

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS!

Fans eagerly await their first glimpses of the latest *Trek* feature film currently in development.

Star Trek returns to the big screen on Christmas Day, 2008 with a story that goes back to the early days of Kirk, Spock, and the rest of the crew of the original U.S.S. Enterprise.

As principal filming began for this feature, internet websites were a-buzz with behind the scenes details for the latest film effort.

Helmed by Producer/Director J.J. Abrams, fans are expected to get their first official peek at the new film in the form of a trailer slated to run starting January 18th, 2008 with the release of *Cloverfield*, a monster movie Abrams has also produced.



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Meanwhile, Back on the Bridge...

By Judy Waidlich

It is holiday time; we have the usual hustle and bustle going on. We are having our December meeting/party at Norm's again. Among the events slated for December are: the *U.S.S. Challenger's* Cookie Exchange and a holiday party (this one in Annapolis hosted by *U.S.S. Top Gun*). Hopefully you can take some time and relax at some of these happenings.

This is a time of the year when you reflect on what has gone by. Since the last AN, we had Chiller, Rotorfest, Liberty Science Center, Halloween, the *U.S.S. Flying Fox's* anniversary, a fiction workshop, and another charity auction. All in all, we had a busy year.

Next year shows the same promise: Intergalactic Food Fests, conventions, ren faires, anniversary parties (*U.S.S. Lexington's* 15th (moved from Nov

and *U.S.S. Challenger's* 20th), and of course IC 2008 up in Ithaca. By mid-year, we will probably start the initial phase for our 25th anniversary (in 2010).

I hope everyone had a good year and we look forward to the future.

Fleet Captain Judy

Issue # 106 December, 2007

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Division Reports

SECOND OFFICER'S REPORT By Dale Kagan

My computer is down. I have backed up the database. With the help of some members I will run the disk through a virus scanner. If it clears, I will load it onto my laptop and we will be back in business. Happy Holidays to all.

SCIENCES REPORT By Alex Rosenzweig

Greetings, All!

Well, time rolls on, and it's time for another edition of "Scientific Methods". *Avenger* Sciences has been going pretty well of late, and I'm very glad that we're getting some folks to respond consistently and participate in events. Of course, we had the Liberty Science Center trip, which was well-attended (though I do wish more folks from Sciences had joined in!), and SciDiv is also an active participant at Ship Meetings, too. We were also represented at the screening of "The Menagerie".

Speaking of "The Menagerie", I hope a lot of you got to see it, even if you couldn't go on the same night as did the group I was in. It was a lot of fun, and it's very nice to see how well the episode held up on the big screen. Y'know, when all is said and done, a strong story is a strong story, and both "The Menagerie" and "The Cage" were solid storytelling. And even as rumors fly that the *Enterprise* may be somewhat re-designed for the next feature film, the optical effects of the Remastered episode showed that the original design, presented with modern effects technology, can still command the screen.

Hopping back a step, I do want to share that we had a lot of fun at Liberty Science Center. I hope that, even if you couldn't join us on 20 October, you do make a point of visiting this museum, which was a lot of fun. The exhibit on skyscrapers was very cool. Other highlights included exhibits on communications, energy, and the Hudson River estuary, which featured an aerial mosaic of the entire region printed onto the floor tiles. It got almost down to the resolution of individual streets, but not quite. Still, it was quite amusing being able to pinpoint to within a few hundred meters where I lived. We also enjoyed the IMAX film, "Roving Mars", which gave a lot of impressive insights into the journeys of the Spirit and Opportunity rovers. And both of those intrepid vehicles are still operational and exploring today!

I think that one of the most important things that seeing films like "The Menagerie" or going to places like Liberty Science Center do is to help maintain a sense of wonder and the universe around us. There's so much to see and hear and learn and understand that we need never stop learning new things throughout our lives. Some say that the minute we stop learning, we start dying, and I tend to agree with that. So I guess we just have to keep on learning things, eh?

Okay, enough philosophizing for one column. <Grin> With another successful trip complete, we can start thinking about the next things we'd like to do. Not long ago, the SciDiv members received one of my periodic "SciDiv Chatter" e-mails, and I want to thank those who've responded. It's looking more and more like we'll put Longwood Gardens at the top of the list for a trip in the spring. Between now and then, though, there's also plenty of time to consider some activities, and I welcome any suggestions on that front. Perhaps that Philadelphia trip we've discussed as something for late winter or early spring?

(By the way, word has it that CH 75000 *Sovereign* may be coming northward in the spring for a trip to Liberty Science Center, so for folks who'd like to go again, or who missed our previous trip, perhaps we could put joining in officially on our docket? If you're interested, Janek and I will coordinate with them to see when this trip will be scheduled.)

Looking forward, we have two anniversary parties around the region—those of the *Flying Fox* and the *Lexington*—as well as quite a few upcoming *Avenger* events.

And that's all for me for this issue! As usual, check out "Science Highlights" and let us know what you think. Don't forget the Events Calendar for some neat upcoming things to do. And if you've got any comments, suggestions or ideas, don't hesitate to drop me a line. Take care, and...

'Til next time...

Ad Astra!

Alex

MEDICAL REPORT By Annie Slonski

It's been an eventful summer and autumn and the activities we've enjoyed so well are either winding down or done for the season, but new activities are gearing up.

Last month began the unofficial and oft times dreaded "Holiday Season" with Halloween. Because, let's face it, once Halloween arrives, the other two big holidays are just around the corner!

On Saturday, October 27th, Todd and I, along with my mom, went to the *Challenger's* Halloween party, and did we have a lot of fun! Most of us were in costume. I wore my RenFaire garb (any opportunity to wear it, I will), Todd was a cowboy, but with his trademark Todd twist of doing things up in a grand way. He purchased this HUGE foam rubber cowboy hat, it had to be at least a one hundred gallon hat!...and also a "horse". Now, the horse was an inflatable costume. In this costume, Todd's legs became the back legs of the horse. The rest of the costume surrounded him. The front of the horse had a saddle, with tiny, dangly cowboy feet emanating from the saddle and the horse was in a rearing position. The rump and tail, well, you can guess where they were! My mom went as Judge Judy along with a portfolio containing her legal "briefs", which in essence were actually real briefs! Still in the package, too! Our *Challenger* friends Bob and Emily were of course there, since it was at their house, with Bob as the quick change artist. Bob changed his costume at least every 20-30 minutes! They were all quite amusing. Emily was dressed as the comfortable hostess. Jeff and Laura Victor were there, along with Jeff's mom, Julia, who was just a real "clown" that night! We all had the chance to catch up on things, the latest news, gossip and just have fun.

With Thanksgiving approaching (see, I told you it would come fast after Halloween!), and past by the time this is printed, it's time to think about all those calories that we'll be consuming over the next month. Ugh! Let's face it, there will be office parties, folks bringing in goodies to work, and just a lot of food to be had all around. The best advice, fellow *Avengers*, that I can give to you as your Chief Medical Officer is don't overdo it, and if you do, have plenty of Mylanta, Pepto Bismol or Maalox on hand! This goes for Christmas, too!

Well, as I look around Sickbay, the lights have been dimmed and the decorations have been pulled out by my staff, so I think I'll take this opportunity to make this part of the ship my own little Holiday Haven. Cheers!

Until next time . . .

Commander Annie Slonski
Chief Medical Officer

SECURITY REPORT By Patrick Barnes

Special Guest Columnist: Ferengi DaiMon, Pong--Commander and CEO of the D'Kort-Class Marauder Pro Bono, Owner/Operator of Pong's Amusement Venues, Ltd., Champion Tribble Breeder, Winner: Bribe of the Year 2374-2377 as Voted by PROFIT Magazine.

After a generous bribe, I have deleted Mr. Barnes' final entry to this column---and believe me, I'm doing you a favor... It's a 750-word yawn-fest about "The fun I've had making money", "Sorry I couldn't do more, but profit beckons", etc, ad nauseum.

You're welcome. (The bill is in the mail.)

Onto a happier subject: I LOVE Hyoo-man holidays. No matter how far you stray from ol' Terra, there is simply no end to the events you'll celebrate. There's the basics: birthdays, anniversaries, promotions, demotions, commemorations, weddings, divorces (don't deny it!), births, deaths and "just because".... Add stardates, subspace lag, and planetary rotation, and there's not a day Hyoo-mahns aren't celebrating **something**. If there's gifts to be exchanged, by Frink, you'll be buying 'em and sending 'em. (How did you manage without us?)

Of all these, my favorites are the Big Two--either a mythical, tubby, reindeer-riding elf or a mythical, candy-egg laying lagomorph...you Hyoo-mahns love your myths. Oh, I'm not here to judge. I've never seen a small child look happier when embracing an Andorian wearing a furry costume sporting false

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COMMUNICATIONS REPORT **By Dale Kagan**

The Communications Chief reports no activity this month. Wishing everyone a happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Kwaanza, or whatever holiday you observe at this time of year.

