



# Avenger News

The official newsletter of the USS Avenger NCC - 1860  
Volume 12, Number 70 [October 2001]

And so I sit here at my keyboard typing in column thirteen at a very late hour on a Monday—well, technically Tuesday—morning.

I just wanted to share with you a letter I wrote for my son. It is currently sealed away with copies of newspapers and magazines in our basement. I'm guessing it will make one heck of a history report someday.

“Dear Kiran,

I am writing this to you today on September 13, 2001.

Why am I writing you this letter? Because one day you will be old enough to turn around and ask me, what was it like that day?

I am hoping that you will ask me this when I am too old to remember and you can read this back to me. Given the way some history classes are you will more than likely ask me sometime when you are 7 or 8 years old. We'll see.

**[The news story we all know is recounted here. I have hacked it out for space considerations.]**

Here's some perspective from some other people we know.

I can tell you that Amy Wilson, who I hope is still a friend all these years later, was in the 6<sup>th</sup> building of the world trade center, working for OSHA. It was a 6-story building that had debris land on it when the first plane struck. Someone went running down the halls yelling to get out of the building. After running across a pedestrian bridge across the street, she went into a financial center that had an arboretum with palm trees and plants

all around. She saw the second plane hit the second building and just ran away, never looking back. As it was, her purse with her cell phone, keys, cards, etc was left at her desk. Building one, top-pled onto building six and whatever wasn't squished was burned in the fire.

Someone else we know was in the first tower on the 40<sup>th</sup> floor of the first building. He said he never went down stairs so fast in his life, but he did get out without being hurt.

That day I couldn't lie to you, even though you were only 3½ years old. After listening to President George Bush, I summed up that day the way he did in his speech: There are Bad people out there. They do bad things to good people. They will be punished.

You looked at me with those wide eyes of understanding, that I hope you manage to keep as you get older, nodded your head and went off with me to play some computer games in the library of Pooh, Clifford and Sesame Street.

At your age you knew something bad had happened, although I doubt you realize

the size of just what it was. Given your age at the time, it's better that way.

So how did I feel? Helpless, sad, worried. We don't know how many people were lost yet. Through it all, I kept on a brave face for your mother and definitely for you.

I also wanted to help, although blood donations reached record highs to the point where they ran out of bags. I have signed up to donate at work if their supplies should run low in the coming days. Your mother and I may yet bag up some old clothes and send them. Where to, I don't know.

Somehow through fate or just plain luck, there's no one we

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

## Look at what's in this issue...

Meanwhile, Back on the Bridge by Carlos Maldonado	Page 1	Ship's BBS	Page 7
Starfleet News & Region 7 News - Executive Thoughts	Page 3 Page 4	Division Reports: Sciences	Page 8
by Chris Underwood		Telemetry Dump	Page 8
Where were you when... Report on NY Academy of Sciences Lecture	Page 4 Page 4	Division Reports: Medical	Page 10
BOOK NEWS	Page 5	Division Reports: Engineering	Page 11
		Avenger in Fiction: Character Profiles	Page 12
		Division Reports: Ops	Page 13
		Events & Announcements	Page 15

## Disclaimer:

We're not really here right now ...

Volume 12, Issue 70 Oct. 2001

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## Meanwhile, Back on the Bridge (cont)...

know directly who was hurt or worse in all of this.

So what did we do in the days after? We did what we had to. e had jobs to get done and all we could do is continue to fight the good fight and move onward bravely onward. Those who died would probably have asked no more or less of us. To do nothing would have had us dwell on the tragedy, and that wouldn't do anyone any good.

In any case we basically went back to living our lives. I hope this gives you some perspective on the events. Who knows, someday you might be able to give this to your children for a history report. Let me know what grade they get.

Most importantly, you believed us when we said we'd always keep you safe. I hope the world we develop for you future is as safe as we'd like it to be. The world may be changed, but it's not over. We will rise above this, be stronger than ever before and probably safer.

I wish you a happy, healthy, long, loving, life.

I'll probably put you to bed soon, and if your kids ever raise a fuss about going to bed, don't look at your wife, it's YOU they get it from.

