

AVENGER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S.S. AVENGER NCC-1860

<http://www.sfi.org>

#144 - JUNE 2014

<http://www.ussavenger.org>

SHALL WE PLAY A GAME...?



FOR MEMBERS OF AVENGER, THE ANSWER WAS, "YES!"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The 2014 U.S.S. Avenger Recruiting Program.....	5	Membership Alley.....	4
The Avenger in Fiction.....	15	Mission Docket.....	17
Book Review—His Majesty's Dragon.....	5	Roster Update.....	5
Captain's Log.....	2	Second Officer's Report.....	4
Engineering Division Report.....	9	Security Report.....	3
Executive Thoughts.....	3	Ship's BBS.....	13
From the Belly of the Beast.....	9	Star Trek Book News.....	12
Image Gallery.....	14, 16	STARFLEET and Region 7 News.....	10
The Measure of the Universe Through Doppler Lensing.....	8	Trekkin' the Web.....	11
		U.S.S. Avenger Sit-Rep.....	6

CAPTAIN'S LOG

BY DAVID LYNCH



Hi, all,

Another two months have passed and we have had more fun events. April started off with an outing to see "Captain America: The Winter Soldier". That certainly lived up to all the great films put out by Marvel Studios. I also enjoyed how it tied into "Agents of SHIELD" on TV, which has now finished its first season. I look forward to seeing Season 2. We also held our April meeting and continued on with the "Command Staff Training Program". May started off with a Board Game Day at Norm Van Houten's. Those of us who attended both in person and by Skype had fun. By the time you read this report, our May meeting and June 1 installment of the "Command Staff Training Program" will have passed.

As always, I remain concerned about attendance at events. We keep putting out notices about our upcoming events, but we seem to keep drawing the same core group of attendees. If there is something you think the group would like to do, please come to a meeting or post it to the Facebook and/or Yahoo Group to let us know about it. As I always say, this is your chapter; it doesn't function without you, the members. I have been a member of the *Avenger* for over three years now, and there a good amount of members whom I have not yet met. Please come on out to events and meetings; I'd like to meet you. We also have the Anniversary Picnic coming up on June 28th. I hope many of you will come out and join us to celebrate our Anniversary.

Next year will a big anniversary for us, our 30th. In the near future we will need to sit down and start planning for this milestone. As time goes on, watch for posts about our planning sessions for this event, if you haven't seen any by the time you read this.

I would like to commend our Division Chiefs on the wonderful job they have been doing chairing our monthly meetings this year. They all did well when it was their turn to sit in the "big chair". For those who do not know, this is an old idea that dates back to when I and Jennifer Thompson were on the

U.S.S. Arthur C. Clarke, prior to my taking command of that chapter. At that time, I was the only division chief to actually chair a meeting as Chief Engineer.

Also, by the time you read this, the annual Vote of Confidence in my performance either will have started or will be starting very soon. Please take time to cast your vote on how I am doing as your CO. If there areas of concern or where you feel I can improve, please feel free to say so.

In October, the Region 7 Conference is happening. It will be on the weekend of October 3, 4, and 5. I have already registered myself and our Chief of Communications, Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Thompson, for this event. I will also be chairing a panel on our "Command Staff Training Program". I'd like to have a good showing from our chapter at this event. I hope that many of our members can find it in themselves to attend. This is a good way to meet more regional members and expand your circle of friends who also have an interest in Star Trek, science fiction, and many other areas.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Lieutenant Wendy Bell and Lt. Commander Jennifer Thompson on their recent promotions. While Jennifer has held the rank of Lt. Commander for some time, it was only a brevet rank as Chief of Communications. She recently earned the points to make the rank permanent. Congratulations, ladies, keep up the good work! "How do I earn promotions?" you might ask. The best way is to come to meetings and events. You can also submit articles to this publication. If you're a member of STARFLEET, you can submit articles to the *Communiqué* (the newsletter of STARFLEET) and/or take courses at either STARFLEET Academy or the STARFLEET Marine Corps Academy. There are plenty of ways to be involved!

Until next time,

Dave

Fleet Captain Dave Lynch

Avenger News is the official newsletter of the science fiction based fan club, *USS Avenger*, and is published bi-monthly. The *USS Avenger* is a chapter of Starfleet, the International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. The opinions contained within do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, *Avenger*, or *STARFLEET*.

Subscription to *Avenger News* is free to all members and \$10 annually to non-members. To subscribe, send check or money order, payable to *USS Avenger*, to:

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

Advertisement inquiries, letters, and address corrections should be sent to the above address or emailed to: karate666.aol.com

Submissions for *Avenger News* should be emailed to Alexr1860@optimum.net or streetmailed to: *Avenger News* Home Office, c/o Alex Rosenzweig, 980 Linwood Place, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2267

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ISSUE 144 BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Editor-In-Chief/Layout Editor— Alex Rosenzweig

Copy Editor— Alex Rosenzweig

Distribution Officer— Norman Van Houten

Contributors—David Lynch, Matt Rielly, Alex Rosenzweig, George Sheldon, Amber Stronach, Jennifer Thompson, Judy Waidlich

EXECUTIVE THOUGHTS

BY ALEX ROSENZWEIG



Greetings, all!

I hope everyone's well! We've been having a busy spring, both in the world of Trek and here aboard the *Avenger*. As most of you know, the next feature film now seems to have a director: Roberto Orci, who co-wrote and produced the last two films. Also in post-production is "Prelude to Axanar", a "lead in" film to the main story of "Star Trek: Axanar", which will shoot soon. And those are just a couple of things that are happening. And that's just the tip of the iceberg!

Here in the group, we're working hard to offer interesting things to do (though, of course, that's not something restricted to the Command Staff!), and in fact, at this writing, we have polls open on both Facebook and the chapter's Yahoo Group to gauge interest in a set of proposed activities, so we can choose events that will be of the greatest interest to you, the members. I have noticed something of late, and after giving it some thought, I wanted to chat about it a little. Recently, it seems that people have been less interested in some of the basic social-interaction aspects of the club. For example, where it used to be that we'd have anywhere from 6-10 people go out for dinner after a meeting, that number's cut in half. Now, I realize we all have lots going on, but it always seemed to me that actually spending a little unstructured time enjoying each other's company and just chattering about whatever we felt like (as opposed to the structured agenda of a meeting) was part of why we did stuff like this. *Avenger* and STARFLEET are, after all, a social organization. It's made me wonder if there's something we need to pay attention to, maybe something we're doing wrong. Of course, it might also be that there are just fewer available hours for folks to spend, and tons of stuff demanding our time. (That's one of the reasons we're experimenting more with some on-line activities, such as the Skype chat that SciDiv prototyped in May and which we're looking to do again.) We, of course, appreciate everyone who chooses to spend some of their time with us, which is why we put so much thought into trying to make sure it's time well spent!

Another thing I'd like your help on, as we come to mid-year and start planning our meeting programs for the second half of

2014, is suggestions about what you'd like to talk about. We had some fun programs in the first half of the year, like discussions of animals in Trek and an introduction to the world of Pern and its dragonriders. Still to come is a discussion on sci-fi spacecraft. I'd like to take a moment to thank folks like Matt Rielly, Daniel Negron, and Jennifer Thompson, who made suggestions for programs, all of which we used. Now it's time to put on your thinking caps again, and see if there's something else you'd like to talk about. Also (and this is kind of a big one), I'd very much like to see other folks be the moderators of these chats. A lot of times it ends up being me, and while I like to hear the sound of my own voice as much as the next guy ;) , this really should be more than just "Alex talks", especially when we have topics about which I'm not fully knowledgeable. Hey, I like to learn new stuff, too! So if there's something you'd be interested in sharing, and would be willing to be the moderator/main speaker, please let Dave and me know. We'd be happy to let someone else have the floor for a bit. Really, we would!

