



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**

*The **EARLY FALL/HALLOWEEN** Issue, October 2024*

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**ISS MOCK-UP AT NASA'S SPACE CAMP ... SPACE CAMP WAS THE TOPIC OF THE
SEPTEMBER MEETING**



FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Admiral Linda Smith - Starfleet 2024 SFDPP Certified

NOTE: Carl's Second Officer Report that's coming up reminds us to keep all our brothers and sisters in the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia and all the states so tragically effected by Hurricane Helene in our thoughts and prayers. Originally from North Carolina, the images of the devastation have struck me deeply. Thankfully, relatives in Salisbury are OK and that's a blessing.

Happy Halloween ... ALMOST!

Time is flying by and this month we will be having our Annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest. We are so pleased that during the pandemic we found a way to include ALL of us in the contest, even on ZOOM. Being

all inclusive is certainly our goal and the only 2 things we haven't found a way to include our ZOOM members in are movie nights and anniversary parties (although Bud DID live-stream as much of the party as possible to our ZOOM folks at this year's party).



I've been looking through old Heimdal Halloween Party pictures and will be using as many pictures of us in costumes as possible in this newsletter, just for fun. I'm starting with this one of Willy and me a few years ago as zombie pirates. This is a "JUST FOR FUN" edition of the newsletter so I'll stop talking so we can get on with it. **ENGAGE !!!**



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

(Editor's note: So, Willy didn't actually WEAR this costume but he photoshopped himself into the picture and I thought it was cool. So here you go!!!)

What an excellent Space Camp presentation we had at the last Heimdal meeting from Ethan Mason. He was comfortable standing there telling us the things he enjoyed the most about Space Camp and some of things he wished could have gone better. All in all, Ethan had a great week-long trip that he'll be talking about for years, I'm sure. One thing that was a drag for his trip, since he has asthma, he wasn't able to feel what it's like to be weightless by using scuba gear in the massive pool. He thought it unfair *but he did* have an asthma attack one day ... so I guess it's a safety measure. There were other rides that simulate weightlessness.

He was lucky to have a father that spent the first day with him touring the rocket museum and taking pictures and a video that aren't usually shared with us. Dad came prepared with it on a USB drive and was even able to get it running right away. The rockets are MASSIVE and he said there's a picnic area under one of

the rocket engines... I must go there.

We are starting the whole Space Camp Contest process over with Linda getting the packets to the school liaisons. There were 8 kids who submitted essays last year, making the decision about a winner really difficult.

My laptop gave me trouble at the meeting and thanks to Jonathan we were able to have sound. Everything worked well until I shut it down ... I had no idea and I apologize. May have to use my phone the next time Bud isn't there. Sorry.

STARFLEET renewals will be stacking up soon, so if I send you a reminder, please help us out and let me know you got the reminder and your intentions to renew. We don't want to lose any of you. Back when I was young, I missed a renewal date, so it's not hard to do. Thanks in advance!



FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER
RAdm. Carl Davis, Second Officer, Chief of Security - Starfleet SFDPP 2024
Certified

It is good to be able to report that it hardly rained at all today after over a week of wetness. Fortunately, I only had to scrape my road once to fill in the ruts washed in the gravel from heavy rainfall. Around here we only received a good soaking compared to those who caught the worse of the storm in the Carolinas and Tennessee. Bonnie and I are familiar with many of the areas that were hit and devastated. It was difficult to see some beautiful areas that will never be the same.

It brought to mind the flooding of 69 when I had just graduated high school and Hurricane Camille hit us hard. I spent many hours sitting on the roof of our house with water flowing by and through the house about three feet deep. Our house moved about 6 inches off the foundation but stayed put. 7 acres of grazing land around the house was covered by river jacks when the water went down the next day. My new Yamaha trail bike was found by someone who recognized the end of a handlebar sticking out of the gravel. It looked like it had been sandblasted. I still have a small Homelite chainsaw that was found about a half mile away and was returned to us by

an honest gentleman that was walking in what had been the streambed. It still serves as a reminder that storms don't last and it's good to walk in the sunshine and sing a little sunshine song.

I encourage anyone who can to support the work that is being done to lend a helping hand to those who are trying to put their lives back together after suffering great loss. Thanks to Samaritan's Purse, God's Pit Crew, Red Cross, Salvation Army and many other organizations that are out there providing hot meals and hope in what can seem a hopeless situation.



MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be October 19 at the Madison Heights Library and on ZOOM. Beginning at 6:30, this will be our Annual Halloween Party and Costume Contest. Please bring an item for refreshments and just for fun, make your refreshments with a Halloween theme.

We'll begin with a very brief meeting (I promise) followed by our Costume Contest with prizes. Everybody may participate, even our ZOOM people, which makes it more fun. The costume categories are **Most Original, Most Humorous and Best All Around** (no Star Trek category this year). Be thinking about your very best entry, You don't HAVE to wear a costume but it's a lot more fun AND you might win a prize.

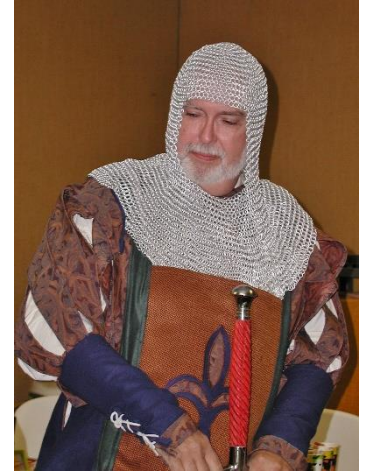
Following the Costume Contest, we will have refreshments and something a little different this year. You won't be disappointed.

Darrell Millner will be our ZOOM Coordinator (thank you, Darrell) and here are the ZOOM coordinates:

CO Linda Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Heimdal Halloween Meeting 2024**

Time: Oct 19, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time SD:202410.19



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85864314715?pwd=ukXOWOuQ6HohoWVKalqjVUGM3vDor3.1>

Meeting ID: 858 6431 4715 **Passcode:** boo

SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Jonathan Hatter



The monthly meeting of the U.S.S. Heimdal was held on September 21, 2024 at the Madison Heights Public Library in Amherst, Virginia. Our guest this evening was Ethan Mason, the student who attended Space Camp in June as the winner of the Heimdal essay contest. He brought along his family – dad, mom and 7 siblings - on a very wet night that had

heavy downpours and fallen trees along the route.