ENGINEERING REPORT

By Matthew J. Rielly

As the year winds down, the division is starting to look a little ahead to next year. One order of business is to determine the date for the *Avenger's* Anniversary Picnic for 2008. We have some dates under consideration, and all divisions have been asked to poll their members for what date they would prefer.

I have been informed by Patrick Barnes, who has indicated he is stepping down as Security Chief, that he would like to rejoin the Engineering Division. I have already advised him that he is more than welcome.

Some future ideas for away missions continue to hang fire at this time. I have considered doing either a trip to the Statue of Liberty or possibly the New York Aquarium. I previously suggested a trip to the New Jersey Aquarium near the Tweeter Center in Camden, but that met with some trepidation.

Otherwise, all is well and the division wishes all officers and crew Happy Holidays.

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"Bunny Ears", or my Orion bouncer who dresses like "Santa Claus"...ladies of EVERY species are attracted to him. Could be his pheromones or his basso "ho-ho-ho"...either way, they--or their parents--are lined up to have a holimage taken of them with this "mythical creature"...and that makes ME happy.

Now, I know you won't be meeting Yours Truly 'til well past the "Muu-Vee" Era...but by then you'll all be Admirals anyway, and you'll have lots of disposable latinum (just a hint!). Speaking of Muu-Vees, one thing that Hyoo-mahns do well is make "muu-vees"...and most of the best ones, in my humble opinion, are ones dealing with the aforementioned mythical creatures, and how people who have stopped believing in them usually wind up as Scrooges or Security Chiefs (ZING!!!).

Well, however you celebrate (or choose not to!), you're keeping the galactic economy alive by purchasing high-quality products for your and others' entertainment. Why replicate when you can buy? There's HOLIDAYS to celebrate every day!!!! Which one are YOU forgetting? And you're probably owed gifts from forgotten holidays. Better remind your friends.

Remember: "He who dies with the most toys has been likely been buried under a pile of them." (Too bad that's not a Rule of Acquisition!)

This is your pal, DaiMon Pong, on behalf of CMDR Patrick Barnes, soon-to-be Ex-Chief of Security, saying "LIVE LARGE AND PROFIT!!!!" @^_^@

OPERATIONS REPORT

By Todd Brugmans for Norm VanHouten

On Saturday, November 24th, Operations Chief Norm Van Houten and Ship's XO Todd Brugmans turned out for a semi-annual charity fundraiser event at the Vicotrian Manor in Edison, NJ. The charity auction featured autographed memorabilia from sports, television, and movies personalities, and raised over \$600 to benefit the Van Houten foundation. Another charity fundraiser is in development for April, 2008. Details including specific dates and venue will be announced as the date draws nearer.

The U.S.S. Avenger held its December meeting/holiday gathering at Dr. VanHouten's house on Sunday, December 9th. The event was well catered, and featured screenings of films like "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians", and "Blazing Saddles". Many Avenger members turned out for this event.

STAR TREK IX, continued

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A behind-the-scenes look at Zachary Quinto in makeup
(photo courtesy of Aint-it-cool-news.com, www.aintitcool.com)

For the new Trek film, a fresh cast is being introduced to portray the Enterprise crew. Original Trek series alumnus Leonard Nimoy joins the film's cast, reprising his role as an older Mr. Spock. Chris Pine (The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement, Smokin' Aces) takes center seat as James T. Kirk, while star of TV's 'Heroes' Zachary Quinto takes on the role of younger Spock. Karl Urban (Pathfinder, The Bourne Supremacy) will star as Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy; Zoe Saldana (The Terminal) plays Uhura; Simon Pegg (Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz) will play Scotty; John Cho (Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle) will play Sulu; and Anton Yelchin (Hearts in Atlantis) stars as Chekov. Additional roles in this feature include Kirk's father, George, played by Chris Hemsworth; Spock's mother, Amanda, played by Winona Ryder; Spock's father, Sarek, played by Ben Cross; Christopher Pike, played by Bruce Greenwood; and the film's principal villain, Nero, played by Eric Bana. At present, there are no plans to include William Shatner in this feature.

(article by Avenger News staff writer Todd Brugmans)

LOOKING BACK by Annie Slonski

January is an aptly named month. Its name comes from the Roman god, Janus, who can look both forward and backward, and is also the god of gates and doors, beginnings and endings. At this time of year, we begin to think about the coming year ahead and also think back on all of the things, good and bad, that happened to us over the year that has been passing, oft times too swiftly by.

As I look back over my past year, I've considered myself extremely fortunate in all of the friends and new ties that I've made. I have also been saddened that the severing of one tie had to be made. Earlier this year, I decided to change my ship affiliation from *Challenger* to *Avenger*, a change I can truthfully say I am very happy I made! I still see and think fondly of my friends from *Challenger*, the folks that gave me my STAR-FLEET "re-start" as I was trying to put my life back together just after a nasty separation from my now ex-husband. It was the *Challenger* folks who helped make my suddenly single life much more fun! I needed to connect with people who had the same interests that I did, who were as off the wall as I was, and people with whom I could socialize so I did not become someone who stayed home all the time. The *Challenger* folks certainly fit the bill!

That is why it was with great dismay when I learned of the rift within *Challenger's* personnel

during the second half of this year. I was, and still am, concerned about the people involved, and the hurt that it caused all around. Even though it was a tough time, it seems that *Challenger* has pulled through. Of this, I am glad. After all, without ever belonging to the *Challenger*, I never would have met Todd and any of the other unique individuals on *Avenger* that I am proud to call my friends!

Prior to my officially joining *Avenger*, I had such a great time doing the fun things that the *Avenger* plans, like going into the city for two separate museum trips, each resulting in our eating at two incredible theme restaurants, "Mars 2112" and "Jekyll and Hyde". Our impromptu trip to a carnival after the picnic, trips to local RenFaires, and eating out after every *Avenger* meeting. Some of the best laughs I've had have come from those times. Case in point, at one of the first post-meeting suppers I attended at Bennigan's, everything went wrong, but, man, was it funny! From Joe Horton cursing everything he ordered so no one else had the opportunity to order the same thing because the kitchen "just ran out" to Matt eating Alex's meatloaf thinking it was his steak! I felt bad for Janek's friend Britney, our server, for having to put up with all of us that night, but she enjoyed herself and came away with a special cartoon by Todd commemorating the evening.

Then there was the annual picnic with that epic water gun battle! Todd, Janek, Patrick, Joanne, Ricky

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(who came up from Kentucky with his wife Joannie and their baby son, Carlos) and others were soaked to the bone. It's a good thing that the sun was shining and it was nice and warm for that water gun fight. But, true to form for *Avenger* picnics, there was the inclement weather that intruded during the afternoon, a doozy of a thunderstorm, too! That storm made me re-think my wardrobe choice for the day as the temperatures steadily dropped. I, for one, was glad when the storm passed, the sun came bursting out again and it warmed right back up. But who could forget our visiting Commander, STAR-FLEET candidate Emmett Plant running out to the ice cream truck during the deluge because his significant other had never had a particular ice cream treat before that he felt she just had to try? I mean really, the ice cream man never relented in his pursuit of the one person crazy enough to validate the peddling of his wares in the rain worthwhile! And then there was the whole conversation with Emmett and others about the horrible SciFi channel movie, "Mansquito"! Ah, yes, the stuff of legend!

That same weekend also saw our charity auction, where we learned quite a few things that day, lessons we will take away with us and hopefully put to good use in the future. That's where I found out that Brenda has a great talent for sewing clothes for Sir Teddy, her lovely Teddy Bear. But not just any clothes, oh, no, Renaissance Court clothes! We also found out that Janek has a natural eye for rearranging a room to be not only functional, but also esthetically pleasing, as well.

September's JDRF fundraiser was another highlight for me, with our chapter raising over \$1,500! Now that's what I call teamwork. The day of the Walk, I sat with Frank in the sun on a quiet boardwalk bench, the sound of the waves and the gulls in the background. We chatted quietly for a while since neither of us walked and our conversation was interesting and humorous. I was glad for the opportunity to get to know him a little better.

Also, the Trek community heard that announcements had been made of yet another Star Trek movie, a prequel, due out at Christmas-time next year. Discussions were and are many with speculation of its success still undecided, but casting choices overall have been meeting with approval. It's uncanny the resemblance of Zachary Quinto in makeup as Spock to a young Leonard Nimoy. Now if only Chris Pine (James T. Kirk) can get Shatner's speech cadence down...