Also, please don't forget about the 2014 recruiting program. If you actively recruit new people to join STARFLEET and the chapter, there are some cool reward incentives for YOU! We recommend having folks join STARFLEET first, and that's because they can then join the chapter at no additional charge, whereas it doesn't work the same way the other way around. So if you have friends or acquaintances who enjoy Star Trek and/or science fiction, and who might like to meet and hang out with others who share those interests, don't hesitate to encourage them to check us out. And if the people you recruit get active themselves, the rewards to you are even greater! So go out, recruit folks, and reap the rewards.

And that's it from me for now! Enjoy the rest of this issue of *Avenger News*! Have fun, and don't forget "Mission Docket" for neat upcoming events. Take care, and 'til next time...

Alex

ADM Alex Rosenzweig

SECURITY REPORT

BY AMBER STRONACH



Hi, everyone, and welcome to the first Security column. Before I continue, I'd like to ask that ALL Security personnel please e-mail me as soon as possible.

Okay, so, Security stuffs... Hehehe

Well, I've recently resumed my Tae Kwon Do training, so here are a few theory pieces from this wonderful martial art:

- ▲ White signifies innocence, such as that of a beginning student who has no previous knowledge of Tae Kwon Do.
- ▲ Tae Kwon Do literally means "Foot Hand Art".

▲ It was on April 11th, 1955 that Tae Kwon Do was founded by General Choi Hong Hi, a 9th Degree Black Belt.

And that's all for this time around. I will have some more next time.

Colonel Amber Stronach
Chief Security Officer, *U.S.S. Avenger*
hyper_girl76@yahoo.co.uk

SECOND OFFICER'S REPORT

BY JUDY WAIDLICH



There are two promotions to report! Haven't I told you how much I like seeing people earning promotions? I have two of them! Congratulations go out to Wendy Bell and Jennifer Thompson. Wendy is now a Lieutenant and Jennifer is a Lt. Commander (now without a brevet in there)! So if you want to see me get excited, it's not too hard. Please join us in upcoming events. We have the Command Staff Training where you learn the behind-the-scenes of running the chapter, movie outings, and our picnic in June, just to name a few.

I had a great time at Norm Van Houten's playing Star Trek Monopoly. Dave Lynch, Jenn Thompson, Alex Rosenzweig, Norm, and I were joined by Amber Stronach (via Skype) to play. Sarah Bolick also attended via Skype. Later, after Amber and Sarah had signed off and Dave and Jenn left, Norm, Alex, and I played the Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock dice game.

I've earned the Topaz Boothby Award (an award how many courses a member has passed at both the STARFLEET Academy and the STARFLEET Marine Corps Academy), and am slowly working to the next one. I took on the duties for Assistant Director of the Cardassian Orientation College, and put in an application for College of Engineering. I've had a lot of submissions returned for the Vulcan Academy of Science. I also finally finished the requirements for my last Bridge Officer Certification (in Communications). Finally, the SORS courses were available via the FAC (Fully Automated Courses, where you do the courses online). I'm taking lots of Special Operations courses.

I'm still behind with my reading for the Marine Academy Challenge, for mostly the same reasons. I did finish a Nora Roberts romance, and am trying to get through Virgil's "The Aeneid" (I felt like reading a classic. I put it between "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" for readability, though it's been a while since I read either). It follows the Trojan warrior/leader Aeneas and his travels after the Trojan War, although there is a summary of some of that action. I picked up some Trek books and have read Greg Cox's *No Time Like the Past*, which gave

me part of a story idea. I started *Serpents in the Garden* over Memorial Day weekend.

I saw "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" and enjoyed it very much. It had interesting plot twists which were carried through on "Agents of Shield". I watched some videos at my friend Rich's. They included "RED" – a Bruce Willis movie, where the title stood for "Retired: Extremely Dangerous". It was a very funny movie, considering all the gun play going on. I have more movies to get through. Some I haven't seen; others I enjoyed and have added to my collection.

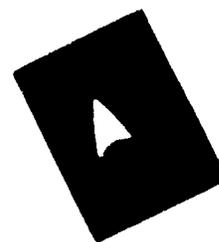
I'm hoping to get out to see the X-Men movie. I'm not sure if I'll make it to the NJ Ren Faire in Bordentown (it's on May 31st, June 1st, June 7th, and June 8th), since there is a C-Staff training session and *Avenger* meeting, and I have a ticket for "The Tempest" at the Shakespeare Theatre in Madison (which I guess I can move if need be). I hope to attend the outing to Penn's Landing. I have tickets to see "Grease" at the Paper Mill Playhouse. I also saw a good production of "South Pacific" at the end of April.

Then there are a slew of picnics to choose from. *Challenger's* is on July 5th, *Moebius's* is on July 12th, *Lincoln's* is on July 19th, and *Justice's* is on August 16th. But MOST importantly is our picnic on June 28th. I was thinking of making the stuff I made last year – cucumber salsa, a chickpea salad, and watermelon/feta cheese salad.

There's probably more, and of course some stuff will be choose-your-event type stuff. So I hope to see some of you attend some of this, and hopefully there will be more promotions for me to announce.

Take care until next time.

Judy



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(Family Memberships \$12.50)

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ROSTER UPDATE

Welcome Back--Thanks for Renewing

1) Lieutenant Michael Rupprecht

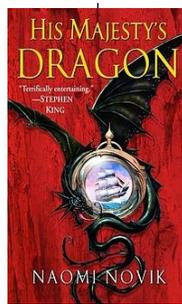


Promotions—Congratulations!

- 1) Lt. Commander Jennifer L. Thompson – Rank Now Permanent
- 2) Lieutenant J.G. Wendy Bell to Lieutenant

BOOK REVIEW— *HIS MAJESTY'S DRAGON* BY JENNIFER THOMPSON

If you like reading Anne McCaffrey's books about Pern, then you will like *His Majesty's Dragon*, by Naomi Novik. This book is the first in a trilogy and Mrs. Novik seems to be heavily influenced by McCaffrey's books. Did you ever wonder how different our history would be if dragons really did exist? The story takes place on 18th century Earth during the Napoleonic wars. It follows the captain of a ship in the Royal Navy and tells how he becomes involved with a dragon named Temeraire. This was the first time I'd read this book,



which was published in 2006, and I had a hard time putting it down. There is personal and social conflict throughout this book for the main character, Laurence. At the end of the book, there is additional information about the dragons in the story, as well as reviews from other writers, including Anne McCaffrey.

THE 2014 U.S.S. AVENGER RECRUITING PROGRAM

For 2014, with the approval of the Command Staff, the following program has been put into effect, beginning in January:

If a member of the *Avenger*...

