



# Avenger News

The *regular* newsletter of the USS Avenger NCC - 1860  
Volume 12, Number 67 [April 2001]

“The better late than never, issue”

Here's my 10th column.

Once again I fire up the midnight oil for this article so bear with me.

Let me start by saying that I am so proud of the work everyone did in conjunction with the Star Ledger article. I think it's the best interview we've had in some time.

I would like to extend my thanks also to Alex for the DeCandido book signing. It went incredibly well and I'm sure contributed a large part of our getting into the newspaper.

At some point last month we were a bit worried about the calendar. I am happy to say that the moment passed quickly. Our calendar looks like it's going to have plenty to offer.

Plot early so we can get what you want to happen on the right date!

Any info you have on helping the calendar along will be appreciated.

Next we need to get items like the NJ, NY and PA Renaissance Fairs plotted on the calendar. Break out your calendar books and let us know.

Moving along, our web site is looking good so far and has undergone another revamping. Please check it out and let us know what you think.

Please send in articles for Avenger News so that we can have a little more content to work with.

While you're at it send me some time or an assistant to help publish this newsletter. Time constraints got very problematic with this issue and while I never issued a "distressed" call I sure could have used some assistance. If someone else is interested in taking over Avenger News Heidi and I are willing to explore that option at this point.

Voyager ends soon so keep your VCR ready! We can hope the end of this show comes with style.

As for the future, bring it on. Let's see what we can do to change it for the better. Let's explore what life and the world

## ***Meanwhile, Back on the Bridge... by Carlos Maldonado***



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### **Disclaimer:**

**The Purists, the guests and the others who still think the millennium is over .**

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*Avenger News* was published using the cool IBM (I Built Mine) computer that was upgraded to a P166/MMX by Kat and Steve.

**Other Stuff**

After a persistent cough and 800MG doses of ibuproferin. I'm ready to hang it up. I don't have to give this newsletter up right away but it's not fair if it keeps coming out late.

So here it is at last. I hope you enjoy this newsletter more than my cold is enjoying me. Go out there and get some chocolate bunnies or just chocolate! Do it for the raised endorphin levels!



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## Executive thoughts...

### By Commander Chris Underwood

In between making adjustments to my Defiant mod for Starfleet Command and Massacring deserving hordes on the Quake III, it occurred to me that though my profession is, how shall we say, developmentally challenged, at the moment, I do in fact have a bit to be thankful for. But since this isn't the Thanksgiving episode of AN, I'll let that slide for now.

I've been quite happy to see the turnout at meetings on the steady incline and events that pull interest towards the club and increasing of attendance and membership. We've all done some very hard work to get here and we should all be happy with what we've accomplished. On the other hand, now that we've got the ball rolling again, its time to keep on, keeping on. Can't let the boiler cool down or else the engine will stop and this wonderful steam powered masterpiece we're on will grow cold, and go nowhere and do nothing.

At last report, the Edison Trip was a great success and I'm happy to hear that all who participated had a good time, and as of this publication, we ought to be knee deep in Keith R.A. DeCandido's booksigning and I hope its going as well as I expected it to. Special thanks to Alex for hooking his visit up for us!

In the next week or so, I am attempting to put together a LAN gaming day at the Wizards Of The Coast on March 18<sup>th</sup> and hopefully, that too will be a fun and exciting endeavour for the attendees. We plan on playing Voyager: Elite Force for about 4 hours, maybe interspersed with some Quake III and Unreal Tournament, and if the fates smile upon the Maldonado household, some StarLancer (so our Captain can get his ya-ya's kicking crew arse, and lowering our pilots morale' a few notches ;) ) Seriously though, it looks to be a good time and I can't wait. Those of you who want to, are encouraged to contact me, for slot availability and, if you can't be accommodated this time, we'll schedule a new date to get you onboard.

Aside from that, we've got other things in the cooker. The Website is going strong and has just been updated. For those of you who haven't been notified, entries into the website can come from anyone, just note that update times are the first and 15-16<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you want something to go in, assuming its street legal and ready to go, you'll see it in digital print at these times.

Our Operations Chief just spent some time, adding an away team follow up report to the Operations Division page on the website, and we've added 4 more stories to our Fiction page... which means, if you haven't been by lately, you ought to stop in! Aside from the changes I've just mentioned, we also have interesting articles on our main page, an events calendar, and much much more.

From all this going on, I am assuming ship and crew are in working order so this means, I get to leave this article a little early. If anyone has any issues of concern, you can reach me on mIRC (nick: se-ele), or by email at



# Starfleet and Region 7 News



Commissioned ships include:  
U.S.S. Arc Royal, NCC-63546  
U.S.S. Dragon's Cub, NCC-81003  
U.S.S. Ark Angel, NCC-74662  
U.S.S. Vindicator, NCC-74212  
U.S.S. Shadow Hawk, NCC-764660  
U.S.S. Darwin, NCC-1166  
U.S.S. Anubis, NCC-586  
U.S.S. Adjudicator, NCC-73707  
U.S.S. Pioneer, NCC-5280-D

## **In Region 7 News**

Ed Tunis was confirmed as Sector One's VRC.  
 Dean Rogers of the USS Highlander is promoted to the rank of Captain.

## REGIONAL FINANCES

Fourth Quarter Finances for the year 2000  
 Total Revenue 298.26  
 Total Expenses 160.26  
 Net Income or Loss 138.00  
 On Hand from prior qtr 197.56  
 Total On Hand 335.56

General Operating Balance 335.56  
 Restricted Funds 68.53  
 General Operating Balance 267.03

## **New Regional Coordinator**

Nomination Phase of the Election Process for Regional Coordinator is officially closed. The tally for the nominations returned are as follows:

JC Cohen - 14 (56%) Sandy Berenberg - 7 (28%)  
 Gary Ensey - 4 (16%)

As per the ROE (Rules of Election), to be declared the winner of the Nomination Phase, a nominee must received 50% +1 of the \*returned\* nominations. With 25 \*active\* nominations received/returned, that gives us a numeric value of ~ 12.5 +1 =13.5 or 14 ~. As shown above, JC Cohen received 14 nominations. Fleet Captain John A. "JC" Cohen is the winner of the nomination phase and therefore the Election for Regional Coordinator of Region 7.