Yes, it's been quite an interesting year, one I am happy to say I've thoroughly enjoyed, but it's not over yet! More fun things are still to come with our December meeting at Norm's house so he can show off his enormous big screen television and Todd threatening to show "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians"! What could be more fitting, I ask you? We also have the *Challenger's* Cookie Exchange, which was great fun last year and will probably be even more so this year! And who knows what insanity New Year's Eve will bring? With this crowd, I never know, and that's the fun of it.

I can honestly say that I am glad for the time I've spent in the company of all of you. This crazy, wonderful crowd has made my life an interesting one, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Yeah, Janus is definitely looking back on our wild, crazy, wonderful, wacky year. But as he looks forward, I wonder if he has the ability to see into the future?

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN.....

Compiled by Alex Rosenzweig

Watkins Glen Weekend 2007:

1) At the Glenwood Pines Restaurant on Friday evening, we watched out the windows as lightning lit up the region and reflected on the waters of Lake Cayuga? (AR)

2) Saturday dawned bright and sunny, an almost perfect day for a hike? (AR)

3) The mix of water runoff from the previous day's rain, plus a beautiful mix of light and shadow, turned the Glen Gorge into almost a fairyland? (AR)

4) At the top of the Glen Gorge, Joost shared the following bit of wisdom: "Remember, it's easier to go down than it is to come up?" (AR)

JDRF Walk 2007:

5) Bob, Em, Janek, Joe, and Sonny were still about 2/3 of the way down, while Brenda passed them coming back, and Em teased Brenda, saying, "Show-off!"? (BB)

6) Judy and Joanne were chatted up by a fellow walking at about the same pace they were, all the way down and back...? (BB)

7) Frank sat on the sidelines, Annie worked registration (and then tried to stay awake the rest of the day, with some difficulty after first getting home at 2AM that morning), and Todd sweated profusely walking in his Monster Maroons? (BB)

8) Judy went off for the First Aid station to get some relief from the blisters she acquired during the jaunt? (BB)

9) Frank, Annie, Judy, Joanne, and Brenda waited two hours for Bob, Em, Todd, Joe, Janek, and Sonny to finish their walk (after some necessary rest stops and some detours at the candy shops, according to Em)? (BB)

10) Afterward, when about 20 of us from both Team "STARFLEET Region 7" and Team "Taryn's Trotters" went to luncheon at Tiffany's... Todd suggested and drew "Geriatric Klingons on Rascal-powered scooter"

ers doing the JDRF walk"... Taryn kept trying to steal Pat Comune's Stetson, the cadets ran wild all over the joint...and Michelle Podesta suggested getting ALL the cadets doing JDRF and similar walks, raising money, and getting promotions for the same? (BB)

Where Were You When... (Continued)

Liberty Science Center Trip:

- 11) The LSC's "refit" was most impressive, from the redone building to many cool displays? (AR)
- 12) Courtesy of the OmniMax theater, we "went to Mars" with *Spirit* and *Opportunity*? (AR)
- 13) The group was glad to see that the LSC kept the Hoberman Sphere? (AR)
- 14) We saw a display of tall buildings, watched museumgoers walk on girders, and laughed at the Microsoft error message in one malfunctioning exhibit (Ooops!)? (AR)
- 15) The gentleman at the Information Desk proved to be a big sci-fi fan, and was very pleased that fellow fans were coming to explore the Science Center? (AR)

Avenger Fiction Workshop:

- 16) Plot, character, and style were all there for exploring as Alex, Judy, and Matt got creative? (AR)
- 17) A screenplay continued to take shape, and its story gained depth? (AR)
- 18) We even dabbled in production design!?! (AR)
- 19) Writer's block proved no match for three creative minds? (AR)
- 20) The only thing the three attendees could have wished for that they didn't actually get...was more attendees? (AR)

ADM Alex Rosenzweig, this column's compiler, would like to thank everyone who sent in contributions to this column. Of course, more are always needed. If you want to share something that happened at an *Avenger*, STARFLEET, or Star Trek event, please send your contributions to Alex at: 980 Linwood Place



From Alex Rosenzweig:

We Didn't Start the Fire

Back in 1989, singer/songwriter Billy Joel wrote a very cool retrospective on the previous several decades of history, entitled "We Didn't Start the Fire". The song was a big hit! Now, an enterprising grad student has put visuals to the music and created a flash website that's a lot of fun, and educational, too!
<http://yeli.us/Flash/Fire.html>

Space Shuttle Mission Photos

This webpage has some awesome shots from the last shuttle mission. Definitely worth a look.
<http://www.texasjim.com/NASApix/NASA%20pix.htm>

USS Avenger Fiscal Report: 3rd Quarter

	Date	Debit	Credit
Initial Balance:		\$448.73	
Charity Auction Income (Tables/Lunches)			\$520.00
50/50 Income (August - October)	11/10/07		\$42.00
Renewals and New Memberships (\$33)	11/10/07		\$75.00
Ending Balance:		\$1,085.73	

STARFLEET News:

** **STARFLEET Election Results:** The **Lizard/Halverson** ticket was victorious in the elections.

3538 ballots were mailed, and 1087 were returned. There were 4 cards that had duplicate serial numbers, so the total of cards counted was 1,083, for a response rate of 30.61%.

The election results:

COMMANDER, STARFLEET	
Lizard / Halverson	532
Ueffing / Halber	233
Plant / Devine	162
Olson / Berenberg	144
Total	1,083

Sal Lizard and Gary Halverson are declared the winners and will take office as Commander, STARFLEET and Vice Commander, STARFLEET on 1 January 2008 for a three-year term. In addition, all four constitutional amendments passed, with substantial majorities in favor.

** **LTCOL Gary Amor** has been elected as **Regional Coordinator** of Region 11, which includes Australia and New Zealand.

** Based on concerns from CafePress that some logos at the **STARFLEET Quartermaster store** may violate copyrights, the store is now shut down for the moment.

** The official website of **IC 2009** is now live and ready for visitors. Please visit the site at <http://ic2009.org>

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The Incoming STARFLEET Executive Committee:

Sal Lizard – Commander, STARFLEET
 Gary Halverson – Vice-Commander, STARFLEET
 Mike Urvand – Chief of Operations
 Peter Christian – Chief of Communications
 Peg Pellerin – Commandant, STARFLEET Academy
 Warren Price – Chief of Shakedown Operations
 Matt Moyer – Chief of Computer Operations
 Mike Stein – Chief Financial Officer

The Ship's BBS was first introduced in the novel *Spock's World*, written by Diane Duane. Like BBSs of today, it was a place where items of interest could be posted for the crew to read and respond to. This column is much like that. Things may change from time to time, so keep checking back each issue. <smile>

*** Do you have an idea for an event or activity?** We love to do stuff, that's for sure! Lots of stuff is based on ideas our members bring to the group, and can be as simple as something you enjoy and would like to share. How? It's easy! Just ask an *Avenger* Command Staff member for an Event Planner and begin your adventure today. Event Planners contain descriptions of events/activities, and both the Planners and sign-up sheets are passed around at each month's ship meeting. This is a way for everyone to find out the details of what's going on, or to share your ideas for what *you* want to do! We need your help, because if no one coordinates events, **they don't happen!!**

*** Internet Resources:**

The *Avenger* has a lot of opportunities to interact through the Internet! Check 'em out...

- The adventure begins with our spiffy website where you can find information about your fellow crewmates and read online logs from your division chief: <http://www.ussavenger.org/>

- Another great way to contact your STARFLEET buddies is through the Internet Relay Chat (IRC). Instructions can be found on the *Avenger* site. Go to the Internet Resources link on the navigation bar on the *Avenger's* main site, and follow the instructions about IRC. NOTE: the current IRC servers are:

destiny.fleetchat.org (Direct IP Address: 209.178.198.91)

karma.fleetchat.org (Direct Address: 70.96.227.44)

- The *Avenger* Yahoo Group is a great place to get updated news from the *Avenger* via email and special website features. Check it out at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/avenger-sfi>

- *Avenger* News newsletters are archived in PDF format online at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/avengernews?lnk=li>

*** Our CaféPress Store:** You can buy *Avenger* schtuff online like T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, mousepads, etc at the Cafépress *Avenger* Store, featuring our logo. The anniversary period is done, and the standard logo items have been restored, but there are still a couple of items to bear the anniversary logo, too. New for 2008, though, is the calendar. This time, it's a full-color graphic of our major insignia over time. The store can be found at: <http://www.cafepress.com/ussavenger>

*** CaféPress Store Feedback:** Is there something you'd like that we're not offering at the *Avenger* Store? Check out CaféPress's product list, and if you see something there that's not available in our store, contact *Avenger* Command and let them know.