Ethan and his father, Nick shared a collection of videos and photos detailing his trip. He recounted the journey and the excitement of seeing the top of the on-site rockets as they came into view. It seems his dad enjoyed the journey as much as he did.

He shared experiences that included working ground control and the International Space Station. He was on a team named *Denial* and he played a video of their model rocket launch in which an egg served as the astronaut that had to be protected within. Let's just say it didn't go as planned. Many of the rockets end up in a group of trees on the launch field's edge and remain there as are a type of memorial.

Ethan told us that the Space Camp instructors would bang on the metal walls to rouse the students awake. Seems this would make the experience more realistic. Is that what it sounds like when micrometeorites bang against the outside of your spacecraft? Thank goodness our Engineering team invented and maintains that deflector array.

Ethan was grateful and noted that he couldn't have attended without the Heimdal scholarship.

It's wonderful to see our efforts support and benefit young people and aid them in decisions that will shape their future. A big thanks to Ethan and his family for coming out on that rainy evening. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

After Ethan's presentation Admiral Linda Smith held a "brief" business meeting. Ha Ha, just kidding Linda, we appreciate all that you do to keep the Heimdal running at warp speed. You are awesome!

Please be sure to check your emails and the holo-log (Facebook) to stay up to date on activities and opportunities for the crew.



HEIMDAL'S 41ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

APRIL 2025

Start planning your costume for Heimdal's 41st Anniversary Party on April 12, 2025. I will start taking up money for the meal early next year.

WATCH THIS SPACE



HEIMDAL PEOPLE



REMEMBERING DENNIS – ONE YEAR LATER

From Linda

It's been almost a year since we lost long-time member, Dennis Henderson on October 31, 2023 ... yet I can still hear his voice the last time I spoke to him on the phone shortly before his passing. He was my friend for so many years and a Heimdal member who was always there.

I miss Dennis ... his brief emails, his phone calls, his presence. I know some of you still miss him, too. Keeping our memories of Dennis and sharing them will always keep him alive in our hearts.

2024 VIRGINIA 4-MILER

By Jonathan Hatter



On September 28, 2024 I took part in the annual Virginia 4 Miler. Held in parallel with the Virginia 10 Miler that celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, it offers a run/walk that begins and ends at E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg. Runners and walkers travel along Langhorne Road toward the Farm Basket and then turn onto Cranehill Drive. You pass Linkhorne Middle School using the Langhorne Bridge Trail extension toward the Awareness Garden and onto Old Langhorne Road. Ahh, Cranehill was my favorite, oh wait, no, not really.

I find it to be a challenging run but you have a large number of spectators and volunteers cheering you on. Runners also encourage each other to push for the finish line. I participated with a co-worker and there was a large team sponsored by my employer. I have been working to develop some healthier habits and training to participate in this event was one of them. All of the jogging provides good training for phaser simulations.

After the race we were treated to bananas, apples and best of all, pizza. Nothing better after a 4-mile jog than a piece of Papa John's pizza!

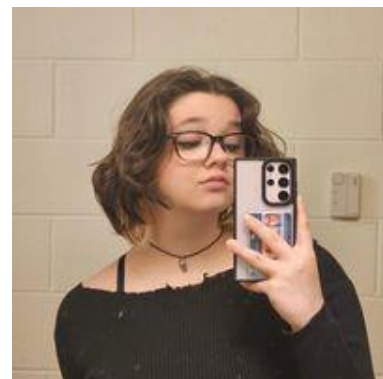
FORMER MEMBER MADISON LITCHFORD

By Tammy White

Many of you know my grandniece, Madison, was a member of the Heimdal for several years. I'd like to give you an update on her. She attends Christopher Newport University and is studying to be a teacher.

While attending Heritage High School she qualified to attend Central Virginia Community College. She was able to start the university with 2 years of college credits. This year she is considered a sophomore because this is only her 2nd year but she has the college credits of a junior. She will graduate with her bachelor's degree next year and her masters the following year.

Madison is rocking the college life and is doing very well. She entered a singing contest and won 1st place. She's always had an amazing voice but it has gotten even better over the years. She won a gift card from Target and some university merchandise.



STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!

Admiral Willy Smith



30 courses - 2 awards

* Boothby Diamond (250) from the School of SFA Awards completed on Aug 19, 2024

* Boothby Dilithium (300) from the School of SFA Awards completed on Sep 14, 2024

IOMOS - School of SpecOps Defense CSOR

SNIP 103a - Marksmanship Training, Part 1 - Aug 17, 2024 DISTINCTION

SNIP 103b - Marksmanship Training, Part 2 - Aug 18, 2024 HONORS

SNIP 104 - Field Skills - Aug 19, 2024 DISTINCTION

SNIP 105a - Movement & Concealment, Part 1 - Aug 19, 2024 DISTINCTION

SNIP 105b - Movement & Concealment, Part 2 - Aug 20, 2024 DISTINCTION

SNIP 106a - Sniper Skills, Part 1 - Aug 21, 2024 DISTINCTION

SNIP 106b - Sniper Skills, Part 2 - Aug 22, 2024. PASS

SNIP 107 - Sniper Tactical Usage - Aug 22, 2024 DISTINCTION



IOSTS - College of Starship Design (COSD)

COSD 127H - NCC-1701E Schematics - Aug 31, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 127I - NCC-1701E Schematics - Aug 31, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 127J - NCC-1701E Schematics - Aug 31, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 128A - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Aug 31, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 128B - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Aug 31, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 128C - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Aug 31, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 128D - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Aug 31, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 128E - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Sep 12, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 128F - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Sep 12, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 128G - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Sep 12, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 128H - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Sep 12, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 128I - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Sep 12, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 128J - NCC-74656 Voyager Schematics - Sep 12, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 129 - NX-74205 Defiant Schematics Pt 1- Sep 11, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 129A - NX-74205 Defiant Schematics Pt 2-Sep 11, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 129B - NX-74205 Defiant Schematics Pt 3- Sep 12, 2024 – DISTINCTION

COSD 129D - NX-74205 Defiant Schematics Pt 5 – Sep 12, 2024 - DISTINCTION

COSD 129C - NX-74205 Defiant Schematics Pt 4 - Sep 12, 2024 - DISTINCTION

IOMOS - College of SpecOps Resources- CSOR

EQPT 101 - Combat Gear - Aug 24, 2024 HONORS

EQPT 102 - Rations - Aug 30, 2024 – DISTINCTION

EQPT 103 - Body Armor - Aug 31, 2024 HONORS



CMDR Zachary Lyon

IOTK – College of Plasma Technology

CPT 104 – Plasma in Space - School of IOTK - College of Plasma Technology HONORS - Sep 18, 2024.