U.S.S. Brimstone, NCC-3143  
 STARFLEET Internal Auditor is Commodore Howard Cronson from Region 15.  
 STARFLEET's next Inspector General, Brigadier General Robb Jackson from Region 15.  
 Commander Suzie Buck, Counselor of USS Highlander was appointed as Vice Fleet Department Chief - Counselors.

## STARFLEET General Account:

Opening Date: 1/21/2001      Opening Balance: \$910.00  
 Ending Date: 2/26/2001      Ending Balance: \$1,860.65

## STARFLEET Scholarship Fund:

Opening Date: 1/21/2001      Opening Deposit: \$20.15  
 Ending Date: 2/26/2001      Ending Balance: \$636.84

## Academy Accounts:

### Starfleet Academy Fund Savings:

Beginning Date: 12/30/00      Opening Balance \$1,2991.91  
 Ending Date 1/31/2001 Ending Balance \$1,301.95

### Starfleet Academy Fund - Checking:

Beginning Date 12/30/2000      Beginning Balance \$2006.47  
 Ending Date 1/31/2001 Ending Balance \$2,006.12





## STAR TREK BOOK NEWS:

Available February 2001:

Tooth and Claw (ST:TNG), by Doranna Durgin  
Ntignano was a populated world with a perfect sun—until the right technology fell into the wrong hands. Now the sun is failing quickly, and the starship Enterprise has just one chance to evacuate the fleeing refugees. Captain Jean-Luc Picard must succeed in delicate negotiations with the only people who can help them: a prickly neighboring species known as the Tsorans.

To assist in that effort, Commander Will Riker was assigned a very different diplomatic task. As a polite formality and show of good faith, he accompanied a young Tsoran prince to an exclusive hunting preserve. There, technology-damping fields and some of the galaxy's deadliest predators were supposed to test the untried noble's ability in the kaphoor—a hunt. But the shuttlecraft didn't land on Fandre; it crashed.

Now, cut off from Tsora and the Enterprise, the survivors of the disaster face the ultimate struggle for survival. Without the aid of tricorders or phasers, Riker, his royal charge, and their would-be rescuers must fight for their lives with the only weapons they can muster—spears and bat'leth, tooth and claw.

Diplomatic Implausibility (ST:TNG), by Keith R.A. DeCandido  
A Klingon warrior must negotiate a fragile peace!

200 YEARS AGO: The expanding Klingon Empire found a frozen world rich in deposits of the mineral topaline. They named the planet taD—Klingon for "frozen"—and they called the people jehpu'wI—conquered.

FOUR YEARS AGO: The Klingon Empire invaded Cardassia, breaching the Khitomer Accords and causing a break with the Federation. On taD, depleted Klingon forces were overthrown in a small coup d'état, and the victorious rebels took advantage of the disruption to appeal for recognition from the Federation.

NOW: The Klingons have returned to taD and re-established their control. But the stubborn rebels insist on Federation recognition. A solution to the diplomatic impasse must be found, a task that falls to the Federation's new ambassador to the Klingon Empire—Worf. Worf thinks of himself as a fighter, not a negotiator, but the Federation disagrees. Now, for the sake of the Federation and the Empire, a Klingon warrior must weave a fragile peace out of a situation ripe for war!

"Enter the Wolves" (Comic Book, ST:TOS), written by A.C. Crispin and Howard Weinstein

A bitter and public disagreement between Spock and his father Sarek causes a rift between them. But when Sarek's new wife is kidnapped, can the two work together to rescue her?

"Planet Killer" #2 (Comic Book, ST:VOY), written by Dean Wesley Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch

While the Doomsday Machine continues to destroy planet after planet, Janeway and the Voyager crew look on in horror as they try to find a way to defeat the device. With the minutes ticking away until the Planet Killer reaches an actual inhabited world, things are looking increasingly desperate.

Available March 2001:

Maximum Warp: Dead Zone: Book 1 of 2 (ST:TNG), by Dave Galanter and Greg Brodeur

Maximum Warp: Forever Dark: Book 1 of 2 (ST:TNG), by Dave Galanter and Greg Brodeur

Interstellar civilization depends on the twin blessings of warp travel and subspace communications. But now an unknown force is disrupting subspace throughout the galaxy, creating "dead zones" in which advanced technology will not function. Ships are stranded in space, unable to communicate. Colonies are losing life support. Governments can no longer negotiate with

their allies—or their enemies. Worse yet, the dead zones are proliferating at a geometric rate. Unless a solution is found, the entire Alpha Quadrant may be doomed to a new dark age! In the wake of the Dominion War, a tenuous peace exists between the Federation and the Romulan Empire. The uneasy alliance is strained to the breaking point, however, by the enigma that is destroying subspace. Now Captain Jean-Luc Picard and Ambassador Spock must join forces with an infamous Romulan war criminal in a desperate attempt to find the source of the disruption—even if it means sacrificing the very peace they hope to save!

Interphase: Book One (ST: S.C..E. E-Book), by Dayton Ward and Kevin Dilmore

More than a century ago, the U.S.S. Defiant disappeared with all hands into an interspatial rift deep in Tholian territory. Now the derelict ship has been seen drifting in and out of ordinary space, and the Tholian authorities have reluctantly agreed to let Star Fleet retrieve the Defiant from the rift. Perhaps, at long last, the lost ship can be brought home and its valiant crew paid their final respects. Captain David Gold and an S.C.E. team from the U.S.S. da Vinci succeed in boarding the Defiant, but their investigation soon uncovers a dangerous secret. For more than a hundred years, an ancient super-weapon has been hidden away within the scarred and lifeless starship, along with evidence of a long-forgotten atrocity—evidence that could ignite a vast interstellar war!