*** And for all you gamin' freaks,** *Avenger* also has merchandising for its Hazard Team. Check it out at: <http://www.cafepress.com/1860hazard>

*** Look at this spiffy poster and go buy one!**

The newest addition to our online repertoire is the Cutaway Poster of *Avenger* herself. Done by artist Chris Allan, this detailed poster matches up with the official *Avenger* Blueprints and gives a detailed look inside our vessel. Take a look! It's at our CaféPress store: <http://www.cafepress.com/ussavenger>



*** A STARFLEET Community of Particular**

Note: Interested members are invited to join a community called Project SIMELE. "SIMELE" is short for "STARFLEET In the Movie and Early Lost Eras", and its focus is for members or chapters of STARFLEET who have an interest in, use the motif of, or are fictionally set in the timeframe of roughly 2270 to 2335 in the Star Trek Universe, to interact. (This, of course, includes the *Avenger*.) It's designed to provide a venue for members to share resources, exchange ideas and thoughts about playing in this era of Star

Trek, possibly develop cooperative fiction, and so forth. Come check the group out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SIMELE/>

*** Avenger Blueprints!**

Do you find yourself getting lost every time you're on duty while serving aboard your ship? Maybe you should get one of these spiffy blueprint maps!

From the Federation Frontiers publishing office, we are pleased to offer General Plans for the *Avenger*-Class Heavy Frigate. No starship, save the famous line of those named *Enterprise*, has received this much attention to detail.

The twenty (20) sheet set includes:

- Construction history
- Ship's directory
- Six (6) external views
- Full starship specifications
- Equipment listing (with system contractors)
- Four (4) cross-section views
- Plan views of all eleven decks at 1:600 scale
- Full-sheet details of the bridge, torpedo pod, main engineering, two-level recreation deck, Sickbay, transporter complex, and auxiliary control.

For more information e-mail the author, Mike Rupprecht, at MRupprecht@aol.com, or just visit the Federation Frontiers web site for this and other spectacular Star Trek technical documents: <http://members.aol.com/FdFrontier/>

The *Avenger*-class Heavy Frigate General Plans cost a mere \$10.00 for *Avenger* crew members, and can be purchased directly from Alex Rosenzweig. You can also buy the plans via mail order for \$12, which includes shipping charges. Money orders are preferred, and will speed delivery. However, personal checks are acceptable and should be payable to "Michael C. Rupprecht". Custom rolled sets are available for \$15.00 and deluxe poster-sized sets for \$40.00. To order, simply print out the handy order form at web site, or send your name, address, e-mail address, number and type of sets desired, along with your check or money order, to the following address:

Federation Frontiers
c/o Michael C. Rupprecht
3711 Bloomingdale Drive
Hillsborough, NJ 08844-5531

*** Avenger Fiction Update**

We have several stories being developed for your enjoyment at this time. These include:

- A look at interesting places aboard the *Avenger* is in this issue!
- "The Other Foot": What happens when the *Avenger* encounters a ship from the other end of the galaxy...? This one's in the midst of being written. Progress is still being made, and the story has reached an important point.
- At the recent Fiction Workshop, we outlined the fourth chapter in the story of the planet survey of UFC-18249-IV. It will be written in the near future, and will probably find itself published in these pages. General concepts for what we expect to be the last two chapters of this story were touched upon, but are not yet detailed. Ideas, suggestions, and volunteers to write other segments of this tale are welcomed. Contact ADM Alex.
- The script for a proposed *Avenger* episode of "Tales of the Seventh Fleet" is being developed, and is now being turned into a second draft screenplay, now resembling an actual shooting script.
- A new *Avenger* short story is in the works from FCAPT Judy, and we hope to be able to bring it to you soon.
- Work continues on Phase II of the *AvengerPedia*. It will cover material in character files and other background works that have been done over the years. It will add a whole new dimension to the current version!
- Suggestions for interesting characters to fill open spots in *Avenger*'s fictional crew are wanted! You can provide just some rough notes, or a full character file. If you'd like to get in on the fun, check in with ADM Alex.
- And don't forget to work on keeping your own main character's file up-to-date, too! Or create one if you haven't done so yet. Check with ADM Alex for assistance if you need it.

*** Help Wanted!**

Looking to contribute to the *Avenger*? If so, we need your help! The following positions are open:

- Press Officer: Write and distribute press releases to the ship's media list, interact with reporters and other media personnel, and help craft our club image to the world at large!
- Chief of Security (Position Open Effective 1 January 2008): Serve on the senior staff, and be a leader of the members in the Security Division. Have a direct voice in the running of the chapter. Highlight security/police/safety-oriented interests, both in the Trek Universe and in real life. (This position requires STARFLEET membership in good standing.) Contact FCAPT Judy or COMM Todd if you'd like to volunteer!

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST by Matthew J. Rielly

Sharp As A Razor: The Back Story And Beyond

It appears the saga is at long last coming to an end for the folks who have been trudging across light-years of deep space from Caprica and the other Twelve Colonies. For regular viewers of this epic space opera, we have witnessed their trials and tribulations for about the past three years or so, with a major focal point being an interstellar aircraft carrier...make that Battlestar...named *Galactica*. We saw the Big "G" hook up with a sister ship named *Pegasus* and learned that its commander forced her officers and crew to commit atrocities against civilians to survive and win the latest war against the Cylons at any cost.

We know that the Cylons hacked into the defense computers and invaded the Colonies. We know about 48,000 people managed to flee in whatever jump-capable vehicles they could find, and many more were tragically left behind to become cannon fodder or take up arms in desperate resistance movements. We know the survivors paused in their journey for about a year to live on a world that didn't quite turn out to be paradise, only to have the Cylons catch up and send them on the run again.

That's the story so far with the re-imagined "Battlestar Galactica", for which the final new episodes start airing in March 2008 on Sci-Fi. But what about the story of the *Pegasus*? That's where the special two-hour episode "Razor" fills in many of the gaps.

Consider *Pegasus*'s commanding officer, Helena

Cain. She seemed like a normal, relatively cheerful type for an officer. Of course, that was before the Cylons came to unleash their genocidal wrath on the humans. Once that occurred, Cain was transformed into what she described as a "razor", a soldier conditioned to become a fearless tool of war, showing no remorse to win regardless of consequences. Cain would not be alone in this transformation. Enter the protégé, Major Kendra Shaw.



After Shaw reports for duty aboard the *Pegasus*, the Cylon attack occurs. Cities are wiped out, orbital shipyards and ships are turned into flaming wreckage, and the human toll is devastating. This is when Cain starts breaking Shaw, stripping away any traces of hesitation or doubt to remold her into a ruthless fighting machine. However, as ruthless as Shaw becomes, she eventually falls victim to her razor makeover. This manifests itself quite some time later, after the *Pegasus* finds *Galactica* and its civilian fleet. Shaw is on a mission with some of *Galactica*'s crew, who were reassigned to *Pegasus* after Lee Adama is given command following the assassination of Cain and the loss of two subsequent commanding officers. The mission is to destroy a Cylon installation where the enemy has been conducting gruesome experiments

on humans, first discovered years ago by a young William Adama. The mission is a success, but the cost is the voluntary sacrifice of Major Shaw.

The episode itself was most certainly up to the same quality and standards the show has demonstrated over its run. The acting was well done by Michelle Forbes as Cain and Stephanie Chaves-Jacobson as Shaw. Even with some of the show's principal characters, like William and Lee Adama, President Roslin, and Kara Thrace, mostly consigned to the background this

(Continued from page 7)

** And don't forget that **IC 2008's** site is at <http://www.ic2008.org/>

** COMM **Ray Brown** has stepped down as STARFLEET **Inspector General**.

** **STARFLEET Academy** News:

- The Academy has added the **College of Parallel Studies** in the Institute of Science Fiction Studies. To start out, the college will focus on the Star Trek Mirror Universe.

- Due to real life commitments, **Bill Rowlette** must step away from Academy for a while, and stands down as Director of the College of Mythological Studies. Stepping up to the plate will be **Wayne Smith** of the *U.S.S. Southern Cross*. As you know, Wayne already teaches the College of Borg Technology, and so is an experienced director.

- The **College of the Macabre** has opened in the Institute of Science Fiction Studies. Its Director is **RADM Angel Avery** of the *U.S.S. Flying Fox*.

Region 7 News:

** The *U.S.S. Hecate* was recently launched on its shakedown cruise, under the command of **David Ferber**. It is based in Pittsburgh and is a correspondence chapter.

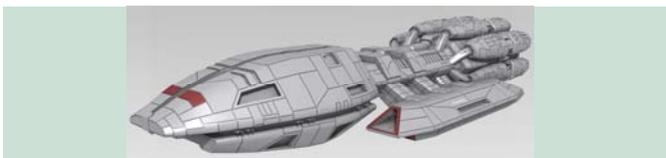
** The new **Region 7 Handbook** can be found on the regional website at www.region7.com. Once you are at the Region 7 Website, go to "Resources", then click on the link for the Handbook.

