



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 **MERRY CHIISTMAS** Issue, December 2023

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<http://www.ussheimdal.com>

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FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet SFDPP Certified

MERRY CHIIRSTMAS AND THE HAPPIEST NEW YEAR!

What could possibly have happened to 2023? It dropped in, stayed a little while and is almost gone ... as quickly as Santa disappears up the chimney in *The Night Before Christmas*. It's been a very busy and hectic Heimdal year so I'm hoping 2024 is more relaxed and even more fun.

I love this picture at the top of the page. While it really isn't a Christmas photo, to me it is peaceful, kind of looks like Christmas and is as "*quiet as falling snow*," which seems to have just started in the photo. How cool it would be to look out a window on a night like that and see the Enterprise quietly passing above. I could get lost in this picture.

As we come to the end of another Heimdal year we should all have a tremendous feeling of accomplishment. Against the odds we had a VERY successful auction, we've just chosen our 17th Space Camp Contest winner and we're on the threshold of celebrating our 40th Anniversary as a





Starfleet chapter. We are among the longest surviving, most successful and prosperous Starfleet chapters ... *'The pride of the fleet.'* Every time we send another student to NASA's Space Camp, I am in awe that we actually DID that ... 17 times.

As the year comes to an end, I thank each of you for your participation, dedication and especially your friendship. I can't imagine a better group of people to call my FRIENDS.



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

Well, the temperature has finally caught up to where it's supposed to be on the heels of Thanksgiving and with the sights on Christmas.

The last Heimdal meeting we had David Young speak to us and if you've ever known a geologist, they tend to see stuff that most of us walk right over but they pick up! He was a good speaker and I'll admit I've never been to Stones N' Bones but I plan to. He was excellent.

Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting because even I was a little worried that we would have a low turnout, so I forced Jonathan to come help me and if it weren't for him, ZOOM would've been on my cell phone. PLUS, those in attendance were able to meet our Space Camp

winner *before* he takes his trip. I think he was a little overwhelmed because his dad dropped him off with a group of unknown older people. He was smart and nestled right under Linda's wing while in alien territory ... *"nerds to the left and right ... act natural now."* He must have been thinking, *"The two large guys didn't know how to operate the TV. But, ah, they have it working."* Speaking of which, I've seen Bud have problems but if it weren't for Jonathan's personal hotspot the ZOOMERS would have been on the small screen ... thanks Jonathan!

Okay, plans are already underway for an excellent Christmas meeting ... see Linda's article and by the time you read this the Amherst parade will be history ... were we winners? Did the Gorn attack? Was it raining?

Stay tuned for more! Hope to see you at both! SMITH OUT...



David Young telling us about Stones N Bones

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER
RAdm. Carl Davis, Starfleet SFDPP Certified

Sorry I missed our last meeting but Bonnie and I were at Disney World for a week enjoying the fun stuff and walking ourselves silly. Two days in a row we registered over 8 miles and the other three were in the 7-mile range. And we lived to tell about it!

We rode the new ride at Magic Kingdom, which is called TRON. I must confess that I underestimated the ride. It is almost two minutes of *"let me separate you from whatever you last ate."* In my case it was pop tarts and coffee and I was proud to walk away with them still tucked where I had put them. I don't tolerate excessive motions well and only after taking ginger root capsules will I attempt anything as fool hardy as a roller-coaster. TRON tested me to



the max and I will not pass that way again. I came, I saw, I conquered but never again.

Slightly less trying was Star Wars: The Rise of the Resistance. It was a must ride for any Star Wars fan but beware that it has its twists and turns. It's also not for the easily queasy.

I love the whole area in Hollywood Studios Park called Galaxies Edge. It's ALL about Star Wars. Check it out if you are ever in Orlando. Cheaper and with less walking you can find step by step adventures through the parks on YouTube. They do a great job of showing the sights and the rides but with no lines and 0 nausea factor. Even



TRON has all the twists and turns but I didn't have to grit my teeth or make the unmanly screams of the real thing. Ok, I'm kidding, I didn't really scream. I was afraid to open my mouth.

Happy to be back and looking forward to what's around the riverbend. *May the force be with you.*
Carl

MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting will be the Heimdal's Annual Christmas Party/Christmas Dinner/Ugly Sweater Contest/Dirty Santa/and anything else we can think of in person at the Madison Heights Library and on ZOOM.

For the in-person people, we will be starting our dinner at **6:00 p.m.** **The Heimdal will be furnishing the meat platter with everyone else bringing side dishes and desserts. Please let me know what you plan to bring.** This is a real dinner, not just munchies so plan to come hungry and enjoy the meal. I'm so sorry there's no way we can include our people on ZOOM for dinner.

ZOOM will start at 6:30 or shortly after. We don't want to rush anyone through dinner.

**They said bring a dessert
and a game to the party...**



Following dinner, we will have a brief surprise presentation by the Engineering Department followed by the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest with a prize for the winner And Dirty Santa. Those wishing to play Dirty Santa should bring a gift worth approximately \$5 to exchange (or get stolen). **NO GAG GIFTS, PLEASE.** **HINT:** The gift that is wrapped the pretties/most unusually/funniest/craziest is the gift that will be **stolen** most often, keeping the game moving and making it more fun ... so wrap your gifts with care and humor.

Mostly the evening is about fellowship – sharing time with friends doing goofy stuff and having a delicious meal.

See you there.

Our ZOOM Coordinator will be Tim Hazlett and here are the coordinates:

Tim Hazlett is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Heimdal Zoom Meeting

Time: Dec 16, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 927 494 7336

Passcode: 273082

--- One tap mobile

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

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

--- Dial by your location

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• 855 880 1246 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 927 494 7336

Passcode: 273082

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acC7veT7hQ>



David Young

NOVEMBER MEETING

**November 2023 Meeting
By Jonathan Hatter**

The monthly meeting of the USS Heimdal was held on November 18, 2023 at the



Madison Heights Public Library. In person were 10 crew members and 3 guests. 4 crew members joined us via Zoom. We



David showing us some amazing rock samples while Jonah looks on

welcomed our 2023 Space Camp winner and his father. Congratulations to Ethan Mason on winning this year's essay contest. It was wonderful to meet him and have him listen to our presenter.

Our guest speaker was Dave Young, the owner of Stones N' Bones, a jewelry shop located in Forest, Virginia that offers a mix of gems and crystals and all things rock and mineral related. The store has been open for roughly 27 years and it allows him to indulge in his love of geology.

Dave grew up in Fairfax County, when it was all farmland, he pointed out. He's worked a range of jobs, including managing the Harley Davidson store on Timberlake Road. He discovered some nice specimens of kyanite as they began clearing that site. This was just one of the many interesting stories he shared with us. He mentioned that he has stopped on the side of the road in a great many locations to go through the rocks and see what he can find.