*Dad.*

*Carlos Maldonado*

*(Or whatever nickname you might come up with)"*

I figure I can't come up with anything more important for you, my crew, than the words I wrote to my own son. I felt I could never give you the perspective, depth, relevance, and magnitude that this event deserves unless I gave you this part of my life.

After being on vacation for most of last week, then coming home and looking forward to work tomorrow, someone on-line asked me, "How do you feel about going to work in a government building tomorrow?"

For that I turn to the words uttered by John Crichton on "Farscape" for inspiration:

*"I have a job to do, and I am not afraid."*

# Carlos



# Starfleet and Region 7 News



## In Fleet News

- New Chapters of Starfleet are:  
U.S.S. ANASAZI, NCC-62001  
U.S.S. PARALLAX, NCC-74657  
U.S.S. NEBULA, NCC-61800
- The recipient of an Honorary Membership (the Honorary is 3 years of complimentary membership) to Starfleet was Admiral Allyson Dyar and the recipient of a Lifetime Membership - a free membership for the rest of the individual's life - is Admiral Peg Pellerin.
- The STARFLEET Chief of Communications (comm@sfi.org) announces the appointment of Dixie Jack as the Vice Chief, Communications-Publications.
- IC 2002 will be held in San Jose, California on 1 thru 4 August. It's theme: "The Road to our Future Starts Here." For detailed information about the IC, visit the IC2002 website at <http://www.ic2002.org>.
- Rear Admiral Mike Urvand is now the Vice Chief of Operations.
- Admiral Gordon Goldberg has stepped down from his role as Vice Commander, Starfleet. Mike Malotte, who had been serving as Chief of Communications, has taken his place. As a result, RADM Greg Trotter is now the Chief of Communications and FCAPT Joan E. Pierce is the new Vice-Chief of Communications for the Starfleet Helpdesk.
- Starfleet has received a check in the amount of \$1,683.78 from the IRS, repaying, with a small amount of interest, the penalty Starfleet had sent them for the late filing. That penalty has been abated, and work continues to get the remaining situations taken care of.

## From Region 7

- Starfleet has named the new ambassador in Region 7. Filling the role is Adam Greenberg, and his email is [absoluteromantic@netzero.net](mailto:absoluteromantic@netzero.net)
- Positions in the Region 7 Communications Division for editors for "Fleet 7", and also the position of Region 7 Quartermaster, are open at this time.
- Position of Assistant Inspector general for Region 7 is now open.  
**Please send all Asst. Inspector general applications to SFI Inspector General Robb Jackson at [ig@sfi.org](mailto:ig@sfi.org)**
- The Region 7 Conference is on the horizon. Fleet Captain Kris T. Klufas of the U.S.S. Thagard announced that the 2001 Region 7

conference is being hosted by the U.S.S. Malverne, the U.S.S. Sovereign and the U.S.S. Thagard and will be held November 2-4 at the Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, PA. In keeping with the fact that it is the weekend after Halloween, the theme is "The Scariest Region 7 Conference You'll Ever Attend." Kris distributed registration packets, which also included a pre-order form for the conference t-shirt and flyers for a Fashion Show/Talent Show and a Trek Cuisine food tasting. Full weekend registration is \$40.00. Fundraisers for the event include raffles at the Sovereign and Thagard Shore Leave tables and ads in the program booklet (contact Larry Neigut if interested). The room rate is \$82.00 per night if booked directly through the hotel (610-265-7500). A conference website has been established at [www.region7.com/r7conf.html](http://www.region7.com/r7conf.html) and contains a printable registration form as well as an on-line registration form with the option to pay by credit card through PayPal.