** The **regional fundraiser** continues; return used inkjet cartridges for cash (<http://empties4cash.com>) Mike Stein has announced a new option for collecting and sending in cartridges: he has individual pre-paid mailing baggies bar-coded with the Region 7 account info. If you need any, please contact him at JusticeOC@aol.com

time, they manage to tie everything together for the viewer to move the story along. And the story did move along. In fact, I felt like I was on an all-too-brief roller-coaster ride when it was done.

Series regular Tricia Helfer reprises her character from the previous *Pegasus*-story-lined episodes as Gina, who was a civilian network technician. When the Cylons raided *Pegasus* in the “Razor” storyline, the robotic centurions (“toasters”, as they are called by the Colonists) are accompanied by their human-looking counterparts...one of which is the bleach-blonde Number Six model which Gina resembles. Another twist revealed to viewers was that Gina and Cain were lovers. So, you can understand the rage and betrayal that Cain felt once she discovered that Gina was a Cylon. This leads to her imprisonment in the ship’s brig, shackled to the deck and subsequently beaten into fearful submission...a shocking secret later discovered by Gaius Baltar, and which drove her to put a close-range shot through Admiral Cain’s head.

Galactica fans are also treated to a blast from the past, specifically the original 1978 series of the Richard Hatch and Dirk Benedict days. This comes in the form of the Cylons guarding the installation which Shaw and her colleagues go to destroy. Instead of the robotic unmanned raiders from the new show, we see the classic bent-pancake shaped three-person craft...complete with old-school centurions. Only in “Razor”, they are referred to as guardians. They mostly resemble the 1978 version of the Cylons, but their movements are computer-generated effects instead of sweating actors clunking around in metal suits.



In the taste-of-things-to-come department, there is a scene aboard the Cylon installation with an old man seated in what appears to be the regeneration tanks used when the humanoid Cylons are downloaded into new bodies. This is a hybrid, a sort of organic computer. He gives the chilling prophecy that all of this has happened before and will happen again. He also predicts that Kara Thrace will be the downfall of the human race. In previous episodes, Kara has had visions of the Eye of Jupiter, which compel her to apparently commit suicide during a combat mission. However, in the final episode of the last run, we see her again...and it looks like she may have the key to helping the surviving Colonists find Earth. The presentation also turned out to be clever marketing ploy. “Razor” has been released on DVD in an extended version, including scenes not aired in the original broadcast. This may cause some viewers to feel cheated, while some of the more hardcore fans will certainly covet this as a new addition to their DVD libraries.

With “Razor” said and done, what lies next? In Sci-Fi’s trailer for the upcoming “Battlestar Galactica” episodes, Kara appears to be back in the fold. But, in one disturbing scene, we see her writhing on the deck for some unknown reason, screaming to everyone that they are going the wrong way. As the old Bugs Bunny joke might be paraphrased, does this mean the *Galactica* and her convoy should have taken a left turn at Albuquerque? Will they find a modern civilization on Earth, or something more primitive? Will we see them get eaten by dinosaurs? Alas, we must wait until March 2008 to find out.

So Say We All.

BOOK NEWS

Available December 2007:

Sword of Damocles (ST:TTN), by Geoffrey Thorne

Captain Riker and his crew discover a civilization where science and faith are struggling for supremacy, due in large part to a strange, unexplained phenomenon known as the Watchful Eye, visible in the sky above the planet.

Two teams from the *U.S.S. Titan* investigate, one making covert cultural observations of the people there, the other taking a shuttle to study the Watchful Eye. But when the team on the planet is discovered, it sets in motion a chain of events in which cause and effect collide, creating a temporal paradox threatening the planet’s past and *Titan*’s future.

Creative Couplings (ST:COE, Trade Paperback), by John S. Drew, Glenn Greenberg, Glenn Hauman & Aaron Rosenberg, David Mack, Dayton Ward & Kevin Dilmore, and J. Steven York & Christina F. York

A new collection of Starfleet Corps of Engineers stories, reprinted as a trade paperback.

Slings and Arrows Book 3: The Insolence of Office (e-Book, ST:TNG), by William Leisner

The third volume of a six-e-book series covering the first year of the *Enterprise-E*.

A major turning point in the lives of two of the *Enterprise* crew! Newly-promoted Admiral Hayes gives LaForge a shocking ultimatum: his VISOR is a security risk, and he must either have it replaced with ocular implants or be transferred to a less sensitive post.

Meanwhile, Troi has some issues of her own. Though she knows that her mother Lwaxana recently remarried to the Tevnian named Jeyel, she was unaware of the subsequent pregnancy—and now Lwaxana’s about to give birth. To make matters worse, the Tevnian government has decided that, even though Lwaxana and Jeyel are now divorced, the child still belongs to them.

Available January 2008:

Forged in Fire (ST:EXC), by Andy Mangels & Michael A. Martin

A vicious pirate known as the Albino is cutting a deadly swath across space, creating turmoil in the Klingon Empire that threatens to spill into the Federation. But this criminal also has a secret that could shake the halls of Imperial power, and his genocidal plans against the race that bore him will have consequences even he cannot imagine, as several unlikely allies join swords to bring the Albino to justice: Hikaru Sulu of the *U.S.S. Excelsior*; Klingon captains Kor, Koloth, and Kang; and a hotheaded young Federation diplomat named

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Curzon Dax. Tempered in the flames of their shared adversity, a captaincy is forged, a Blood Oath is sworn...and a hunt begins that will stretch from one generation to the next.

Slings and Arrows Book 4: That Sleep of Death (e-Book, ST:TNG), by Terri Osborne

The fourth volume of a six-e-book series covering the first year of the *Enterprise-E*.

In the wake of increased concern over the Dominion threat, Dr. Beverly Crusher has attempted to improve morale on the *Enterprise* by starting up her theater company—starting with production of “A Christmas Carol”. But before opening night, a devastating malady starts striking down the crew.

Forced to rely on a piece of technology she despises—the Emergency Medical Hologram—Dr. Crusher must find a cure before it’s too late!

Available February 2008:

Klingon Empire: A Burning House (ST:KE), by Keith R. A. DeCandido

They have been the Federation’s staunchest allies, and its fiercest adversaries. Cunning, ruthless, driven by an instinct for violence and defined by a complex code of honor, they must push ever outward in order to survive, defying the icy ravages of space with the fire of their hearts. They are the Klingons, and if you think you already know all there is to learn about them...think again.

From its highest echelons of power to the shocking depths of its lowest castes, from its savagely aggressive military to its humble farmers, from political machinations of galactic import to personal demons and family strife, the Klingon Empire is revealed as never before when the captain and crew of the *I.K.S. Gorkon* finally return to their homeworld of Qo’noS in a sweeping tale of intrigue, love, betrayal, and honor.

Slings and Arrows Book 5: A Weary Life (e-Book, ST:TNG), by Robert Greenberger

The fifth volume of a six-e-book series covering the first year of the *Enterprise-E*.

A team from the *Enterprise*—Riker, La Forge, and Daniels—are sent to deal with the latest threat from the Maquis. For La Forge and Daniels, it’s just another mission, but Riker must face the spectre of his transporter twin Tom Riker, who left Star Fleet to join the Maquis.

When the *Enterprise* team is caught between the Maquis and the Cardassians, Riker finds himself with an important decision to make—one that may affect his future in Star Fleet...

Captain Kirk’s Guide to Women (ST:TOS, Trade paperback), by John “Bones” Rodriguez

Casanova, Don Juan, James Bond- These are men of legendary romance, but there is only one man who can boast that his seductive powers take him boldly where no man has gone before:

Captain James T. Kirk

Played by the incomparable William Shatner (who is still charming their pants off on ABC’s “Boston Legal”), Captain Kirk’s status as an Interstellar Stud is proven by his ability to seduce any woman, in any situation, in any part of the galaxy. Women from high society princesses to insane asylum slave girls; from blood sucking shape-shifters to emotion-deprived androids—they all swoon, acquiesce, and malfunction from just one kiss.

And a monologue.

But a single question remains in the minds of millions of Star Trek fans aboard Spaceship Earth:

HOW DOES HE DO IT?

Captain Kirk’s Guide to Women is the first book to answer this question by probing deeply into Captain Kirk’s character, charisma and seductive techniques, making it possible for any man to model the Casanova of the Cosmos. It is also the only Warp-Powered Romance manual written with enough wit, charm, and humor to help the female of the species better understand their men without a Universal Translator.

Employing meticulous research from Star Fleet’s computers, along with fanatic-level detail from “Star Trek: The Original Series”, and the kind of pointy-eared logic even a green-blooded Vulcan would find fascinating, Captain Kirk’s Guide to Women shows YOU how to be as stunning as Captain Kirk- even if your love life is dead, Jim.

Prepared by Alex Rosenzweig

SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from page 15)

Chinese who are building up their space program.