"Planet Killer" #3 (Comic Book, ST:VOY), written by Dean Wesley Smith and Kristine Kathryn Rusch

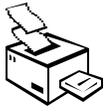
With a Doomsday Machine plowing through one planet after another, time has run out for the crew of the starship Voyager and the residents of a solar system's inhabited worlds. Janeway doesn't like to admit defeat, but this may be one time she has no choice. On the bright side, she won't have to live with the humiliation for long, as Voyager is next in line to be consumed by the massive engine of destruction. Can she and her crew pull off a miracle?

Available April 2001:

The Genesis Wave: Book One (ST:TNG, Paperback Reprint of the Hardcover), by John Vornholt

Intended to create life from nothingness, the Genesis Device instead became a weapon of awe-inspiring destructiveness, capable of rearranging matter and life energy on a planetary scale. After the cataclysmic death of the Genesis Planet, and the Klingon Empire's attempt to steal the top-secret technology for its own military purposes, Star Fleet wisely decided to destroy all data and records on Project Genesis, hoping to bury its deadly secrets forever. Nearly a century later, all that remains of Genesis is the knowledge stored in the mind of an elderly, almost-forgotten scientist named Dr. Carol Marcus. But Dr. Marcus has gone missing, and a menace from bygone days has come rushing back with a vengeance. Sweeping across the Alpha Quadrant at a terrifying speed, a mysterious wave of energy is wiping out populations of entire planets, rearranging matter on a molecular level to create bizarre new landscapes and life-forms. The starship Enterprise, commanded by Captain Jean-Luc Picard, is the first Star Fleet vessel to discover the threat, but he and his crew are not the only ones in danger. Trillions of souls and hundreds of inhabited planets lie in the path of the mutagenic wave, which is expanding outward as it traverses the cosmos. Earth and the Romulan Empire face total obliteration. To discover the origin of the wave, Picard and his crew must probe the long-buried mysteries of the past. But even if he can uncover the shocking history of the Genesis Wave, is there any way to save the future from its unleashed fury.

The Genesis Wave: Book Two (ST:TNG, Hardcover), by John Vornholt  
Like an unstoppable cosmic storm, the dreaded Genesis Wave continues to sweep across the Alpha Quadrant, transforming entire planets on a molecular level and threatening entire civilizations with extinction. Based on the long-hidden research of Dr. Carol Marcus, who has mysteriously disappeared, the wave of mutagenic protomatter seems to have come from nowhere, posing a cataclysmic menace to live as we know it. To combat the rushing terror of the wave, Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the starship Enterprise have been forced into an uneasy alliance with both the Klingons and the Romulan Empire, both of whom may crave the forbidden secrets of the Ger



# NewsFax

Continued from the previous page

technology for themselves. The finest engineers of three civilizations, including Geordi La Forge and his long-lost love, Dr. Leah Brahms, must race against time to devise some sort of way of halting the deadly wave before yet another world is transformed into something entirely alien and unrecognizable. But even if, against all odds, the Genesis Wave can be defeated, Picard and his potentially treacherous allies must still confront the greater mystery of what unknown intelligence dared to launch the wave against an unsuspecting galaxy—and for what malevolent purpose...

Interphase, Book Two (ST: S.C.E. E-Book), by Dayton Ward and Kevin Dilmore

With Captain David Gold and an away team trapped on the other side of an interdimensional rift, Lieutenant Commander Kieran Duffy finds himself in command of the USS da Vinci just as the ship comes under attack by the Tholians. The enemy is armed with a new and improved version of their infamous energy web and the da Vinci is badly outnumbered, but fleeing the battle means abandoning the captain

## Continued on the next page

and others to an unknown fate outside this universe. There, marooned aboard a derelict vessel, Gold and his S.C.E. team struggle to keep the madness-inducing effects of the rift from driving them to suicide and murder before they can find a way to escape the realm of Interphase.

Preserver (ST:TOS/TNG, Paperback Reprint of the Hardcover), by William Shatner and Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens

The deadly and tyrannical Emperor Tiberius, formerly captain of the I.S.S. Enterprise, had great success turning captured alien weaponry to his advantage, but his failed attempt to seize the tantalizing advances of the ancient First Federation has always rankled him. In the more peaceful universe of the United Federation of Planets, Tiberius sees his second chance. And a new ally will help him take it—the counterpart for whom he has nothing but contempt, the man whose U.S.S. Enterprise made first contact with the First Federation: Star Fleet Captain James T. Kirk. Honorable, idealistic, and decent, James T. Kirk is many things Tiberius is not. But he is also a man deeply in love with his wife—and Teilani is dying. To save her life, Kirk will compromise his ideals and enter into his most dangerous alliance yet. Battling Captain Jean-Luc Picard and a new generation of Star Fleet heroes, Kirk will guide Tiberius to a long-abandoned First Federation base. There, he expects to find a source of power so great it will enable Tiberius to conquer the mirror universe—and his own. But on their journey Kirk will uncover long-hidden secrets about the past that raise the stakes far beyond the mere survival of Kirk's family and friends, to nothing less than the continued existence of both universes. At the heart of their quest, something else is waiting: an object from a civilization whose technology is far more advanced than any Kirk or Tiberius could expect to acquire, placed there for Kirk's eyes only by the mysterious aliens who appear to have influenced life within the galaxy over eons of time—a message from the Preservers...

The Definitive Star Trek Trivia Book, Volume II (Trade paperback), by Jill Sherwin

By popular demand... a second book of Star Trek trivia questions from the greatest science fiction phenomenon of all time! The Definitive Star Trek Trivia Book, Volume II contains more than two thousand new questions, quizzes, and brainteasers on topics ranging from "Personnel" to "Strategies and Tactics" to "Star Trek Romances". Test yourself and your friends... Who among you is the ultimate Star Trek expert?