- The Region 7 holiday party is being co-sponsored by the U.S.S. Sun Tzu and the U.S.S. Highlander. There will be two parties held in different locations (West Point and Annapolis) at the same time with a weblink allowing for simultaneous announcements and interaction between the two groups. Sandy thanked Rick Driver and Mark Anbinder for their assistance in working out the technical issues. The two menu choices for each location will be chosen based on a vote to be held on-line prior to the event. Region 15 members have also been invited to attend the West Point party and Region 1 members have been invited to the Annapolis event. The Avenger plans to send contingents to both parties. Since both locations are military installations, no STARFLEET uniforms should be worn.
- Polar Bear Plunge - Major Craig Shipley of the Maryland State Police gave a brief presentation at the STARFLEET/Region 7 meeting at Shore Leave, on the Polar Bear Plunge, which is a fundraising event sponsored by the Maryland State Police to benefit Maryland Special Olympics. Participants must raise at least \$50 in sponsorships and agree to wade into the Chesapeake Bay for a few seconds (last year over 1,200 people participated even though it was only 26 degrees). Participants receive a free sweatshirt and a free lunch at Outback Steak House for their efforts. Gerry Sylvester announced that the next Polar Bear Plunge is being held on Saturday, January 26, 2002, and several members of the U.S.S. Highlander are planning to participate. All members of Region 7 are invited to participate, and volunteers have already signed up from the Matrix, Challenger, Sun Tzu, Osiris, Triton, Thor, Asimov and Avenger. Gerri Wampler displayed polar bear plungers (real plungers decorated with small white bears) that will be auctioned to raise money for the event. A commemorative plunger was presented to Maj. Shipley for attending the meeting.

## Executive Thoughts

By Chris Underwood

Greetings Crew,

Um.. Ouch.... If there's one word to sum up these last few weeks, it's "Ouch".

Between finding out how good a sniper TrekkieTim is in Unreal Tournament and finding out what happens when you only live on adrenaline, Dew, and occasional sleep while putting in 10-15-hour days at a job... Well, let's just say it's been surreal... Did I mention, though, that it really kicked the creative juices in gear?

Basically, I have some really good ideas re sequels to the story I have currently been writing for 3+ years... That story ("Many Several Deaths") will be finished soon (PROMISE!) and will lead into another story ("The Ascendant"), and then from there... well, I'll surprise ya'. After that, I'm gonna take some time and do some reading and try my hand at writing for Strange New Worlds V or whichever at the time.

Anyhoo, that's it from me. Other than I missed the fact I was in command for a week due to business at work, I'm doing okay and I think the ship and crew are, too...though I seem to have misplaced my key to the airlock...

Chris

## "Where Were You When...?"

Compiled By Alex Rosenzweig

1) A minor noble (?) at the PA Renaissance Faire, said to a 21st-century young woman, indicating Todd's drinking horn: "He has a great big horn... Isn't that the biggest horn you've ever seen? He's a Scotsman, and you know they're all shifty ones. You might see him \*ho-o-l-d\* his horn, even \*stro-o-oke\* his horn... And you can see there, it has a point at the end. He might even \*drink\* from his horn!..."? (BB)

2) A rogue said to Todd: "You're wearin' a two-fisted sword, lad - why are ye wearin' a targe [shield] as well?" and Todd responded: "Tae play frisbee at the English."? (BB)

3) The privvy floors were clean and dry, and there was even a wench to hand you paper towels? (BB)

4) There was a half-hour line wait to purchase a bottle of water? (BB)

5) We stopped at a weapons vendor named "La Forge"? (BB)

6) We *finally* stopped in to see (former Avenger member) Chris McHenry? (BB)

7) During the Rogues' show (they're a musical ensemble), Rogues member Brian Blaylock suggested to the audience that anyone who wanted to know what Scotsmen wore under their kilts should wave a dollar at him (or something like that?). Ann-Marie and a couple of the other women around us promptly dug into their pouches for U. S. Federal Reserve Notes... and were deliberately ignored by Brian, even when Jimmy (another Rogue) pointed them out to him...? (BB)

8) At Esther's (the diner we ate at), the waitress and staff thought - despite our best efforts to correct her - that we were part of a Civil War enactment group? (BB)

9) Following the September meeting, a group moved down the way to a nearby restaurant, and proceeded to spend a merry, rowdy time over dinner, having much fun and welcoming two new and recent members to the fold? (AR)

10) A landing party from the Avenger found itself in pitch darkness in a cave 60 feet below ground, at Crystal Cave in Kutztown, PA? (AR)

11) Crystal ballrooms, flowstone, aragonite, and cracks to the Devil's Den were all encountered by our adventuring spelunkers? (AR)