From Spaceflight Now:

“China’s burgeoning space program achieved another historic milestone during Wednesday’s successful launch of the nation’s first deep space probe on a one-year mission to study the moon from lunar orbit.

“The Chang’e 1 spacecraft launched at 1005 GMT (6:05 a.m. EDT) from the Xichang launch base in southwest China. A three-stage Long March 3A rocket was used to boost the probe into space, and the 3,000-kilogram craft was deployed from the launcher’s upper stage at about 1029 GMT (6:29 a.m. EDT).

“Chang’e 1 was placed in an egg-shaped orbit stretching from a perigee of 204 kilometers to an apogee of nearly 52,000 kilometers, according to the state-owned Xinhua news agency.”

SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS—Interesting Stuff from the World of Science

Compiled by Alex Rosenzweig

Welcome to “Science Highlights”! In this column, members of the Sciences Division speak out about something science related that they thought was of particular interest since last issue of *Avenger News*. So, without further ado, let me turn the spotlight on... Science!

New Views of Pluto

Contributed by Tim Drude

As our eyes on the skies grow sharper, they're showing us more about Pluto than we've ever seen before...

From AOL News:

“New images of Pluto and its moons are among the sharpest ever made, astronomers announced.

“Pluto, long called a planet, was downgraded last year to ‘dwarf planet’ status

by the International Astronomical Union. It is so far away that no clear pictures of it exist.

The new images are 20 times brighter than those taken of Pluto 30 years ago when its large moon Charon was discovered. The resulting snapshots are expected to bring astronomers closer to estimating the sizes of Pluto's satellites, Nix, Hydra and Charon.

“Several favorable factors occurred simultaneously to yield these spectacular images of the Pluto system,” said astronomer David Tholen, who performed the observations during an early September evening with one of Mauna Kea's twin Keck telescopes.

“Tholen relied on the adaptive optics system of Keck, which compensates for turbulence from Earth's atmosphere that typically blurs the light from celestial bodies. In addition, Pluto was at its maximum brightness that night, giving the adaptive optics ‘stellar’ conditions.”

This article may be found here: http://news.aol.com/story/ar/_a/spectacular-images-of-pluto-captured/20071013194109990001?ncid=NWS00010000000001

Go Bananas!

Contributed by Tim Drude



Bananas contain three natural sugars - sucrose, fructose and glucose. Combined with fiber, a banana gives an instant, sustained and substantial boost of energy. Research has proven that just two bananas provide

enough energy for a strenuous 90-minute workout. No wonder the banana is the number one fruit with the world's leading athletes. But energy isn't the only way a banana can help us keep fit. It can also help overcome or

prevent a substantial number of illnesses and conditions, making it a must to add to our daily diet.

Depression: According to a recent survey undertaken by MIND amongst people suffering from depression, many felt much better after eating a banana. This is because bananas contain tryptophan, a type of protein that the body converts into serotonin, known to make you relax, improve your mood and generally make you feel better.

PMS: Forget the pills -- eat a banana. The vitamin B 6 it contains regulates blood glucose levels, which can affect your mood.

Anemia: High in iron, bananas can stimulate the production of hemoglobin in the blood and so help in cases of anemia.

Blood Pressure: This unique tropical fruit is extremely high in potassium, yet low in salt, making it the perfect way to beat blood pressure, so much so that the US Food and Drug Administration has just allowed the banana industry to make official claims for the fruit's ability to reduce the risk of blood pressure and stroke.

Brain Power: 200 students at a Twickenham (Middlesex, England) school were helped through their exams this year by eating bananas at breakfast, break, and lunch in a bid to boost their brain power. Research has shown that the potassium-packed fruit can assist learning by making pupils more alert.

Constipation: High in fiber, including bananas in the diet can help restore normal bowel action, helping to overcome the problem without resorting to laxatives.

Hangovers: One of the quickest ways of curing a hangover is to make a banana milkshake, sweetened with honey. The banana calms the stomach and, with the help of the honey, builds up depleted blood sugar levels, while the milk soothes and re-hydrates your system.

Heartburn: Bananas have a natural antacid effect in the body, so if you suffer from heartburn, try eating a banana for soothing relief.

Morning Sickness: Snacking on bananas between meals helps to keep blood sugar levels up and avoid morning sickness.

Mosquito bites: Before reaching for the insect bite cream, try rubbing the affected area with the inside of a banana skin. Many people find it amazingly successful at reducing swelling and irritation.

Nerves: Bananas are high in B vitamins that help calm the nervous system.

Overweight and at work? Studies at the Institute of Psychology in Austria found pressure at work leads to gorging on comfort food like chocolate and chips. Looking at 5,000 hospital patients, researchers found the most obese were more likely to be in high-pressure jobs. The report concluded that, to avoid panic-induced food cravings, we need to control our blood sugar levels by snacking on high carbohydrate foods every two hours to keep levels steady.

Ulcers: The banana is used as the dietary food against intestinal disorders because of its soft texture and smoothness. It is the only raw fruit that can be eaten without distress in over-chronicler cases. It also neutralizes over-acidity and reduces irritation by coating the lining of the stomach.

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Temperature control: Many other cultures see bananas as a “cooling” fruit that can lower both the physical and emotional temperature of expectant mothers. In Thailand, for example, pregnant women eat bananas to ensure their baby is born with a cool temperature.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD): Bananas can help SAD sufferers because they contain the natural mood enhancer tryptophan.

Smoking: Bananas can also help people trying to give up smoking. The B6 and B12 they contain, as well as the potassium and magnesium found in them, help the body recover from the effects of nicotine withdrawal.

Stress: Potassium is a vital mineral which helps normalize the heartbeat, sends oxygen to the brain and regulates your body’s water balance. When we are stressed, our metabolic rate rises, thereby reducing our potassium levels. These can be rebalanced with the help of a high-potassium banana snack.

Strokes: According to research in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, eating bananas as part of a regular diet can cut the risk of death from strokes by as much as 40%!

For more about bananas, take a look at...

<http://www.banana.com/> or <http://www.thefruitpages.com/bananas.shtml>

Deep Rocks Move in Mysterious Ways

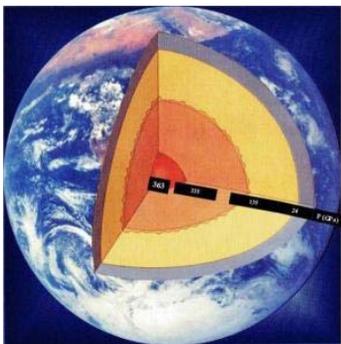
Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

Traditional models of what happens deep in the Earth are being challenged by new experiments.

From Science Daily:

“In the first experiments able to mimic the crushing, searing conditions found in Earth’s lower mantle, and simultaneously probe tell-tale properties of iron, scientists have discovered that material there behaves very differently than predicted by models. The research also points to the likelihood of a new zone deep in the Earth.

“Surface phenomena such as volcanoes and earthquakes are generated by what goes on in Earth’s interior. To understand some of these surface dynamics, scientists have to probe deep into the planet. The lower mantle is between 650 and 2,800 km deep and sits atop the outer core.”



Want to know more? Look here: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/09/070920145537.htm>

Nanotubes...They're In There

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

Carbon nanotubes have been detected living inside other organisms. They may lead to new ways to look inside living things.

From Science Daily:

“Rice University scientists have captured the first optical images of carbon nanotubes inside a living organism. Using fruit flies, the researchers confirmed that a technique developed at Rice -- near-infrared fluorescent imaging -- was capable of detecting DNA-sized nanotubes inside living fruit flies.

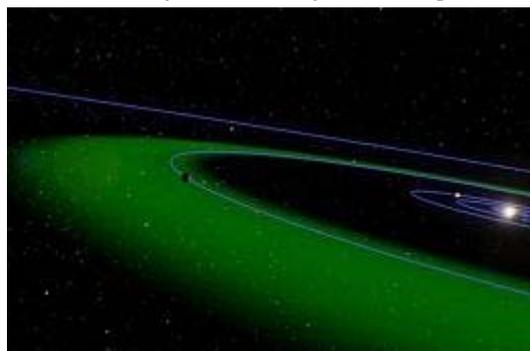
“‘Carbon nanotubes are much smaller than living cells, and they give off fluorescent light in a way that researchers hope to harness to detect diseases earlier than currently possible,’ said research co-author Bruce Weisman, professor of chemistry. ‘In order to do that, we need to learn how to detect and monitor nanotubes inside living tissues, and we must also determine whether they pose any hazards to organisms.’”

To discover more, look here: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/09/070924111710.htm>

Under Construction: New Class M Planet

Contributed by Tim Drude

One reason to study distant star systems is to get a look at



how
our
own

might have formed. Here’s an example:

From AOL News:

“Astronomers have spotted evidence of a second Earth being built around a distant star 424 light-years away.