"Other Realities" (Comic Book, ST:TOS, ST:DS9, ST:NF)

WildStorm's first collection of their hit Star Trek comics contains the Star Trek: "All of Me" one-shot, the Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: "N-Vector" mini-series, and the Star Trek: New Frontier: "Double Time" one-shot.

## OTHER NEWS

### Different Janeway To Appear

Kate Mulgrew—Capt. Kathryn Janeway of Star Trek: Voyager—told Cinescape Online that viewers will see a different side to her character in the upcoming two-part episode "Work Force." Speaking with Cinescape contributors Gregory L. Norris and Laura A. Van Vleet, Mulgrew said, "Janeway is in an altered personality. But she's terribly happy. You've never seen her act this young, this happy or this in love."

Mulgrew added, "She comes to learn in a very difficult way that this persona is not her reality, and she has to say goodbye to it. It's beautifully done." The episode is scheduled to air during February sweeps. But Mulgrew echoed other cast members who have said that producers are keeping them in the dark about the series' finale. "As for the ending, I don't have a clue," Mulgrew said. "My suspicion would be, given the studio's input and [executive producer] Mr. [Rick] Berman's, that we may shoot a couple of endings, which would be smart, because I think it's very important that the ending be splendid, bold and unpredictable. So I'm sort of preparing myself for a couple of endings. It's been a long, pretty interesting ride, hasn't it?"

### Voyager Cast In Dark

Star Trek: Voyager star Jeri Ryan (Seven of Nine) told TV Guide that cast members don't know what will happen in the finale of the series' seventh and final season. "They're afraid we'll squeal," Ryan told the magazine about the producers' decision to keep the cast in the dark, according to a report on the Associated Press wire service. But, Ryan added, "I suspect that we'll get home." Once Voyager ends its journey, Ryan said, "I'd love to do something without special effects or rubber glued to my face. It'd be a nice change of pace."

### Frakes Eager To Stop Clock

Jonathan Frakes—director of the last two Star Trek movies—told the official Star Trek: The Magazine that he'll be tackling a different SF challenge in the upcoming Clockstoppers, according to the Voyager's Delights Web site. Clockstoppers, which is eyeing a summer 2002 release, is "a very ironic recipe," Frakes told the magazine. "[Producer] Gale Hurd of Terminator and Aliens fame, Julia Pistor of Rugrats and myself from the Enterprise are doing this movie, which is Back to the Future meets Ferris Bueller's Day Off and War Games." Frakes added, "We're in pre-production now, and shooting starts on January 8th. We're just finalizing the script, and we're starting casting on Thursday, and it's so exciting to be doing something that's not Star Trek." The movie tells the story of a youth who can stop time.

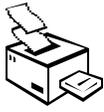
### Trek X Mindful Of History

John Logan, writer of the upcoming tenth Star Trek feature film, told the official Trek Web site that the movie will be mindful of the long legacy of the series. A longtime fan of the franchise, Logan hinted that the movie may feature Federation races rarely seen beyond the original Star Trek series and may allude to Star Trek: Deep Space Nine's Dominion War and Worf's assignment on Qo'noS, the Klingon homeworld. There will also be new things, including a worthy adversary for Capt. Jean-Luc Picard on a par with Khan in Star Trek II. "Picard needs an adversary or a foe that is up to his level," Logan told the site. "That's why James Bond should always fight Blofeld; that's his adversary. We hope this adversary will be every bit as memorable not only for who he is, but how and why he behaves as he does." Logan, who was nominated for an Oscar for last year's Gladiator, confirmed earlier reports that the Romulans will appear in Trek X. He added, "I have some great new races and ships in this script, and I already have a shelf

cleared off for the new merchandise for the movie."

### Life after Priceline.com

William Shatner is returning to television, this time as host of a potential series to be called William Shatner's Full Moon Frightshow. According to Variety, the program is being pitched by Full Moon Universe, the folks behind such feature films as The Puppet Master series, Subspecies and Trancers. The program will simply offer up one of the previously released Full Moon features (though one would assume that they may be edited) with Shatner acting as the host of the program. Shatner just signed the deal



# NewsFax

Continued from the previous page

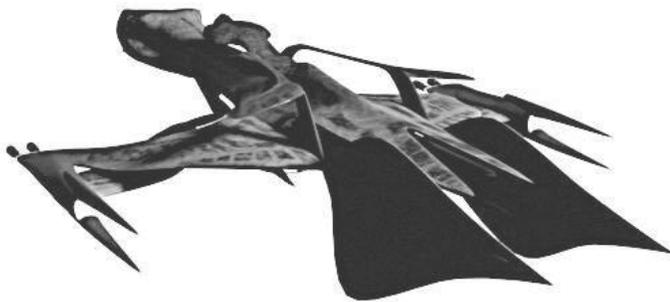
the gig which is being put together as a syndicated TV program. At this point, the trade reports that the initial offering will be for only 12 films, the specific titles of which were not revealed. Shatner and Full Moon big shot Charles Band will be appearing at this month's National Assn. of Television Program Executives shindig in Las Vegas to promote and sell the series.

### UPN Lives

In a nearly last minute reprieve, of sorts, the UPN sealed a deal that would allow the TV network to continue at least through August 31, 2002. According to the trades, a deal was finally signed this week between UPN and the Chris-Craft owned indie TV stations. Currently, the Chris-Craft stations are in the midst of being bought by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, which initially cast doubt on UPN's ability to survive. Given that they would be technically owned by the company that owns Fox, there was conjecture that Murdoch may have declined carrying UPN programming on the stations, all in prominent TV markets. The loss of these markets would seem to have crippled UPN, thus the potential of the network's demise. That would appear to be a moot point at this time. In addition, though the deal will carry through at least to the date mentioned above, the specific time frame was not revealed.

