



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 Heimdal 40th Anniversary Issue, April / May 2024
Email: heimdalco@aol.com, Website: <http://www.ussheimdal.com>
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PLEASE NOTE: This is a larger issue because it's a DOUBLE ISSUE ...
April / May combined. ENJOY!





FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER
Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet 2024 SFDPP Certified

The beautiful plaque on the first page is the one that was presented to me at the Anniversary Party. It was a huge surprise that almost made me cry and was so unexpected. It is commemorating the Heimdal's 40 years and my command. My heart swells with love and appreciation. The plaque has EVERY ONE of our names on it ... yours and mine, which makes it even more beautiful.

After literally months of planning, ordering cool and funny favors, filling party favor bags, having Willy print all kinds of party stuff, trying to decide on the right costume, juggling payment for meals, coordinating the event with the hotel and praying everything would come off without a hitch, the party happened. It was FANTASTIC and all that I hoped it would be and then, POOF ... it's over. I'm still getting things put away and trying to catch up on all I'd postponed to get the party done and I STILL can't believe it was over so fast. I miss it, I'm eternally glad it was such a wonderful event and that we had SO many people attend. It was a perfect evening.

And now I'm going to take a break and relax RIGHT AFTER I get this newsletter done AND get our church newsletter done ... LOL.

I thank you all for coming. I also thank Willy for all his hard work over these months with me. He said once, *"I can't imagine what it would be like to just GO to one of these parties."* Well, honestly, neither can I but I enjoy putting it together and giving you guys an evening that you don't have to ask anyone for a donation or work. It's a time to just get together and enjoy. I think the party was like that.

I also thank Carl for his participation, suggestion to auction the rare art print donated to us by Carl Burley and his help with the single item auction itself. I thank Bud for his patience and his time in putting the anniversary video together and especially for sharing his talent to make it so very special. Thank you to Zak and Jody for being such a vital part of the video even though they couldn't be at the party. Their participation was their special gift to all of us.

Thank you to Bonnie for manning the Welcome Table at the party and especially to Niki for once again giving those that wanted them a fun tattoo.

Above and beyond all else, I thank Mckinley Cardwell for a phenomenal performance. He has been single-handedly responsible ... after all these years ... for getting us singing along, clapping, shining cell phone flashlights and dancing. That HAS to be a Heimdal first.

I've probably left someone out and I apologize. I appreciated everything that was done to make the party the huge success it was.

As we strike out on our 41st year, it is such a pleasure to say, *"Our Adventure Continues ... together"*



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
XO, Chief Science Officer, Adm. Willy Smith – Starfleet 2024 SFDPP Certified

There was a month of deceit ... of the good kind! Carl came to me with this wonderful idea of having a Dedication Plaque made to show the Heimdal crew's appreciation of Linda's tireless work. Carl had the contacts AND the overall layout in mind and I saved my lunch money. I knew the Party night was going to be busy and didn't know where to fit the presentation to Linda in but Carl said *"At the APEX of the evening."*

I hope everyone was able to see Linda open the package with the amazing commemorative plaque... it did my heart good to know we were showing HER how much she meant to us.

Thanks to Carl once again and to the crew for being there.

Linda has tried the turbolift but is leaning toward the bridge to mount the Heimdal's Dedication Plaque. (for more info, visit https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Dedication_plaque)





I hope you noticed the “*small things*” that were given to you in your goodie bag at the party ... all of this was Linda’s master plan to show you her appreciation for staying with us for all these years ... wait a minute, some of you weren’t even *born* yet when the Heimdal launched.

Bud Walker put together a *WONDERFUL* video that showed 1984 and beyond. It’s way better than I was able to do. “*Where’s the beef?*” This is actually Linda’s recent dinner plate because she doesn’t eat much beef.

Linda does so much to pull this party off that I suggest that *we* do the 50th anniversary party totally. We’ll show Linda that we appreciate bringing all of us together for all these years. Just think of the odds that at this time we would form a club and be *friends* (*maybe I heard that line somewhere, but I thought of the Heimdal when I heard it*).

For those of you who remember Carlos Neyre Abad who was with the Heimdal for a couple of years. Over the years he’s been trying to find a Spanish-speaking chapter and was able to form his own chapter and is now officially CAPTAIN Carlos of the USS Galaxy SFMD in Region 18! **¡Mayor de ir a Carlos!**

If you’re enjoying STARFLEET Academy and see "Prior Migration" on a course you’ve taken, it means that you took it before the database actually existed. I took my OCC and OTS and several computer courses a long time ago (I didn’t own a computer then). You ordered the written test – completed it, waited, and if you wanted a diploma, you sent a SASE (if you passed). Things are different now but it was kinda neat getting your answers from the STARFLEET Handbook and waiting to see if you passed.

Okay crew, please look at the section in this newsletter about who needs to renew because we’ll need all of you here for the 50th Heimdal Anniversary. Plus, I got eclipse glasses on sale and will sell them to you cheap ... in 2044.



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

It was a pleasure to be able to share at our March meeting about the trip that Bonnie and I made to the **Rusty Wallace Driving Experience** in Charlotte, NC. At the last minute I was asked if I had any type of program I could bring to the meeting since our scheduled speakers had to cancel.

Since we had been gone for two days, I didn’t get the request until 3:00pm on the day of the meeting. Fortunately, I had paid to get footage of the entire time behind the wheel of a NASCAR type race car as I put in ten laps around Charlotte Motor Raceway. Bud was able to play the footage on the screen at the Library and I shared some of what had happened on the track. It was nice that so many people took an interest in what it was like to go fast and turn left.

I drove a personal best at the track and reached 150 mph on the mile and a half track. If anyone is interested in how to set up a time to enjoy such an event, I would be glad to pass on a couple of helpful hints. They have opportunities at many of the smaller tracks including Richmond, I believe. Great fun if you have the need for legal speed and enjoy the smell of racing fuel wafting through your nostrils. *Ahhhh, the smell of racing fuel.* Better than the odor of spent dilithium if you know what I mean.

MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

MAY MEETING

The May meeting will be May 18 at the Madison Heights Library and on ZOOM starting at 6:30 p.m. Please bring an item for refreshments ... something with a Space theme just for fun and to make our guest speaker feel welcome.

Our speaker for the evening will be Trish Cerulli, President of the Blue Ridge Astronomy Club (BRAC). She is a Virginia native and science enthusiast. She earned two degrees in chemistry, a B.S. from the University of Mary Washington in 2008 and an M.S. from the University of Virginia in 2014. She worked in the pharmaceutical industry as an analytical chemist before graduate school, and at UVA her coursework and research focused on astrochemistry. After starting a family, Trish continued to stay involved in the science community at the Belk Observatory and Claytor Nature Center. Sharing the wonders of the universe has been her lifelong passion and she recently launched her own program for mobile astronomy outreach in the Lynchburg region, Science in Space. She



Trish Cerulli



also now works with Randolph College as the Science Festival Assistant Director and SUPER Program Administrator. Trish is active in her community as a member of Vector Space, President of the Blue Ridge Astronomy Club, foster family for Central Virginia Regional Rescue, and a Rotarian. Promoting science education and literacy is an important initiative, and she uses her involvement in various organizations to support that.

Trish said, ***"I will be presenting a program to highlight the Blue Ridge Astronomy Club, but also a special topic or mission from my NASA Solar System Ambassador materials."***

You KNOW you don't want to miss this meeting. This will also be a great meeting to invite a guest to join us at the library or on ZOOM.

Darrell Millner will be our ZOOM Coordinator for the evening. The ZOOM coordinates are:
CO Linda Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Heimdal May SD202418 Zoom**

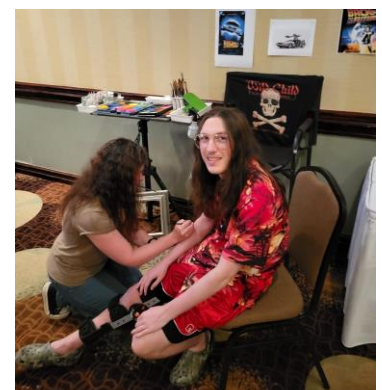
Time: May 18, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84573957550?pwd=Y2RMeEhZc1hnamYwWUVsRnhHc2dEdz09>

Meeting ID: **845 7395 7550** Passcode: **1793maybe**

APRIL: HEIMDAL'S 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

~ Warping Back to the Future 1984 ~





"Anything you've done for 40 years should be celebrated," the USS Heimdal's Second Officer, Carl Davis said. And he was right ...

Instead of a regular April monthly meeting, the Heimdal celebrated her 40th. Anniversary as a Starfleet chapter with a HUGE party at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel. 50 people attended the party that was a costume event, with the theme of **BACK TO THE FUTURE 1984**. People wore costumes from the original **Back to the Future** movie and from the 1984 era since 1984 was when the Heimdal officially became a chapter of Starfleet.