HONORS for COOM 102 Obtaining an Orbit from the School of IOSS - College of Orbital Mechanics completed on Sep 18, 2024

RENEWALS

A special THANK YOU to Glenda & Dan Blanks and Karen Delano, for renewing and staying with our Heimdal “family” for another amazing year.

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

November – Tim Hazlett – November 18

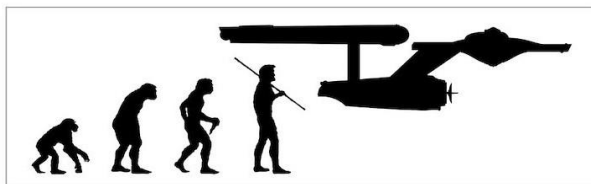
December – Niki Kessler – December 5

Leslie Miller – December 8

January 2025 – Janice Lawson – January 4

Larry & Kathy Whately – January 18

Nicola Cole – January 24



HEIMDAL STUFF

HEIMDAL'S HOLIDAY CANNED GOOD DONATIONS DUE IN NOVEMBER

As most of you know, the Heimdal has NO monetary dues. Instead, everyone is asked to donate a canned good a month (12) or make a monetary donation to be donated by the Heimdal to the Salvation Army Food Pantry for the holidays. Since COVID, our donations have diminished from the 1000+ pounds of food to under 100 pounds. We do have several people that have been making a monetary donation. This year we're hoping to increase our amount of canned goods / money. Following hurricane Helene, most helping agencies will be struggling for the holidays. We will also be entering our donation amounts in the Region One Food Bank Donation Contest.

Please DO consider making a donation to this Heimdal charity which MUST be in NO LATER THAN the November 16 Heimdal meeting. Willy and I take the donations to the Salvation Army before Thanksgiving.

Please make checks or money orders payable to Salvation Army Food Pantry or Linda Smith ... NOT Heimdal. Be sure to write Salvation Army Food Pantry in the MEMO section of your check, otherwise it will go to the SA 'general fund,' the Food Pantry won't get the donation and they desperately need it to feed the hungry in our area.

HEIMDAL KICKS OFF 2024 SPACE CAMP CONTEST

On September 23 the updated Space Camp Contest information packet was sent to the 8 previously participating area middle schools encouraging their participation with us again this year. We also sent a flyer specifically geared towards interested students that will be distributed in the schools by our school liaisons that will be working with us.

As of October 1, Amherst Middle School, Monelison Middle School, Dunbar Middle School and Linkhorne Middle School will be working with us and our contest this year. We also have gotten an email from the Director of Sciences at Campbell County Schools who has passed

our information along to Rustburg Middle, Brookville Middle, William Campbell Combined, and Altavista Combined School Science teachers in Campbell County.

We're still hoping to get more positive responses but this is a tremendous start. The contest started in the schools on October 7 and ends on November 4. We are hoping to have a winner by the following weekend and hope to tell you who it is in the November newsletter.

This is such a wonderful thing we are able to do for a deserving student every year. This year's winner will be the 17th student we have sent on this amazing adventure. Our winners from both 2016 and 2018 are currently in college majoring in Aeronautical Engineering with dreams of becoming astronauts or working in the space program. How cool would it be if one or both of them planted the flag on Mars????????????????

HEIMDAL RECEIVES FANTASTIC DONATION

Once again, the Heimdal has received an amazing donation from the Daly Foundation. This year's donation is close to \$2000 We are so grateful for receiving this donation again. In the absence of an on-going fundraiser and since we haven't had enough volunteers to help us continue to do the auction, this is MORE than welcome. It will help guarantee we can continue our Space Camp Program and funding our Christmas charities through 2025. Because Willy, Carl and I have been able to put our Heimdal savings into CDs, we hope we can continue to fund the chapter with interest that we will be making on those CDs.



A special THANK YOU again to Jim Daly and the Daly Fund for having faith in what we do and supporting us.



BOOKER MAKES DONATION TO HEIMDAL

Long-time Heimdal member, Bill Booker will be relocating very soon and has found it necessary to downsize. He has donated **34 mint condition Star Trek collectible plates** to the Heimdal to use as a fundraiser. We just got them and haven't decided yet how best to use them or what kind of fundraiser to have but we will let everyone know.

A special THANK YOU to Bill for thinking of us and making this generous donation to the Heimdal.

HEIMDAL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SETS 2024-25 AGENDA

From Linda

At the Heimdal's Executive Committee meeting in September we were able to set our tentative agenda for the rest of this year and January through October of 2025. Here's what we have so far:

November 16 - Jonathan & Allen Hatter - Scouting Adventures

December 21 - Annual Christmas Party Dinner

January 2025 - Annual Chili Fest' & Movie Night

February - Star Trek Trivia Night - Carl Davis

March - Engineering Department presentation

April 12 - Heimdal's 41st. Anniversary Celebration

May - Larry McKinley - docent at Air & Space Museum in Washington, DC - ZOOM presentation

June - Talent Night & Ice Cream Sundae Night

July - Vacant

August - Vacant

September - 2025 Space Camp winner

October - Annual Halloween Party

I have a tentative guest for either July or August. Will let you know when she lets me know
We have one Heimdal Social scheduled and that is for May - PizzaNic at Sugar Mill pavilion

OCTOBER GAME NIGHT

October Game Night will be held on October 12 ... too late to get an article in this issue about it. Watch this space next month. It should be a fun event.

OCTOBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The Question of the Month is: What was your FAVORITE Halloween and why? What was your costume? How old were you?

Glenda Blanks - My favorite Halloween, I think I was 7-years-old and I dressed as a witch. After my mother took me trick-or-treating, we went over to my aunt Christine's house. She let me give out candy to other trick or treaters. I still had my witch costume on. Back then you wore a mask and I think I scared some of the little kids.

Willy Smith - The year Linda spent all that time making cheerleader stuff so she and could go as CHEERLEADERS!

