then without knowing it, I put my foot in my mouth. Because I called her "Snips" then realized that in the context of the show that it was an annoying nickname. She put her hands on her hips and said ***"You must have been talking to Anakin!"*** I saw Anakin adjacent to her (on the dark side path) I thought I had screwed up this meeting right at the end. But I hadn't. The spirit of Ahsoka is not that easily dimmed.

As we were leaving, she pulled mom aside and said ***"I am friends with Captain Rex, he will be arriving soon. If you stay here, I will tell him about you."*** Now I had only the vaguest idea of who Captain Rex was. (As a Disney parks fan, I was pretty sure it was the robot from the Star Tours ride.) Clone Trooper Captain Rex crossed the path, saluted her and immediately was introduced. There was a very quick whisper of hushed military tones back and forth. She made it clear to Rex that we were important people to the war effort. When the picture was snapped with Captain Rex (I now know who Rex is by the way), I had gotten my "talking to characters" mojo back. At that moment, I realized that imagination and interactive play would always be a part of my life. And for that and just being a friend to me that day, I am truly grateful. This interaction is burned in my memory.

Ahsoka was officially brought into live action from animation on the *Mandalorian* and *Boba Fett* shows, but she was already alive to me. Sadly, not everyone takes an animated character seriously until established in live action. (Under my breath - never forget Rok-Tahk)

So, congratulations, Ahsoka. Can't wait to see you again on your own series on August 23. And thanks again.

CONVENTION REPORT

GALAXYCON RALEIGH 2023

By Tammy White



Robin and I attended Galaxycon Raleigh this past weekend. We had a great time, spent money, got things and were tired by the end of it. We have been planning on going since last year. We bought our tickets early to get a discount.

We arrived Friday afternoon and after finding a parking garage went in. We easily got our 3-Day pass and headed to the dealers room as our first panel wasn't for a couple hours. As a general rule I don't buy much until Sunday but with T-shirts I get them first day because they run out of 2XIs by Sunday.

After making the exhibit hall rounds, we went upstairs to see Marina Sirtis and Brent Spiner's panel. We were not sure what to expect. Due to the actors strike, there were a lot of things put out that the actors could and couldn't do. One of which was talk about past, current, and future projects that involved television or movies. Well, that pretty much wipes out asking about everything they did. We were told that the audience would not be allowed to ask questions during the panels but instead we could submit questions online ahead of time. When the host came out, he announced that both Marina and Brent said they would let us and could ask appropriate questions.

As Brent was introduced the host did mention all the television shows and movies he was involved in. Brent walked out on stage,



took the microphone and in his comedic style pretended that his mic was not functioning. He got a lot of laughs as he kept "talking" not saying anything. He said, ***"That was funny the first time and it's still funny after the tenth time."*** If you've ever seen him at a con, you know he is very funny.

The host started to announce Marina and as soon as he started to say Star Trek she ran out and yelled, ***"You can't say that."*** We laughed. The host asked them questions and found it was easy to skirt around actually saying Star Trek. ***That show in space or that thing you did that you were in*** was mentioned a lot. Members of the audience asked about how they got into the business and if they had any suggestions for anyone wanting to be actors.



They both said if they were passionate about doing something else, they should do that. Not necessarily to turn them away from acting, they said to make sure that's what they really want to do. It's not an easy business to get into or be in.

The question about AI was brought up and Marina was very vocal about being against it. Some of her concerns were not just putting actors out of work but makeup artists, props, costume designers, and everyone involved in movies and television. She stated that producers wouldn't have to pay anyone and would put a lot out of work. Brent agreed with everything she said. They were also asked which medium did they prefer - television, movies or the stage. Both of them had been on Broadway and said they preferred that. If a member of the audience wanted to ask a question and they didn't know how to phrase it without naming the show they were in they would whisper it to the host and he figured out an acceptable way to ask it for them. It was a great panel. When it was over Marina stood up and said, ***"This may make a lot of people mad but, my body, my choice."***

We attended 3 panels; the second one was William Shatner's. Again, he and the host skirted around actually saying Star Trek. He was asked about his space flight. If you have ever heard William Shatner at a convention, you know he tends to ramble a lot. His main point was that space was dark. He did mention how small our little place in the universe is. He said space continued and we have no idea where the end was.

Our third panel was with LeVar Burton. It was announced again that the audience would be allowed to ask questions and the limitations were mentioned but, this time there was an exception. Reading Rainbow questions were allowed. The audience clapped and cheered. He walked out on stage to a lot of cheers. He started singing the theme song to Reading Rainbow and the audience sang with him. He stopped singing and the audience finished it. Someone asked him what his favorite book was and he said *Roots* by Alex Haley. As many of you know he was in *Roots* and since *Roots* was a book questions about the "book" were allowed. I'm paraphrasing here but LeVar stated that history needs to be taught truthfully. He stated he's often asked how to get kids to read and he asks the parents how often do they see you reading? The best way to get kids to read is to see you enjoying reading.

An audience member asked him what's a book they should read and his answer was, ***"Any banned book."*** The audience cheered. LeVar said that not every book is for everyone but, there is a book for everyone. An audience member wanted to know if it bothered him to wear the visor he wore on Star Trek. Obviously, the question couldn't be asked directly but the host did a great job of rephrasing it saying in your many roles you must have had to use many props and...LeVar interrupted him and said, ***"I hated the visor."*** We all laughed.