12) On the journey home from PA, the American flag affixed to Judy's vehicle tried to make an escape, but was recovered before it could become airborne? (AR)

**ADM Alex Rosenzweig, this column's compiler, would like to thank everyone who sent in contributions to this column. Of course, more are always needed. If you want to share something that happened at an Avenger, Starfleet, or Star Trek event, please send your contributions to Alex at: 980 Linwood Place North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2267 alexr@castle.net**

## Report on the New York Academy of Sciences Lecture on Saddam Hussein

By Dale A. Kagan

Last summer the New York Academy of Sciences sponsored a breakfast speaker. The topic was Saddam Hussein's addiction to weapons. The speaker was a Chief Weapon's Inspector to the United Nations.

He felt the UN was not being stiff enough with Saddam Hussein and he liked Hussein to a drug addict who could not give up something that was damaging to him.

In addition to discussing his various visits to Iraq to inspect the status of weapons, he also talked about Inspectors trying to assess his biological warfare arsenal. He did not think it has all been destroyed, and some specialists were theorizing that Britain's outbreak of Hoof and Mouth Disease on top of Mad Cow was actually a biologically planted outbreak by Saddam Hussein.

The New York Academy of Sciences offers free scientific lectures during the fall and winter in New York City. Its website is [www.NYAS.org](http://www.NYAS.org).



# STAR TREK BOOK NEWS



## STAR TREK BOOK NEWS

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

### Available October 2001:

Gateways, Book Five of Seven: No Man's Land (ST:VOY), by Christie Golden

Throughout the galaxy, an ancient network of interstellar portals has been reactivated, instantly linking distant planets and civilizations. Back home in the Alpha Quadrant, Starfleet can devote all its considerable resources to coping with the Gateways crisis, but in the Delta Quadrant, there is only the starship Voyager...

Just as Voyager enters an unusually hazardous region of space, the ship and its crew are confronted with a flood of lost and disoriented starships from all over the galaxy. Accidentally transported incredible distances by the unpredictable Gateways, the diverse alien castaways regard each other and Voyager with hostility and suspicion. Captain Kathryn Janeway suddenly finds herself struggling to hold together an extremely fractious fleet of dislocated alien vessels even as the newly awakened Gateways hold open the prospect of finally bringing her own ship home!

Gateways, Book Six of Seven: Cold Wars (ST:NF), by Peter David  
Missing for two hundred millennia, the legendary Iconians have returned, bringing with them the secret of interdimensional teleportation across vast interstellar distances. Awakened once more, their ancient Gateways are rewriting the map of the galaxy, and nowhere more than in the New Frontier...

A century ago, the imperial Thallonians separated two feuding alien races, depositing each of them on a new world safely distant from that of their ancestral enemies. Now, however, the Gateways have made it possible for the long dormant blood feud to begin anew. Captain Mackenzie Calhoun of the U.S.S. Excalibur and his partner, Captain Elizabeth Shelby of the U.S.S. Trident, find themselves fighting a losing battle to keep the horrific violence from escalating, even as they gradually realize the catastrophic danger posed by the Gateways themselves!

Invincible, Book Two (e-Book, ST:SCE), by David Mack and Keith R.A. DeCandido

Long believed to be just a Nalori myth, the monster shii has turned out to be devastatingly real! The creature—seemingly invulnerable, undeniably powerful, and completely ruthless—has carved a swath through the Nalori construction project on the crystal planet of Sarindar. The project's supervisor, Commander Sonya Gomez, must find a way to stop this deadly creature before it claims the lives of the entire project.

But when the truth behind this creature is revealed, Gomez realizes that even the S.C.E.'s top officer may not be able to solve every problem...

Broken Bow (ENT, Hardcover, Novelization of the Premiere Episode), Author TBA, Based on the episode written by Brannon Braga and Rick Berman; "The Making of Enterprise" featurette written by Paul Ruditis  
Novelization of the two-hour premiere of "Enterprise".