### Mortal Kombat

Robert Duncan McNeill has been talking about the upcoming February 7th episode of Star Trek: Voyager titled "Prophecy." While talking to Ian Spelling's Inside Trek column, McNeill revealed that in the course of the



story, his character Tom Paris will be forced to learn how to use the Klingon bat'leth weapon. He spoke of his first encounter with the blade weapon, saying, "I'd never worked with a bat'leth before, because it's not exactly Tom's thing. I went to work with Dan Curry, who actually helped create the bat'leth for Next Gen, and is also a collector and a master swordsman...I just took to it, I guess, and Dan was very complimentary about my natural ability to work with the bat'leth. I really got into it - the whole elegant flow of the movement, the turning and the spinning of the bat'leth." More generally, McNeill talks about the episode, which tells the story of a generational Klingon ship that come upon Voyager, saying, "Tom is fairly busy in the episode, but I'm not as busy as B'Elanna, let's put it that way. It's her

Continued on the next page

heritage that's being dealt with, and they don't want a whole lot to do with me. I end up in the climactic bat'leth fight because I stand up for B'Elanna's honor and offer to fight this big Klingon to the death."



## Bell Labs team develops superconductor

Adding fuel to the already fired-up world of physics, a band of New Jersey scientists has discovered the world's first plastic superconductor, an innovation that could provide the essential boost for next-generation "quantum" computers and other electronic devices.

The breakthrough by the researchers at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, to be published in today's issue of the journal Nature, comes on the heels of widespread excitement among physical scientists over the discovery several weeks ago of another new superconductor, the metal magnesium boride.

"This is stunning and truly beautiful work," said Olle Inganäs, an authority on organic materials at Linköping University in Sweden.

The superconducting plastic uncovered by the group, known as polythiophene, loses all resistance to electricity at minus 455 degrees Fahrenheit. Although this is extremely cold (and reached by cooling the material with liquid helium), scientists are optimistic they can raise the temperature at which superconductivity occurs by tweaking the plastic's spaghetti-like structure.

The insight is the culmination of a 20-year quest by Bell Labs scientists to investigate the properties of organic polymers -- chemical molecules that contain a long string of carbon atoms. The materials have long been a major interest of researchers in the electronics and communications industries who have hoped to make new semiconductor components out of plastic because it is so cheap and versatile.

It took the educated hunch of a small group of researchers to combine interests in organic polymers and superconductivity, a weird phenomenon of nature in which a material loses all resistance to electricity below a certain critical temperature. Theoretically, electrons flowing in a continuous loop of superconducting wire could move around for eternity without losing any energy.

The work on plastics, described in a Nature essay as an "experimental tour de force," also represents the seventh major research paper on superconductivity by the Bell Labs team in a year.

Last year, the team, led by superconductivity pioneer Bertram Batlogg, took molecules based on rings of carbon atoms -- crystals of anthracene, tetracene, and pentacene -- and turned them into devices known as field-effect transistors.

The scientists didn't stop playing there. They took a chemical cousin of this material, carbon-60, and made it's soccer ball-shaped molecules, popularly known as "buckyballs," superconducting, too. In doing so, the group shattered the temperature record for superconductivity in an organic material.

So, they said, it was not a big step to go a little beyond these experiments. Why not take a more complex strand, a polymer, and see if it could become superconducting? In a month's time, the team had its answer. They dripped a solution containing the plastic in layers so that the polymer molecules stacked up against one another like uncooked spaghetti. They ran a current through the orange-colored gel, cooled it with ultracold liquid helium and -- voilà -- witnessed



# Ship's BBS

(Inspired by the system in the novel Spock's World,



\* **Please remember to send Starfleet Assignment Cards** (or copies of mailing labels) to Avenger Command when you receive them. This helps us verify your membership in Starfleet.

\* **All Avenger personnel attending the Academy** are asked to keep Avenger Command informed of your progress. This will allow us to properly report it to Fleet HQ. Thanks.

## AVENGER BLUEPRINTS!

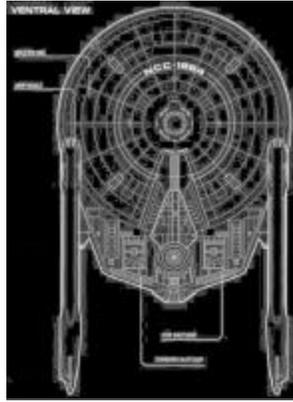
From the Federation Frontiers publishing office, we are pleased to offer General Plans for the Avenger-class Heavy Frigate. No starship, save the famous line of those named Enterprise, has received this much attention to detail. The twenty (20) sheet set includes:

- 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/>).

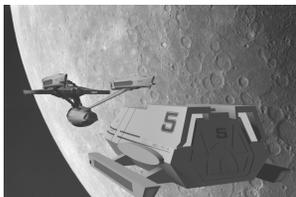
The Avenger-class Heavy Frigate General Plans cost a mere \$10.00 for Avenger crew members, and can be purchased directly from Alex Rosenzweig. You can also buy the plans via mail order for \$12, which includes shipping charges. Money orders are preferred, and will speed delivery. However, personal checks 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 Dr.  
Somerville, NJ 08876-5531



## DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT OR ACTIVITY?

If so, send a SASE to Avenger Command to get an Event Planner.



Event Planners with descriptions of events/activities, as well as sign-up Sheets, will be found at each month's chapter meeting. Blank Event Planners can also be picked up at meetings. 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, or no one attends, **they don't happen!!**

## INTERNET

\* Please note the current URLs (essentially, addresses) for important Avenger sites on the World Wide Web: Avenger:

<http://www.ussavenger.org>

\* We also invite you to subscribe to the Avenger's Internet mailing list. To do so, point your web browser to <http://www.onelist.com> and search for the links, or if you're coming in from an e-mail only account (e.g. Juno), e-mail Carlos Maldonado ([purple@castle.net](mailto:purple@castle.net)) for help.

The Avenger List is a great place to get updated news from the Avenger, for anyone who's on-line or talk to the rest of the crew when you can't be there.