“Using NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope, astronomers have spotted a huge belt of warm dust swirling around a young star called HD 113766 that is just slightly larger than our sun. The dust belt, which scientists suspect is clumping together to form planets, is located in the middle of the star system’s terrestrial habitable zone where temperatures are moderate enough to sustain liquid water. Scientists estimate there is enough material in the belt to form a Mars-sized world or larger.”

For more info, hop over to: http://news.aol.com/story/ar/_a/dust-belt-may-become-a-second-

earth/20071003153609990001?ncid=NWS00010000000001

Oh, My... George Takei Gets an Asteroid

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

The International Astronomical Union has honored actor George Takei by naming an asteroid after him.



From StarTrek.com:

“No, it’s not one of those deals where you pay someone to ‘name a star’ after yourself — it’s legitimate and official. George Takei has been immortalized in the heavens with his name permanently affixed to an asteroid between Mars and Jupiter.

“The Committee on Small Body Nomenclature of the International Astronomical Union approved the name ‘7307 Takei’ for the asteroid previously labeled ‘1994 GT9’. The Takei reference will be used in the

scientific community to identify this minor body from now on, presumably forever. Only about 14,000 asteroids have been named after specific people, out of about 400,000 such bodies known to exist.

“I am honored, indeed transported to the galaxies, to know that my name has been assigned to an astronomical object in our solar system,’ Takei told STARTREK.COM. ‘I am yet to come down to Earth.’”

Asteroid 7307 Takei is approximately 8 kilometers in diameter, located in an orbit ranging between 2.5 and 3.0 AUs from the Sun in the mid-solar system asteroid belt (an AU is the distance from the Sun to the Earth). It was discovered in 1994 by two Japanese astronomers.”

Want to know more? Go to: <http://www.startrek.com/startrek/view/news/article/2308343.html>

Talk About Your Antique Art...

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

A painting they think is the world’s artist has been discovered.

From World Science:

“Archaeologists have found an 11,000-year-old wall painting underground in northern Syria that they call the world’s oldest, the Reuters news agency has reported. The two square-meter (square yard) painting is red, black and white. It was found at Djade al-Mughara, a Neolithic settlement of on the Euphrates northeast of Aleppo, team leader Eric Coqueugniot told Reuters.

“It looks like a modernist painting,’ he told the agency. ‘Some of those who saw it have likened it to work by [modernist artist Paul]

Klee. Through carbon dating we established it is from around 9,000 B.C.’ He added that another painting was found next to



it, but isn’t yet fully excavated. Coqueugniot works at France’s National Centre for Scientific Research.”

For more on this story, check out: http://www.world-science.net/othernews/071011_painting.htm

And Then There’s a Star With a Whole Bunch o’ Planets

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

We’re finding ore and more planets out there. One system with multiple planets has now been found.

From World Science:

“Astronomers say they have found a distant solar system—around the star 55 Cancri—that looks more like ours than do any of the others known. Though it lacks any evidence of habitable worlds, they added, some might turn up there. It’s the ‘first quintuple planetary system,’ and may have as yet-undetected Earth-like planets or habitable moons, said San Francisco State University astronomer Debra Fischer, a member of the research team.

“It seems to be ‘packed with planets,’ as ours is, she added. All the planets detected there are much heavier than Earth, she noted, which poses problems for their



habitability. But Earth-sized planets, practically undetectable outside our Solar System with current technology, could easily have gone unnoticed.

“The finding ‘has me jumping out of my socks,’ said Geoff Marcy of the University of California, Berkeley, another member of the research team. The group announced the findings at a press conference in Pasadena, California.

“The discovery suggests solar systems much like our own are common, he added. ‘Our Milky Way galaxy, with 200 billion stars, contains billions of planetary systems—many as rich as our own,’ he said. ‘We strongly suspect many of these harbor Earth-like planets.’

Want to know more? Point your browsers to: http://www.world-science.net/othernews/071106_planet.htm

And the Chinese Get Into the Moon Game

Contributed by Alex Rosenzweig

It used to be the U.S. vs. the Russians. Now it’s the

(Continued on page 12)

The AVENGER in Fiction: A Quick Progress Update

By Alex Rosenzweig, with Judy Waidlich

"Space, The Final Frontier... These are the continuing voyages of the starship *Avenger*. Her ongoing mission: to explore strange, new worlds; to seek out new life and new civilizations; to boldly go where no one has gone before."

Many members' questions have dealt with the fictional *Avenger*. Since we call for members to make up personnel files for their characters, members want to know just how our fictional universe works. What does the fictional *Avenger* do? How does it fit into the Star Trek Universe as portrayed on TV and in the films, books, comics, etc.? To answer these questions, and to (hopefully) keep you folks entertained, this series of articles was born.

For this issue, we're taking a break from the usual stuff, because it turned out that there was either time to create something for this column, or make progress on the 3-4 ongoing projects relating to *Avenger* Fiction, and I opted for the latter.

I'm currently working on a short story, finishing a longer story, and updating/revising a screenplay. You can find the full list over in the Fiction Update section of the Ship's BBS.

I do want to take a moment to thank Judy Waidlich and Matt Rielly for their contributions and involvement at the recent Fiction Workshop. It was great fun! I hope that more folks will take some time to get involved, because there's lots of opportunities for creative folks to add to our big and ever-growing fictional world.

One completed project was a character-file update. As you all know, Judy was recently promoted to the rank of Fleet Captain, and we updated her character's personnel file to reflect that:

WAILDICH, JUDITH ANN

FLEET CAPTAIN

Serial Number: SC 54198 CEC

Official Position: Commanding Officer

Current Assignment: *U.S.S. Avenger*, Heavy Frigate, NCC-1860

Nature and Duration of Mission: Multi-Purpose (Exploration; Peaceforcer; Survey; Etc.); 5 Years

Age: 34

Nationality: Terran

Place of Birth: New Jersey--United States--Earth

Date of Birth: 12 August 2273

History: Pursued a degree at the University of Maryland, and graduated at age 19 with a bachelor's degree in history and xeno-anthropology. Chose to pursue a career in Star Fleet, and entered Star Fleet Academy the semester following her college graduation. Completed all required courses in two years. Graduated at age 22, and assigned with the rank of Lieutenant J.G. to the heavy scout *U.S.S. Gommorhea* as a scientist specializing in archaeology.

Waidlich participated in a number of archaeological surveys and site digs, gathering information on some twelve vanished cultures on as many worlds. At the age of 24, she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, in recognition of her experience and active contributions to the research process. After another year or so, Waidlich indicated an increasing interest in more widely-varying exploration and research opportunities, and at the age of 26, she transferred to the heavy frigate *U.S.S. Avenger* as a scientist. She not only performed her duties within the ship's Social Sciences department, but also actively pursued opportunities to learn in other areas of the Sciences Division. As a result, at the age of 27, Waidlich was promoted to the rank of Lt. Commander. Several months later, when Assistant Chief Science Officer Siobhan Antrim was promoted and left the *Avenger*, Waidlich was offered the position. She accepted, and was appointed as Assistant Chief Science Officer in May of 2301. She was promoted to full Commander later that year. In May 2302, Waidlich was appointed to the position of executive officer. Over the course of the following year, she distinguished herself on multiple occasions, and as a result, received a promotion to the rank of Captain in May of 2303. At the beginning of 2304, following the transfer of Captain Maldonado, Waidlich was offered, and accepted, the position of commanding officer. In early 2307, the *Avenger* was assigned as the lead vessel of a flotilla of five starships, under Waidlich's general command. The flotilla was assigned to survey a sector beyond the Taurus Reach, in search of rumored Shedai artifacts, while simultaneously balancing the diplomatic requirements of keeping the peace while interacting with Klingon, Romulan, and Tholian vessels all operating in the same area. The mission was quite successful, and Waidlich received high ratings for her performance as flotilla commander. As a result of this, in August 2307, she was promoted to the rank of Fleet Captain.

Personal: Unmarried. Parents deceased, having died in a freak accident in 2296. No siblings. Waidlich has described herself as a "strange child", and says her parents "quit while they were ahead". Waidlich has had few close friendships, and even fewer romances, with the notable exception of one relationship at the Academy, which ended

badly shortly before graduation. Since that time, Waidlich has preferred to focus on her work, and until recently, remained immersed in the lore of dead civilizations. Her most recent promotions have had the effect of drawing her out more, however. Interests include art, horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking, camping, and spelunking (all useful hobbies for one involved in the exploration of ancient ruins). Waidlich is intelligent and curious, yet quiet and shy at first in new situations. She tends to prefer the "hard way" to reach ruins, traveling on foot or animal-back, rather than a convenient beam-in. She is an excellent marksman and natural athlete, and has also gained considerable skills as a shuttlecraft pilot while participating in multiple surveys.