### Available November 2001:

Excalibur: Restoration (ST:NF, Paperback Reprint of the Hardcover), by Peter David

The ever-resourceful Captain Mackenzie Calhoun abruptly finds himself at a loss—marooned on the primitive outback world of Yakaba after his ship, Excalibur, is destroyed by deadly sabotage. He is separated from his loyal first officer, Shelby, who has gone on to command the Exeter and is certain that Calhoun has been blasted into oblivion. On Yakaba's dry frontier, Calhoun meets and befriends Shula, an extraordinary woman beset by enemies trying to control or destroy her and her gift-summoning rain to her parched homeland.

Trapped on this hostile world, unable to relay to his people that he survived the ship's cataclysm, Calhoun must stand against countless adversaries who will stop at nothing to gain power or keep it from others. Life and death hang in the balance. Out in the distance, mourning but determined to move on, Shelby must discover what sort of captain she really is.

Gateways: What Lay Beyond (ST:All), by Susan Wright, Diane Carey, Keith R.A. DeCandido, Christie Golden, Peter David, and Robert Greenberger

The astounding conclusion to the Gateways saga!  
An honor roll of Star Trek heroes faces the climax of an adventure that spans the galaxy!

Created by the incalculably ancient Iconians, whose transcendent technology is quantum levels beyond that of the Federation and its allies, the Gateways offer instantaneous transport across unimaginable distances. Throughout the known galaxy, from Deep Space Nine to the New Frontier, from the Delta Quadrant to the bridge of the starship Enterprise, the sudden reactivation of the Gateways has destabilized interstellar relations between planets and cultures previously separated by countless light-years. Star Fleet's finest have coped with the crisis as best they can, but circumstances have forced several valiant commanders to leap through separate Gateways into the unknown:

Captain James T. Kirk of the original starship Enterprise  
Captain Jean-Luc Picard of "Star Trek: The Next Generation"  
Colonel Kira Nerys of Deep Space Nine  
Captain Kathryn Janeway of the U.S.S. Voyager  
Captains Calhoun and Shelby of "Star Trek: New Frontier"  
Commander Nick Keller of the Composite Frigate Challenger

All of these heroes, for their own reasons, have taken the ultimate gamble: hurling themselves personally through a Gateway without any knowledge or forewarning of what lay beyond. Each must face their own unique challenge, struggling to find a way back to the ships and homes they left behind.

And waiting behind at least one of the Gateways are the ageless Iconians themselves, the primordial architects of the mysterious portals causing chaos throughout the Milky Way galaxy. Where did they disappear to, many long eons ago, and what do they want now? The answer lies on the other side...

This book will also feature the updated edition of the Pocket Star Trek Novels Timeline, compiled by: David Bowling, Johan G. Ciomaglia, Ryan J. Cornelius, James R. McCain Jr., Alex Rosenzweig, Paul T. Semones, Corey W. Tacker, David Henderson, and Lee Jamilkowski.

Star Trek: Starship Spotter (Trade Paperback), by Adam "Mojo" Lebowitz and Robert Bonchune

"Starship Spotter" was created over two centuries ago to serve as a reference guide to assorted space-going vessels. The captains of the very early spaceships of the United Earth Space Probe



## STAR TREK BOOK NEWS (cont)



Agency used this simple paper tool that would enable a ship's crew to quickly distinguish friend from foe in the unexplored reaches of the cosmos. When the services were merged to form Star Fleet, this paper book disappeared from use. Only recently rediscovered, the newest editions of this paper book have been the sole purview of Star Fleet Academy.

Each year, a new class of Star Fleet cadets carefully reviews and revises the contents. The ships displayed in [Starship Spotter](#) are chosen as a tribute to the crews that have served on them and the valor shown regardless of the ship's affiliation. While only thirty ships can be chosen, the cadets feel these ships reflect the noble history of space travel.

We proudly present to you the Class of 2383 edition of [Starship Spotter](#).

### [Being Human](#) (ST:NF), by Peter David

Throughout the "Star Trek: New Frontier" saga, Mark McHenry, the navigator on the [U.S.S. Excalibur](#), has demonstrated abilities beyond those of the somewhat odd human being he appears to be. When the inhabitants of an innocent solar system are confronted by a menace linked to the source of McHenry's powers, his true heritage is revealed at last. Meanwhile, Zak Kebron is going through a startling change that will leave him both more and less than he was.