He was asked what it was like to work with his daughter in the recent thing they were in referring to the Picard series. He said his daughter had gone to college to study history, I believe, but tried out for a theater play and got the part. She called her parents and told them she changed her major. He said they were proud of her. He felt very proud to be with her on that show they did. He talked about a podcast he does and a future project, I believe it was a podcast project, about the banning of books.

Outside of the dealer's room and panels there were other things that we were interested in. We saw a lot of people in costumes. There was someone dressed as Bumblebee from Transformers. His costume was great. He must have been at least eight feet tall. Robin asked him if she could have her photo taken with him and he nodded. He had been posing with several other people and each pose was different. After he posed for her photo, he removed his helmet and I could tell he was very hot. Some of those costumes must have been unbearably hot. A woman was dressed as Umbridge from Harry Potter. Robin had her photo taken with her as well. I don't watch anime but there were several people in anime costumes. There were a lot of Batmans and Spidermans as well as a lot of people in Star Trek uniforms and costumes. What was disappointing was we didn't see many Star Wars people there. We found out they had been moved to a hotel across the street. We didn't feel like walking in the heat so didn't go there. I hope they get put back in the convention center next year.

We also went up to the top floor to visit the local Starfleet chapter, Kitty Hawk. They were very nice. In their room was a 2-person transporter.

The convention was great but had its problems too. There were way too many people allowed in on Saturday. The dealer's room was over-crowded and the lines to get some of the autographs were dangerously long. The pricing of autographs has changed also. If you get a photo from their table it's anywhere from \$50-225, (That was Billy De Williams). If you bring something to be autographed some celebrities are charging more and depending what that it is, the price goes up. I heard people say it's because so much of what gets autographed at cons ends up on eBay. I also heard that the con itself takes a portion of the autographs. I'm not sure who sets the price of autographs for sure but I believe it's a combination of celebrities and the organizers of the convention.

If you go to a convention have fun and enjoy yourself.





CONTINUING ROLE PLAY

Part 10 of *The Bound Dog Shall be Loosed*:

"...and the masks began to fall"

By Jonathan Hatter and Bud Walker

Aboard the USS Heimdal...

Hatter sat staring at the PADD propped up in front of him. A Security Brief was on display, but he wasn't reading. He stared, glassy eyed, straight ahead. The doors suddenly whooshed open as Admiral Davis walked in.

"Evening Commander. I thought your shift ended an hour ago." Hatter snapped to attention. *"I'm just finishing up, Sir"*

"At ease, my friend. Get some rack time. We've got phaser sim coming up soon."

Hatter flashed a crooked grin and replied, *"I'll be ready, Sir. Don't worry!"*

The Chief stowed his PADD in a private locker and keyed in a secure code. Admiral Davis turned and smiled back. *"I know you will, my good man. Good evening."*

"Night, Sir."

The doors closed behind Chief Davis as Hatter sat back down. Hatter thought to himself, *Davis has the skills of a warrior but wastes his energy on compassion.* He was a Prime, but still, Hatter respected the Admiral for his skills in battle and for his leadership abilities. On the ship and in the battlefield, Admiral Davis is a masterful tactician. Hatter shook his head in an attempt to focus his thoughts and return to the matter at hand. Walker. What in the Emperor's name is he doing here? There's no way it's a coincidence. I need to get some more information.

"Computer, when does Commander Walker complete his shift?" The calm female voice replied *"Commander Walker will complete his duty shift in 1 hour."*

Time to go, Hatter thought. *"Now is my chance."*

He started for Walker's quarters with a bounce in his step and an evil grimace on his face.

Commander Bud Walker had just completed the inventory report for his secondary duty as a ship's quartermaster and was returning early to his quarters. He passed through the automatic doors and was immediately confronted with the sight of his room in disarray, with clothes and other items strewn all over the floor. And standing in the middle of the room was Commander Jonathan Hatter, looking startled.

"You should have another hour on your shift, Walker."

Without addressing Hatter's statement, Walker shot back, *"What the hell are you doing in my quarters?"*

Hatter dropped the small box he had been examining before Walker's entrance and stood at his full height. He relaxed his muscles and prepared himself for anything that Walker might do.

"You've been receiving unauthorized transmissions. Security was curious as to what you might be up to."

Oh Frak! Walker thought to himself. *"Ummm, it's not you can't what I mean is"*

"I thought so," Hatter said, *"You are up to something. Who have you been communicating with? Tell me now!"*

Hatter said the last sentence almost as a growl and took a menacing step toward Walker. Walker took a step back and bumped into his bedside table. Walker did not know Hatter that well, but he somehow seemed more aggressive, even angry. Walker saw an almost feral look in Hatter's eyes and at some instinctual level, Walker suddenly realized something. *Jonathan Hatter is a Terran. He is the Terran operative that Section 31 ordered me to find.*

To be continued...



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From Linda

THE FUTURE IS THE AUCTION ... AND THEN WE REST ...

THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

We thank all of you for contributing to this newsletter and we hope you enjoy reading it. We'll see you at the Pool Party and Picnic on August 19 AND the meeting on August 26.

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...

FUNNY HEIMDAL PEOPLE PHOTOS