## GARMENTS/MEMORABILIA

◇ Orders for embroidered Avenger shirts (or other garments) are now ready to be taken! Several symbols are available, including a communicator logo (at \$6.00) or the Avenger "screaming chicken" insignia (at \$6.00). Lettering is also available. The block-lettered text: U S S Avenger  
NCC-1860

costs \$9.00 (\$5.00 for the first line, \$4.00 for the second line). Different color combinations, depending on garment and embroidery color, can be created. Other options include getting only the logo, only the text, or a custom phrase. For more information, contact Island Embroidery, Inc. at (718) 982-8577 (They're in the Staten Island Mall, Sears Wing, lower level. They're also at Woodbridge Center in Woodbridge, NJ



# Division Reports



## Scientific Methods by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig

Greetings!

The new millennium has arrived, and thoughts of the future are upon us all. Aboard the Avenger, Sciences has had some good successes, but there's a lot more to do. In the coming months, I'm looking forward to working on some more trips to science-related locales. Other activities may also follow, but what happens on that front will depend a lot on you, the members.

As I write this, the trip to Thomas Edison's labs, sponsored by LCDR Milan and the Operations Division, is still in the future, but I hope that many members will have attended and enjoyed themselves by the time you all read this. <grin>

Still to come is a return trip to Liberty Science Center, to see—among other things—the Liberty Bell 7 Mercury capsule, which has been recovered and restored. It will be at LSC between now and the middle of May, and we're considering a trip in April or early May, if all goes well. This may be done in conjunction with the Engineering Division. Also in the planning stages, but without a solid date as of yet, is a trip to Philadelphia and the Franklin Institute. This has been a popular destination for Avenger crewmembers in the past, but it's been a while since we went, and it's getting time to go back. Other locations are certainly worth considering, too, such as areas to hike (geology/planetology), gardens to check out (botany), and even caves (speleology). With warmer, nicer weather coming, some of these outdoor events will be more appropriate. I'm always open to suggestions, and especially *help*, in coordinating trips.

An ongoing SciDiv contribution to the ship is the Telemetry Dump column in this newsletter. There's lots of science news all the time, but considering how much space is being devoted to it, I do want to make sure that you folks are enjoying it. Please let me or Carlos know what you think. And, of course, contributions are always welcome.

In the months to come, I'm also going to be paying special attention to seeing which SciDiv members have been active and contributing, and which would like to possibly take a bit of responsibility to the group, potentially including the selection of the Assistant Chief Science Officer. Why?, you may ask. Well, in addition to hoping that one or more of you might like the chance to contribute by holding a more senior post, I'm also hoping that I'll be able to share the load a little. As most of you know, I'm now also on Starfleet's Executive Committee, serving as Chief of Shuttlecraft Operations, which is just a fancy title for, "guy who helps new chapters form". That takes a certain amount of time, and while it shouldn't prevent me from doing my duties as Science Officer, having some folks to work with would be nice. So, if some of you are interested in having a position, drop me a line and we can talk about it.

Finally, and this is for everybody, not just the SciDiv folks, I'm taking suggestions for science-related topics for this column. If you're interested in something about science, let me know and I'll see if I can hunt down a few interesting facts to share about it in the division column. And, of course, if someone would like to write a guest-column (and you don't even have to be in Sciences!), please let me know. I don't mind sharing. <smile>

And that's all from me. Don't forget to check out "Telemetry Dump" for more science news (and remember that I always welcome contributions. Send 'em on in. You can use e-mail or streetmail). And watch the Events Calendar for trips, too. There's lots of science fun to be had, and the more folks to share it with, the better.



## From the belly of the

Manned Space Flight at 40: Taking our Cosmic Baby Steps

As of this writing, we find ourselves not only at the midway point between the last days of winter and the first days of spring, but also at a milestone in history. This year happens to mark the 40th

anniversary of manned space flight. We've come a long way, baby... all

the way from men bolted into tin cans placed on top of converted intercontinental ballistic missiles right up to the International Space Station Alpha, which now has a new wing (make that module) added on.

Considering that this reporter has been around since two years after Yuri Gagarin made man's first sortie into orbit, to quote that famous Grateful Dead song, what a long, strange trip it's been. It is to all the people who have participated and followed this ongoing journey that this column is dedicated.

April 12th is just one date in the massive cosmic scheme of things. But for the aforementioned cosmonaut Gagarin and what was then the Soviet Union, that fateful day in 1961 was a turning point in humanity's quest for the stars: the first manned space flight. Before where scientists had hurled canines and chimpanzees skyward, Gagarin was now blazing a new trail aboard his space bubble dubbed Vostok One. Since the Soviets and the Americans were engaged in the great Space Race since Sputnik One was shot into orbit (ironically on the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution), the red-white-and-blue had to step up to the plate. On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard became the first at bat, riding atop a converted Redstone missile aboard the spacecrafter Freedom 7 in Project Mercury's first manned flight. Unlike Gagarin's orbital flight, Shepard made a 15-minute suborbital jaunt.

The second flight of the program put Virgil "Gus" Grissom aboard Liberty Bell 7, which was just about an encore performance of Shepard's mission. The flight almost ended in tragedy, when Grissom's capsule started sinking shortly after splashdown. He survived, but Liberty Bell

7 wound up going the way of the Titanic for almost 40 years.

The two decades that followed would see many ups and downs for manned space flight. It saw John Glenn finally putting project Mercury literally into orbit, and a precarious re-entry. Voshkod and Gemini spacecraft would carry small crews into the void. The period saw our first space stations, Salyut 1 and Skylab, right on the heels of the Apollo moon missions. Detente became a new buzzword in aerospace circles in the summer of 1975, when a Soyuz spacecraft linked up with the last Apollo command module NASA ever launched. One of the



## From the belly of the

Soyuz crewmen, Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov, was also the first man to walk in space a decade before. Tragically, not everyone would survive to see the dawn of the 1980's. Virgil Grissom, a veteran of Projects Mercury and Gemini, perished in the fatal fire aboard Apollo One with Astronauts Roger Chaffee and Ed White, the first American to perform a spacewalk. Four Soviet cosmonauts would give their lives as well:

Vladimir Komarov, who piloted the first Soyuz mission but crashed to Earth when his ship's parachute failed; and three more cosmonauts who returned from the first successful

### Continued on the next page

Salyut mission... only to suffocate when their reentry module suffered an atmosphere leak.