Space Camp Contest winner, Ethan Mason listening to David talk about the Shuttle's heat shield

He brought some specimens to share with us. These included:

- A large megalodon tooth.
- A large piece of limestone with seasonal deposition lines. At 4 inches per century of detritus, who knows how old it really is?
- A core sample of gneiss with white lines that represent "slip faulting." This is evidence of the tectonic plates moving against each other.

Dave discussed the types of land found throughout Virginia and the rocks within each. His knowledge and passion for geology were very evident. As he answered our questions, he disclosed some of his favorite rock hunting locales and how the rocks of each one were developed. Mining was once a very important part of the state's economy and there are a large number of abandoned mining sites throughout the Commonwealth.

Cadet Jonah Ryan asked some wonderful questions and Dave eagerly provided answers. One involved the megalodon tooth and why it was black. Dave explained that fossils take the color of whatever material they are fossilized in, and to my surprise, he noted that he found this particular tooth in Williamsburg, Virginia. Jonah asked some additional questions about obsidian and why diamonds are so expensive. It's wonderful to have such inquisitive Cadets on board our ship.

It's impossible to recount all the knowledge and stories that Dave shared with us in the small space of this article. Many thanks to him for spending some of his time and expertise with us at the meeting. What a fantastic presentation.

After the presentation CO Linda Smith conducted a business meeting. She began by remembering long-time Heimdal member Dennis Henderson, who passed on October 31st after a long illness. The crew has a great deal of wonderful memories, and we send our best to his



Our ZOOMIES enjoying the meeting

family. Dennis was a talented individual who created amazing cross stitch pieces and mechanical gadgets. He is greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Linda then presented the details of the Heimdal charity donations for Christmas. Some donation amounts had to be scaled back this year but we are still able to support the Salvation Army, The Free Clinic of Central Virginia, Gleaning for



David showed us a megalodon tooth ... WOW!



the World, An Angel Tree Child and several area seniors through Home Instead. Also included are the Lynchburg and Amherst Humane Societies, and the Friends of the Madison Heights Library where the Heimdal helped establish a science fiction section.

Lastly, don't forget the Christmas party on December 16th at the Library. Bring a gift for Dirty Santa, worth 5 dollars or less, and there will be an ugly sweater competition as well. Bring a food item and the Heimdal will provide a meat platter. And remember, it will be at 6:00, not the usual time of 6:30. See you then!



40th ANNIVERSARY PARTY ... WE HAVE A THEME!!!

Last month I told you that the date of our 40th Anniversary Party has been changed to **APRIL 13 ... same location.** **What I DIDN'T tell you** was the theme of the party, **SO HERE IT IS DRUM ROLL PLEASE (and with thanks to Zak and Jody for the idea)**

~ Back to the Future 1984 ~

Because the Heimdal launched as shuttlecraft in 1984, the costumes for the evening can be one of two things ... any vintage outfit from that 1984 era OR any costume relative to the actual ***Back to the Future*** movie. That is a pretty broad range and will be fun. There WILL be a Costume Contest with prizes.

The meal is \$28.95 per person so start saving NOW so you'll be ready. The meal is the ONLY thing you'll be paying for at the party and that's quite a deal.



HEIMDAL PEOPLE

STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!



Admiral Willy Smith

Awarded Bridge Officer Certification Program – 3 awards

BOCP - Second Officer Certification	Awarded	Nov 17, 2023
BOCP - Chief Weapons Officer Certification	-Awarded	Nov 17, 2023
BOCP - Flight Control Officer Certification	-Awarded	Nov 25, 2023

IOMOS - COAA - School of Arms

WPN 101 - Small Arms Identification Pt. 1	HONORS	Nov 05, 2023
WPN 102 – Sm. Arms ID	Pt. 2 DISTINCTION	Nov 06, 2023
WPN 103 - Small Arms ID	Pt. 3 DISTINCTION	Nov 06, 2023

WPN 104 - Ammunition ID	DISTINCTION	Nov 09, 2023
WPN 105a - Hand Grenades Pt 1	HONORS	Nov 09, 2023
WPN 106 - Shoulder Fired Rockets	HONORS	Nov 11, 2023
WPN 105b - Hand Grenades Pt 2	HONORS	Nov 11, 2023
WPN 107 - Improvised Explosive Devices	HONORS	Nov 12, 2023
WPN 108 - Bayonets	DISTINCTION	Nov 13, 2023
WPN 109 - Non-Lethal Weapons	DISTINCTION	Nov 17, 2023
WPN 110S - Weapons Safety Pt 1	DISTINCTION	Nov 18, 2023
WPN 111S - Weapons Safety Pt 2	HONORS	Nov 18, 2023
WPN 112S - Weapons Safety Pt 3	DISTINCTION	Nov 20, 2023
WPN 113S - Weapons Safety Pt 4	DISTINCTION	Nov 21, 2023
WPN 114S - Weapons Safety Pt 5	DISTINCTION	Nov 21, 2023
WPN 115 - Survival Blades	HONORS	Nov 22, 2023





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

CSTG 101 - Basics of S&T	HONORS	Nov 27, 2023
CSTG 102 - Focus on Tactics	HONORS	Nov 27, 2023

IOSC - College of Ecology

ECOL 101 History of Ecology Part 1	DISTINCTION	Nov 16, 2023
ECOL 102 History of Ecology Part 2	HONORS	Nov 17, 2023
ECOL 103 History of Ecology Part 3	DISTINCTION	Nov 17, 2023

IOSS - College of Spaceflight

ASTP 101 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 1	DISTINCTION	Nov 14, 2023
ASTP 102 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 2	HONORS	Nov 15, 2023
ASTP 103 - Apollo-Soyuz Program 3	HONORS	Nov 15, 2023



CMDR Zachary Lyon (4 Courses, 1 Award)

****Awarded BOCF Chief Science Officer on Nov 03, 2023****

IOTK - STARFLEET Officers Radio School (IOST:SORS)

DISTINCTION for SORS 106 - Radio in ENT on Nov 11, 2023

IOTK - College of Laser Technology

DISTINCTION for COLT 102 - Lasers part 2 on Nov 8, 2023

DISTINCTION for COLT 103 -Lasers Part 3 on Nov 8, 2023

DISTINCTION for COLT 104 - Lasers part 4 on Nov 16, 2023



Fleet Captain Darrell Millner (16 Courses, 1 Award)