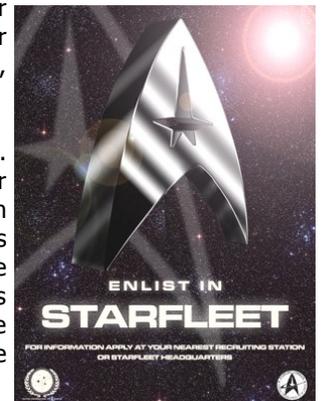
- ◆ Recruits **one member** to STARFLEET and/or the chapter, that member will get one year's membership paid for. (In most cases, that will be a STARFLEET membership, since the chapter is then mostly free, except for a hardcopy newsletter if desired.)
- ◆ Recruits **two (2) to four (4) members** to STARFLEET and/or the chapter, that member will get a free STARFLEET/*Avenger* renewal plus a \$25 gift certificate/card at either Barnes & Noble or a store of the member's choice.
- ◆ Recruits **five (5) or more** members, to STARFLEET and/or the chapter, that member will get a free STARFLEET/*Avenger* renewal plus a \$50 gift certificate/card at either Barnes & Noble or a store of the member's choice.
- ◆ If the new recruits get **active and involved** (as opposed to being just names on a roster) over a period of **three (3) months or longer**, we'll double the monetary reward.

Any member who puts in the effort to recruit new members to the group will also receive a **recruiting commendation** certificate.

Please note that this can apply to being instrumental in convincing **former members** to **reactivate** a membership, as well as to recruiting people who've never been members before. It doesn't, though, count for your own renewal.

Also, as a reminder, anyone who visits us at a meeting or activity, and chooses to join right then and there, can receive a **25% discount** on their membership. (If they join {or renew with} STARFLEET online, we will reimburse them in cash.)

So, go on out there and recruit. If you know folks who like Star Trek or sci-fi, invite them to join STARFLEET and the *Avenger*! As you can see, there are some pretty nice rewards in this year's program, so we invite you to take advantage of them and help the club grow.



U.S.S. AVENGER SIT-REP

BY ALEX ROSENZWEIG

This column, in accordance with the *Avenger* Officer's Manual, is "a regular report of crew activities, in the form of a column in *Avenger News* or as a separate mailing. It started out with the idea of being a roundup of divisional activities, but is being retooled into a more general summary of chapter events and highlights. As such, if there's something you'd like to share with the group—an idea, a suggestion, a personal milestone, etc.—feel free to let me know and it can get included. "SitRep" is a term used typically by the military or other government groups. It's an abbreviation for "Situation Report", a report given to both senior officers and subordinate staff to make sure that, put simply, they know what's going on. And that's what we do here.

Onward...

DIVISIONS:

COMMAND:

 FCAPT Dave continues his day-to-day administration of the chapter. He also attended the movie outing to see "Captain America: The Winter Soldier", the board game day, and the April and May chapter meetings. He also continues to chair the Command Staff Training Program.

The XO's office has continued to focus on activity-shepherding and newsletter work. The biggest challenge remains getting members to participate, as well as to encourage others to bring ideas to the table. The XO posted polls to both the chapter's Facebook and Yahoo groups regarding some event ideas discussed at the May chapter meeting, and while we've had some response, it's been very low compared to the number of people in both groups.

ADM Alex has been a regular attendee at the Command Staff Training Sessions, having been at all three so far.

Meanwhile, *Avenger News* #143 was finished in mid-April, and Issue #144 is targeted for mid-June.

The Second Officer has continued maintaining the Promotion System and monitoring for the next promotions. She has also been updating the database. Two promotions have been announced recently (see "Roster Update"). RADM Judy has also been attending the Command Staff Training Sessions and doing lots of work at the Academy.

SCIENCES:

 CMDR Sarah Bolick reports that George Sheldon has stepped down as Assistant Chief Science Officer and switched to Associate status aboard ship. That means that the position is again open! This is a great opportunity to help take the lead in promoting science and education, as well as contributing to the club. Anyone who might be interested, please contact Sarah at staryeyedgoddess@gmail.com

Sarah still hopes to hear back from Sciences members and have some fun conversations about Trek and science. With that in mind, the division will be scheduling the next Skype chat soon. This one will probably be focused on Gregor Mendel and

his contribution to the science of genetics, but also let Sarah know what topics you'd be interested in for future chats.

MEDICAL:



LCDR Jason Blackstone reports that things have been quiet in the Medical Division.

OPERATIONS:



CMDR Norm Van Houten reports that, aside from his own ongoing assistance in getting the newsletter mailed out to those receiving it in hard copy (thanks, Norm!), Operations has remains quiet. OpsDiv members, don't forget to say hi to Norm from time to time!

Norm did host the Board game day, and all attending had fun. (See the Mission Report later in this column.)

ENGINEERING:



CAPT Matt Rielly continues to participate in the Command Staff Training Program initiated by our CO.

Matt has continued to update division members regarding details on future activities, events, and other significant goings-on as more information is made available.

COMMUNICATIONS:



The Communications Division has been mostly quiet, though LCDR Jennifer Thompson has continued her attempts to communicate with the members of the Communications Division.

SECURITY:



COL Amber Stronach has been settling into the position of Chief of Security! She's been dealing with some personal matters, so hasn't had a chance to do much, but is hoping to hear back from members of Security. Feel free to drop her a line! She also shares that she has resumed taking classes in Tae Kwon Do.

Meanwhile, FCAPT Dave continues his day-to-day administration of the 769th Marine Strike Group.

(If your division isn't included here, there wasn't any division-specific news this issue. For anyone interested in ideas for or assistance in developing divisional activity, feel free to contact your division chief and/or the XO.)

GENERAL:

Activity-wise, the *Avenger's* schedule has continued with lots of activities to choose from. Attendance has remained a problem, though, and we're continuing to try various approaches to try to improve response. This is something we hope that all of you will help with.

Our recent activities have included, in addition to the meetings:

U.S.S. AVENGER SIT-REP

- ◆ Command Staff "Training Sessions" Covering *Avenger's* databases and Information Storage, Activity Development, Event Coordination, Event Coordinator, Event Communication, and Building General Member Communications
- ◆ A Board Game Day
- ◆ Sciences Division "Fireside Chat" via Skype

Looking ahead, we see activities including:

- ◆ Day at Penn's Landing
- ◆ More Video/Movie Days
- ◆ More Group Trips to Film Releases
- ◆ A Board Game Day
- ◆ Command Staff "Training Sessions" – All members are welcome!
- ◆ Additional Skype Chats
- ◆ A possible trip to the Intrepid Museum and Shuttle *Enterprise*
- ◆ A possible trip to the Marvel S.H.I.E.L.D. Station Exhibition

We're always looking for suggestions from folks for films you'd like to see as a group. Feel free to share your suggestions on the *Avenger's* mailing list, in our Facebook group, or even by contacting any member of the Command Staff. We'll be heavily relying on your input to determine what films we should see together as a group.

We're looking forward to scheduling more video days, and we're definitely interested in knowing what films/TV shows **you'd** like to watch together, and also if you'd be willing to host such an event. (We've had some wonderfully generous folks host these events in the past, but hopefully we won't have to keep going back to the same people over and over again. If we can move things around a bit, that'd be welcome.)

And, as always, if there's something you'd like to suggest for an event, don't hesitate to speak up. We want to hold events that our members want to attend, but we can only do what members tell us they'd like. Your input is really important here. As some of you may have seen, we've been compiling a large list of potential activities, which we hope to develop into real events, but your input and support are crucial. The senior staff can't do it alone.