### [The Riddled Post \(e-Book, ST:SCE\)](#), by Aaron Rosenberg

The dilithium mining outpost on BorSitu Minor is an understaffed, uninteresting, unspectacular place that is full of miners, engineers, and scientists who have never done harm to anyone, nor do they have anything of value. Yet the outpost has been devastated by a brutal assault, with almost all hands lost—and the survivors have no idea what attacked them. Worse, the weapon used appears to have the power to penetrate the outpost's powerful shields. Any weapon that can do that is one that has the crew of the [U.S.S. da Vinci](#) worried, as it could destroy a starship without difficulty. Now the S.C.E. team led by Commander Sonya Gomez must find out the truth behind what ravaged the outpost, and pray that someone hasn't unleashed a weapon that could destroy them all!

### Available December 2001:

### [The Genesis Wave, Book Two](#) (ST:TNG, Paperback Reprint of the 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 Genesis 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...

### [Religions of Star Trek](#) (Trade Paperback), by Ross S. Kramer, William Cassidy, and Susan L. Schwartz

Written for Star Trek devotees and students in the classroom of religious studies, authors Cassidy, Kraemer, and Schwartz take their readers on a journey through the religious dimensions of the 23rd and 24th centuries: God; Evil; Messiahs and Shamans; Myth and Ritual; extraterrestrial religions in Star Trek; Terran religions through the third millennium; Life, Death, and Immortality in Star Trek; Science as Salvation; and Star Trek as a religious and cosmological system in and of itself. Drawing regularly, but gently, on the authors' training as scholars and teachers of religion, [Religions of Star Trek](#) illuminates a fascinating and neglected aspect of the American cultural phenomenon that is Star Trek.

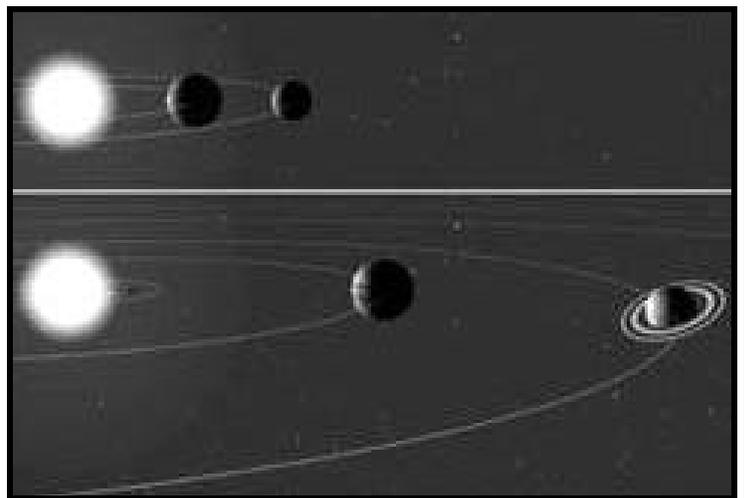
### [The Valiant](#) (ST:TNG, Paperback Reprint of the Hardcover), by Michael Jan Friedman

Three hundred years ago, the [S.S. Valiant](#) was destroyed during an ill-fated attempt to cross the legendary Galactic Barrier. Star Fleet had always assumed that the [Valiant](#) had perished with all hands aboard, until a pair of unusual humanoids arrive at Starbase 209, claiming to be the descendants of a handful of [Valiant](#) survivors who found refuge on an M-Class planet beyond the Barrier. Even more shocking, the visitors warn that a hostile alien species, the Nuyyad, are preparing to invade our galaxy. Uncertain of how much of the strangers' story to believe, Star Fleet orders the [U.S.S. Stargazer](#) to investigate at once.

Lt. Commander Jean-Luc Picard is second officer on the [Stargazer](#). A young man who has yet to command a vessel of his own, he soon develops a special bond with one of the visitors, a strikingly beautiful woman who has inherited mysterious psychic abilities from her alleged Star Fleet ancestors. But can Picard really trust her? His doubts deepen when the [Stargazer](#) is ambushed by Nuyyad warships, leaving the captain dead and the first officer incapacitated. Picard suddenly finds himself in command and facing immediate danger. Trapped on the wrong side of the Barrier, cut off from Star Fleet, he must now rely on questionable allies and a crew uncertain of his abilities. And not only the [Stargazer](#), but perhaps the entire Federation, may depend on the decisions he must make.