The evening began with a 'Meet and Greet' in the hotel lobby. Guests were greeted by a life-size standee of the BTTF film's DeLorean. The Welcome Table, manned by Bonnie Davis was flanked by standees of Willie Nelson and Michael Burnham. Waiting to greet guests at the door to the ballroom were Kirk and Spock with Prince, Cher and a Star Wars Storm Trooper in the background. At the Welcome Table guests signed in, got a Door Prize ticket and picked up a party favor bag with various BTTF scenes on them filled with goofy favors. Some of the cool stuff in the bags were a 40th Anniversary Heimdal pencil, a glo stick, an eraser with a starship on it, a small bag of Ghost Poo, a small cup of Galaxy Slime and small bag of Unicorn Poop, to name a few of the items.

Inside the ballroom the buffet table was watched over by 2 life-size standees – Captain Kirk at one end and Abe Lincoln, who was wearing a Charlie Sheen shirt from **Two and a Half Men** and a Bon Jovie wig, at the other. Heimdal member and artist extraordinaire, Niki Kessler had a table set up against one wall and was painting original tattoos (temporary) on guests that wanted them. Most everyone did.

Linda welcomed everyone and spoke about the impact of the past 40 years. XO Willy and Second Officer, Carl also briefly welcomed everyone. The Command Staff members stood when individually recognized.

Chief Chaplain, Tim Hazlett gave an inspirational blessing.

Everyone enjoyed a DELICIOUS, Southern Buffet followed by an amazing 40th Anniversary Video produced and presented by Bud Walker. The video began with a tribute to long-time member, Dennis Henderson who passed in late October and is sorely missed. The 12 members we've lost in the past 40 years were also remembered.

The Anniversary Video consisted of members Zak and Jody Lyon dressed as Doc Brown and Marty McFly guiding the audience through 30 minutes of nostalgia from the 1984 era. The video included 40-year-old commercials such as the original **Where's the Beef** commercial. Slides of Heimdal members "back in the day" were so much fun and the latter part of the video included funny stuff and slides of Heimdal members from the past few years.

Following the video presentation we were entertained by local celebrity / entertainer, McKinley Cardwell. He brought the house down for an hour singing a fantastic assortment of songs that leaned heavily on the 1980s era. The crowd was quickly engaged, sang along, clapped and showed their enthusiasm with lit cell phone flashlights. There was also dancing. It was a PHENOMENAL performance.

A Costume Contest followed with some pretty amazing entries and winners. Carl Davis won first prize as Ernest P. Whorl. Jonathan Hatter carried a clothes basket with handle bars, wore a red hoodie and carried ET draped with a blanket in the basket, Linda and Willy Smith were a Flash Dancer and a Biker guy, Jennifer Long was Doc Brown, and Bud Walker walked across the stage in true Captain Kirk style and surprised the audience by suddenly shouting out, **KHANNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN**.

Heimdal member, Gary Burley lives in Scotland and is an artist. Several years ago, his large art work of IVANHOE was the opening art piece in an exhibit at the Edinburgh Museum. He had 100 prints made of the piece and donated print #10 to the Heimdal to use as a fundraiser. The rare print was auctioned off after the costume contest and brought in \$80 from the highest bidder.

After the auction, Linda was presented with a truly AMAZING plaque listing the name of our ship, class, year of commission and other statistics followed by the names / ranks of ALL 57 current Heimdal members. It is a beautiful brass plaque on a wooden background and almost brought Linda to tears in her gratitude.

The evening ended with drawings for 6 door prizes.

It was the BEST anniversary party ever.

Asked if she could have imagined the Heimdal would still be around 40 years later when she started the chapter in 1984, Linda Smith commented that that was the farthest thing from her mind. She said she also could





not have imagined the Heimdal becoming a non-profit organization that supports 9 charities at Christmas and annually sends a local student to NASA's Space Camp for a week ... having sent 16 students totally, the most recent in 2023. Laughing, she added, *"I NEVER imagined I would be filing an annual tax return for the Heimdal. That's STILL a surprise every year when I do it."*

Heimdal's crew is looking forward to a full summer and sending student #17 to Space Camp in the fall.

Our Adventure Continues



PHOENIX GETS A TATTOO

Weston and Sarah Webb brought their precious little Phoenix to the Anniversary Party. Dressed like a cowboy he delighted everyone that met him for the first time and saw him again at the party.

Not to be outdone by party guests who were getting 'original tattoos' from artist and Heimdal member, Niki Kessler, Phoenix (and his parents) lined up to get HIS very own special tattoo ... a phoenix ... his namesake.

In keeping with his good nature and smiling demeanor, he seemed to enjoy the experience.

ANNIVERSARY PARTY COMMENTS

Newsletter editor: I'd **REALLY** love to have just short comments from you **ABOUT** the anniversary party:

DID YOU ENJOY IT?

DID YOU THINK THE STANDEES, INCLUDING THE DELOREAN ADDED A FUN

ASPECT TO THE PARTY?

WHAT PART OF THE PARTY, IF ANY, DID YOU ENJOY MOST?

WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION ABOUT THE EVENT?

DID IT MOVE ALONG WELL ... WERE YOU EVER BORED?

HOW DID YOU LIKE THE ENTERTAINMENT, MCKINLEY

CARDWELL?

DID YOU LIKE THE HOTEL SETTING?

You can answer some or all of these or just write a brief comment about your impression of the party.

Karen Delano: I've always loved the standees. I loved that Bud had the ZOOM members "host"... I thought that was a great way to have them be there in spirit. I've got an issue with flashing lights, so I was careful not to look at McKinley Cardwell too much. I remember thinking/saying how talented he was. I definitely prefer him over some others we've had ... probably because the music was more accessible to me. I admit I'm not a fan of the food at the LGH but I don't attend for the food. And The staff is always great and super professional.

Also, Bud's KHANNNN was awesome

Willy Smith: **DID YOU ENJOY IT? WONDERFUL TIME!!**

DID YOU THINK THE STANDEES, INCLUDING THE DELOREAN

ADDED A FUN ASPECT TO THE PARTY? I think I liked Abe Lincoln the best, altho the car was really cool. Bud used the Kirk standee at the right time while McKinley was singing. HAHAAH

WHAT PART OF THE PARTY, IF ANY, DID YOU ENJOY MOST? Being together with old friends and new. Linda receiving award/plaque.

WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION ABOUT THE EVENT? DID IT MOVE ALONG WELL ... WERE YOU EVER BORED? GREAT event and planned well. Professionally done

HOW DID YOU LIKE THE ENTERTAINMENT, MCKINLEY CARDWELL? It was great singing along to the old tunes. McKinley made you want to sing along

DID YOU LIKE THE HOTEL SETTING? Always good parking, easy to get in and out and the hotel staff went above and beyond for us. Thanks to all who put this together.





Carl Davis: I thought the party was a big success. The food was even better than usual and the mac and cheese was over the top. Singer was great. Would have liked a few more songs that I recognized but he does a good job.

Robin Hudson: I enjoyed the music, everyone's outfits or costumes. Overall I would give this party a 10 if I were voting between 1 and 10

Tammy White: I loved the whole night. The hotel is perfect spot. Food was good. McKinley was wonderful as always. He's an excellent entertainer. He has great vocal range, good selection of songs for our venue, and comical. The standees were a great edition.

The costume contest was fun and entertaining, too. And the door prizes were very nice.

Sarah Webb: We had a great time at the party! And little Phoenix seemed to enjoy it as well and even got a little tattoo! The food was amazing, and I especially liked how accommodating the hotel staff was towards me and Wes, asking if we needed anything and even offering a high chair for our little one to sit and enjoy dinner with us. The decorations were literally OUT OF THIS WORLD and I loved the feel of the party with all the lights and other decor.

(Side note: I was really tempted to take the Elvis Presley stand up. I'm a big fan of his 😊)

We weren't able to stay for the entertainment as Phoenix was getting fussy (it was his bedtime) but I'm sure it was a hit for everyone! Thank you so much for the invitation! We love being a part of the Heimdal club and enjoy attending when we can with our hectic schedules and raising our son. We hope to come again next year to the party!

Jonathan Hatter: **DID YOU ENJOY IT?** Yes, it was fun and I enjoyed seeing everyone. I really enjoyed meeting Dennis' son and daughter-in-law.

DID YOU THINK THE STANDEES, INCLUDING THE DELOREAN ADDED A FUN ASPECT TO THE PARTY? Yes, I really liked them. I love taking fun pictures with all the standees at our events. **WHAT PART OF THE PARTY, IF ANY, DID YOU ENJOY MOST?** I liked it all, and the food was great.

WHAT WAS YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION ABOUT THE EVENT? DID IT MOVE ALONG WELL ...

WERE YOU EVER BORED? I thought it went at a good pace. I didn't get bored.

HOW DID YOU LIKE THE ENTERTAINMENT, MCKINLEY CARDWELL? Yes, he was good. **DID YOU LIKE THE HOTEL SETTING?** Yes. I was comfortable and could find everyone easily.

MARCH MEETING CARL TURNS LEFT ...