Mission Reports:

This section of the column features short recaps of various *Avenger* and STARFLEET events. To make it the best it can be, though, I need your help. If you've been to an event, you don't need to write a whole long article. Just a paragraph or two would be great. Send them to me and I'll include them here. And if you've got pictures you want to supply, that, too, would be pretty awesome. (By the way, if a lot of folks contribute for a single activity, it could always be broken out into a separate article, and if you **want** to write a stand-alone piece, don't let this feature stop you from doing so! It's not an either-or proposition, just another way to share.)

3 May 2014 – Board Game Day



For a while, this one looked like it might get cancelled for lack of interest! In the end, though, enough folks said they would come that we decided to run with it anyway, and we had a lot of fun. Most of the afternoon was spent with a round of Star Trek Monopoly. This was the

version for the original Trek series. The pieces were the regular characters, and properties were races met by the crew of the Enterprise during its voyages. As it turned out, we played a fairly conservative game for much of the time, with the result that—with five players involved, no one had a full property group for a long time! Toward the end, we finally started trading a bit to make things a bit more interesting. We ended up stopping partway through the game when Dave Lynch and Jenn Thompson had to head homeward, but we recorded where we all were, so we could pick it up again at a future time.

After Jenn and Dave left, Norm Van Houten (our fine host) and Judy Waidlich and I decided to try a shorter game, so we played a few rounds of a dice version of Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock, the expansion of the classic Rock, Paper, Scissors game popularized on the sitcom "The Big Bang Theory". A full round of this game only takes a few minutes to play, so we played several, and agreed that it was also enjoyable fun.

All in all, we had a fine afternoon, and look forward to doing it again sometime soon. Thanks to Norm for hosting, and to his daughter Amy for a delicious lunch. Honestly, we don't come over just for the food, but we're not too proud to accept it and appreciate when a tasty repast is put in front of us. <Grin> (ADM Alex Rosenzweig)

14 May 2014 – Sciences Division "Fireside Chat"

This was one of those cases where things didn't go quite as planned, and yet ended up working out okay anyway. The original plan was to do a chat focused on Gregor Mendel and his contributions to genetics. However, due to an unexpected chain of events, it didn't work out as planned. So we had to go for a backup plan, including a backup moderator! Since we didn't have a genetics expert on-hand, we switched to just general topics, and had a good time anyway, along the way learning more about Skype's capabilities. It ended up being a fun way to socialize and have a pleasant evening, and it served as a solid "proof-of-concept" for the idea. We all hope to do this again, now that we know how well it can work. And there is indeed a plan in the offing to try it again, this time with the originally-planned topic!

(ADM Alex Rosenzweig)

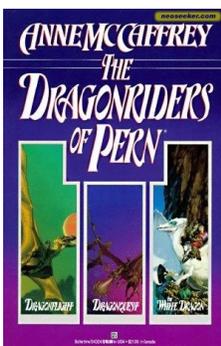
18 May 2014 – U.S.S. Avenger Chapter Meeting

The May meeting, as it is every year in this month, was a bit later in the month than usual. Attendance, counting all the on-



U.S.S. AVENGER SIT-REP

line folks, was pretty good, though we'd very much have liked more local members to come on out. We discussed a number of potential activities, though since we'll be busy through June, we didn't yet set any dates. Our program this month was an introduction to the planet Pern and the popular "Dragonriders of Pern" novel and short story series. This series, once a favorite of many members of Avenger, was new to most of the attendees at this meeting, and I was glad I'd prepared a detailed handout. We started with a general intro, some astronomy, a rough history of both the fictional world of Pern and the real-life series of stories, and



finally got to the *Avenger's* own Pern fanfic. Then there were questions and answers, often focusing on the striking differences between Pernese drags and the kinds of dragons often found in other fantasy series. Everyone seemed interested, though, and hopefully this will translate into folks ordering these books and giving this excellent series a try. (ADM Alex Rosenzweig)

Special thanks to those who have contributed to this column! It's really appreciated. We invite anyone who went to an event and would like to share to also contribute a paragraph or two to this column! It's quick and easy, and it's great to share different views of what the club and its members are doing!

THE MEASURE OF THE UNIVERSE THROUGH DOPPLER LENSING

BY KRZYSZTOF BOLEJKO

SUBMITTED (WITH SLIGHT MODIFICATION) BY GEORGE SHELDON

In order to distinguish more about the size of a galaxy, we need to know its distance from us. Astronomers have their ways to measure a distance to a galaxy which allows them to solve this conundrum. One of the most popular methods, and in most cases, the only method that can be used to measure a distance to a remote galaxy, is to analyze its electromagnetic spectrum, which includes the visible light that enables us to see it.

Since the universe is expanding, all distant galaxies are moving away from us. Because of this motion, the spectrum of a galaxy is shifting toward its red part – the redshift, as it is known to astronomers.

The redshift phenomenon is a manifestation of the Doppler effect: the faster the motion, the larger the shift of the frequency. Therefore, the larger the redshift, the greater the distance to the observed galaxy.

The exact relation between the redshift and distance follows from the cosmological model of the universe. So if astronomers can measure a distance in some other way, then by comparing the observed distance and redshift with a prediction, they can measure the properties of our universe, such as, for example, the amount of dark-matter and dark energy.

There is, however, one problem here.

The Swarm of Galaxies

If a galaxy is moving on the top of the global expansion of the universe, then this motion, via the Doppler effect, contributes to the observed redshift. And galaxies move all the time, just as molecules of the air, or bees within a swarm.



The contribution from this local motion is not big if compared to a motion that follows from the expansion of the universe. Still, this additional redshift introduces noise to our measurements. This noise then distorts our estimation of the distance, and therefore our estimation of the real size of the observed galaxy.

Doppler Lensing

This is what is called the Doppler lensing – "Doppler" because of the Doppler effect involved, and "lensing" because this effect distorts the inferred size, just as the observed size of an object is distorted when observed through an optical lens.

How then can we tell what is the real size of a galaxy? If all galaxies are moving and if their motion distorts our measurements, then that sounds like a real mess.

However, this "mess", or to be precise, the amount of "messiness", can give us a very good insight into what our universe is made of. Astronomers are now in a situation similar to radar operators who, during World War II, complained about "noise" in returned echoes due to rain, snow, and sleet. Back then it was a nuisance. Now, we actually look for this "noise" in order to predict weather.

Similarly, if astronomers could measure apparent sizes of a very large number of galaxies, and correlations between them, then they could estimate an average amplitude of the "noise". Using the technique based on the Doppler lensing effect, they can measure properties of our universe and estimate how much dark matter and dark energy it contains.

ENGINEERING DIVISION REPORT

BY MATTHEW J. RIELLY



The division is in the process of gearing up for the *Avenger's* annual picnic, to be held on Saturday, June 28th. We are trying to coordinate who is going to bring what items.

Division members are also being reminded of the upcoming trip to Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, June 14th. Plans call for meeting on-site at about 10 AM. According to the event information page posted on Facebook, attractions include the *U.S.S. Becuna* (a WWII submarine), the *U.S.S. Olympia* (part of the "Great White Fleet"), and the Seaport Museum. There are a number of parking lots in the area ranging in price from roughly \$15 to about \$25. Anyone planning to come by train, please contact CO Dave Lynch to make meet-up arrangements.

We are on the lookout for July activities. Members will be updated accordingly. They are also being advised of online polls

for activity ideas. Command Staff personnel are strongly encouraging people to respond, to get a better idea of what folks would like to do or see.