### [Gateways Epilogue: Here There Be Monsters \(e-Book, ST:SCE\)](#), by Keith R.A. DeCandido

In the wake of the gateways crisis, the S.C.E. is left cleaning up the mess—including a horde of rampaging monsters that have been let loose on the planet Maeglin!





# Ship's BBS

(Inspired by the system in the novel Spock's World,  
our "Ship's BBS" contains items of chapter business that the crew should know about.)



\* **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.

## 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

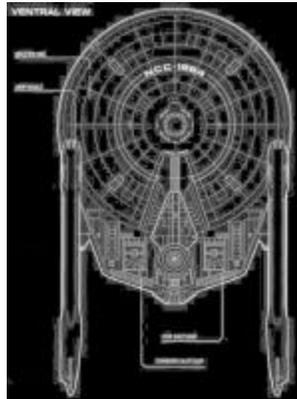
\* Please note the current URLs (essentially, addresses) for important Avenger sites on the World Wide Web: Avenger:  
**<http://www.ussavenger.org>**

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.

## 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](mailto: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

## OTHER COOL CRAP AT OUR CAFEPRESS STORE

Yes, we now have a CafePress store! You can buy Avenger schtuff like T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, mousepads, etc at the Cafepress Avenger Web site at <http://www.cafepress.com/ussavenger>. Also for all you gamin' freaks, Avenger also has merchandising for its Hazard Team at <http://www.cafepress.com/1860hazard>.

## GARMENTS/MEMORABILIA

Well, folks, it turns out that Island Embroidery is closed in Woodbridge Center, so Avenger embroidered shirts are not currently available. Details on Avenger embroidered shirts will be made available here once we've signed up with a new shop.

## TAKE OUR LOGO—PLEASE!

\* Looking for Avenger patches? Where have you BEEN all this time??? We've got 'em! These slick patches are gray in color, with the chapter shield in purple, gold, and silver-white. The patches are 2 inches square, and are available for \$4.00. Send orders to: U.S.S. Avenger  
24 Wilson Street  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2929

# Division Reports



## Scientific Methods by Admiral Alex Rosenzweig

### Scientific Methods

By Alex Rosenzweig

Greetings!

I sit here, staring at my computer screen, thinking...

Two things are foremost in my mind, one exciting, one absolutely horrific, one in the world of Trek and one in the "real world". And I suppose the combination is worth contemplating, worth making one stop and think for just a moment or two.

By the time you read this, the furor at the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon will have died down a bit. But we will never again be able to look at the skyline of New York City and not be painfully aware of what is no longer there. With luck, perhaps justice will have been served in the weeks between when I write this now and when you read it. But whether some retaliation has been struck against the perpetrators of this cowardly act, or whether our nation is still carefully making sure they know exactly who it is before acting (a prudent course, I'd say), one thing is clear. We have been harshly introduced to a new age, a new kind of warfare.

On the other hand, people from around the country and around the world have been drawing together in the face of this disaster. Oh, to be sure, some of America's enemies have been seen rejoicing. But the vast majority of the people of the world, both friend and foe of America alike, have spoken out, condemning an attack upon thousands and thousands of civilians. And the people of our nation stand together in solidarity. Our freedoms, and our way of life, must not be lost in the face of this attack, and they will not be. For whatever happens, it is the spirit of our nation, and of our people, that will stand victorious, for as long as we do not let murder and terror dominate us.

On the other hand, in just a couple of weeks, the newest Star Trek series, "Enterprise", will be premiering. Again, by the time you read this, the first few episodes will likely have aired. "Enterprise" is a story of Humanity's first starship to travel at warp 5, and as such, will chronicle some of our first steps into deep space in the Trek Universe. If it turns out the way the producers say they hope, it'll be a story of high adventure and grand exploration. Part of the background, though, of "Enterprise", is how far Humanity has come since the dark days of global conflict a century earlier, a conflict so widespread that governments were toppled and major cities damaged or destroyed. By the time "Enterprise" begins, Earth is a truly united planet, ready to begin the grand adventure of exploring the galaxy.