****Awarded for Boothby 0300 - Dilithium (300) on Nov 11, 2023****

IOSS - College of Orbital Mechanics

DISTINCTION for COOM 104 Types of Orbits part 2 on Nov 3, 2023

DISTINCTION for COOM 105 Trajectories on Nov 4, 2023

DISTINCTION for COOM 106 Orbital Parameters and elements part 1 on Nov 5, 2023

DISTINCTION for COOM 107 Orbital Parameters and elements part 2 on Nov 8, 2023

DISTINCTION for COOM 108 Orbital Parameters and elements part 3 on Nov 9, 2023

DISTINCTION for COOM 109 Orbital Rendevous on Nov 9, 2023

IOSS - College of Astronomy

DISTINCTION for AST 203 - Quasars part 1 on Nov 5, 2023

HONORS for AST 204 - Quasars part 2 on Nov 4, 2023

DISTINCTION for AST 205 - Galactic Matter part 1 on Nov 8, 2023

DISTINCTION for AST 206 - Galactic Matter part 2 on Nov 8, 2023

HONORS for AST 207 - Galactic Matter part 3 on Nov 10, 2023

IOSTS - College of Treknology (IOSF:COT)

DISTINCTION for ST5-103 - Technology on Nov 17, 2023

IOAE - College of Action and Drama

DISTINCTION for STH 001 - Apollo 13 from the School on Nov 18, 2023

IOSS - School of Planetary Identification & Discovery

HONORS for SPID 110 - Minor Planets part 1 on Nov 20, 2023

DISTINCTION for SPID 111 - Minor Planets part 2 on Nov 20, 2023

DISTINCTION for SPID 112 - What are Carbon and Chthonian Planets on Nov 20, 2023



CMDR William Walker, JR. (8 Courses, Awards)

IOIE - School of Intel Gathering (SIG)

HONORS for SIG 208 Canadian/ Australian on Oct 19, 2023

DISTINCTION for SIG 209 Japanese intel on Oct 20, 2023

HONORS for SIG 210 China/ N.Korea on Oct 31, 2023

DISTINCTION for SIG 211 French / German on Nov 1, 2023

DISTINCTION for SIG 212 NSA on Nov 1, 2023

IOIE - College of Bond, James Bond (CBBJ)

DISTINCTION for BJB 113 - Octopussy on Oct 19, 2023

IOSC - College of Evidence

DISTINCTION for SEC 103 - Measurements on Oct 25, 2023

HONORS for SEC 104 - Body Fluid on Oct 27, 2023



RENEWALS

We have no renewals in December.

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 within in 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

January 2024 – Janice Lawson – January 4

Nikki Cole – January 24

February – No renewals in February – Happy Valentine's Day!

March - Kenny Proehl & Chris Thompson – March 4

Cathy Fletcher – March 5

Jonathan, Karen & Allen Hatter – March 7

Jennifer Long – March 21

Darrell Spencer – March 21

Tammy White, Robin Hudson & Madison Litchford – March 23

Katrine Contreras – March 31

(Whew!)



What does NOT belong in this picture???

WHERE ARE THEY NOW???

CARL HAYDEN, JR Space Camp Winner 2016



Carl in 'Mission Control' at space camp after winning our contest in 2016

I stay in touch with Carl's dad, Carl, Sr. and recently asked him what Carl was doing. Here's what he told me to 'catch me up ...'

Carl is in his 4th year majoring in Aerospace Engineering at Virginia Tech. He will finish next year spilling into a 5th year. But he's also minoring and AE is a tough major. Most engineering students don't get out in 4 years.

He worked two years at Nasa Langley with the VAST and VESS programs and had to turn them down last summer to work for Boeing on some classified research projects. Made sense, he could work at campus and take classes as well. But he took classes over the summer working at Langley too. He's always got a full schedule - even in "off time."

Davidson

Rocket Center and space camp asked him to

work there a few summers ago, but though he loved space camp, he said it would be fun (and I'm sure he would be great- being such a people person), but not real engineering.

He's pretty serious about his career. He's got several options this summer and in the enviable position of being highly sought after. I'm not sure where he'll wind up.

We watch Space X launches (took him to Cape Kennedy this summer and saw some launches). The Artemis launch, going back



Present day Carl (middle) at Halloween with his girlfriend (left) & his dad, Carl, Sr. (on the right)



to the moon, and manned missions to Mars are really exciting. Sort of recapturing what it was like when I was young and we were sending Apollo moonshots and competing with CCCP.

Oh, by the way, the 4th season of "For All Mankind" started on Apple TV this month. Carl and I both agreed not to watch them until we were together over Christmas. If you've not seen it, you **MUST** watch. It's an alternative timeline as if CCCP made it to the moon first and space race never ended. Really well done mixing in some real events and changing others. Technology moved ahead since we were still in competition, but in odd ways. Only people who remember 70s, 80s, 90s, 2000's would notice some of the subtle shifts. Now with season 4 they've gotten into current times.

Thank you for remembering us and sending the Heimdal newsletter. I read it every month.

HEIMDAL STUFF

DONATIONS MADE TO HEIMDAL IN MEMORY OF DENNIS

As most of you know, Dennis Henderson's family asked that instead of flowers, those wishing to remember Dennis make a donation to the Heimdal's Space Camp Program. In the past month we have received two very generous donations – one for \$100 and another for \$50.

We appreciate these donations so much and they have been added to our Space Camp Program. I think Dennis would be pleased and proud.



SPACE CAMP CONTEST 2023

Our 2023 Space Camp Contest is in the Heimdal's history books and we have a winner. In the 8th grade at Amherst Middle School, our winner is Ethan Mason. He is the eldest of 8 children and has had a love of space and space travel since he was old enough to watch NASA videos on television. His family is a Star WARS family and his mom, Elizabeth asked us not to hold that against them.

Ethan and his dad, Nick joined us at our November meeting. Ethan was really interested in hearing our guest speaker, David Young talk about the structure of some rocks from space and the heat shield components of the Space Shuttle tiles.

Ethan will be taking his trip to Space Camp the week of June 23, 2024 and is our **17th winning Space Camp**



Ethan

student. We can all be proud of what we've

accomplished sending these kids on a trip of a lifetime.



Linda welcoming Ethan & his dad, Nick to the November meeting

AMHERST CHRISTMAS PARADE

In the midst of a weeks-long drought, December 1 – the date of the Amherst Christmas Parade – dawned (kinda) cold and rainy and went on like that all day long. But Carl and his band of die-hard Heimdal float participants gathered anyway





to represent our mighty starship in the parade. Those brave and hardy warriors were Carl, Bonnie, Linda, Willy, Glenda, Joe, Bud and Weston. After Weston's rain experience with a Heimdal float in 2020 when he got soaked to the bone and beyond, he came out to be a part of this year's float anyway.