March 2024 Chapter Meeting of the USS Heimdal By Commander William M. Walker, Jr. – Operations, SFDPP Certified

The Heimdal crew gathered at the Madison Heights Public Library (part of Amherst County Public Library system) and online via Zoom on March 16, 2024, for the monthly chapter meeting.

Admiral Linda Smith called the meeting to order and presided over a general discussion regarding proposed amendments to STARFLEET INTERNATIONAL's by-laws. By way of background, Admiral Smith stated that late last year the Regional Coordinator of Region 12 noticed that other fan organizations had statements generally disallowing members who had criminal records, and this RC pushed to have SFI do the same. The first draft of a measure to implement this was presented by the



Region 1 RC to Commanding Officers in November of 2023. Every Commanding Officer voted against it. The Admiralty Board then revised the proposal and resubmitted it for consideration.

There was a general round-table discussion by those present, where several concerns and objections were expressed. There was a general consensus of the crew that the full proposal should be submitted to the membership before voting. Until that happens, it is recommended that a "no" vote be cast on the proposed amendments.

Before turning to the Department Heads, Admiral Linda Smith made several announcements:

- For the Anniversary Party the hotel is offering a special room rate for attendees. However, members must call the hotel front desk to receive this rate, and not use a booking agency.



- July's meeting will feature a showing of one of the "Puss & Boots" movies and the theme will be "Puss Trek."
- One of the Chapter's Certificates of Deposit has matured and yielded around \$517.

Rear Admiral Carl Davis stated that the phaser simulation following the Anniversary Party is expected to have participants from out of town and thus may be well attended.

Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks reported that Commander Dan Blanks "rang the bell" at the Awareness Garden on Langhorne Road in Lynchburg.

Fleet Captain Darrell Millner updated the chapter on the elections for Region 1 Regional Coordinator. Captain Millner distributed a handout that provided web links to the various candidates.

Because our scheduled guest speaker was ill and couldn't make it, Second Officer, Carl Davis stepped in to fill the void with a presentation. So, following a short intermission, he discussed his participation in the "Rusty Wallace Driving Experience" at the Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina just that day. Admiral Davis stated that he was afforded the opportunity to drive a "retired" NASCAR racing vehicle ... and showed a video of his experience. He was able to video the experience from INSIDE the car (for a nominal fee), which gave those watching the video a feeling of actually being INSIDE the car, sort of. We appreciate Carl filling in at the last minute with a fun meeting presentation AND he answered our questions afterward.

After the presentation, Admiral Smith adjourned the meeting.

HEIMDAL PEOPLE

STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!



Admiral Willy Smith

COSD 124C-NCC-1701B – Distinction – March 31, 2024

COSD 124D-NCC-1701B – Distinction – March 31, 2024

COSD 124E-NCC-1701B – Distinction – March 31, 2024

COSD 125-NCC-1701C – Distinction – March 31, 2024



CMDR Zachary

IOTK - College of Plasma Technology

DISTINCTION for CPT 101 - States of Matter on Mar 18, 2024



LT Jody Lyon

IOSS - School of Planetary Identification & Discovery

DISTINCTION for SPID 103 - A Planet Pt. 1 on Mar 18, 2024

DISTINCTION for SPID 104 - A Planet Pt. 2 on Mar 18, 2024

CMDR William Walker Jr

SFA Awards



Awarded (ADP) Bachelor of Intelligence Operations Studies on Mar 14, 2024

IOSTS - College of Parallel Studies

HONORS for CoPS 103 - The Mirror Universe ST:ENT on Mar 6, 2024

DISTINCTION for CoPS 200 - History Mirror Universe Part 1 on Mar 7, 2024

IOSTS - College of Security in Trek

DISTINCTION for CST 017 - Security Orders Part 1 on Mar 6, 2024

DISTINCTION for CST 018 - Security Orders Part 2 on Mar 7, 2024



DISTINCTION for CST 020 - Transponder signals & Prefix codes on Mar 8, 2024

IOSTS - College of Starship Design

DISTINCTION for COSD 121 - NX-01 Schematics on Mar 7, 2024

DISTINCTION for COSD 121A - NX-01 Schematics on Mar 7, 2024



FCPT Darrell Millner

IOTK - College of Aerodynamics

DISTINCTION for AERO 109 Aerodynamics part 9 on Mar 21, 2024

DISTINCTION for AERO 110 Aerodynamics part 10 on Mar 21, 2024

DISTINCTION for AERO 111 Helicopter Aerodynamics part 1 on Mar 25, 2024

IOSS - College of Astronomy

HONORS for AST 209 - Supernovas and Supernova remnants part 2 on Mar 24, 2024

DISTINCTION for AST 210 - Supernovas and Supernova remnants part 3 on Mar 24, 2024

DISTINCTION for AST 211 - Black Holes Pt 1 on Mar 24, 2024

DISTINCTION for AST 212 - Black Holes part 2 on Mar 29, 2024

DISTINCTION for AST 213 - Black Holes part 3 on Mar 29, 2024

DISTINCTION for AST 214 - Black Hole part 4 on Mar 29, 2024

DISTINCTION for AST 215 - Space Dust part 1 on Mar 31, 2024

IOSS - School of Planetary Identification & Discovery

DISTINCTION for SPID 113 - What is a Circumbinary Planet part 1 on Mar 24, 2024

DISTINCTION for SPID 114 - What is a Circumbinary Planet part 2 on Mar 24, 2024

DISTINCTION for SPID 115 - Coreless, Desert, Double planets pt 1 on Mar 30, 2024

IOSTS - College of Treknology (IOSF:COT)

DISTINCTION for ST8 103 - Technology on Mar 26, 2024

HONORS for ENT-101 - Characters on Mar 31, 2024

IOIS - College of US Historical Sites

DISTINCTION for FLHS 101 - St. Augustine Pt 1 on Mar 28, 2024

DISTINCTION for FLHS 102 - St. Augustine Pt 2 on Mar 29, 2024

DISTINCTION for VAHS 102 - Colonial Williamsburg on Mar 28, 2024

DISTINCTION for TXHS 101 - The Alamo Mission on Mar 28, 2024

DISTINCTION for WVHS 101 - Greenbrier on Mar 29, 2024

DISTINCTION for VAHS 101 - Jamestown on Mar 30, 2024

IOMA - College of Emergency Technology Equipment

HONORS for CETE 101 - THE DEFIBRILLATOR PART 1 on Mar 31, 2024

DAN RINGS LALA'S BELL

By Glenda Blanks

On Thursday February 29, Dan finished his chemo treatment for colon cancer, so we went to the Awareness Garden to ring Lala's Bell. The bell is in the Awareness Garden in Lynchburg and is in memory of Lala Sydner, the inspiration behind the Awareness Garden who lost her own battle with cancer shortly before the Garden was finished. Ringing Lala's Bell is a ritual observed by many cancer patients. It is a liberating experience that signifies finishing months of often difficult treatments.

Linda, Willy and Bud were there to cheer him on.

Dan was in a wheelchair and couldn't reach the bell, so Bud rigged an 'S' hook to the bell cord. Dan asked how much the bell cost, because he wanted to ring it so hard it would break, and he almost did! Linda said it was "long and way too loud." Willy took pictures (several, because I couldn't get my camera to work.)

Thanks to Linda, Willy and Bud for coming to give moral support.



RENEWALS

A special THANK YOU to Mike Davis, Jonathan, Karen & Allen Hatter, Tammy White, Robin Hudson, Paul Campbell, Kristine Contreras, Bill Booker, Dee Stinson, Weston & Sarah Webb and Paul Muse for renewing and



staying with our Heimdal “family” for another amazing year. Unfortunately, Madison Litchford did not renew. She is in college now, can’t attend meetings and is involved with her studies and new life. We will miss her.

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.

Remember the increase in membership rates went into effect on January 1 and congratulations to those of you that renewed ‘under the wire.’ **You may also renew for multiple years with Starfleet ... not just a year at the time.**

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

June – Annette Overstreet – June 10

David Frankham - June 19

Virginia Williams – June 19

Carol Arthur – June 21

Darrell & Barbara Millner – June 29

July – Joe Arnold – July 20

Carl & Bonnie Davis – July 30



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARLOS NETRE ADAD



Special CONGRATULATIONS to Carlos who got his start as a Heimdal member 2 years ago. Carlos is a medical doctor from Ecuador that didn’t speak any English when he joined Heimdal. He loved our structure, the things we did and the opportunities our members have aboard our ship. Although he was frustrated by the language barrier, he still preferred Heimdal as his chapter. He struggled every month to read every word of our newsletters using a translation program.

Willy helped Carlos find a Spanish-speaking Starfleet chapter, which he joined but he always felt a connection to the Heimdal ... & we to him.

Today, April 4 is a great day. Today Starfleet commissioned into its ranks, the Starship USS Galaxy, NCC-1033. She is a Crossfield class Starship. This Chapter is based in Machala, Ecuador, Earth, Sol Sector **and is under the command of CAPT Carlos Neyre Abad. WAY TO GO, Carlos!!!**

CAPT Abad has been cleared to begin deployed chapter operations in his assigned patrol area, with CMDR Carlos Neyre Benites as his Executive Officer. He will be reporting to FCAPT Cesar Sosa Ficachi at Region 18 Headquarters.