Twenty years to the day after Gagarin rode Vostok One into the history books, John Young and Bob Crippen flew the very first Space Shuttle mission into orbit. Their ship, Columbia, spent two days in orbit and glided to a safe re-entry and landing at Edwards Air Force base. I can still remember the footage of when they finally debarked and came down the steps. Some people who were interviewed described the scene as real Buck Rogers-type stuff, seeing Crippen and Young walk around to inspect their good ship... which lost a few heat-resistant tiles on the way up.

To this very day, the Space Shuttle remains NASA's primary workhorse. At one point, it even inspired the Soviets to develop a shuttle of their own. It was very similar to the American



## Superconductor Continued from Page 6

superconductivity.

"With the method we used, many organic materials may potentially be superconducting now, which was never thought possible before," Zhenan Bao, a chemist who was involved in the research.

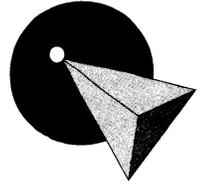
### Continued on Page 9

Hendrik Schon, a 30-year-old researcher who started his work at Bell Labs as a graduate student, said the most promising application for the work would be in the area of quantum computing, a field that makes superconductivity seem mundane by comparison.

The fledgling field holds great promise for anyone who needs high-speed computers to crack codes or delve deeply through

## Devotion to Star Trek – The Faithful and The Blind By George Padovan

IDIC. Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. A well-known phrase to any Star Trek fan. It means "draw strength from the diversity of differences as well as show respect to those differences." Spock is the first to mention it, as well as being a living example of it, with his Human/Vulcan heritage.



Being a Star Trek fan since 1984, I have seen great diversity in Trek fans, in-person and online on the Internet. From hardcore techies, who can tell whether a starship design can work, to the devoted relationshipers, who think their favorite pair – Janeway/Chakotay, Paris/Torres, or any other pair – is better than any other. Such devotion far and wide can be found for any particular subject on Trek. If it's mentioned and/or seen on Trek, there's bound to be fan devoted to it.

However, there's a dark side to every light side, and Star Trek is not immune, for in order to have such diversity, we have to expect that there will be divisions within the ranks. And when there are divisions within the ranks, there are bound to be disagreements, which can lead to hurt and suffering from those who don't show respect for those who disagree with them.

There's no doubt that some fans are quite passionate for Trek. I share their enthusiasm. However, one should ask how far one can go in defending their views and passions before crossing the line. Once the line is crossed, the person no longer shows respect for those who disagree with them, thus the person becomes a bully in his/her narrow-minded crusade to divert everyone to his/her own views.

The Internet has allowed Trek diversity to thrive quite well over the years, but it's also an easy place for fans to get carried away in their passions for their causes. For the line crossers, it's the perfect place to spread strife and disorder.

And I've had my share of running into these line crossers.

I have visited numerous Star Trek BBSs online, so I've been able to see the diversity of opinions that exist. One day, I found several people criticizing *Star Trek: Voyager*. They had the right to their views as long as they didn't resort to bashing and name-calling. However, I noticed that they didn't show any respect to those who countered them with sound reasoning. Those who countered were fans of the series, who enjoyed the series and think it's okay. The critics only just kept repeating their severe negatives on the show with no end in sight and without saying anything positive.

One critic even mentioned that after seven years of watching the show, he/she thought every episode was bad, the cast awful, and thought it was the worst series in Trek history.

I countered with these questions: Why did you watch the show if you hate it? What do you get out of watching a show, week after week, if you despise it? Have you found anything **positive** about the series? What do you gain for shouting only the negatives about the show? What do you hope to accomplish?

Let's just say the person didn't even bother to properly answer the questions, saying that if one doesn't watch the show, one gets excused of not giving it a

## Devotion

Continued from previous page

chance. And if one does watch it and criticize it, one is excused of bashing.

I'm a Trek fan, but I don't watch something I don't like. I had happened to miss most of Deep Space Nine's Seasons 1 to 5, because I don't like it. I don't go around saying negative

### Continued on the next page

things about it, for I can't make a comment on episodes I have not seen. Yet, these so-called Voyager haters go out of their way to watch a show they despise, just to sprout how bad it is.

What I experienced was nothing new to me, for these are the fans who take their passions too far to realize that they are forgetting about IDIC.

My questions had also started me thinking about myself as a fan. Why do I watch Trek? Just because it's Trek? What do I get out of it? Do I find first, any fun and entertainment in watching it? Or do I first find anything to fit my beliefs in Trek when I watch it? For me, the answer is that I watch it for fun first, wanting to be entertained, before my mind goes on to find any details to why this particular Trek tech works or why the captain did this or that. If I'm not entertained, I go elsewhere. I don't bother to watch only to nitpick details and how it fits anything I believe in Trek.

Does the name 'Star Trek' overrule the entertainment of the show enough to make a fan watch it despite hating it? My experience said, "Yes." Some fans watch only for the devotion to Trek, despite not being entertained. Yet, they seem to not ever be satisfied if a show doesn't meet their expectations, making me wonder again, what do they get out of watching a show they despise?

Such blind devotion from fans would only create more negatives than positives. For fans who are not open-minded would not ever be entertained from the creation that started their faith.

As Paramount Studios prepares to launch the next Star Trek series, there's no doubt that another chapter will be added to the Trek legacy. New fans will be made. People will either like it or downright hate it. There's no escaping that Series V (or VI, if one includes *The Animated Series*) will leave its mark as each of the other series have.