She did a good job but the night we were going she put the wig on me and I looked gay. She looked good. We laughed, oh.... I was about 25, I think.

Bud Walker - My favorite Halloween was my first at the age of five. My entire costume was just a Frankenstein mask, but it was enough at that age. My father took me trick or treating, and I can remember the lit pumpkins in the night, the happy voices of other children sounding through the neighborhood, and of course all that free candy! One of the few moments of pure joy in my life! OCTOBER

Tammy White - I think my favorite Halloween was when I was 9 or 10. My older sister, Terri, broke her femur, thigh bone, about a month earlier. She had spent a month in the hospital. She came home in a full body cast. She couldn't go trick or treating that year so she stayed home and passed out candy with our dad. My mom went trick or treating with me and my younger sister, Shelly. What made that year so memorable was the people at the houses we went to. We lived in a sub division and just about everyone heard about Terri's accident. Shelly and I would get our candy then Mom would explain she was trick or treating for her 11-yr-old daughter who was home in a full body cast because she broke her leg. The amount



of candy they gave mom for Terri was outrageous. They would put handfuls of candy in the pillowcase. While we were out, Terri had a blast passing candy out to the kids that came by. Some of the littlest ones were scared of her cast but for the most part she had fun. That candy lasted months. I don't remember any costumes we wore but it was a memorable Halloween.

Tim Hazlett - In 1967 when we moved to a college town in Upstate New York my mother forbid my brothers and I from Trick-Or-Treating. I guess she was afraid of what might happen to us in a college town on Halloween. Anyhow, to compensate my dad built a haunted house in our garage and invited the neighborhood kids as well as the families from the church he pastored. When my dad was assigned a new church in 1970, he moved the haunted garage to our new attic and eventually to the church basement. And it became the biggest Halloween in the non-college town we were now living in. I don't remember a favorite costume but I do remember decorating the haunted pumpkin patch in the attic of our parsonage. It was a blast!

Jody Lyon - One of my favorite Halloween memories is the year I went trick or treating as my father. Our usual costume was hobo or scarecrow. Pretty easy to put together. But this year my dad said that as he was pretty small during the war, his old uniform might fit me. So that year I went as a WWII sailor! I was very proud to wear my costume that year.

Linda Smith - The first Halloween I remember was when I was 5 and got to pick out my costume all by myself. I wore a Little Red Riding Hood cape and a wolf mask. My mom tried to tell me that wasn't quite right but I insisted on wearing it that way. I should have gotten extra points for making a connection between the wolf and Red even if I didn't get it right.

Zak Lyon - A good Halloween memory was a party at a friend's house in my early twenties. Lots of great homemade food, wonderful costumes, donuts hanging from trees on ropes in lieu of bobbing for apples (it was harder and I am fairly sure someone used a sword to cut one down) and everyone doing the time warp. Great fun.



RILEY'S RAMBLINGS

TOMBSTONES

By Richard Riley

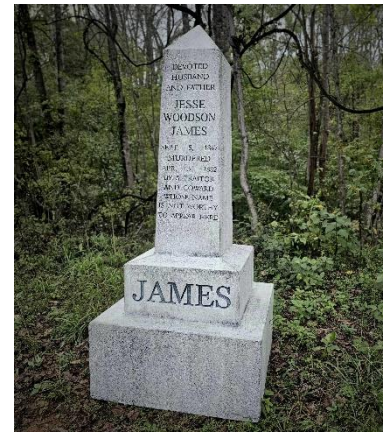
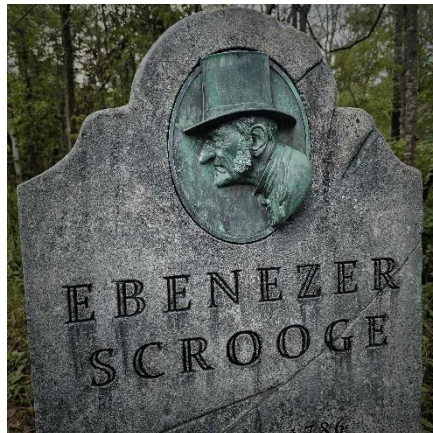
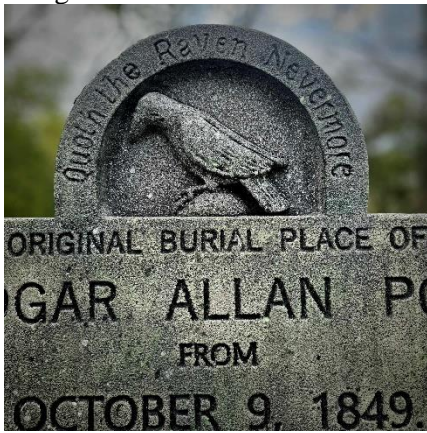


Hello everyone! Here we are into October. The way this year has flown by we may just skip over Thanksgiving and Christmas and be wishing each other Happy New Year! Well, before we do that and start singing Auld Lang Syne I think we should all enjoy Halloween since that is just a few weeks away!

I recently made a delivery of tombstones to my client in South Carolina, I have been making 10 to 12 tombstones for him every year for going on 4 years now. Last month's newsletter I showed how I created the Tombstone for the pirate, Blackbeard so this month I wanted to show the rest of the tombstones for this client.



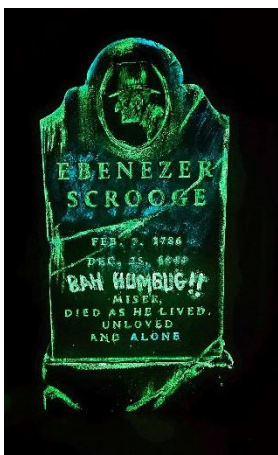
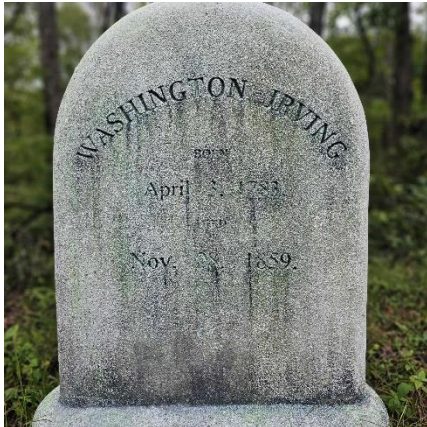
Some of these are made up creations of my own design while others are based off the actual tombstones of the person being memorialized.