Heimdal wishes you fair winds and following seas.

ABBY DEFORD: SPACE CAMP CO-WINNER 2019

Abby’s mom, Renata DeFord said, *“Super proud would be an understatement.”*

Abby DeFord has gotten into several colleges but she still needs to make her choice. Recently, they went to VCU to meet with the potential future “Ramily”- getting to know other students at the university on the special WELCOME weekend.

Not only is Abby choosing a college but





she is in CVCC while going to high school, is now a certified EMT, lifeguards and is a member of the Altavista Volunteer Fire Department. Abby is definitely a go-getter and never stops. Not to mention marching band, pep band, and swim team.

Renata closed by saying, "*She has studied sooooo hard to get where is. We are very proud of her.*"

HEIMDAL STUFF

REMEMBERING MARY ...

By Linda Smith



Mary Kane and I have been friends since 1987. She was Region One's very first Chaplain and I was soon-to-be Region One's Regional Coordinator for 10.5 years. We met at the first R/1 Summit.

Mary was a quiet woman that held many positions not only regionally, but within Starfleet. I'm guessing she knew a lot about almost every aspect of Starfleet and its history. She was my 'go to' person when I had a question ... from the time I met her until her recent death. Even more important than that, Mary and I were friends. Willy and I became friends with both Mary and her husband, John (Kiwi) Kane. Because they lived in Charlotte, NC we mostly saw them at summits and conventions and they came as often as they could to Heimdal auctions and anniversary parties.

Although Mary had been in poor health the past several years, she and John were planning to come to Heimdal's 40th Anniversary Celebration. On March 1 I got a message from John telling me Mary had passed away that morning with a heart attack. I was heartbroken. Mary was a special part of my life.

As with Dennis, I can't believe Mary is gone. She was one of those Dennis-people that I always assumed would be here. When they aren't we feel deeply and personally the void they leave behind.

My heart continues to be broken and I still miss Mary. Many of you also knew her, either from summits, Heimdal auctions or anniversary parties.

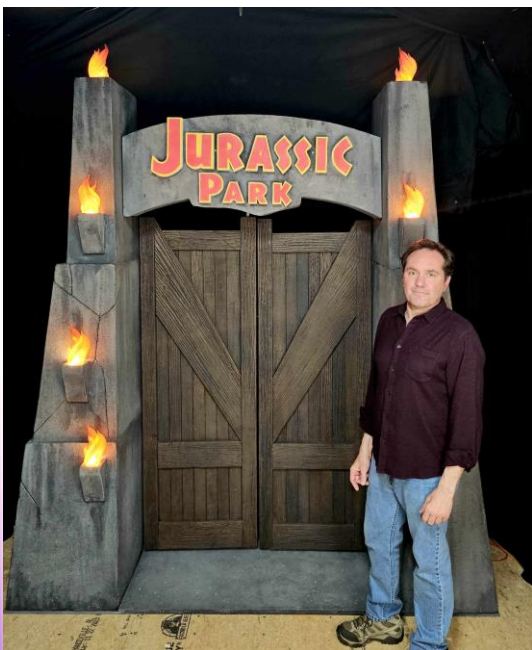
She isn't gone as long as we remember her.

Not only will I remember Mary, I will remember the respect I felt for her and the love all of Region One and Starfleet had for her. She will continue on as one of Heaven's brightest stars.

RILEY'S RAMBLINGS

JURASSIC PARK

By Richard Riley



Hello everyone! I hope that all is well.

We are in that magical time of year where we bundle up in layers to go out in the morning to scrape the ice off our windshields and drive home in the afternoon in short sleeve shirts and have the AC

on! Got to love this time of year!

My latest project was a fun one, but then again, they are all fun! I was commissioned to build the entranceway to Jurassic Park as seen in the movie of the same name. This piece is being used in an Orthodontist office; he is creating a dinosaur theme. The gate is being used when the patients enter his office. This build was rather unique in that I automated the doors - with a click of a remote the doors swing open and the patient enters the office!



This started out with researching what the entranceway looked like so that gave me the perfect excuse to rewatch the movie **Jurassic Park**! The entrance is made to resemble stone columns with a sign like an amusement park would have. There are 2 large doors that swing open allowing visitors to enter the attraction.

Well, as always, I started with foam. There were some considerations that I had to keep in mind with this build. The height and width could not exceed certain measurements since it is indoors. Also, this piece would have lights in it as well as automated doors so a lot of forethought had to go into this.

The columns and doors were rather straightforward to build but the torches were another matter entirely. In the movie there are 8 torches on the entranceway, I opted to have a friend 3D print-flame them out of a translucent orange plastic. I then used LED bulbs to illuminate them.

With the doors I am not that familiar with automating props so I consulted a friend and he had a simple but brilliant idea! The doors have a tendency to swing open on their own so I added a small pulley and weight to each door so they are always wanting to swing open. I then added an electromagnet with a metal strip on the door. By doing this when the electromagnet is turned on it holds the metal strip keeping the doors closed but when the magnet is turned off it releases, allowing the doors to swing open slowly like in the movie!



A truly unique piece to make and the client was thrilled with it. He plans to use other signage in the months ahead so he can keep the columns up for more than 3 months. His next theme will be from the movie **Night at the Museum**. Then he will transition into Christmas and the columns will be the entranceway to the North pole!

Until next month, try to stay warm, or cool depending on what time of day it is!

FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS

<<<SECURITY>>>



SECURITY REPORT: April / May 2024

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

Saturday March 24th turned out to be an ideal day for phaser sim. Two members of the Science Department and one from Security met at Mountaintop Christian Adventures to get in some much-needed practice. The sides were a little uneven but play began on the small field with Bonnie and Willy taking on Carl. The game was over fairly quickly as Carl managed to mark both of the Sciences players and that round was over.

A return match on the same field sent the players to opposite ends of the field and the results were also opposite with Carl catching a round of simulated phaser fire to the head.

Play moved to the center field and again Carl felt the disadvantage of two on one and a well-placed shot from Willy bounced off one of the barrels that Carl was using for protection and blossomed on his jersey ending that round. Changing ends on the field led to a much longer exchange of fire as Willy and Bonnie unloaded on the wooden spool that Carl was trapped behind. The spool turned pink after about ten minutes of play as Willy went through pod after pod of paint. Nothing that Carl did resulted in either of the Science players calling out and eventually he again was eliminated.





First game on the Far Point station field resulted in some light skirmishes as Security sought some vantage point to try to find a way to eliminate a Science player but nothing could make up for the cross-fire scenario of two against one. After fifteen minutes of intermittent fire the game was a tie with neither team scoring. Second game on that field and after failing to make an elimination to Team Science, Bonnie managed to mark Carl and the games were over. Score...four for Science, one Security and one tie.

After reviewing the games and the footage of the exchange of simulated phaser bursts there has emerged a hypothesis whereby perhaps Sciences has developed a personal forcefield generator. Too many near misses defied the law of averages and in many of the battles the Science players can be seen throwing caution to the wind and boldly stepping from behind cover to remain untouched by the rounds thrown in their direction. As Chief of Security, I am encouraged by the thought that such a personal generator exists and look forward to discussing it with Chief Willy.

It was a good day of play and both Willy and Bonnie took to the thrill of victory with great gusto. The agony of defeat was not nearly as palatable for Security but such is life. We look forward to next time in April when perhaps we can get some more players to enjoy the games. May the odds be ever in your favor.



After Action Report: Phaser Simulation: April / May 2024
Submitted by Commander Jonathan Hatter, Assistant Security Chief
Report Follows:



On Sunday, April 14, 2022, seven Heimdal crewmembers converged on Mountaintop Christian Adventures in Amherst. This was another phaser simulation exercise to hone the crew's weapons experience. Thanks to Security



Chief, Carl Davis and his wife, Bonnie for hosting us on their beautiful property. Today's participants were: Chief Engineering Officer, Captain Darrell Millner and Operations Officer, Commander Bud Walker. Security, Rear Admiral Carl Davis, Security Chief, Commander Jonathan Hatter, and P03 Joe Arnold. (Red Shirts on alert!)

Chief Science Officer / Executive Officer Willy Smith and Commander Bonnie Davis.

It was a beautiful afternoon to be in the woods.

Chief Davis began with the safety briefing that included **"Don't climb trees."** The thought never crossed my mind as I'd make a great target up there. We were divided into



teams with Chief Davis, Joe, and Jonathan against the combined team of Bonnie, Willy, Darrell, and Bud.

Game One started in the Alpha Quadrant with teams rushing for cover as the blasts started whizzing through the foliage. In the end, everyone except Carl and Bonnie got painted, leaving them to battle it out. We listened to the shots pounding against the plastic dish Carl was using

for a shield. He made a run to try and get a clean shot on Bonnie and was able to take the game for Team Security.