Heimdal's Parade Guy, Carl adjusting Snoopy on top of his dog house for the ride down the parade route

The theme of the parade was **A Cartoon Christmas**. After winning the Grand Champion prize in 2020 and 2021 we decided to do something simple this year just for fun and not with our sights set on winning.

Carl built a dog house out of 2X4s and cardboard and Linda drew a 2-sided Snoopy on foam core board that slept peacefully atop the dog house. We even found old fashioned outside Christmas lights to adorn the exterior of Snoopy's abode. There was a Peanuts-style scroungy Christmas tree in the snow surrounding the dog house adorned with that forlorn red bulb you see in all the Peanuts Christmas cartoons. We prayed that the rain wouldn't dissolve the cardboard dog house or the foam core Snoopy on the way down the parade route. Our prayers were answered because the rain mostly stopped before the parade started.

With Carl driving the Galileo van pulling the small float, most everyone else walked along carrying the Heimdal and Starfleet banners and passing out Heimdal business cards to the crowd along the street. In our own small, soggy way, we were impressive. And while we may not have won that

coveted Grand Champion award, we kind of had fun and we get extra high marks for participation and representing the Heimdal. In my mind we **WERE the BEST FLOAT IN THE PARADE.**

A special **THANK YOU** to Carl, especially, and to everyone that came out to be a part of a good evening being who we are and being together.

HOLIDAY CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Charity begins at home and is especially appreciated during the holidays. Once again due to the dedication and hard work of our Heimdal members at the auction and those that made food and monetary donations to include with our Salvation Army Food Pantry donation, plus the generosity of the Daly Foundation and other supporters, we have been able to make Christmas a bit more joyous for those in our area. Our donations have been sent to our adopted charities and consist of:

- Gleaning for the World
- Free Clinic of Central Virginia
- Salvation Army Food Pantry
- Home Instead Senior Citizen's Christmas
- Angel Tree Christmas child
- Amherst Humane Society
- Lynchburg Humane Society
- Lynchburg Social Services Foster Children's Christmas
- Friends of Madison Heights Library

Individually we could do very little but as a club we are able, every Christmas, to make small miracles happen. God bless us everyone



DECEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH

It's PRESENT Time. A friend you've just made invites you to see his new car and sit behind the wheel. It's a sporty little thing so you **DO** and suddenly realize you're sitting in a DeLorean and are about to go *Back to the Future*. Your new friend is waving to you from the window with a crazed look in his eyes and he suddenly has wild white hair and is wearing a white lab coat. **WHAT THE HECK?** You think, "Oh, WOW!" and realize that something weird is happening. Not stopping to question it all, you seize the opportunity. Since you seem to have **TOTAL CONTROL** of the car and all its winkie blinkies, **WHERE** will you go and what year will it be ... & **WHY?**

Darrell Millner: With the flip of a switch - June 1983. All my grandparents are still in Lynchburg, VA. and disguised as a survey person, I have specific questions for each one. I would also acquire gold, assorted stocks, and bury them at a secret location I can access on my return to 2023. Just for kicks I would grab a pizza from the PIZZA INN on Memorial Ave (where I am working) for the return trip - and boom, 'Bob's Your Uncle'.



Willy Smith: I would go back to the 1984 and invest the \$250 I have in my pocket in Microsoft at \$21.00 per share. Seeing that recent trades were \$238.73 per share, I'd sell some and buy a new truck before they come out with Windows 13. (Did I mention I overshot current time on my way back? Doc has his car again...)

Glenda Blanks: I would go back to the Civil War so I could meet Abraham Lincoln. (BTW, he liked cats!)

Linda Smith: I'd like to go back to the 1990s and spend just one more entire day going out to lunch, shopping and to a movie with my mom. Those were the BEST days ever.

Zak Lyon: I would go back to the '64-'65 World's Fair in NYC. The attractions made by Walt Disney there were the birth of audio-animatronics. I would meet my mother there where she's performing. We could check out Walt's displays together since we share a love of Disney history. I would remind her to buy a souvenir bigger than a button that she might lose. Later, after I was born, when she showed me her souvenir, I could remember the day.

Jody Lyon: I would go to the future out of a fear of messing things up if I went back in time. I would want to see that we turned the world around. I have faith that we will and I just want to see it.

RILEY'S RAMBLINGS ...

JACK'S GIRLFRIEND, SALLY

By Richard Riley



Hello everyone, how is it already December?! It does not even seem possible! Time needs to slow down a bit. I hope that everyone is doing well, had a great Thanksgiving and are getting ready for Christmas!

For this month's column I will be showing a piece that I made that is Christmas themed or at least it is supposed to be! Last year I created 2 pieces for a client for his home display, a figure of Jack Skellington and his "ghost dog," Zero. Now, you may ask, what does that have to do with Christmas?!

Well, these characters are based on a stop motion animated film called the *Nightmare Before Christmas*. In the movie Jack is in charge of Halloween but he becomes disillusioned with his life and wants a change of pace. He decides that change of pace should be giving Santa Clause or as Jack likes to call him "Sandy Claws," a break and Jack will fill in for him during Christmas.

Well, since last year I had built Jack and his dog Zero for my client, they wanted an additional figure for this year, Jack's girlfriend, Sally. Sally is actually a sewn together rag doll so she has stitches holding her limbs together along with



a dress that is made in the same fashion. I have Sally posed leaning on a tombstone gazing upwards at the sky perhaps looking for Jack in Santa's sleigh delivering presents.

I started this piece using foam for the tombstone. Once that was made then I had to scale Sally to the tombstone along with making sure she is the correct size to work with Jack and Zero. Since both of those figures are in California, I had to use measurements that I had taken from last year's build to ensure that they all work together size wise. This figure was a bit of challenge to make due to all the stitch work. I ended up going with using black electrical wire for her stitches. That way no paint work would need to be done to the stitches. If you notice the stitches on Sally's face are blue. In the movie she applies makeup to her facial stitches so that they blend in with her complexion. Sally's hair I was able to do using a wig that I found online so that saved me quite a bit of work.

All in all, a very enjoyable build! The client is very happy with it and has plans to add more figures to his *Nightmare Before Christmas* display every year. Thankfully the movie has dozens of characters to choose from so it would keep me busy for years to come!

Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year!

FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS



<<<SECURITY>>>

SECURITY REPORT: DECEMBER 2023

By RAdm. Carl Davis, Chief of Security, Starfleet SFDPP Certified

I am pleased to report that for another year Security has done its work and the Heimdal has been as secure as any ship in the fleet. We've offered the opportunity for any member to come out and be certified for phaser use during our simulated phaser practice and many have availed themselves of the outings.

Security isn't all about phaser proficiency but when diplomacy fails, a phaser set on stun can be a good tool to 'convince' an opponent that you really are right and perhaps they will want to rethink the situation.