The tombstones that I created based off the tombstones of actual people are the novelist Edgar Allan Poe, the author of

the Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving and the outlaw, Jesse James. Poe's is quite interesting. When he died, he was put into a paupers grave and forgotten about for a number of years. After his popularity grew, the cemetery decided to move their "celebrity" to the front of the cemetery to get more attention. A massive tombstone was erected to mark the burial place of him, his wife and mother-in-law. Where he had been originally buried a smaller marker was placed. That marker is the one that I replicated. It seems that after all the time and expense to create the new larger monument for the celebrity occupant, visitors were more interested in seeing his actual first burial spot! This small marker is the one that for years an unknown person would lay three red roses and a bottle of cognac on for Poe's birthday.

The Washington Irving and Jesse James ones do not have such colorful stories behind them but I wanted to include Irving since he wrote such an historic piece of literature of *the Headless Horseman*. I decided on the Jesse James tombstone strictly on the Epitaph ... yes that is inscribed on his tombstone located in Missouri!



The rest of the tombstones are based on historical figures such as the escape artist, Harry Houdini, the horror actor, Vincent Price and fictional characters such as Ebenezer Scrooge from the story *a Christmas Carol*, the large monument for the family Usher that are in the short story *The Fall of the House of Usher* by Edgar Allan Poe and the character, Annie Wilkes from the Steven King novel *Misery*.

Since Houdini's actual marker is rather small and flat without much information on it, I went with a more elaborate crypt style marker and added faux bronze chains along with a quote from Houdini on the crypt about how no chains will keep him from his freedom.



Vincent Price was cremated and has no marker so I went with a gothic style tombstone with a memorable quote on it from the movie *The House of Wax*, which he starred in.

The Usher family marker I went over the top with! In the short story the family is wealthy so I gave them a very "expensive" marker and have the names of the Great Grandparents, Grandparents, Parents and finally the 2 main characters of the story, Roderick and Madeline, the final descendants of the Usher family.

The Annie Wilkes marker is for the character from the novel *Misery*. I just created it from my imagination since at the end of the novel the character dies but no headstone is shown. I used a quote from the novel to have at the bottom.

Finally for Scrooge a plaque was made of a profile view of scrooge, which was then painted to simulate bronze.

I am quite fortunate that the client gives me such creative freedom to create these pieces. He rarely suggests anything and just lets me create! The only thing he asks is that the tombstones be large because he likes them to be seen from his road easily. We had discussed it and he has so much room that I will be creating tombstones for him for at least 10 years. Fun times indeed!

FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS



<<<SECURITY>>>



SECURITY REPORT: OCTOBER 2024

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

We had to cancel the month's phaser sim but look forward to the one in October.

We have changed the date from October 26 on Saturday to October 27 at

2:00pm. The date change seemed to favor the most people to be able to attend and the more the merrier.

The cooler days should make for some good playing, and we again hope to see some new folks out there with us. It's so much fun that it's a shame more haven't tried it out. It's the most fun sport I have ever been involved in and I've tried quite a few. I rate it right up there with driving stock cars but for a fraction of the expense.

We make sure that everyone is properly informed of all the safety rules and we even throw in some helpful hints on how to become better players.

It's always fun to have teams made of the different departments and the winning team gets bragging rights for their victories. Just ask any of the crew who play regularly if you have any questions. Drop me a line if you need more information.



<<<SCIENCE>>>

An Ocean in Bloom

By Chief Science Officer Adm. Willy Smith, SFDPP Certified

This is how many people make their living almost year-round by renting their boat and taking people for a day of fishing for striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay. The same goes for other type fish in different areas. This was more than a fishing trip and I'm fortunate for the memories. Our oceans need us.



This story *includes* guys like me going to where the James River meets the Atlantic but this story *centers* on how the ocean can kill everything because of algae growing out of control. Oyster farms, crabs and all the fish die and



end up on the shore. This is where NASA steps in with the PACE satellite launched this year. This is such a cool story and who knows how it will play out and to understand this better, please watch the video linked to this story.

From the reaches of space, NASA scientists aim to expand their knowledge of how our ocean, atmosphere, and ecosystems interact with one another through the launch of the PACE satellite in February 2024. By identifying and examining harmful algal blooms around the world, PACE will inform communities ranging from local fishermen to large corporations on what is occurring in their backyard and beyond. From sea to space, the PACE satellite will take Earth's pulse in astounding ways for decades to come.

<https://plus.nasa.gov/video/an-ocean-in-bloom/#fullscreen-player> (on computer press Ctrl + click)



Bill Nye (The Science Guy) On Climate Change

By Admiral Willy Smith – Chief Science Officer, SFDPP Certified

Nye explained that he used to view the 2000 presidential election between Democratic nominee Al Gore and Republican nominee George W. Bush as “the most important election of [his] lifetime” because Gore’s strong climate platform would have likely spurred aggressive policy action. However, he now views 2024 as the last year where meaningful climate action is possible.

When you look at temperatures out west with over 100 degrees for most of the summer and wildfires out of control, it all comes down to science and how the heat is being trapped, warming the oceans and the air around us. The recent tropical storm was able to go further up into the US than it should have and the scary part is storms of that magnitude may become more commonplace.

My favorite “Science guy, *Bill Nye*” tells it like it is.

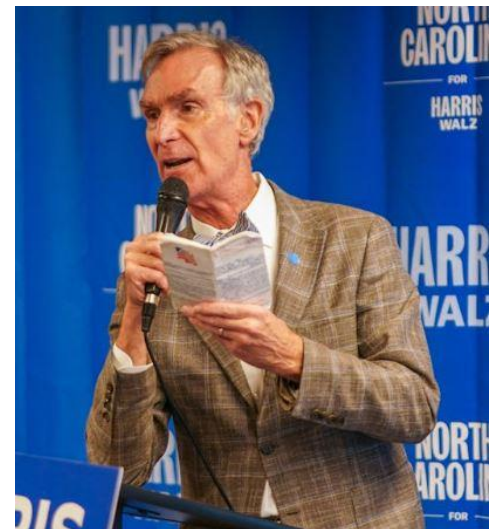
“This is it, people,” Nye said. “If we don’t do something about climate change this time, it ain’t gonna get done.”