We switched sides and started Game Two. I made a dash for cover behind a pile of brush as I saw the other team move and begin an advance. I heard Carl call, "**Out!**" so Joe and I poured on the paint until Bud got hit, and I was able to fire down on Willy as he changed position.

Suddenly Joe was hit, leaving me against Bonnie and Darrell. I watched my right flank as Bonnie took advantage of Darrell's cover fire. I was able to hold them off for a few minutes, but when I peeked up for a glance at Darrell's position, he nailed me on the head. Game 2 goes to Engineering and Sciences.

We moved to the Beta Quadrant to begin Game Three. It's a slightly larger field with metal barrels and wooden spools for additional cover and a little more space to maneuver within. We moved and fired, zigged and zagged while I took cover behind some brush and Willy reigned fire down on me. Splatter flew all around my head as I tried to get a bead on him. In the end, Security won, but I emerged from the field covered in pink phaser blast residue. Good shooting, Willy!

Our final game saw me move down to the low side of the field to try and get a shot on Bonnie and Willy, but I couldn't zero in. I heard Chief Davis and Joe calling out information to each other when I realized I was far too exposed in my location. I made a run for the barrels that marked our Beta Quadrant rendezvous point. I must have looked like a crazy squirrel running around, peeking out from behind trees, firing a shot, and running off again.

After all of the shooting, Security took the day at 3 games to 1. Some Red Shirts survived today's episode.



Thanks to everyone who came out and made it a great day in the woods. It's always nice to have new participants. We're happy Darrell could join us all the way from Georgia, and we hope Bud had fun, even with the pink hair! What a wonderful weekend with the 40th Anniversary Party on Saturday and Phaser Simulation on Sunday.

(After Action Note: Science's Cadet Allen may not have made it to the field of fire today due to an injury, but he infiltrated the home base of Commander Jonathan Hatter with a singular paintball. When he least expected it, Cadet Allen lobbed it at Commander Jonathan, causing a hot pink explosion across the mirror, sofa, tv, floor, and Jonathan. Revenge was had!)

<<<SCIENCE>>>



THE ECLIPSE – I'LL CATCH IT NEXT TIME

By Admiral Willy Smith – Chief Science Officer, SFDPP Certified

I won't bore you about how cool the eclipse was. Personally, I think the Science of how such a thing can be predicted is so wild. There're so many variables to consider (thousands actually) but these days there are

apps that your cell phone can use to tell you what time it's going to happen at your location.

REMEMBER, this is unique in our solar system and most likely our GALAXY, that no other planet has a moon that blocks the sun out exactly like our moon does. Probably the same goes for a glass of drinkable water and me making the next eclipse.

I'd feel differently if I were able to walk out in the yard and see the total eclipse and every couple of years or so there are total eclipses over the oceans. Yes, some with money to burn pay to be at the correct latitude and longitude to see eclipses, so don't throw your special glasses away ... you might win a Powerball or a rich aunt

forgives you for never visiting and leave you 6.8 million dollars (I'd donate much to the Heimdal, wouldn't you?) Right...

If you're still reading this article, I want to offer you a chance at being part of a Science experiment that we did in 2019 that involves a watermelon and rubber bands. We did it a little too close to the pool last time and people swimming were grossed out by the chunks that looked like red meat ... yes, there were vegans hurling but we were able to recover and





consume about 70% of the melon, thanks to the help of Botanist Bonnie Davis and some other quick thinking Heimdal members. Now is the time to get on the list. Another experiment is pending as well (Mentos & soda).

SCIENTIFICALLY PAY IT FORWARD

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

It was a warm day in October 2023 and we are returning to my SUV in the middle of Walmart parking lot with drugs and frozen foods. We loaded our items and were eager to get the AC rolling again but when I turned the key there was nothing but clicks. I opened the hood knowing there wouldn't be anything I could do, but it's a guy thing, I guess. Once a no *easy way-out* button was located, I started scanning around for potential help (no jumper cables onboard). I try to start it again with no luck. In the meantime, a white-haired lady next to me was preparing to leave and I asked if she had any jumper cables. She says, "*Noooo, but my son gave me something for Christmas but I haven't charged it since.*" I quickly did my Jethro ciphering and figured out it had been many months since... What the heck is that? (my mind says another word) She unzips the case and I see two battery clamps and a small box. She asks me if I knew how to work it and I'm already reading "step 2". Anyway, both clamps are on my battery, I push a button that turns blue, waited 3 seconds the light turns green and I started my car! I gotta have one so I took pictures of it ... moments later SHE is thanking ME for showing her how to use it. I was doing my best Gomer Pyle imitation of, "*thank ye, thank ye, thanks ye*"! as she was backing away. Less than 10 minutes had passed and we were headed home. WOW...



FAST FORWARD to a rainy mid-March evening where Linda was treating us to subs, when a lady burst thru the door saying "*anybody got cables?*" Hmmm, what to say... "I got something" I blurted out, holding two cokes. A few minutes later, my jump box called **Avapow** was on its maiden voyage, charged in October '23 it fired up that old V8 like it was no problem. The lady said thanks and hauled her 5 feet of subs away.

Ten years ago, this would have been a miracle or alien technology. I think it's cool and wanted to share with you. It weighs 3 pounds and has 4 lithium-ion batteries and comes with an EVA case for storage. It can be used as a power station, charging laptops, phones and has a built-in flashlight that even sends an SOS signal. Since I purchased my 2000 amp, the price is 33% lower and you can go from 1K to 6000 amps. It says 50 jumps between charges. Eh... Eh...

Just think, no more depending on another person/vehicle and if you're in a seedy part of town with skimpy clothing or a bunch of money it can mean FREEDOM! Even if you put the positive to negative *or* there's a short it'll tell you. Sorta like a defibrillator for the car (you don't *have* to yell CLEAR ... but it sounds cool.) I can get 4000 amps NOW for the price I paid a year ago and *some lucky girl might* get one for Christmas. Just another way Science is cool ... everybody says so ... and it's everywhere!

<<<ENGINEERING>>>



ENGINEERING UPDATE, APRIL/May 2024

ENGINEERING UPDATE

FCAPT Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer

R1 RDC ENG., Starfleet SFDPP Certified, SFA RED Squad

Monthly ENG/OPS Report - SD: 202404.12

As CEO I am on 'travel' this month to the commonwealth of Virginia with my amazing bride to take part in the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the USS Heimdal, NCC-1793. What an amazing journey it has been so far and this crew has a lot to be proud of with their consistency, energy and faith of the heart these past four decades. Great things are possible if we just hold the course. (Now to find my Paint Ball equipment.)

To wrap up Engineering submissions for this newsletter, may we suggest, if you are a member of the Heimdal Crew and have not *yet* decided on a department to hang your tricorder with – we hope you will consider Engineering. You will find below an excerpt from the April edition of *The Engineering Link*, and a special shout out to the team. Hang tight - 2024 is just beginning to pick up steam.





It's been a mixed bag of tribbles this month, but as always things continue to move forward and members are in good spirits with projects continuing. Between video conferencing, emails, snail mail there's been contact with all members of our Engineering team from the 'Commonwealth' to across the Pond' and I must say – it's a blessing to work with such an amazing and creative crew. From Interdepartmental Role Play (I.D.R.P.), the Heimdal Monthly Meeting, Engineering Department Monthly, The Engineering Link, and STARFLEET Academy this team continues to excel. Don't get me wrong, the ebb and flow of the individuals, the department, and more keeps us on our toes – but it is with that momentum that we show our consistency.

As I record these notes our team has completed (reported) 32 SFA Courses for March, plus SFA (ADP) Bachelor of Intelligence Operations Studies by our very own CMDR William "Bud" Walker, all while pulling double shifts preparing media for the upcoming Anniversary Celebration. I think someone is bucking for extra leave time when we finally get to Starbase 19. With Lt. Lyon (Jody's) leadership and juggling of the I.D.R.P. we are months ahead and the quality of the story line improves every single step of the way. Just to be clear, each member of the team brings something special to the table – so Thank You Kathy, Larry, Jody, Zak, Bud, Gary (and Lassie) – and I look forward to some of the changes that will be coming in the near future. – Millner Out

<<<<MEDICAL>>>>



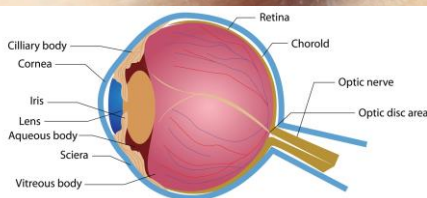
MEDICAL MINUTE; APRIL / MAY 2024 Commodore Tammy White, Chief Medical Officer

Before I go into this month's Medical Minute, I'd like to say a few words about the Heimdal's 40th Anniversary Party. It was wonderful. I loved the entertainment. McKinley was a perfect choice. His selection of songs fit our needs perfectly and has excellent showmanship. The costume contest is always fun and exciting. We had door prizes and the crew sang Happy Birthday to me.