Thanks to all who have supported the department. Merry Christmas to all! And may your New Year be amazing.

Eternal life and prosperity. Carl

PHASER SIM FAVORS TEAM SCIENCE

By RAdm. Carl Davis

It was a bit cool but sunny as Bonnie, Willy, Joe and Carl got in what might have been the last phaser sim of 2023. It was Sciences against Security again as the two teams went to the fields to test their skills. Unfortunately, the temperature was low enough that the equipment gave some troubles, which helped decide the fate of the games.

Game one was played on the long field below the paint house where we don't usually play a lot. Carl and Willy engaged in a firefight and Willy had the advantage as the Security Chief's marker was only shooting about half as far. With Carl out of the way Joe was next to feel the wrath of Sciences and the lead went to Team Science.

Carl brought another marker to the field and was disappointed to find that for every two shots fired, three would break in the barrel making it all but impossible to make an



elimination. Joe went out early and Carl retreated, hoping to get around behind the team and get close enough to shoot effectively. After ten minutes he did manage to flank Willy and almost got close enough to take Willy out who was advancing cautiously. The maneuvering had taken too much time and the whistle blew giving the Science team another win.

The third game went better for the Security team as Carl tried his third gun of the game and finally came up with one that was good. Both Willy and Bonnie were marked and Security won its first game. The next game went to Bonnie and Willy, who first took Carl out and then got Joe in a crossfire that he couldn't survive.

We quit after four games since the games had taken quite a bit of time and Carl and Bonnie had another meeting that they needed to get to. We all had fun, even with some equipment failures that were frustrating but that is the nature of paintball guns. It has been fun seeing the skill levels of our little band increase. All are looking forward to the next time we can come together.

<<<SCIENCE>>>

THE SCIENCE OF MEMORY

By

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



You gaze at the cheerful crowd gathered around you, take a curious look at the chocolate cake set before you and then, just as everyone starts singing "[Happy Birthday](#)," you smash the cake with both hands. This would be weird, except for the fact that you're sitting in a highchair and even weirder you're turning 1 year

old!!

I have said this for most my life, "***I woke up one day and I was 6!***" My sister, Leslie and I both have *missing time* and we never knew why it was ... figured I fell off a cow too many times (we lived on a cow farm). My wife, Linda remembers what dress she was wearing and if the sun was out on any day when she was two.

Chances are you don't remember your first or second birthday party -- or a bunch of other events that happened in early childhood -- and you're not alone. It's normal to forget your earliest life experiences, even though your life is being shaped.

Most adults can't recall life's earliest moments unless the events are reinforced by others who often retell them, or the memories are triggered by photographs or other cues.

Scientists call this **childhood amnesia**. While you may have been able to recall and describe your second birthday party in great detail for months after it happened, a year later those memories may have faded and, eventually, are lost altogether. (That's if you were a talkative 2-year-old!)

Babies form memories differently.... To understand why we don't remember being swaddled as infants -- or just about anything else from our baby years -- we must first understand how our earliest experiences are imprinted on the brain. "***Somebody FEED ME! "Oh mother...my backside itches."***



Infants rely on both semantic and episodic memory. Semantic memory is the processing of ideas not drawn from personal experience (names of colors, or dates of events in history, for instance). Episodic memory is drawn from personal experience (what the first day of school was like or where you were on 9/11). Over time, the episodic memory may become semantic memory, so that you don't remember you learned about dogs from playing with your first dog -- you just know what a dog is.

The child's brain's surface (cortex), it isn't until ages 2 to 4 that the brain's hippocampus networks all these different brain regions into one centralized source of information. These connections allow children -- and adults -- to recall memories for the long term.

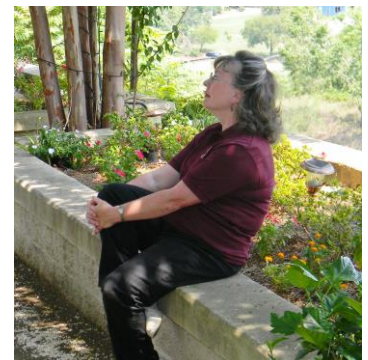
So now memories from last week are slipping by, but my only homerun hit as a child, JFK assassination and 9/11 are with me always (I hope). If you want me to continue this next month I shall ... if I remember.



RUNNING CEDAR

Botany Report by Cmdr. Bonnie Davis

Whenever I visit my home planet and get to walk through our woodlands, I



Botanist Bonnie



enjoy seeing *Running-cedar*. I have always had a love for Running-cedar (*Lycopodium digitatum* if you like Latin names) and here on our farm we have lots of it. As a child I was told it is protected and I should not pull it up. I still do not know if that is true...but I don't pull it up. There are folks who do look for it to pull and make Christmas wreaths.

About five years ago I spotted a taller growing Running-cedar. I was told it is called *Princess Pine* for its resemblance to a 6"-10" pine trees as it "runs" along the ground. Running-cedar is also known as prince's pine, princess pine, flat-branched Tree Clubmoss. Confusion comes from the fact that Ground-pine is also called fan clubmoss, ground cedar, crowfoot, running ground cedar, and running pine.



Tree-clubmoss and Running-cedar are the names that accurately convey the appearance of these two plants. And to my surprise they are MOSSES! They like to grow in woodland areas in well-drained, acidic soils. Drought tolerant, though does best with even moisture. I have two species of moss! Both send up little yellow cylindrical cones on the tips of the upper branches to release tiny spores. Both stop soil erosion and add organic matter to the soil. The plant is also an indicator of the ecosystem's health as it is sensitive to changes in environmental conditions and attract songbirds and small mammals. If you have not ever experienced this plant....come for a visit!



<<<MEDICAL>>>

MEDICAL MINUTE: DECEMBER 2023 HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD By Commodore Tammy White, Chief Medical Officer

There are several holiday celebrations that are celebrated around the world.

Many traditions take place in our own USA. Most of this information was obtained from the Better Homes and Gardens web site. There are too many traditions to write about them all. I picked a couple that I found interesting and fun. You can find many more traditions by going to the web site. Maybe you'll find one that you and your family want to try. You can even try a different one each year.



Christmas pudding holiday tradition from the United Kingdom is fun for all ages. At the end of Christmas dinner, it's customary to pour brandy over a traditional [Christmas pudding](#), then light the dessert on fire. As the small cake burns, the oldest member of the family (or the head of household) carries the dessert around the house as everyone else at the table marches behind them in order from oldest to youngest. Typically, families sing the verses of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* as they march around the house until the song is over or until the flames die out. The alcohol in the brandy burns off of the cake during the march, so it's safe for everyone to enjoy a piece afterward. Note that dried fruit pudding is very similar to fruitcake,

so come with a sweet tooth.