Of course, in August, the big thing will be the annual Shore Leave convention down in Hunt Valley, Maryland from Friday, August 1st to Sunday, August 3rd. Robert Picardo and Richard Dean Anderson are among the featured guests this year.

Looking ahead to September, division members are being apprised of another recruiting operation. The op is slated for Saturday, September 13th, starting at 9 AM. It will be held at The Market on Route 22, way out near the border with Pennsylvania in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. More details will be posted as they become available.

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

"UN-S.H.I.E.L.D.-ED: A NEW GIRL ON THE BLOCK"

BY MATTHEW J. RIELLY

When we last left our intrepid Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., the organization had been infiltrated and torn asunder by Hydra, Team Coulson was left in about the same shape, Cybertech had been breached, Director Nick Fury seemed to come out of nowhere, Agent May laid the smackdown on Agent Ward, Fitz and Simmons were literally deep-sixed from the team's own aircraft, we were STILL trying to figure out who the Clairvoyant actually was, and we learned that a certain deceased S.H.I.E.L.D. agent was not an only child. And this was all just a wrap-up to Season One. That is decidedly leaving die-hard fans of "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." hungry for more, and they will hopefully have their appetites sated with a second season. However, it is not about to stop there. Another agent will soon step into the Marvel mix, courtesy of the ABC Television Network...and her name is Peggy Carter.

If the name sounds familiar, think back to the film "Captain America: The First Avenger". Miss Carter was assigned to work with the star-spangled war hero who was born Steve Rogers. She was with a covert government agency which was involved in the battle against the terrorist organization Hydra...and a precursor to the modern-day S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement, and Logistics Division). A brief blurb on abc.go.com has basics distilled down into the following summary: It's 1946, and peace has dealt Peggy Carter a serious blow as she finds herself marginalized when the men return home from fighting abroad. Working for the covert SSR (Strategic Scientific Reserve), Peggy must balance doing administrative work and going on secret missions for Howard Stark. Yes, this is the same Howard Stark who would later have a son named Anthony, who would go on to take over the company and become a certain armored Avenger.

The name of the latest installment to Marvel's media universe is Agent Carter. This was inspired by a Marvel One-Shot short of

the same name. Hayley Atwell, who portrayed Carter in both the first CA film and the One-Shot, which was released in 2013, will reprise the title role. The short can be found on the Blu-ray release of "Iron Man 3", and was also a digital download. It is also in this short that we see the birth of S.H.I.E.L.D., and Carter is informed by Stark that she will be a co-leader of the newly-minted division.

"Marvel's Agent Carter" was officially ordered on May 8th. It is currently scheduled to debut in January 2015. Actor Dominic Cooper is expected to portray Howard Stark. The series was originally slated for 13 episodes, although Atwell indicated during a recent interview that only eight episodes would be shot at this time.



Although "Agent Carter" has yet to make its way to network viewers, it is already creating a buzz among critics. Wikipedia cites several reviews to date. Andy Hunsaker of Crave Online said, "Agent Carter" is a fun treat which could lead the way for some female-led Marvel films and, if nothing else, it gives its title character the send-off she deserves." Scott Collura of IGN said, "Atwell's Carter is the big-screen female superhero we've all been waiting for. She kicks so much ass in this short story with such aplomb, using not just brawn but also brains, and it's all very clever and fun." Rosie Fletcher of Total Film said, "Atwell makes a perfect femme fatale-come-special agent, and this '40s noir-style short looks great and packs some euphoric action moments."

So rejoice, S.H.I.E.L.D. fans. It appears that between "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." and "Agent Carter", there will be enough action-adventure, spanning the decades from the post-World-War-Two days to modern times, to keep everyone on the edge of their seats. It might also help fans resist the urge to slap anyone upside their head who says "Hail, Hydra."

STARFLEET AND REGION 7 NEWS



STARFLEET News:

** Admiralty Board Updates:

- **VADM Ruth Lane** has been re-elected as the **Region 1 Regional Coordinator**.
- **VADM Wayne Augustson** has been re-elected as the **Region 7 Regional Coordinator**.
- **MGEN Bruce O'Brien** has been elected as the next **Region 11 Regional Coordinator**.
- **LGEN Bran Stimpson** has been elected as the next **Region 17 Regional Coordinator**.

** COMM **Lee Vitasek** of the U.S.S. Aurora Vulcanus in Region 4 has been appointed as the new **Petfleet** Director.

** The STARFLEET Holodeck Program has been renamed the **Fleet Department Chiefs** Program.

** There has been a **membership rate change** effective 1 January 2014. This will be based on whether a member wants a "paper" STARFLEET *Communiqué* or an "electronic" *Communiqué*. The prices will be \$5 higher for paper or \$5 lower for electronic, e.g., US\$20 for paper or \$10 for electronic.



** The **STARFLEET Communiqué** team is looking for staffers! In particular, they are looking for:

- **Graphic Artists:** They'd love to have a graphic artist (or a TEAM! of graphic artists) who can work with people to get print-ready ads prepared, so then we have something to fill the space. Handy with Photoshop? Drop RADM Liz Woolf a line!
- **Writers:** Well, duh. Want to run a column on science or space exploration? Want to talk about all the cool fan-generated Trek projects out there? Have a kick ass time at a regional event and want to tell everyone all about it (remember we're a FAMILY FRIENDLY publication!). Get in touch with Liz!
- **Compilers:** Don't really think of yourself as a writer, but want to help out? There's plenty of stuff already out there that would work in the CQ, we just don't know it's there. The CQ needs people to check out chapter and region newsletters and Facebooks, and if they see something that would be good for the CQ, identify it.
- **Facilitators:** Similar to the compilers, this has an extra step to it, since the material isn't already written. This role would probably involve checking out the MSR reports to see if there are chapter events that would make good articles, following up after a Regional summit to get a report, and chasing down ideas that sound interesting.

** "**Project Happy**" has been announced. It involves making a STARFLEET version of the video that can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXw05MEO_jk

The idea is to use short segments of members in uniform/ make-up from as many chapters as we can get to participate. Each chapter would shoot five or 10 seconds of video total (more if they'd like), so it's not really a hassle. When completed, the four-minute video (which will include a link to our SFI.org website) could be posted to YouTube and hopefully go viral.

** **STARFLEET Operations** has announced the commissioning of the following chapter:

- **U.S.S. Leonidas**, NCC-71801, based in Apache Junction, AZ, Region 4, CAPT Arthur Fesler-Butts, Commanding



** **STARFLEET Shakedown Operations** has announced the launching of the following chapters:

- **U.S.S. Alaster**, NX-1836, based in Newark, DE, Region 7, CMDR Andrew Carlson, Commanding
- **U.S.S. Neverland**, NX-2048, based in Slidell, LA, Region 3, CMDR Dreux Blalock, Commanding

** **Membership Perks** have been established for **STARFLEET members**. Here is where to find discount codes to all of our Membership Perk Partners:

- Surf to the STARFLEET Database at <https://db.sfi.org/>
- Log on using your database ID (provided to you as part of your membership packet, but if you don't know what your User ID and password is, please contact the STARFLEET Help Desk)
- Click on the "MEMBER" button on the left side to show the menu of available member tools
- Click on the "MEMBERSHIP PERK" button.

On this page, you'll see all of STARFLEET's Membership Perks and their discount codes for you to use!