Everything that led up to our 40th anniversary is due to one person and that's Linda Smith. If she hadn't started this chapter none of it would have been possible. I'm proud of the Heimdal. All of the charities we donate to and all the kids we've sent to Space Camp has been worth all the hard work and dedication. I thank you, Linda, for everything.

MEDICAL MINUTE:

Most people were recently able to see at least part of the solar eclipse. There were a lot of photos taken and most were stunningly beautiful. We were all told several times about the dangers of looking directly into the eclipse. I'd like to take this time to explain in more detail why all the warnings were given.



According to what I've found out, our eyes lack the nerve endings that register pain as it occurs. Our pupils dilate during the eclipse allowing more harmful rays to enter our eyes than normal. A rare case of acute solar retinopathy occurs when the eye retina is severely damaged by gazing straight into the sun.

Acute solar retinopathy is caused by photochemical toxicity when light can damage the retina and underlying structures. While the eye has several ways to protect itself from such damage, certain exposures to light can still result in temporary or permanent damage, according to the NCBI.

"The amount of light coming from the sun is intense," Michelle Nichols, director of Public Observing at the Adler Planetarium, told NBC Chicago. "And so, you have a lot of visible light, you also have infrared light and ultraviolet light. It's the infrared and ultraviolet that you especially don't realize that your eyes are being subjected to. You don't have nerve endings on the back of your eyeball, so you could be experiencing a burn and not know it. And that burn might turn out to be

permanent."

"You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the Moon completely obscures the Sun's bright face – during the brief and spectacular period known as totality," NASA [reports](#). "As soon as you see even a little bit of the bright Sun reappear after totality, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on or use a handheld solar viewer to look at the Sun."

Looking through a camera, binoculars or telescope won't be enough. Special solar filters are needed to avoid eye damage.

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, a person whose eyes are damaged by a solar eclipse will begin feeling symptoms within a few hours of the exposure. Damage to the eyes from exposure could appear within four to six hours. Complaints can range from seeing spots, blurred vision, headache, increased sensitivity to light,

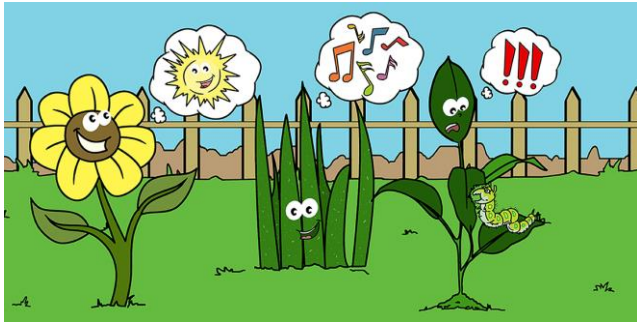
distorted vision, in which a straight line looks bent, or a door jamb looks curvy, or changes in the way you see color, known as dyschromatopsia. If the retina is degraded the photoreceptors in the back of the eye could be lost forever.

<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>



APRIL / MAY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT PLANTS CAN TALK!!!

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



Spring is my favorite time of the year, not just because the weather gets warmer, but all of the beautiful plants emerge. Did you know plants can talk? Check out the following article. (I probably should have left this to our botanist Bonnie, but anyway...)

Plants can talk. Yes, really. Here's how. (National Geographic)
"Help!" "Land here!" "Conserve resources!" "Get off!" "My fruits are ready to eat!"

These are just some of the many messages we know plants—from a patch of moss to a 300-foot sequoia—can send. In fact, if you've ever smelled freshly mowed grass, you've communicated with a plant.

In March, a new study showed many different plant species make ultrasonic sounds to communicate stress. It's the latest evidence showing how plants "talk" with everything from predators to pollinators.

Leaves detect predators or changes in light and sound, and roots monitor conditions below ground—problems with nutrients, water, and predators could be there too. Electrical signals travel through the movement of chemicals in those tubes, explains Courtney Jahn, a biologist and NSF program director who studies plant interactions. For example, roots can detect drought and tell leaves to limit transpiration and conserve water.

Both Venus Fly Traps and sensitive plants (*Mimosa pudica*) transmit electrical signals when touched, Jahn says. The former closes its mouth to trap their prey, while the sensitive plant moves to shake insects off.

Communicating with their surroundings can help plants survive. Eye-catching flowers blooming in the spring send a message to insects and animals that their flowers are ready for pollination.

As humans, we may not be able to naturally hear them, but we can often smell plant messages. When grass is cut, it releases gaseous chemicals, a fragrant distress signal. It's a comforting scent to those of us who associate it with being outside in warmer months. Plants also release this scent when eaten by a caterpillar—and as if responding to their call for help—other bugs take notice and prey on those caterpillars.



CADET NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS TO DARRELL SPENCER

A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to Darrell Spencer for 'aging out' of Heimdal's Cadet Corps ... he is 20 and will be 21 in July ... and now holds the rank of PO3. Way to go, Darrell. Heimdal's Cadet Corps now consists of Allen Hatter and Jonah Ryan.





CADET ALLEN HATTER

by Jonathan Hatter

Allen is healing from his knee surgery and was happy to be able to come to the 40th Anniversary Party. He was a great Weird Al! We both had a wonderful time.

He is continuing physical therapy, and the doctor says things are looking good! He looks forward to getting back to Scouts and Karate as well as phaser simulation. I think he enjoys shooting at Dad and the Security Team.

For those that don't know, Allen had a knee arthroscopy in late March. What was supposed to be routine ended up being more extensive than anticipated when the surgeon found that Allen had a knee deformity from birth. It was easily repaired but meant instead of a 2–3-week recovery, he ended up with a brace and crutches and a much longer recovery period.

Thanks for keeping him in your thoughts. He REALLY wants to get back to doing his STUFF again.

HEIMDAL'S PET FLEET

GIVE A KID A FISH ...

By Niki Kessler

Petfleet greetings to all from our family's beloved cats: Blackbird, Osiris, Comet, Teensy Silver Dragon, and Effie; from Thane's Netherland Dwarf Bunny, Deena; and from Keira's handsome corn snake, Yoshiro.

Undoubtedly just like you, dear reader, we LOVE our pets. They're a part of the family. They're greeted warmly and outrageously when we walk in the door, talked to with the understanding that they can understand us, groomed and coddled and given everything they need and spoiled with some things they don't necessarily need. They sleep with us, hang out with us, have full-on conversations with us (well, the snake is mostly body language and a little bit of assigned anthropomorphism, and the bunny tends to have conversations via body language--dirty looks and thumps.) Our pet sitter claims she's never met cats that are as friendly and "dog-like" as ours. I can't wait to introduce you to their antics in future articles.

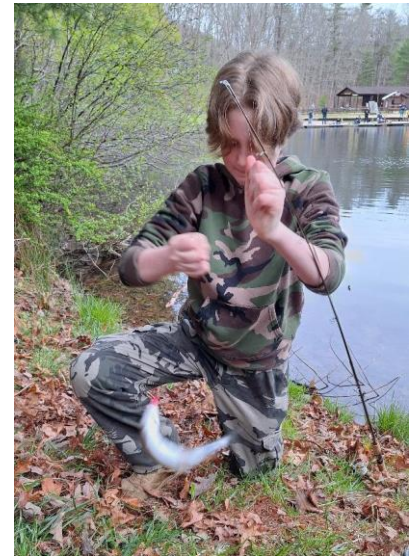
All of this said, for my inaugural newsletter submission, yes, I'll be writing about animals! But fair warning: I'm going to jump in with both feet and talk a bit about animals as food. There's no way around it: until we have the technology of replicators or food synthesizers, we as humans must kill plants and/or animals in order to eat and to live.

My son loves to fish. I have only recently started taking him fishing myself, as he's begun to really gather a stockpile of colorful lures and shiny jigs just begging to get out of his tackle box. I'm OK with throwing out a metal or plastic lure, not so keen on threading a live worm or minnow, and honestly, we spend more time just being together than actively fighting a fish on the line. So, for the slightly squeamish, all things considered, this is still a good way to get in some quality time with your kid.

Catch and Release is what we've been practicing until this past weekend. I'm very much an omnivore, but in modern times, it's easy to enjoy a Thanksgiving turkey or fried chicken without having to chase them through the yard with a hatchet. Easy to enjoy a juicy steak or roast perfectly grilled while only seeing a little pink when it's served medium rare. But this weekend was a trout fishing event, and the rules for this was no catch and release, 5 fish limit. Apparently, trout more easily succumb to the stress of catch and release than other fish, so once you catch one, it's yours to take and eat. My family loves to eat fish, and trout are a treat rarely found at the grocery store, so this was perfect for us.

We arrived very early after a long drive in the dark. The water was a mirror of the early gray sky, the air chilly with a colder breeze that felt more like March than April.