However, I feel sad that the blind faithful will continue their endless crusade to make Trek and others fit their views. Series V will have them, thus making me think that some fans have lost the understanding of "Love Thy Neighbor". It's okay to have your views as long as you respect the views of others and do not belittle them because of it. One can coexist with others with different views and thoughts on a subject as long as one holds the notion that one's faith in that subject is not fact for everyone else to hold.

One is not a lesser Trek fan, if one doesn't watch a particular Trek if one finds it not worth watching. I'm not lesser a Trek fan for not watching most of DS9, so no one should think the same if one decides to take the remote and turn off the TV on any of the other series.

Love Thy Trek Neighbor, by showing others respect for their views and faith in Trek, no matter whether others' views and faith are different than one's own. Respect is a two-way street. One can't expect respect from others, if one doesn't respect them in turn. This practice I have seen most used, and it works, showing

## Scientists play tricks

### DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS - Physicists have succeeded in stopping light in its tracks.

In experiments made public yesterday, two teams of researchers halted a light pulse in a vapor of atoms. Scientists have played tricks to slow down light before, but this is the first time they have stopped it cold.

Perhaps more important, experts say, the research could help advance a type of superfast, futuristic computing.

"By stopping the light, we transfer all of the information which was contained in the light pulse into atoms," said Mikhail Lukin, coleader of one of the research teams.

The atoms absorb the information in a series of excited spins, then spit it out again on demand.

"Our technique allows us to transmit this enormous amount of information, in principle, without destroying it, from one location to another," said Lukin, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass.

His team will report its findings in the Jan. 29 issue of the journal *Physical Review Letters*. A second team - led by Lene Hau of the Rowland Institute for Science and Harvard University, both in Cambridge - will describe its work in the Jan. 25 issue of *Nature*.

In space or any other vacuum, light travels at the inviolable pace of 186,282 miles per second. Anyone can slow light down by holding up a glass of water or a chunk of plastic; light travels slower through these materials than it does through air. But to slow light to a crawl and then halt it requires special laboratory setups.

Both research teams took advantage of a physical trick in which light can move, unscathed, through a substance that would ordinarily block its passage. Using this trick, the scientists zapped pulses of laser light into a cloud of atoms - warm rubidium atoms in one experiment, extremely cold sodium in the other - that would normally absorb the light.

Instead, the pulses began interacting with the atoms, dropping off information and in the process slowing down. Ultimately the light pulses became trapped within the atom cloud.

In both experiments, the light stayed frozen for nearly a thousandth of a second before the atoms began to lose the information passed by the light.

But that brief moment is enough, scientists think, to make ultrafast information transfer a real possibility.

Future computing technologies may include the speedy method known as quantum computation. If ever developed, quantum computing will need to shuffle information far faster than the most powerful supercomputer can today.

For now, scientists are content with studying how light affects the atoms during its short stop.

"There is this opportunity to stop and sense the light," said Olga Kocharovskaya, a physicist at Texas A&M University. "If the light is really stopped, it interacts for a very long time with the matter."



**MISSION DOCKET**  
**(UPCOMING EVENTS)**  
[April, May, June and so on...]

**April**

April 14th - Nothing.

April 15th - [Easter Sunday]

**April 21st - Return to Liberty Science Center.** Talk to Matt J Reilly at [mjreilly@bellatlantic.net](mailto:mjreilly@bellatlantic.net)

April 22nd [Earth Day] USS Dragonmaster would like to invite any and all Star trek and Scifi fans on a MS Walk for charity

**April 27 to 29 Chiller Theatre Convention** is coming to East Rutherford, NJ What initially was a convention for Horror and B-film genres, has evolved to a full blown Sci-Fi/Horror/Fantasy Convention. The Guest list for this one is HUGE! Link for their site and further information: <http://www.chillertheatre.com>

**ALSO on April 29th a trip to Lambertville/New Hope to the Shad Festival.**

**May**

**May 5th & 6th - Trenton Computer Festival** - Raritan Center, NJ.

May 12th Nothing.

May 13th Nothing. - [Mother's Day.]

**May 19th, 12pm - Annual Thagard May Picnic** at Wayne's Woods in Valley Forge National Park (PA)

**May 20th Shipwide meeting** at Barnes & Noble.

May 26th & 27th Nothing.

**THE REST OF THE YEAR...**

**June 9th - 16th Anniversary Party.** (Tentative.)

**June 30th - July 1st - Third Annual Northeast Supercon** Sci-Fi Fantasy Toy and Collectibles Extravaganza Island Garden - West Hempstead, NY ( LONG ISLAND )

**July 13th to 15th Shore Leave.**

**August 3-5 SLANTED FEDORA** The Doubletree Hotel-Crystal City 300 Army Navy Drive Arlington, VA 22202

**September 28-30 - Watkins Glen Weekend 2001** <http://www.ussaccord.org>

**October 5-7 Praxis2001** - A Space Odyssey 2001. At the Radisson Hotel Greentree - Pittsburgh, PA.

**November 2nd - 4th - Region 7 Conference.**

**November 9-11 - UNITED FAN CON XI** Springfield MA <http://www.unitedfancon.com>

**Contact List**

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Alex Rosenzweig 980 Linwood Pl. North Brunswick NJ 08902 (732) 249-2526 E-Mail [alexr@castle.net](mailto:alexr@castle.net)

***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!***

AN ADVENTURE  
SEVENTEEN THOUSAND YEARS  
IN THE MAKING



**COMING JUNE 13TH, 2001**



**USS Avenger**  
24 Wilson Street  
North Brunswick, NJ  
08902-2929

**Next Meeting Date**  
**May 20th, 2001**  
**3:00 pm**

**Location Barnes & Noble**



**The Deadline for the next issue is:**  
**May 27th, 2001**

NEW GRAND UNIFIED THEORY DISCLAIMER: The publisher may technically be entitled to claim that this newsletter is ten-dimensional. However, the reader is reminded that this confers no legal rights above and beyond those applicable to three-dimensional objects, since the seven new dimensions are "rolled up" into such a small "area" that