Nye pulled a miniature copy of the Constitution out of his pocket and turned to section eight, clause eight, reading it aloud: ***“To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts. The word science is in the U.S. Constitution,”*** written 246 years ago.

Nye argued that climate policy should be a defining issue in this year’s election as one that affects all Americans.

“The climate is changing and we are responsible, all of us. Every time we drive a car, use gasoline, use electricity, use water — we are responsible,” he said. ***“... We all share the air and the water, we all share the natural resources of this great country,”*** Nye said.

While many don’t (even me) think it’s time for electric cars, we have to begin somewhere before we reach the point of no return. Other sources of power must be investigated.



<<<ENGINEERING>>>

ENGINEERING UPDATE

FCAPT Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer

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

Monthly ENG/OPS Report - SD: 202410.05

CEO Millner has NOT been on his game. Just now returning from a 6-week sabbatical, physically cleared by medical, psych results pending confirmation, and return to duty temporarily allowed. I have been catching up on Region One reporting, emails, and resuming work on The Engineering Link (uncharacteristically so way behind schedule).

I cannot begin to say how impressed I am with the Engineering team, their continued support and steadfastness moving forward with zooms, role play, SFA and more. They prove this is a team effort. Congrats to the SFA graduates this past month.

Looking forward to the month of October and getting back on track. - Millner Out





<<<<MEDICAL>>>>

MEDICAL MINUTE: HALLOWEEN

October 2024

By Commander Tammy White, Chief Medical Officer

Halloween is quickly approaching. It's time for kids in costumes, adult costume parties, trunk or treats, door-to-door trick or treaters. The store shelves are filled with bags of candy of all types just waiting to be passed out to kids in cute and scary costumes on Halloween.

Kids will be carrying many different types of buckets. When we went trick or treating as kids, my sisters and I carried pillow cases. Starting a few years ago there has been a growing trend. Some houses will set out a teal-colored pumpkin and some treaters will be carrying a blue bucket. These two colors have very significant meanings.

I'll start with the teal pumpkins. A house that has a teal pumpkin set out indicates they have alternatives to the usual candy. The purpose of this is to offer kids that may have food allergies or other conditions alternatives to candy that can potentially harm them. I found the following information on the *Living Allergic* web site. The Teal Pumpkin Project was started by Becky Basalone. She is a mother of 2 and was the director of a local Tennessee food allergy support group. She had the bright idea of painting a pumpkin teal, the color of food allergy awareness, and handing out non-food items. What she didn't know was that her teal pumpkin would become a nationwide symbol for Halloween food allergy awareness. In fact, it's even taking off in Canada and Britain.

The folks at FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education) loved her "teal take" on Halloween and first got behind the idea for Halloween 2014, promoting the "Teal Pumpkin Project" to the media across the country. The Teal Pumpkin concept went viral on social media, reaching more than five million people on FARE's Facebook page in that first year. It's grown every year since, creating a new food allergy-friendly tradition. By 2018, several food allergy [organizations](#) were working together on the Project to heighten allergy awareness. There are several options to candy to pass out. Good Housekeeping has a list on their web site that has several options to candy. Some suggestions are Halloween bracelets, noisy putty skulls, small Halloween coloring books, Halloween squishies and several other options.



Kids with blue buckets are signifying they have Autism. *"It's letting people know that, hey, I have Autism and I may not be able to say trick-or-treat or do the correct social cues of ringing the doorbell or waiting for someone to come to the door or I may get really excited that I see something cool behind you and want to come in your house,"* said Emily Redding, a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst at Rose Street Spectrum.

The hope is that when candy givers see the brightly hued plastic pumpkins, they will offer up a side of patience with the treats being handed out.

"Tolerance to what you may not understand," said Redding. *"You never know what people are going through or what is going on, so just be tolerant."*

The Blue Bucket shouldn't be confused with the Teal Pumpkin Project. That's meant to raise awareness of food allergies through the addition of non-food trinkets and toys to your treats. Some of these kids do have allergies so it may be best to ask a parent/caregiver if they prefer candy or non-food option.

I hope everyone has a Happy and safe Halloween and I hope you will consider getting some non-food alternatives to pass out this year.

<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks, Communications Chief,

Starfleet SFDPP 2024 Certified

THE DIGITAL AGE AND IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIETY

By Maurizio Casalino, Reported by Adm. Glenda Blanks



The digital age refers to the current era in which technology has had a significant impact on society and the way we communicate. With the advent of the internet and the proliferation of smartphones, people are now able to connect and communicate with each other in ways that were previously unimaginable.

One of the most significant impacts of technology on communication is the ability to connect with people instantly and from anywhere in the world. This has led to the development of social media platforms, messaging apps, and other online communication tools that allow people to stay in touch with friends and family, even when they are physically separated.

Another impact of technology on communication is the way it has changed the way we consume and share information. In the past, people had to rely on traditional media sources such as newspapers, television, and radio to stay informed about current events and developments in the world. Now, with the rise of the internet and social media, individuals have access to a virtually limitless amount of information at their fingertips, and can easily share that information with others.

How Technology Affects



Communication

In addition to its impact on communication, technology has also had a significant impact on society as a whole. It has transformed the way we work, shop, and entertain ourselves, and has had a profound effect on the global economy. It has also raised a number of ethical and social issues, including concerns about privacy, security, and the impact of technology on employment.

This impact is an incredibly complex concept; it is one that is both incredibly beneficial and incredibly detrimental, depending on one's perspective. Its effects on both communication and society should not be overlooked or underestimated, which is why this essay will take a deep dive into how technology has changed the way we communicate, interact, and live today.

By creating new methods to send messages, such as text messaging, technology has made it easier and faster for people to share information. The development of the internet was one of the most significant advances in communication technologies and had a widespread effect on modern society. It has opened up a whole new realm of communication in which anyone can communicate with people from around the world. As a result, people can access information faster and communicate more efficiently (Woodin, 2019). The effect that technology has had on communication is far-reaching and its influence is undeniable.

Since the inception of computers and the internet, communication has taken a dramatic shift. Technology has allowed for an interconnectedness between individuals and businesses globally, leading to the formation of new relationships and collaborations (Shon, 2015). It has led to changes in how individuals communicate and interact, with text messaging, chatrooms, emails and social media platforms such as Facebook and Snapchat contributing significantly to how we communicate with one another (Chute, 2014). Technology also has had a major impact on the increased access to information, with the development of search engines such as Google, people can easily and quickly locate information online to aid in research, making knowledge more readily available (Gupta, 2005).