The first cast of the day got a nibble, the second, a bite with a trout that fought to the shore long enough to give us stories about the big one that got away. Lure replaced, line recast, the fish were biting wildly and it was only a matter of minutes before the first trout was officially hooked and fully out of the water and in my son's hands. Now let me tell you, when you're pulling an absolutely beautiful, lively fish from the water, shimmering with all the colors of the rainbow—so bold and strong and sleek, perfectly formed from seasons of vibrant living, you can't help but feel a deep appreciation for it. While multitudes of other trout were leaping in the center of the lake with joyful splashes, here was one that was leaping to find freedom.





I was anticipating a delicious trout dinner. I wasn't anticipating a grim moment when you realize that the fish you've caught has now got to be dispatched as quickly and humanely as possible, placed on ice to keep until we could clean it and take it home. I was suddenly not sure what to do—in all my life, I may have caught and eaten the fish, but was never the one to officially end their lives. What could have been a very awkward moment, became something quite different.



Without diving too deeply into the topic, in an ideal world, I would always choose humanely raised livestock who had lived pastoral lives, eating as close to a natural diet as possible, their lives ended with as much dignity as possible as opposed to the factory farming alternatives. I have always tried to instill a sense of this appreciation in my kids for the lives of the animals we eat.

When my son began to speak to his fish in the gentle way we speak to our pets, I realized that he didn't just understand this, he *felt* it. I can't explain the wave of pride as I listened to my son thanking the trout for its beauty and strength and for giving him food, talking to it about how he would care for the rivers and lakes so more of them could live there. He apologized for what he was about to do and promised it would be as quick as possible, and that his life would not be wasted.

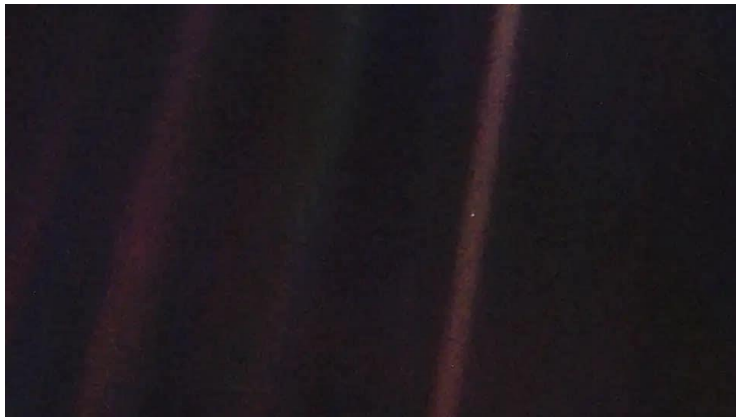
There's a different level of reverence in the field for what can be seen scientifically as just a transfer of energy through the food chain. Whether one sees it as only practical or deeply spiritual, it felt like a rite of passage of sorts. Not only for my son, but for me, to see the love and gratitude for the natural world and the living things that share this earth with us become evident in his actions.

Give a kid a fish and they'll eat for a day. Teach a kid to fish, coupled with a side quest of humanity, and the lessons they'll take with them and pass along are far more valuable than simply getting something to eat.

EARTH DAY

HAPPY EARTH DAY

By Annette Overstreet



Look closely in the center of the light streak on the first picture and you will see the Earth from deep space. The original caption follows: **"Picture of Earth from Beyond Neptune"** Also known as **"The Pale Blue**

Dot," this photo of Earth was the first ever photograph of the solar system.

After completing its mission of studying the outer solar system, NASA's Voyager 1 space probe captured this picture of Earth from 4 billion miles (6 billion kilometers) away on February 14, 1990."

The second picture takes my breath away and shows our tiny, fragile, precious Earth as a jewel floating in the darkness.

STARFLEET STUFF

2024 STARFLEET INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Welcome to the 2024 STARFLEET, Inc. International Conference. Join us for three days of excitement, exploration, and celebration. At DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Atlanta Airport, Address: 3400 Norman Berry Dr, Atlanta, GA 30344 Book your hotel reservation at: [Hilton.com](https://hilton.com)

To purchase your tickets, head over to <https://icreg.sfi.org> to register.

SCHEDULE:



This schedule is still evolving - stay tuned!

All times in Eastern

Friday, Aug 2

8:30am - ECAB

12pm - Lunch

6:30pm - Cocktails

7pm - Marine Mess (and awards for SFMC)

Saturday, Aug 3

8am - Breakfast Gathering

10am - Opening Ceremonies

12-4pm TBA

6:30pm - Cocktails

7pm - Banquet

Sunday, Aug 4

8am - Breakfast

10am-1pm TBA

1pm - Closing Ceremonies

Have questions or need assistance? Contact our team at ic2024@sfi.org.



STAR TREK STUFF

I'M STILL ANNOYED STAR TREK: LOWER DECKS WAS CANCELED BUT THERE IS ONE WAY THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE GOOD NEWS

Story by Adam Holmes. Reported by Glenda Blanks, Star Trek Editor

Last week, the Star Trek franchise delivered both good news and bad news. In the former category, Star Trek: Strange New Worlds has been renewed for Season 4, so taking that into account with the fact that Season 3 won't come out until 2025, fans can take comfort knowing one of the best Paramount+ TV shows will be sticking around for several more years.



Conversely though, Star Trek: Lower Decks is ending with Season 5, which will premiere to Paramount+ subscribers on a yet-to-be-announced date on the 2024 TV schedule. I'm still annoyed that Lower Decks has been canceled, but there is no way that this could turn out to be good news: if its characters are being spun off into a live-action show.

In summer 2023, Jack Quaid and Tawny Newsome, who voice Bradward Boimler and Beckett Mariner in Lower Decks, played their characters in live-action for the first time in the Star Trek: Strange New Worlds episode "Those Old Scientists." This Lower Decks/Strange New Worlds crossover saw Boimler and Mariner being transported back in time and meeting Captain Christopher Pike and his USS Enterprise crew, and Quaid and Newsome did a great job of balancing their characters' comedic sensibilities without getting too wacky (though Newsome did admit to me there was one "Mariner-ism" she wasn't able to replicate in live-action). Naturally Boimler and Mariner made it back to the 24th century by the end of the episode, and at the time, I was hoping there might be another opportunity for them and the Strange New Worlds characters to reunite someday.

However, now that I know Star Trek: Lower Decks is ending, my fingers are crossed that Paramount+ will consider letting these starring characters shine on their own live-action platform. This would be uncharted territory, to be sure... one might even say it's boldly going where no one in this franchise has gone before! But seriously, it was one thing for Star Trek: The Animated Series to spotlight Captain Kirk and his Enterprise cohorts from 1973 to 1974 following The Original Series' 1966-1968 run. Giving the Lower Decks cast their own live-action show would be a challenging feat, but one I'd like Paramount+ to undertake because characters deserve to be seen for more than just five seasons.



THE ZAK PERSPECTIVE



TOMORROW GETS READY FOR MY GENERATION

By Zak Lyon

Tomorrow is always getting ready for us. It is waiting and is excited to meet us when we arrive. We are influenced by a lot of things as we create tomorrow – including the arts, especially film.

My secret for not feeling older as I move toward tomorrow is to remember that for each age I achieved, there were lots of cool things to experience, to see and to remember. Movies have been a big part of that. I feel that my life would be less rich without these stories – stories which seemed to be tailored especially for me and the generation that was growing up in the 80s and 90s. And those films which spoke to me and my generation were genre films. Sci Fi and Fantasy defined the medium in the decade I was born into. And became the inspiration for a new breed of filmmaker to come.

In 2023, a great documentary, *In Search of Tomorrow* written and directed by David Weiner*, was finally released for streaming. I had followed the Kickstarter campaign, as I couldn't wait for it. Each time a trailer was revealed it generated more funding and the film would expand exponentially to the point where I wished they would stop advertising it so it could actually be finished!

The documentary has a dual structure – chronological and thematic – running parallel throughout. It is presented via interviews with filmmakers, writers, futurists, publicists, visual designers, psychologists, directors, critics, and even an astrophysicist. Of course, genre actors were generously sprinkled throughout – such as Wil Wheaton, Alex “Bill” Winters and Billy Dee Williams. And the “Wils and Bills” had amazing insights that defined the themes. Such as this quote from Wil Wheaton which did a wonderful job of setting the tone for what was to come. ***“When I think of Science Fiction, I think of stories in any medium that tell us what we could be and warn us about where we are going. Every piece of science fiction that I enjoy works as pure entertainment and also works as social commentary, philosophy or inspirational ideas.”*** And I would agree. I got so much from watching this 5-hour documentary and hope I can tease a tiny bit of it here.

The doc starts out with a look back at Sci Fi from Georges Méliès' 1902 *A Trip to the Moon*, through *Metropolis* (1927), *Flash Gordon* (1940), *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (1951) to *Star Wars* (1977). The interviews speak to the influences of the fear of nuclear destruction, fear of technology and change, and fear of losing agency. The documentary posits that it all changed after *Star Wars*. Another Wheaton quote I liked: ***“Things that made people feel very small and out of control - that seems to be what sci fi was about until Star Wars. The whole tone of sci fi in films really changes with Lucas and Spielberg in the 70s and 80s and it started showing us the positive possibilities of our world rather than constantly warning us of all the ways we are messing up.”***

So, whereas my parents' generation, baby boomers, had the alarming admonition of the *Day the Earth Stood Still*, I was formed partially by the resurrectional stories of the *Search for Spock* and *ET* as well as the everyman heroes of the *Ghostbusters*. Even though newer films did still speak of those nuclear level fears of the 50s -70s, those fears were no longer all consuming. They were merely one paint on the pallet of the future.