For more information about STARFLEET's Membership Perks, please visit: <http://perks.sfi.org/>

** **STARFLEET International Conference News**

- **IC 2014** will take place **8-10 August 2014**, at the **Clock Tower Resort and Convention Center** in Rockford, Illinois, in Region 12. Their web site is online and the hotel is accepting reservations: <http://www.ic2014.com/>



- **IC 2015** has been announced. It will be held in **Niagara Falls, NY** on **21-23 August 2015**, at the **Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls**.

- The IC2015 **website** and **registration pages** are now online and ready for you to enjoy! You can find the website at: <http://www.ic2015.com/>

Register for IC2015 through EventBrite at: <http://ic2015.eventbrite.com/>

Or visit the Facebook page for semi-regular updates about IC2015 and a video/picture walking tour of Niagara Falls at: <https://www.facebook.com/IC2015>

STARFLEET AND REGION 7 NEWS



Region 7 News:

** As noted above, **VADM Wayne Augustson** has been re-elected as the **Region 7 Regional Coordinator**.

** 2014 Region 7 Conference News:

- The Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Binghamton, NY on 3-5 October 2014.
- The conference theme will be Rod Serling.
- The conference is being hosted by the *U.S.S. Serling*.
- Conference Website: <http://www.ussserling.co.nf>

** Future Region 7 Conferences:

- The **2015** Regional Conference will be held in Hanover, MD. Information on this event will be announced as it becomes available.

** The **Region 7 Annual Awards** have been announced. The winners are:

- Chapter of the Year- *U.S.S. Challenger*

- Flag Officer of the Year- Jeff Victor (*U.S.S. Challenger*)
- CO of the Year- Lisa Stuckey (*U.S.S. Serling*)
- Officer of the Year- Mary Ann Grate (*U.S.S. Serling*)
- Enlisted Member of the Year- Dominick Colamesta (*U.S.S. Storm*)
- Staff Member of the Year- Mike Stein (*U.S.S. Justice*)
- Shakedown Chapter of the Year- *U.S.S. Moebius*
- Support Chapter of the Year- *U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln*
- Website of the Year- *U.S.S. Richthofen*
- **Newsletter of the Year- *U.S.S. Avenger***
- Chapter Charity Award- *U.S.S. Susquehannock*
- Helping Hands Award- Larry French (*U.S.S. Inferno*)

** Four chapters from around the region participated in the **Trek Olympics**, including the *U.S.S. Pride of Baltimore*, *U.S.S. Richthofen*, *U.S.S. Matrix*, and *U.S.S. Serling*.

** The *U.S.S. Accord* has announced the dates for **Watkins Glen Weekend 2014**, the Silver Anniversary WGW. It is scheduled for **19-21 September 2014**.

** The **regional fundraiser** continues; return used inkjet cartridges for cash (<http://empties4cash.com>) For further info, contact Mike Stein at JusticeOC@aol.com

TREKKIN' THE WEB

From Alex Rosenzweig:

Starbase Studios



Starbase Studios is an Oklahoma City-based, independent studio focusing on Star Trek TOS-era fan films. Use of the studio is at no charge for anyone wishing to produce their own fan film, though donations will be accepted to help with the cost of running the studio.

Starbase Studios offers educational activities, designed to promote interest in science and technology, to any school or youth organizations.

<http://www.starbasestudios.net/index.html>

Edge's Star Trek LCARS Multimedia

This is a Star Trek LCARS experience that covers all designs from 2151 "Enterprise" NX computer systems, to duotronic computer systems introduced in 2243, and through to TCARS introduced in the 29th Century.



In addition to a variety of animations, the site also offers an extensive database of information about Star Trek's world and history.

<http://lcars.org.uk/index.html>

Pandorapedia - The Official Field Guide



For "Avatar" fans...

Pandorapedia is the authoritative field guide to the moon of Pandora and the world of "Avatar". This illustrated and fully interactive guide contains comprehensive information about the flora and fauna of Pandora, the indigenous Na'vi people, and the technology of the RDA (Resources Development Administration).

<http://www.pandorapedia.com/>

Kerbal Space Program

Kerbal Space Program (KSP) is a game where the players create and manage their own space program. Build spacecraft, fly them, and try to help the Kerbals to fulfill their ultimate mission of conquering space.



The game is currently under heavy development. This means the game will be improved on a regular basis, so be sure to check back for new updates. Right now, KSP is in Sandbox Complete state, but the creators want players to try it out and have fun with it. The Demo version is free to download and play, and will remain so forever.

<https://www.kerbalspaceprogram.com/>

STAR TREK BOOK NEWS

COMPILED BY ALEX ROSENZWEIG

Here are the highlights of the next few months in Star Trek books...

Available June 2014:

ST: LE: One Constant Star, by David R. George III



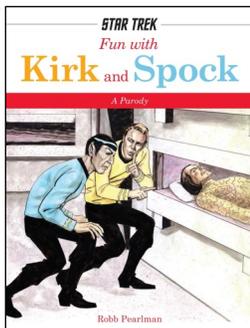
When Captain Demora Sulu leads the crew of *U.S.S. Enterprise-B* on a mission near Tzenkethi space, they explore Rejarris II, a planet they cannot explain. A strange structure on the surface could hold answers, but when a landing party transports down to study it, chaos erupts. After communication fails with one officer and another is horribly injured, Captain Sulu deems the planet too dangerous to continue exploring. She decides to leave Rejarris II, but not until she can retrieve her lost crew member. But when contact is ultimately severed with the captain, a Tzenkethi force subsequently appears. Could they be behind the mysteries on the planet, or the disappearances of the *Enterprise* officers? Regardless, will Sulu's crew be able stand up to them long enough to find and retrieve their captain and the other missing personnel?

Once, John Harriman commanded *Enterprise-B* with Demora Sulu by his side as his first officer. Eight years after stepping down as a starship captain—in the wake of the Tomed Incident—Harriman now serves as an admiral based out of Helaspoint Station, on the edge of the Tzenkethi Coalition. When he receives a mysterious message from Rejarris II, he realizes that he might hold the key to finding his former crewmate. In choosing to help recover Demora Sulu, though, he could risk losing everything he holds dear. What price is Harriman willing to pay to attempt to rescue his longtime friend?

ST: TOS: Fun With Kirk and Spock (Hardcover), by Robb Pearlman, Published by Cider Mill Press

See the *Enterprise*. See the *Enterprise* go boldly. Go Go Go, *Enterprise*! Go Boldly! Join Kirk and Spock as they go boldly where no parody has gone before!

Since the 1930s, the book Fun with Dick and Jane and its various adaptations have helped children learn to read. It's inspired several parodies and movie and television references, but none as amusing as this clever spoof, written with Trekkies in mind! The characteristic simplicity of the classic book is used in Fun with Kirk and Spock, delighting Trek fans with creative sequences and humorous illustrations.



ST: TOS: The More Things Change (eBook Novella) by Scott Pearson

[No description available]

Available July 2014:

ST: TNG: The Light Fantastic, by Jeffrey Lang

Returning to the story begun in the novel *Immortal Coil* and continuing in the bestselling "Cold Equations" trilogy, this is the next fascinating chapter in the artificial life of one of Star Trek's most enduring characters.