Along with the advances made in communication, technology has reshaped the way that people form relationships with one another (Grasse, 2016). It has created a platform where gathering and exchanging information is much easier and faster than ever before, allowing people to connect in ways never thought possible.

Overall, the digital age has brought about many positive changes, but it has also presented a number of challenges that society must address in order to fully realize the potential of technology. Understanding the impact of technology on communication and society is essential for navigating the complexities of the digital age and making informed decisions about how to best use technology in the future.



HEIMDAL'S CADET CORPS

CADET HATTER GETS HIS 'LEARNER'S PERMIT'

By Jonathan Hatter

Cadet Allen Hatter was issued his Learners Permit and is getting behind the wheel. It's exciting for the whole family as we help him develop safe driving habits. It requires his mother and I to refresh ourselves on all the rules and regulations as well. Been a while since I combed through that entire manual but at least now we can Google any questions. I remember using that thing called an index. This means I can send him to the store while I take a nap, right?

Congratulations Allen!



REGION ONE STUFF

REGION ONE 2025 SUMMIT

By Willy Smith



REPOSTING FYI:

The Region One Summit will be held: **May 2 – 4, 2025 Gatlinburg Tennessee**

Early registration for the Summit is as follows (per person):

October 1st through January 31st: **\$40.00**

February 1st through April 30th (Online Registration Ends): **\$45.00**

At the Door: **\$50.00**

EDITOR'S NOTE: We don't know if Gatlinburg has been impacted by hurricane Helene but will let you know if there are any changes due to that.

The 2025 Region One Summit will redefine your summit experience. It guarantees an exhilarating weekend for everyone involved. With a brand-new hotel venue and fresh ideas abound they are offering transportation to and from McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, TN for those opting to fly.

Additionally, the banquet and dance will take place at a separate venue, with transportation provided to and from the event. The Banquet will have a laid-back atmosphere and will be hosted at a Sports bar just a short distance from the hotel. Feel free to dress comfortably as your attire will be for the dance also, which will immediately follow the Banquet.

The Sidney James Mountain Lodge is situated conveniently in downtown Gatlinburg, the lodge offers numerous amenities, including a stunning indoor pool facility with a swim-through cavern and waterfall, rooms with balconies overlooking a mountain stream, and a full-service restaurant. Guests can easily access nearby attractions, restaurants, and shops, either by hopping on the Gatlinburg trolley, which stops right outside the hotel, or by taking a short walk.

More information and pictures at: www.Sidneyjames.com There will be a costume contest and a silent auction. Much more information located at: <https://r1.sfi.org/2025-region-one-summit/> Join us for a weekend unlike any other! I plan on registering soon!

Additionally:

Greetings All,

The 2025 Region One Summit can now be found on r1.sfi.org. This includes registrations (general, lodging, banquet, and breakfast), online photo release form, preliminary schedule of events, costume contest information, and silent auction donation form.

Best Regards,

Anthony Leopard, Commodore

2025 Region One Summit Co-Coordinator

STAR TREK STUFF

Nana Visitor Talks New Book Exploring Women's Evolution in Star Trek, Looking Back on DS9, and More

from TrekNews. Reported by Glenda Blanks, Star Trek Editor

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine's Nana Visitor, who played Kira Nerys on all seven seasons of that show, released a new



book in October that focuses on how the portrayal of women progressed in Star Trek. Visitor looks at the original Star Trek through the recent television shows and embarks on a journey of discovery and self-discovery.

Star Trek: Open a Channel: A Woman's Trek is the culmination of Visitor's numerous interviews with on and off-screen women who were involved in Star Trek in some way, highlighting the struggles and triumphs of women in the near-60 years since Star Trek first premiered. *Open a Channel* promises exclusive interviews, inspiring stories, and a thoughtful and meaningful discussion about what it has been like for women in Star Trek and popular culture.

Visitor reveals her experience writing *Open a Channel*, the major female influences in her life, her Star Trek work (including if she'd ever return to live-action Star Trek).



You can pre-order *Open a Channel* on Amazon now. TrekNews.net will have a review of the book around the release day.

THE ZAK PERSPECTIVE

By Zak Lyon

A Halloween Carol

“Boy, what day is it? Then I haven’t missed it!”

Pardon the oxymoron, but I have a “selectively eidetic” memory. It’s amazing the random things I remember from my very young days in exacting detail. Like the first time I “saw” Dracula. (More about that later), which coincided with the first year I was really aware of Halloween. I was in a Hallmark greeting card store and as a family we bought three little decorations. Dracula, a witch and a Frankenstein monster on little black dowels. That was my first encounter with these characters. They weren’t scary but had big smiles. A family friendly version. Which gave me a rather joyful attitude toward the paranormal and macabre – monster-wise, that is. And if my memory serves me right, my first encounter with these characters on screen would come the same year– And this encounter would agree with my Hallmark take on the things that go bump in the night. It was a 1978 TV special called *The Halloween That Almost Wasn’t*.*

A Frankenstein’s Monster that enjoys Mel Brooks and Gene Wilder’s take on him. He has gone so far as to take up tap dancing. A wolfman selling out by doing razor blade commercials prefiguring Seinfeld’s bit on this very thing. And Dracula, despite his complaints, is just as worried about the loss of his t-shirt sales as the potential loss of his rulership over the monster world. Before I ever saw Judd Hirsh in anything he was Dracula in the *Halloween that Almost Wasn’t*. That voice. When I heard it on *Taxi*, it always reminded me of something that was special to me. But it took me years to figure it out! Before I ever heard the Klingon Ambassador “deny nothing” on the *Voyage Home* or heard Daddy Warbucks ask “what do Democrats eat” on *Broadway*, I saw John Schuck’s big green guy do the ol’ soft shoe. And though I didn’t know him, Henry Gibson was a relatable Wolfman. You see, these were presented as the actual monsters of lore and legend, film and fright. Not preschool versions. And even though they possessed all of their “particular skills,” they want to be loved and dreaded at the same time. And in equal measures. A very good introduction for a 4 going on 5-year-old.