In Sweden and some parts of Italy, December 13 marks the start of the Christmas season, known as Saint Lucy's Day or the [Santa Lucia Festival](#). It celebrates St. Lucy, an Italian Christian martyr who died in the early 4th century. St. Lucia was killed for keeping to her faith by bringing food to Christians hiding in Roman catacombs. To keep her hands free, she wore candles in a wreath on her head. For the public festivals, a young girl is selected to represent St. Lucia. During the procession, the designee wears white with a red sash and is followed by younger children dressed in white and holding candles.



The eight-day celebration of [Hanukkah \(also known as the Festival of Lights\)](#) is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the rededication of the Holy Second Temple in Jerusalem. Hanukkah, or Chanukah, means dedication in Hebrew.

In the second century BCE, a group of Jewish people known as the Maccabees rebelled against the Seleucid Empire that had forced their community to worship Greek gods and had desecrated an important temple. They defeated the Greek army and reclaimed their place of worship. The group only had enough oil to light the temple's menorah ([a candle holder with seven candles](#)) for a single day, but miraculously the oil lasted for eight days.

The Japanese New Year, known as Omisoka, is celebrated on the last day of the year in Japan. The holiday is focused around purification and a fresh start for the year ahead, so it's typically

celebrated by [deep cleaning the home](#), bathing, and repaying debts before relaxing with friends and family in the last hours of the year.

<<<<ENGINEERING>>>>



ENGINEERING UPDATE, DECEMBER

ENGINEERING UPDATE

FCAPT Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer
R1 RDC ENG., Starfleet SFDPP Certified, SFA RED Squad
Monthly ENG/OPS Report - SD: 202312.02

Still rolling with the challenges of last month and some personal family issues, I want to say 'Thank You' to the entire Heimdal crew for the support, understanding, and comfort as my family works forward and back to something close to 'normal'.

The Engineering team continues to be engaged fully and the December edition of our departmental newsletter 'The Engineering Link, was published 01 DEC. We welcome you to enjoy viewing via <https://trek.millnernet.com/home/eng-link/>

As a team we continue to take point on the Heimdal's Interdepartmental Role Play, creating a special video to be played at the December Holiday Meeting, and more. Our monthly departmental ZOOM was a grand success, and good representation at the November Heimdal monthly meeting. Special shout out to Zak, Jody, Bud and Kathy for the amazing support, without which I'd be roaming the corridors in search of coffee and scones. Also in November, our team completed the following in SFA - 31 Courses, 2 Awards including a BOCP for CSO & Boothby 0300 - Dilithium (300). Here's to a peaceful wrap up to 2023. – Millner Out



<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>



DECEMBER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks, Communications Chief,
Starfleet SFDPP Certified

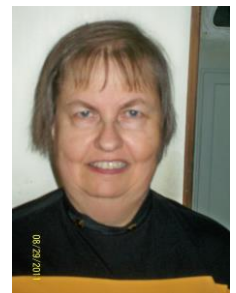
The challenges that we have all faced since the onset of COVID-19 are still present. The holiday season is upon us and for some us, the holiday season adds to one's stress level. As individuals and families plan holiday gatherings, many are wondering how topics about politics, health, wealth, or a favorite sports team will come up in conversation. Additionally, children and young people may experience a variety of emotions during the holidays and have a difficult time expressing themselves in words which can lead to misguided behaviors and hurt feelings.

Whether it is an adult chat after a holiday meal or a conversation with children after opening presents, using good communication skills can prevent misunderstandings and avoid heartache. Below are some strategies to help youth (and adults) communicate throughout the holidays.

1. Engage in active listening. Active listening is critical when responding to children and adults. Engage in active listening by allowing the person talking to finish, simply don't interrupt the person talking. If you desire more information, ask questions to gain understanding instead of jumping to conclusions. Simply, say, "Tell me more." Use "I" statements instead of making comments like "you never help clean the house." Passing judgment, interrupting, name-calling and yelling will close the door on future conversations and can contribute to a lifetime of hurt.

2. Engage in conversation with your children. Be intentional about taking the time to talk with your children. Simply, ask them about their day or what is bringing them joy, happiness, or what they are finding difficult. If not meeting friends and family in person over the holidays, schedule a virtual meeting for children to interact with grandparents, aunts, uncles, or other extended family members. These social interactions can help young people feel valued and supported.

3. Acknowledge your child's (or others') feelings. Simply ask them how they are feeling. As an adult, check-in with them daily about what feelings they are experiencing. As your child is sharing their feelings with you, make sure you are listening and not passing judgment. Try as best as you can to keep the lines of communication open. As an adult be a good role model and take the time to express your own feelings with family members. Showing ways to communicate one's feelings in a healthy manner provides a positive example for young people.





4. Respond with empathy. Offer words of encouragement and support. Think about how you would want others to respond if they were listening to you. Use words like “that might be hard” or “I haven’t thought about it that way.”

5. Stay calm. If conversations do get heated remember that it is important to stay calm. It is okay to take a short walk or remove yourself from the situation for a minute or two so that you can calm down and regain your composure.

6. Remember the “big picture.” The reality is that we all need to support one another to make it through life. Friendships, family ties, and community connections are what make life worth living. Getting upset about politics, religion, or long-time family issues will not be helpful. Instead, it can create divisions that take a lifetime to heal. Choose your words wisely.

These communication strategies can be helpful in family gatherings, chatting with the teenage neighbor, or lifelong friends, or with the sales clerk at the grocery store. Take this holiday season to use words of **love, joy, and peace.**

HEIMDAL’S PET FLEET

SECTORAL HETEROCHROMIA IN CATS **From Vicky Whorley, Reported by Linda Smith**

In sectoral heterochromia, the iris contains two completely different colors in the same area. Sectoral heterochromia looks like an irregular spot that is a different color than the eye color and does not form a complete ring around the pupil like central heterochromia.

Heterochromia is most prevalent in cats and dogs. Sectoral heterochromia is rare in humans, only about 1% of the population has it.

Heterochromia of the eye (heterochromia iridis or heterochromia iridium) is of three kinds. In complete heterochromia, one iris is a different color from the other. In sectoral heterochromia, part of one iris is a different color from its remainder and finally in "central

heterochromia" there are spikes of different colors radiating from the pupil.

images via : www.imgur.com



STARFLEET STUFF and REGION ONE STUFF

JANUARY 1, 2024: STARFLEET INCREASES MEMBERSHIP RATES

From Linda

At the Regional CO/XO Meeting on November 26 Willy and I found out that **STARFLEET WILL BE INCREASING MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR SINGLE, NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS ON JANUARY 1, 2024 TO \$10. Family memberships will remain unchanged.**

If you need to renew in January or even February you may want to consider doing it NOW while you can still get the \$5 membership rate. We have a few people that have already done that.