In future articles, we'll continue to talk about what's aboard the ship, how various systems work, crew specifics, etc. (Members are urged to suggest topics. If there's something you want to know about the ship, chances are that someone else wants to know, too. So send in your questions, and we'll try to get answers for you in upcoming columns.)

14-15 December 2007 – U.S.S. Top Gun Holiday Party—Historic Annapolis Rams Head Tavern, 33 West St., Annapolis, MD, 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM
 THE PLAN: Saturday from 12 Noon to 3 PM is the Holiday Luncheon and the price is \$25 per person, cash bar notwithstanding. All activities are optional and price may vary, but a head count is needed for each, so if you're interested. Contact the *Top Gun* ASAP. Feel free to ask friends to go along, the more the merrier.
 FRIDAY NIGHT: PIZZA with GAMING is a no brainer. We'll order out for pizza. Free SODAS and SNACKS.
 SATURDAY MORNING: Historic Tour of the Naval Academy at 10 AM. SATURDAY NOON: Holiday Luncheon at Rams Head Tavern near State Circle. We meet at 12 Noon, stay until 3 PM. Please bring a Toy for our "Toys for Tots" collection box.
 SATURDAY EARLY EVENING : For those interested, we will see a get our "survival" instincts on by watching "I am Legend" with Will Smith as a matinee nearby. It is a re-envisioning of both "The Omega Man" and "The Last Man on Earth" based on a novelette.
 SATURDAY EVENING: A carpooling event, "LIGHTS of the BAY" is the local holiday display driving tour available at nearby SANDY POINTS PARK for \$12/carload.
 SUNDAY: The *Top Gun* seeks ideas for what YOU would like to do. They are thinking about a recreational activity: like bowling or ice skating - but you tell them.
 Cost: \$25.00/person for the party. Other events may have additional costs.
 Event Coordinator: Dean Rogers - CO and Donna DiMatteo - XO
 Contact Phone: (856) 362-5366

13 January 2008 – Avenger Ship Meeting — Borders Books and Music, Route 18, East Brunswick, NJ, 3:00 PM
 Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program: Video and Computer Gaming! Dinner to follow.
 Event Coordinator: FCAPT Judy Waidlich, waidlich@rutgers.edu

18-20 January 2008 – Sci-Fi Spectacular, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, 1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD, Fri, Saturday at 8:00 PM, Sunday at 3:00 PM
 Jack Everly, conductor; George Takei, narrator; Mike Eldred, vocalist; Kristin Plumley, vocalist The Sci-Fi-Ettes
 Who knew science fiction could sound so good? Narrated by George Takei, Mr. Sulu of *Star Trek* fame, the BSO SuperPops boldly goes where no orchestra has gone before, featuring selections from *Star Wars*, *E.T.*, and *Superman*, along with a spectacular laser light show. The concert will end at approximately 10:05 PM on Friday and Saturday, and at approximately 5:05 PM on Sunday.
 Event Website: <http://www.bsomusic.org/main.taf?p=0>

26 January 2008 - Geology Museum Open House—Rutgers University, George Street and Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ
 Visit the geology museum, attend the mineral sale, or go to one of the lectures.

3 February 2008 – Intergalactic Food Festival - Seaside Heights Community Center, Bay & Hancock Avenues, Seaside Heights, NJ
 Come celebrate Federation Day with a taste of intergalactic cuisine from the Trek universe.

10 February 2008 – Avenger Ship Meeting—Borders Books and Music, Route 18, East Brunswick, NJ, 3:00 PM
 Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program TBA; suggestions invited. Dinner to follow.
 Event Coordinator: CAPT Judy Waidlich, waidlich@rutchem.rutgers.edu

15-17 February 2008 – Farpoint - Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, Md
 Farpoint is a Baltimore-based Science Fiction Media Convention, held each February at Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn. It's a Fan-Run, Fan-Friendly Con, with a lot more to offer than your basic autographs-and-a-dealers-room "show". Guests include Harve Bennett, Mira Furlan and James Callis.
 Event Website: <http://www.bcpl.net/~wilsonr/>

11 March 2008 – Avenger Ship Meeting - Borders Books and Music, Route 18, East Brunswick, NJ, 3:00 PM
 Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program TBA; suggestions invited. Dinner to follow.
 Event Coordinator: CAPT Judy Waidlich, waidlich@rutchem.rutgers.edu

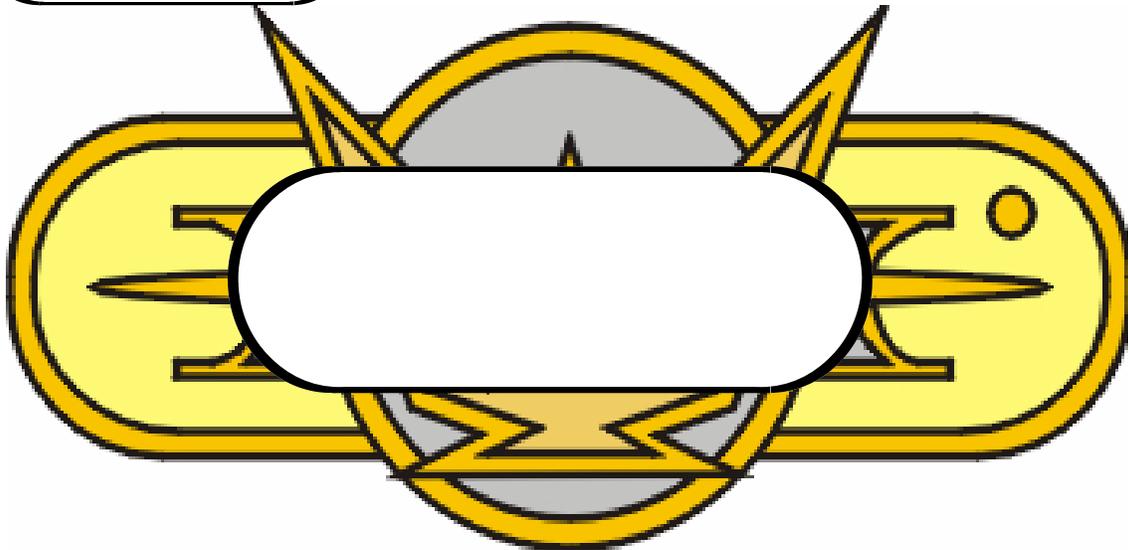
27-29 June 2008 – STARFLEET's 2008 International Conference - Ithaca Airport Ramada Inn.
 The theme is **Back to School** and the IC will be taking full advantage of Cornell University and Ithaca College, two major institutions of higher education right here in town. We'll be joined by Rick Kline from the Cornell Astronomy department for a presentation, and have field trips to the Fuertes Observatory, the Ithaca Sciencenter, and the Museum of the Earth. Meet folks from around 'Fleet at this years International Conference. Plenty of panels, good food at the Meet and Greet on Friday and the Banquet on Saturday. Find out who some of the names that appear in the 'Fleet news look like.
 Event Website: <http://www.ic2008.org/>

11-13 July 2008 – Shore Leave 30
 Shore Leave is one of the premiere fan-run conventions on the East Coast. It has guests, panels, gaming, a Meet-the-Pros night, and much more! Guests TBA.
 Event Website: <http://www.shore-leave.com/>

11 October 2008 - USS Challenger's 20th Anniversary - Sheraton Eatontown Hotel, Eatontown, NJ, 7:00 PM
 This event includes a three course buffet dinner, coffee, tea and soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available. Entrees include Chicken Saltimbocca, Sliced Beef Sirloin and Vegetarian Lasagna. Assorted salads, side dishes and dessert will also be served as well. As a special added bonus, since there will not be a regional conference next year, the *U.S.S. Challenger* has secured the hotel's state-of-the-art Ampitheatre for a Region 7 Meeting at 1:00pm. Attendees of the party can use this opportunity to schmooze, catch up, and discuss regional business in a comfortable face-to-face setting. However, no one will be allowed to take advantage of this meeting without having registered for the dinner event and there will also be no "meeting-only" option offered.
 Cost: \$50.00 per person for dinner. If you wish to stay the night, the hotel is offering our attendees a special rate of \$115.00 per room, per night.

NOTE: Please, if you are planning to attend an event, let the event/project coordinator know of your plans, so he/she can make the proper arrangements. Thanks!

USS Avenger
331 Academy Terrace, Apt 17
Linden, NJ 07036-5695



NOTE: Your Avenger Membership is up for renewal with Issue #: 

Next Meeting:

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 13, 2008
3:00pm**

BORDERS
Book and Music Store
Mid-State Mall
300 Route 18,
East Brunswick, NJ

Deadline for submissions for Avenger News # 107:
JANUARY 28, 2008

This newsletter accepts articles and photos from all USS Avenger members. alexr@tellurian.com