The main cadre of monsters is rounded off with Mariette Hartley’s witch, the inciting character with all the power. Halloween cannot start until she flies across the moon. She is tired of all these years being burned, banned and berated. And who could blame her. It’s 1978 for goodness’ sake. And she only wants acknowledgment, a simple acknowledgment with maybe a bit of inclusion thrown in for good measure.

And finally, there is a family which represents the audience point of view. The conceit is that they are following the events on a TV news broadcast. The parents are explaining the history and meaning of Halloween to their two children. It never feels like

exposition or education but an emotionally aware set of parents trying to help contextualize what may soon be lost. Halloween itself. As they continued creating Halloween costumes, they held on to hope. And you must remember that the early Disney channel where I first watched this replay, had no commercials during shows. What this does for a 4-year-old is keep him immersed in the story. When he sees a heart broken newscaster wondering about the very fate of Halloween, he wonders too. I felt all of this was happening right before my eyes. “This one thing you must remember or nothing that follows will seem wonderful” ... to quote *The Muppets Christmas Carol*. (Paraphrased from the Dickens’ version.)

And deep down, even if Halloween is different for different families, something in kids always believes in magic and its importance. And they love the people, whether it’s Santa or the classic witch, who bring it to them. Those kids are not just into the experience for candy and surprises but as a chance to “see” their friends. Friends that they love. The witch recognizes this love from the children as they try to coax her to play her role. And with soft unaccompanied piano notes that subconsciously I also thought were some kind of ancient Halloween carol. A song that I just didn’t yet know the words to, she flies over the moon. The holiday is restored on the very day my young self-realized just how cool it was.

This special has become part of the construction of my bridge from Halloween through Thanksgiving to Christmas. Something that many children instinctively look forward to each year. It is filled with tradition, stories and the most vivid memories.



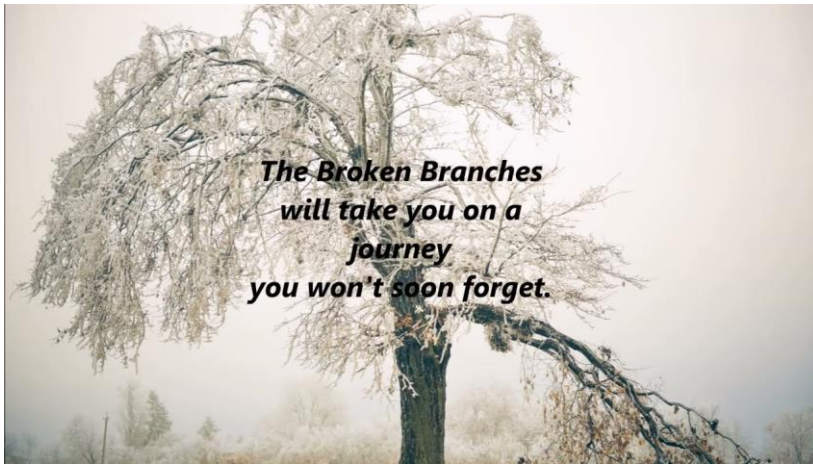
In the end, was it the witch or the children who kept Halloween alive? Clearly, the other Monsters had no influence over her. Our legends need the faith and love of children or the child-like to continue to exist. Could they fade into the past without us? All this is why when I watch the movie *Hocus Pocus* and Max describes to his sister, Danny the importance of a witch's arc over the moon, I am brought to this warm place of anticipation and nostalgia. Harvest festivals are all well and good, but they can never hold a candle to the frightful friends of Halloween – and of Halloween's past.

** It took me a long time to find this show on the internet, but persistence pays off. This link will lead you to the best recording I could find. https://youtu.be/5YTfHHWlsDU?si=_ybLIPoaBCOe8dDq*

INTERDEPARTMENTAL ROLE PLAY

ACT II – Chapter 23 – The Broken Branches

By Bud Walker and Jonathan Hatter



Terran Jonathan Hatter stood in the ISS Garmr Security Bay watching the scene before him. Commander Bud Walker lay restrained on the interrogation bed as he looked up at Governor Wealcan standing over him.

“Well! It has been a long time Father,” Walker said.

Hatter did a double take. *Wait! What did Walker just say?*

“Yes Son. You thought you could hide forever in that milk-toast Federation. But as you can see, my reach even extends across universes.”

Walker swallowed hard. “I see you changed our last name to the old English version. Hiding from something?”

A flash of anger appeared on Wealcan's face. “Yes, I can thank YOU for that! The scandal you created forced me to change it!”

A thin smile grew on Walker's face, and he gave a one-word reply. “Good!”

Wealcan's fury grew and he took a step toward his prone son, as if to strike him.

“Go ahead Father. You always preferred to attack me when I could not strike back.”

Wealcan reacted as if he had been slapped across the face. He opened his mouth as if to reply but then bit down on it. He glared at his son for a full minute then whirled around in a quick motion and stalked out of the room.

Hatter stood in the shadows trying to process what he had just heard. Hatter had been a protégé of Governor Wealcan for several years now. He had done some especially dirty work for the Governor but had reveled in the rewards from it. He had also reveled in the praise that Wealcan had given him and had come to value that as much as anything else. Hatter's own father had abandoned him long before Hatter was old enough to know him. Hatter had come to think of Wealcan almost as the father he had never had.

No! That is rank sentimentality! Hatter thought.

But as Hatter thought back over the years, he had a dawning realization that Wealcan had recruited him precisely because he had been an orphan. That Wealcan had purposely played on Hatter's past. By filling that missing role in Hatter's life, Wealcan had been able to manipulate Hatter into doing the unsavory tasks that Wealcan had given him. And now Hatter realized that Wealcan had manipulated him into getting Wealcan's son back. His REAL son.

Hatter took out his knife and stepped forward to the bed that Walker lay on. Hatter had every intention of driving the knife into Walker's chest and thus deprive Wealcan of his true goal. Walker could see Hatter's intention on his face but did not flinch.

“Go ahead it would be a relief,” Walker said quietly.

To Be Continued ...

THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

THANK YOU to EVERYONE that contributed to this newsletter. It's pretty awesome because of you.

We'll see you at this upcoming October meeting. I can't wait to see your costumes. I just bought the prizes today for the 3 winners of the Costume Contest and that's pretty exciting. YOU may be a winner ...



Linda, Willy and our staff of THOUSANDS.

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We'll See You Around the Galaxy ...

HEIMDAL LOWER DECKS

BY BUD WALKER