The vote from all Starfleet chapters regarding the increase was largely in favor of it as most chapters understood the need after reading the list of Starfleet’s expenses.

Thank you to Heimdal’s members for voting in favor to this.

SFDPP RECERTIFICATION

Beginning January 1, 2024 everyone previously certified in SFDPP that was due to recertify from August 2023 on will need to recertify.

Those that have recently become certified for the first time in the last few months will not need to recertify in January. Instead, recertifications for those people will be divided into four quarters. Information about this will follow and we will keep you updated.





STAR TREK STUFF

LITTLE KNOWN STAR TREK FACTS CHRISTMAS WAS CELEBRATED IN STAR TREK Holodeck the Halls with 10 Classic Christmas Episodes From Trek Movie

The question as to whether or not humans of the future celebrate Christmas is answered in these 10 Star Trek episodes AND the classic segment in STAR TREK; GENERATIONS. Check them out during the holidays ...

1. **Dagger of the Mind** (TOS)
2. **Good Shepherd** (VOY)
3. **The Child** (TNG)
4. **Bread and Circuses** (TOS)
5. **Once More Unto The Breach** (DS9)
6. **Death Wish** (VOY)
7. **Silicon Avatar** (TNG)
8. **Star Trek: Generations**
9. **Devil's Due** (TNG)
10. **A Christmas Carol**

If that Data scene is the figgy pudding for fans of both Trek and Charles Dickens, the roast beast would be the USA version starring Patrick Stewart. Magnificently produced, this is definitely worth watching (and rewatching).

Honorable Mention: Xmas Story (*Futurama Spoiler alert: Tiny Tim lives.*) There are enough Trek jokes in Futurama to make any fan happy, so the episode [Xmas Story](#), where the crew of Planet Express fight Robot Santa, is definitely a "must see."



Dagger of the Mind – Remembering the Enterprise Christmas Party

INTERVIEW WITH DIANA MULDAUR From Glenda Blanks, Star Trek Editor

"It was just the way it was. It had nothing to do with me at all. They were both so very different," Diana Muldaur portrayed Dr. Katherine Pulaski during the second season of Star Trek: The Next Generation, temporarily replacing Gates McFadden's Dr. Beverly Crusher (McFadden was let go at the end of the first season). This was not her first foray into Trek, having appeared on Star Trek: The Original Series as Dr. Ann Mulhall, in the second season episode "Return to Tomorrow," and as Dr. Miranda Jones in the third season episode "Is There in Truth No Beauty?" She also appeared in Roddenberry's made-for-television film, Planet Earth, in 1974.

She spoke about The Original Series and why she played two different characters, which was wonderful," says Muldaur. "It was so creative walking onto the Star Trek set. Everybody who was part of it was creative. It was before the business side dominated film and television. It was just a thrill."

Muldaur has fond memories of her second episode, *Is There in Truth No Beauty?* "The second show was fascinating, because we had a reading, and they threw the script away," she recalls. "We would get a new scene every morning, read it, rehearse it, learn it, and shoot it out of context, which was fascinating to

me because I was from the theater. It came together as one of the best Star Treks they ever had. It made total sense. It absolutely fascinated me how we shot scenes; we had no idea where it came from and where we were going, but it all worked! It was absolutely, incredibly creative and marvelous!"

"You have to understand, I loved acting," she continues. "I loved finding something in every human being I've ever played that had a kindness and a humanity. Even if it was a falling-down drunk, I had to find that in that person and in that character. All of the Trek characters fit into that magnificently, even if they weren't people (i.e., androids)."

Muldaur spoke highly of William Shatner. "I find him to be wonderful," she adds. "He's a brilliant actor. I've seen him do things before he did [Star Trek] and he was really well respected, and well-known."

Although Muldaur had a good working relationship with Roddenberry, they had lost touch for years when he called her about the role of Pulaski on Star Trek: The Next Generation. "It was out of the blue. I didn't read for that one, I'll tell you," Muldaur recalls. "I remember wanting a name change. I can't remember what [Gene] wanted it to be originally, but I suggested Katherine. He said, 'All right, if you want.'"





THE ZAK PERSPECTIVE

A Doctor* of the Art of Change My Travels with the TARDIS By Zak Lyon

**For the uninitiated: Doctor Who is a BBC program dating back to 1963. The protagonist is an alien, a Time Lord, and a protector of earth and the cosmos at large who travels the universe through time in a spinning police callbox called a TARDIS. Every few years the Doctor regenerates – changes but stays the same. The Doctor always has a companion. Oh...and this doctor has two hearts.*

I live just outside of DC. So, I have had a bit of a depressing way of marking time - The dear ol' election cycle. We are inundated with commercials, mailers and candidates knocking on our doors for months every four years. I saw the passage of time in 4-year clumps. After which - whatever happened - somebody I loved would be wildly disappointed. And everything would change and then start over again, counting down the next four years. Ticking off another cycle.

Maybe being at the center of the political timeline is one of the many reasons why I don't have a stellar relationship with the concept of change overall. So that's why I am grateful for *Doctor Who* and to a young friend who told me to stick with it in the beginning when I was not immediately drawn to the show. I have changed through my association with the Whoniverse, in that I now know that the mere act of change is not a bad thing.

Normally, when an elderly lead actor has memory and health issues even a popular show would have to call it quits or redesign the premise. But as William Hartnell, the first Doctor Who's health began to decline, the idea of regeneration was baked into the DNA of the show. What *was* a show that could be alternately scientific or historical for its young audience depending on whether you travel to the past or future (yes, it was originally educational), became a show about

"change." If the show was going to continue *it* had to change. It became a much more powerful story than if the BBC had just recast the role. The viewers over the last 60 years had to learn that, yes, change could be shocking but could also be filled with wonder. A lesson that still comes across today with each regeneration of the character.

We all have our favorite times with someone we care about. Our loved-one might change over the years, but they are still the same - if we know them well enough. If we do, we see any differences in them as additions rather than subtractions. And the change itself - as growth rather than inevitability. Like the rings of a tree that each look a little different, you can count the experiences you have. Each ring reflects the time and circumstances under which it was forged. Like the Doctor that is always changing but always known.