What we learned in the 80s as a revelatory idea was that optimism and pessimism could exist side by side as equally valid colors to paint with. Love, hope and the strength to overcome fear would shoot through the darkness and bring an adventuresome spirit to the screen which led to moments of immersive excitement and joy. Shane Black credited Steven Spielberg with this change in genre film when he said, ***“Spielberg said let's go back to the beauty of what sci fi used to be. It doesn't have to be about the corruption of technology.”*** But it was George Lucas and the success of *Star Wars* which transformed genre films. Studios were now willing to finance the creations of these new visionary filmmakers. Sci Fi/Fantasy would move from B movies to blockbusters. And these more artistic/visually stunning movies appealed to the general public. That's when everything exploded.

Having set up the 80s, the doc next goes through the decade year by year, introducing your author to many new movies to add to his rotation.

When director Weiner looked at **1980**, he referenced transitional films such as *Saturn 5*, *Flash Gordon*, *Galaxina*, and *The Final Countdown*. From parody to thriller, these films drew us in through their characters and settings, but also made us think about issues. The films grappled with the line between human and machine, ethical considerations/ ramifications of taking action to correct the past, and the real-world issues of the aftermath of nuclear destruction. In fact, *The Day After* TV movie which gave visualization to our fear of destruction led to President Reagan changing his mind about his position on using such weapons. And of course, the year included *The Empire Strikes Back* where heroes struggled against a darkly repressive regime. The films humanized the characters and depicted an alternative response to the fear cold war kids embraced when they were young. *You don't have to be scared*, they said.

In **1981**, the view of the place of women in society was changing and could be no better depicted than in *The Incredible Shrinking Woman*. Social commentary was being explored in highly imaginative ways. We were presented with conceivable futures as in *Outland* and *Escape from New York* and also subversive/challenging messages highlighted with rock music like in the animated *Heavy Metal*. Even the truth, justice, and the American way theme of *Superman II* played in to the social commentary hidden in fantastical situations.



With studios being bolstered by the viability of genre film, **1982** experimented with maximum impact with low budget like *Road Warriors*, *Wrath of Khan*, and *MegaForce*. The year also looked at the changing family as highlighted in the emotionally impactful *ET*. Spielberg introduced the honesty of youth into the theme of the fantastical making it real and easy to suspend any disbelief. In *Blade Runner*, Ridley Scott worked out his own grief, struggled with issues of life and death, while also advancing social commentary surrounding the ethical and moral issues of a slave class and what makes us human all in a setting that brings to life everything early sci fi films warned us of.

The year also highlighted the emerging computer in our daily lives with *Tron*. It pioneered acting “in front of nothing” and pretending the world is real. But it also asks the viewer to examine and meditate upon the philosophical/theological question: Are the users real?

1983 films take the view from “childhood to growing up” according to the doc. Genre films were splitting into defined subgenres. “What if” and worst-case scenarios were being explored. The forbidden knowledge held by computers, the danger of their place in our lives were new concerns. Even *Superman III* touched on the contemporary issues surrounding the “computer.” *War Games* asked us if war was real or just a game. Sci Fi was becoming more psychological. And of course, *Return of the Jedi* and its clash of light and dark saw the redemption of a fallen hero from a cyborg to human form.

1984. The year the Heimdal and your writer were born. Genre movies about family and sacrifice reigned. CGI was starting to be embraced in film making. *The Search for Spock* was an example of how sci fi was first and foremost about story not the accoutrement of sci fi. *Ghostbusters* created a family from a group of nerds and is an example of the audience being so comfortable with the supernatural/sci fi world building that it would take a back seat to the comedy. *The Last Starfighter*, a perfect fantasy for the growing number of gamers asked if our humanity is being tested. We passed with flying colors.

1985. *Back to the Future...* Whoa, this is running long. I have to stop. Whew! This is a lot of information to cover... and I know what you are thinking. He stopped right when they got to *Back to the Future*. I knew I had to cut it somewhere. So, I thought stopping after they talked about 1984 (the year, not the movie) seemed like a good place. And as to *Back to the Future*, I have a theory you will have had a lot of that recently.

See you in a future issue for Part II.

*David Weiner created this documentary as the sequel to his 2019 *In Search of Darkness*.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL ROLE PLAY

Ever drifting down the stream—

Lingering in the golden gleam—

Life, what is it but a dream?

-Lewis Carroll (Through the Looking Glass)

ACT II of *The Bound Dog Shall be Loosed:*

Part 18 “With Bitter Tidings Laden”

By William M. Walker, Jr. and Kathy Whately

Aboard the ISS Garmr ...

Banner Captain Katherine Whately sat in her command chair and surveyed the ship’s bridge and crew around her. Her right hand lightly touched the armrest on her chair while her left hand held a small metal skewer. Impaled at the end of the skewer was a roasted rodent creature about the size of a child’s fist. Lost in her thoughts, Captain Whately moved the skewer to her mouth without looking at it. She bit one of the creature’s legs, ripping it off and swallowing it.

At that moment, Governor William Wealcan stormed onto the bridge, his eyes scanning the room. His eyes landed on Whately and his face darkened as he moved over to her command chair.

“Captain Whately! Has Hatter returned yet?” he said loudly.

“Ah, Governor Wealcan, always so pleasant. And that is Banner Captain Whately,” she said smoothly as she took another bite.

Wealcan was visibly angry and snarled back, **“How rich. You win your fifth battle and think you can claim that title so quickly. Especially since you won it with this broken-down ship, named after a dog?”**

Whately’s eyes flashed as she whipped around to glare at Wealcan.

“Don’t you dare insult my ship while standing on my bridge! The ISS Garmr may not be the largest ship in the Terran Empire, but it is the Emperor’s favorite. By the way, when was the last time you actually governed anything, Governor Wealcan?”

Rage washed over Wealcan’s face, but he kept his retort to himself. Challenging a Terran Captain on her own ship was risky, even for a former planetary governor. Wealcan whirled around and left the bridge, determined to find his own





answers. Whately smiled at his retreating back and took the final bite of her snack. *I will teach him how the dog bites soon enough*, she thought to herself.

Whately chewed the last bit of gristle she had retrieved from between her teeth with a small dagger. She stared at the dagger and quickly made a decision. Not one to downplay her reputation as "*The Princess of Pain with Hate in her Name*," she barked an order to her security officer, "*I will get what I need! Call the prisoner to the bridge along with that Bajoran Officer Jodi.*"

This Federation Hatter has been hard to break, she thought. *Perhaps the Bajoran's torture techniques will let us get into his head. I know he has something to do with the Item. I need that Item.*

The captain stood and grinned as a pleasurable thought entered her mind. Her voice was low and filled with anger. "*And the officers assigned to interrogate the prisoner...send them to the agony booth.*"

As Captain Whately lowered herself back into the command chair, she caught her security officer's eyes and growled. "*Don't start without me.*"

To be continued...

THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

I hope you've enjoyed this DOUBLE issue of our newsletter. And THANK YOU to EVERYONE that contributed to it. It's pretty spectacular (I couldn't have squeezed another word into it if I'd tried) because it is the PERSONALITY of the Heimdal and it takes a STARSHIP (not a village) to make it what it is. We ROCK, you know ... LOL

We'll see you at the May meeting ... amazing guest and pretty cool refreshments.

Linda, Willy and our staff of THOUSANDS.



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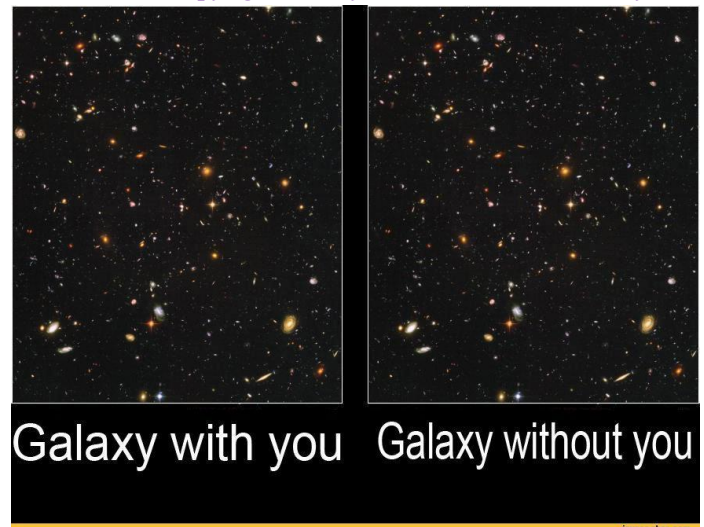
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We'll See You Around the Galaxy ...