He was perhaps the ultimate human achievement: a sentient artificial life-form—self-aware, self-determining, possessing a mind and body far surpassing that of his makers, and imbued with the potential to evolve beyond the scope of his programming. And then Data was destroyed. Four years later, Data's creator, Noonien Soong, sacrificed his life and resurrected his android son, who in turn revived the positronic brain of his own artificial daughter, Lal. Having resigned his commission, the former Star Fleet officer now works to make his way on an alien world, while also coming to grips with the very human notion of wanting versus having a child. But complicating Data's new life is an unexpected nemesis from years ago on the *U.S.S. Enterprise*—the holographic master criminal Professor James Moriarty. Long believed to be imprisoned in a memory solid, Moriarty has created a siphon into the "real" world as a being of light and thought. Moriarty wants the solid form that he was once told he could never have, and seeks to manipulate Data into finding another android body for him to permanently inhabit...even if it means evicting the current owner, and even if that is Data himself.



Available August 2014:

ST: SKR: Second Nature, by David Mack



Book 1 of "Star Trek: Seekers".

An all-new Star Trek series begins!

A new mission: The late twenty-third century—Star Fleet's golden age of exploration. Desperate to stay one step ahead of its rivals, the Federation sends two starships, the scout *Sagittarius* and the cruiser *Endeavour*, to plumb the secrets of the vast region known as the Taurus Reach.

A doomed race: Drawn by mysterious energy readings to a lush green world, the crew of the *Sagittarius* find the Tomol: a species whose members all commit ritual suicide just as they reach the cusp of adulthood.

An old foe: The crew of the *Sagittarius* wants to save the Tomol from their cycle of self-destruction, but first they'll need to save themselves—from the most nefarious Klingon starship commander in history.

SHIP'S BBS

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 do change from issue to issue, so keep checking back each issue, and if you've got an item you'd like to share, feel free to send it in. ☺

* 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!
- **Storytellers:** See "Avenger Fiction Update" later in this column.
Contact FCAPT Dave or ADM Alex if you'd like to volunteer!

*** 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 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: To access the IRC servers, use:
chat.trekfan.org
Port 6667
The main STARFLEET channel is #Fleetchat, and *Avenger* maintains its own channel at #avenger
- 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 is also well-represented on Facebook, with both a page and a group. The page is generally updated with information directed more to the general public, while the group includes more of the discussions, events announcements, and cross-chatter among members and friends. The URLs are:
Avenger Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/27371220186/>
Avenger Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Avenger/159162957480482>
- *Avenger News* newsletters are archived online, in PDF format, on the *Avenger* website.

*** Our CaféPress Store:** You can buy *Avenger* stuff online like T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, mousepads, etc at the CafePress *Avenger* Store, featuring our logo. It 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 you'd like and that's not available in our store, contact *Avenger* Command and let them know.

*** Look at the spiffy poster below and go buy one!** The *Avenger* Cutaway Poster, done by artist Chris Allan, is a detailed poster that matches up with the official *Avenger* Blueprints and gives a fascinating 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.

SHIP'S BBS

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@hindlepowerinc.com, or just visit the Federation Frontiers web site for this and other spectacular Star Trek technical documents: <http://federationfrontiers.tripod.com/fh1860/>

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

- The new story by Alex Rosenzweig, about a group of Humans who had settled far across the galaxy coming to the Federation seeking their legendary homeworld, is complete. It has been shared in our Facebook group, and is awaiting posting at the chapter website.
- Another new story is now being written.
- Contributions of stories set in the *Avenger's* fictional universe, of any length, are welcome and sought!
- Ideas and suggestions for future possible group collaborations are welcomed, too. Feel free to send them to ADM Alex, or even pitch them to the *Avenger's* e-mail list.
- 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.

* Quote for this Issue:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

IMAGE GALLERY



"Return Trip", by T.L. Hulin (from DeviantArt)



"Blow of Mercy", by Dave Metlesits (from DeviantArt)
[Submitted by Alex Rosenzweig]



"Destiny" (Artist Unknown)
[Submitted by Alex Rosenzweig]

THE AVENGER IN FICTION

THE AVENGER IN 2314

BY ALEX ROSENZWEIG

"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 and invite them to write stories in the "*Avengerverse*", 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.

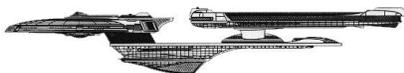
In this issue, we take a "big picture" look at the "current" state of the world in which the *Avenger* operates. It's 2314, almost 50 years after the *Enterprise's* famous five-year mission, and for a lot of Star Trek, this is only barely-charted territory.

Perhaps the most striking thing about this time is the absence of the Rihannsu (or Romulans, as they're better known in the Federation). It's been three years since they withdrew from active participation in galactic affairs. (What the Federation wouldn't learn until some decades later is that the Rihannsu were struggling with another hostile force on the far side of their space from the Federation.) They won't—overtly—be seen again until the 2360s, some 50 years from now. There is still some communication, though, however quiet and unobtrusive. For example, all through this time, Ambassador Spock of Vulcan maintains a low-key correspondence with Romulan Senator Pardek. Other clandestine operations occur from time to time, but it's kept very quiet.



The Klingons are much more interesting. It's been just over 20 years since the destruction of the Klingon moon Praxis, and the Empire is gradually recovering. Klingon society is as rough-and-tumble as ever. Chancellor Azetbur was assassinated a bit less than three years ago, and the current chancellor is a man named Kaarg. Kaarg has continued the policy of détente with the Federation, but not every Klingon approves. Indeed, even two decades later, many see the détente with the Federation as surrender, and long for the days of what they see as honorable conflict. Thus, when crewmembers of the *Avenger* encounter Klingons, it is best to remain friendly, but on guard, just in case these Klingons want to pick a fight.

In Star Fleet, it is the era of the *Enterprise-B*, which is now commanded by Captain Demora Sulu. Her father, Hikaru, still commands the *Excelsior*, as well. Pavel Chekov and Nyota Uhura have had their own commands, as well. Leonard McCoy is stationed at Star Fleet Command, and, as noted previously, Spock is a successful



Federation ambassador. The memories of James Kirk and Montgomery Scott, both believed dead, are still strong, and their legacies echo through Star Fleet.

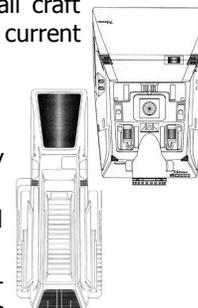
A striking change has slowly been coming to Star Fleet, too. The newest classes of Academy cadets had not yet been born when the Khitomer Accords were signed. Thus, while older officers still remember the years of "cold war" with both the Klingons and Rihannsu, the younger officers think of that time as either childhood memories, or even something out of the history texts. This can sometimes lead to strikingly different perceptions of events, often resulting in learning opportunities for older and younger officers alike.

The *Avenger* itself is now more than 60 years old, but the refits in the 2270s and 2290s, along with regular maintenance and field upgrades, have kept the ship in the forefront of active Star Fleet vessels. The general excellence of the design keeps it in production, as well. As with many ships, there's probably relatively little of the original spaceframe left, given the refits and various repairs made to the ship over the years.

The ship has supported a variety of small craft over the years, as well. The *Avenger's* current complement of shuttles includes:

- *Horizon* – Galileo-class shuttle
- *Kismet* – Manasu-class shuttle
- *Odyssey* – Marco Polo-class survey shuttle
- *Star Fury* – Leprechaun-class shuttlepod
- *Wohali* – Aladdin-class heavy shuttle

These are accompanied by four Killer Bee-class assault pods and four Wasp-class fighters, as well as a complement of work bees.