The Doctor is the ultimate expression of making new friends and keeping the old. Every few years the change of friends arrives unexpectedly. After all that's what the Doctor's two hearts are for. One for hello. One to remember the goodbyes - to hold the goodbyes close. I find this to be so much my experience. For several reasons. Geography is one. My home base is in an area that a lot of people move out of as soon as the administration changes or they simply find a cheaper place to live. I have had the experience of missing a lot of people. Like the Doctor I can lose companions every few years. I know that my separation from these people wasn't as dramatic as the Doctor's - e.g., having them ripped from existence by religious icons or zapped by tanks powered by the hatred of a dying race or falling through a rip between parallel universes...but it was similar. At least to me. It's helpful to have someone like the Doctor to remind you that those wonderful companions are still part of who you are. And no one will ever replace them. (Even if they get their own spin offs.)

It seems to fit that for many years *Doctor Who* always aired a new episode on Christmas Day. And will again this year, It was a place for those who sometimes don't believe in much to hold a space for belief. Even if it is just for that one day you will hear a whirring/grinding sound and someone will step out to offer you a trip to anywhere in all the universe and in all of time. To paraphrase the Doctor, just don't be cowardly, always be kind and try to keep up. It is also fitting that it is in the Christmas episode that the Doctor tends to regenerate. To become someone new on the outside. But like the TARDIS, there is more to the Doctor on the inside.



In 2005, Star Trek was never coming back. Enterprise had flopped. And it was a certainty. I had to find a way to compensate for it. To say that it was okay. Remember, I said I didn't like change. I found myself saying, "Well, living where you live, Zak, and being bombarded with the cannon fire you are always struck by, it can be hard to think that the world can come together and agree on enough things to reshape it in a better way." I needed Star Trek. I needed to believe in at least a few people trying to do what they could. And then... somewhere out there, spinning in the colorful darkness of space there comes a blue box with a being inside who always changes, but always remembers and always finds friends. But most of all does the right thing - not because it is the law, not because it's in some book of instruction but, as the Doctor has said, because "it is right and especially because it is kind. It's just kind." That was enough to get me through my wilderness years without Trek. And for that I am always onboard for the ride.

I know this article has been rambling, but joyous road trips without a map are kind of the Doctor's MO. And now wherever the time vortex or mundane change takes me, as long as I have at least one companion I no longer dread change but take joy in it.

Thanks, Doc. Happy 60th birthday and Merry Christmas Special.

This article was inspired by the book Luke Skywalker Can't Read and Other Geeky Truths by Ryan Britt. Check his book of essays out.

CONTINUING ROLE PLAY

Part 14 of *The Bound Dog Shall be Loosed:*

"A Tale of Two Terrans"

By Bud Walker and Jonathan Hatter



Commander Bud Walker frantically crawled on his hands and knees through the Jeffries tube with all the speed he could muster. Behind him, Terran Commander Jonathan Hatter was in hot pursuit. Hatter continued taunting his prey.

"Run little targ! It is only a matter of time before I catch you!"

Walker knew that Hatter was correct. As sweat trickled down his face, Walker crawled out of the tube and into a junction point, allowing him to stand. Accepting the inevitable, Walker turned around to face his pursuer. He closed his eyes and thought of the past. A voice came to him from his childhood, **"Remember young one, never meet your opponent's resistance head on."** Walker felt a calmness wash over him, starting at the top of his head and moving through his body to the tips of his toes. When he opened his eyes, he saw Hatter crawling out of the tube.

Hatter was surprised to see Walker standing there and took a step back. Walker raised his arms in a defensive position in front of him, his hands flat. He turned his right hand so that the palm faced up, and then made a quick gesture with his fingers, indicating to Hatter to come at him. Hatter's eyes flashed and a feral smile crept across his face.

"Now that is more like it! Maybe your blood isn't as thin as I thought!"

Hatter reached into his tunic at the small of his back and then brought out a combat knife. Hatter crouched, holding the knife in front of him and studying Walker. Walker remained in his defensive position but otherwise betrayed no other reaction. Hatter smiled again and leapt forward, moving his right hand to bring the edge of the knife forward. He moved his left hand underneath the blade, to be able to deflect any move that Walker might try.

Walker saw Hatter move and heard the voice of his tutor inside his mind, **"NAVORKOT!"** Walker instantly dropped to the ground and rolled to the side. Hatter's blade slashed through empty air as Walker regained his feet and stood to Hatter's left. **"KAKOROT!"** sounded in Walker's memory and he dropped to a squatting position and gave a quick kick with his right leg, rotating his hips to give power to the blow. Walker's foot impacted Hatter's left calf muscle, and Hatter's left leg went limp. Walker regained his original defensive position, while a look of surprise appeared on Hatter's face. Walker raised his hands and once again gestured with his fingers for Hatter to come at him. Hatter snarled as he stamped his foot to regain feeling in his left leg. Then a look of recognition came to his face.



"So little targ, you know Suus Mahna. I don't know where you picked up Vulcan martial arts, but nothing from that degenerate race will help you now!"

Hatter moved his knife so that instead of the blade projecting from the top of his grip, it projected from the bottom of his grip. Hatter leapt forward again, coming in low underneath Walker's outstretched arms. Walker heard **"POSOROT!"**



and swiftly moved his right arm, snaking around Hatter's left arm and underneath Hatter's armpit. Pulling up, Walker was able to stop Hatter's forward movement, while Walker struck with his left arm to impact Hatter's right wrist. Walker expected to see Hatter's knife go flying out of his hand. Instead, Hatter retained his grip on the knife. He then flexed his left arm muscles to trap Walker's right arm, which was still underneath Hatter's armpit. Before Walker realized that his move had failed, Hatter brought his right fist crashing into Walker's face. Blood immediately sprayed from Walker's nose, and he was completely stunned. Hatter then moved one of his feet behind Walker's right ankle and pushed forward. Both men fell to the ground, but Hatter was on top and had completely immobilized Walker. Walker looked surprised and was unsure of what just happened.

Hatter chuckled, "**Vulcan martial arts work best when you have Vulcanoid strength. Something you lack!**"

Hatter pressed down on Walker with his shoulder and Walker gave a quick yelp of pain. Hatter readjusted the knife in his hand and his thumb depressed a small stud in the hilt. The blade immediately extended as Hatter stood back up. Hatter swung the now sword to Walker's throat, pushing the tip against Walker's skin. Blood appeared at the tip of the blade.

"And now, traitor, it is time for you to die!"

Merry Christmas from the IDRP team.

To be continued...



THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

We hope to see you ALL at the Christmas Party / December meeting. It will be a special one. Don't forget that ugly sweater and Dirty Santa gift.

Have the **MERRIEST CHRISTMAS** and **HAPPIEST NEW YEAR!!!** And we'll see you around the galaxy in 2024.

Linda, Willy and our staff of THOUSANDS.

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IN THIS DECEMBER CHRISTMAS ISSUE:

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HEIMDAL LOWER DECKS

BY BUD WALKER



We'll See You Around the Galaxy ...