Aboard ship, the crew is a diverse lot. Although mostly Human, the crew also has representatives of a variety of other races, including:

- Andorian
- Betazoid
- Caitian
- Edosian
- Eseriat
- Kyonan
- Sulamid
- Tellarite
- Tridee
- Trill
- Tzen
- Vulcan



Notably, many of the crew have served aboard the ship for a long time. The *Avenger* has gained a lot of loyalty among its crew! Captain Lynch is the ship's eighth commanding officer, and is an experienced Star Fleet veteran.

Some of the newest challenges faced by Star Fleet and the Federation include the shadowy Cardassians, whose Union is

THE AVENGER IN FICTION

still largely an unknown quantity, as well as the aggressive and mysterious Tzenkethi, a recent contact, and ones who have refused open relations with the Federation.

With the dissipation of the traditional "cold war" mentality that held sway for over a century, the galaxy is a less certain place, but also one filled with ongoing opportunities. It is against this backdrop that the adventures of the starship *Avenger* and her crew continue.

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.)

This column also supports short stories! Stories should be no more than 4 pages in 10-point type, and can be about anything in the *Avenger* Universe. (Serializations are also accepted, but the story must be submitted **complete**, and arrangements with the column editor and *Avenger News* editor for serialization will be made ahead of time.) We hope everyone will take the opportunity to contribute to the tales of the *Avenger*.

To help you out, we're also running story ideas each issue. These aren't fleshed out, but are jumping-off points from which stories may evolve. If you do see an idea listed here that you'd like to build a story from, let me know, so that we don't get multiple members working on the same idea. And here we have the next suggestions...

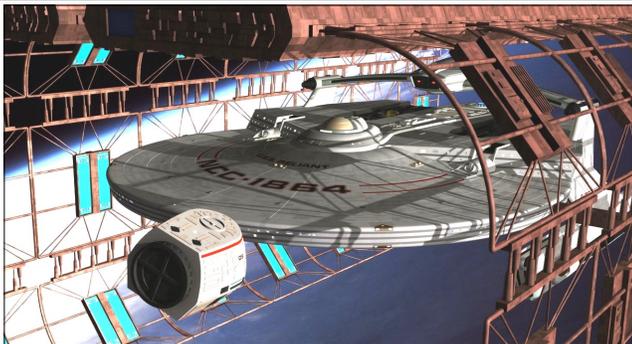
1] When a Federation First Contact Office outpost is threatened with discovery by the abrupt advancement of a pre-warp civilization, the *Avenger* is sent to aid in the outpost's evacuation before the civilization can find either the outpost or the ship.

2] In a middle of a routine voyage, the ship's sensors picked up a ship heading to a star's corona, at full impulse. This ship must be saved. A boarding party must beam aboard to investigate what happened. The rogue ship is a cargo ship. There is no one on board and the navigation logs were erased, but using the sensors logs and downloading them to the *Avenger's* computer, they will be able to find out where the rogue ship has gone.

The sensor logs reveal from where the rogue ship came. When the *Avenger* arrives there, they will find out a system without habitable planets, but an accurate sensor scan will reveal an underground complex on one of the system's planets.

A landing party will find several corpses (including Romulan corpses, a striking discovery at this point in time) and equipment indicating that the complex might be a clandestine factory and the Romulans tried to destroy it.

Finally, as a part of this series, we include character-files of members of the crew. So, if you've made up a character-file, great! If not, why not try making one? We'll try to publish one or two each issue, as space and contributions permit. We're always looking for members to create files for their own characters. If you're interested in creating a file for your fictional character, or updating an existing file, contact ADM Rosenzweig for help/information.



"Welcome, Captain Terrell", by Thefirstfleet (from DeviantArt)
[Submitted by Alex Rosenzweig]



"K'tinga-Class Cruiser" (Artist Unknown)
[Submitted by Alex Rosenzweig]



"Leaving Jupiter Station", by Dave Metlesits (from DeviantArt)
[Submitted by Alex Rosenzweig]

MISSION DOCKET

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 June 2014 – Avenger Ship Meeting

North Brunswick Public Library, 880 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ, 2:00 PM

Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program: Summer Genre Films. What can we expect in sci-fi and fantasy films, and what's already been released, for Summer 2014? Dinner and socializing to follow. We hope you'll join us for all the fun!

Event Coordinator: FCAPT David Lynch, Karate666@aol.com

28 June 2014 – Avenger 29th Anniversary Picnic

Alex Rosenzweig and Ann-Ruth Rosenzweig's Home, 980 Linwood Place, North Brunswick, NJ, 12:30 PM

We've been around for 29 years! Party time! Once again, we shall gather for our annual picnic. Food and fun shall abound! And who knows when a water battle might break out? >:)

This year, we're trying a quasi-pot luck approach. You can volunteer to bring a food or supply item (you must RSVP ahead of time {by 10 June} so we can ensure that we're not duplicating), or simply provide a small contribution (see cost below) and show up.

Hours: 12:30 to ???

Cost: \$7.00 per person if not bringing food/supplies

Event Coordinator: FCAPT David Lynch, Karate666@aol.com



13 July 2014 – Avenger Ship Meeting

North Brunswick Public Library, 880 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ, 2:00 PM

Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program: Sci-Fi Spacecraft. What are your favorites, or just ones that you thought were interesting/cool? Come share your ideas! Dinner and socializing to follow. We hope you'll join us for all the fun!

Event Coordinator: FCAPT David Lynch, Karate666@aol.com

10 August 2014 – Avenger Ship Meeting

North Brunswick Public Library, 880 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, NJ, 2:00 PM

Join us for the usual fun, chatter, and good times. Program TBD. Feel free to suggest ideas! Dinner and socializing to follow. We hope you'll join us for all the fun!

Event Coordinator: FCAPT David Lynch, Karate666@aol.com

3-5 October 2014 – Region 7 Conference

Holiday Inn, Arena, 2-8 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY, (607) 722-1212

The *U.S.S. Serling* invites you to journey into a wondrous world of imagination... Join us as we explore new dimensions, dimensions as vast as space and as timeless as infinity, through panels and group discussions.

The Region 7 Conference is a great opportunity to get to know fellow friends and members from around Region 7, and have a fun weekend doing so.

Event Cost and Other Details:

Conference Registration - \$25

Children's Programming - \$10

Banquet - \$25

Conference T-Shirt (S-XL) - \$15

Conference T-Shirt (XXL) - \$15

Hotel rooms will be available for \$110.00/night plus tax. Please call to reserve a hotel room and mention the code **R7 Conference** to receive the conference room rate

Refunds are available for the full amount of registration as long as notice is sent on or before 20 September 2014.

Please send check or money order made out to *U.S.S. Serling* to:

U.S.S. Serling Region 7 Conference Registration

c/o Joshua Palmatier

213 State Street, 3rd Floor

Binghamton, NY 13901

Please email questions regarding registration to: ussserling.starfleet@gmail.com

Event Website: <http://www.ussserling.co.nf>



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!

Avenger News 145 Deadline: July 20, 2014
Please send all submissions to Alex Rosenzweig
alexr1860@optimum.net

North Brunswick Public Library
880 Hermann Road
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
<http://www.northbrunswicklibrary.org>

The Next Meeting of the U.S. Avenger will be:
Sunday, July 13, 2014
2:00 PM

U.S.S. Avenger

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

NOTE: YOUR AVENGER MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES WITH ISSUE #