As its predecessors have in years past, this new Star Trek series holds out a message, one that is especially important right now, as we stare at the images of horror and devastation flickering across our television screens. As bad as things might look right now, the world of the future can—and hopefully will—be a much brighter, more wonderful place. Humanity can come together, and can unite to pursue the much grander goal of learning what's out there. Now, as much as when the first Star Trek series aired in the 1960s, the Star Trek message is needed, that if we work together, we can have a glorious future. Some people have said that the message of Star

Trek is outmoded, that it's passé to have a series about hope and a bright future. I disagree. The events of the past few days have shown that, as much as ever, that message is needed, and I for one am glad that Star Trek hasn't given up on its basic theme. So when we watch the premiere episode, and the ones that follow, the shadow of this terrorist act may still be in our minds, but hopefully the light of the future's possibilities will drive back the darkness, and let us again look ahead with hope and excitement.

And that's all from me. 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. Maybe now more than ever, we need to remember that science is a source of light in our world. Let's not be afraid to embrace it.

'Til next time...

Ad Astra!

Alex

ADM Alex Rosenzweig  
Chief Science Officer

## Telemetry Dump: News from the World of Science

By Alex Rosenzweig (and the Starfleet Sciences Mailing List)

**1 August 2001:** A medical doctor as respected as the late Benjamin Spock can have a major influence on the dietary habits of a generation of children. Since the publication in 1998 of the seventh edition of [Spock's Baby and Child Care](#), more and more parents are raising their children as vegetarians or vegans. Spock, who died at the age of 94 just before the new version of his book was published, advised no meat or dairy products for children.

**4 August 2001:** Galileo's 31st encounter begins. Once again, this hardy spacecraft plunges deeply into Jupiter's intense radiation field to fly by the fascinating moon Io, the innermost of the giant planet's four largest satellites.

**7 August 2001:** William Gray and his forecast team at Colorado State University are continuing their earlier prediction of a slightly above-average hurricane season for 2001. The forecast continues to call for 12 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major or intense hurricanes (those registering Category 3 or higher on the Saffir-Simpson scale).

**9 August 2001:** NASA's Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) satellite has given astronomers their best glimpse yet at the ghostly cobweb of helium gas left over from the Big Bang, which underlies the universe's structure. The helium is

## Telemetry Dump (cont.)

not found in galaxies or stars but spread thinly through the vastness of space. The observations, published in the August 10 issue of the journal *Science*, help confirm theoretical models of how matter in the expanding universe condensed into a web-like structure pervading all the space between galaxies. The helium traces the architecture of the universe back to very early times. This structure arose from small gravitational instabilities seeded in the chaos just after the Big Bang.

**9 August 2001:** Through layers of gas and dust that stretch for more than 30,000 light-years, astronomers using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory have taken a long, hard look at the plane of the Milky Way galaxy and found that its X-ray glow comes from hot and diffuse gas. The findings, published in the August 10 issue of the journal *Science*, help to settle a long-standing mystery about the source of the X-ray emission from the galactic plane.

**10 August 2001:** The world's tallest hydrothermal ocean vents may offer a tantalizing connection to the conditions that fostered the first life on Earth. Up to 18 stories tall and stark white, the delicate spires are dramatically different from the black chimneys belching 750-degree water heated by magma flowing from gashes in the seafloor. Instead, the white vents sit on old, cold rock in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and gently waft water heated to about 170 degrees around thriving mats of bacteria. Scientists have puzzled over how the white towers formed since their discovery late last year. In the journal *Nature*, they speculate that the spires grow where the seafloor has been torn apart to expose rocks deep within the Earth. Seawater flooding the crevices causes a chemical reaction that both heats the water and transforms the rock's minerals. The combination of freshly exposed rocks, saltwater, and a low-oxygen environment may be similar to the conditions in which life first evolved on Earth.

**10 August 2001:** People who still contend that the Neandertals disappeared some 20,000 to 30,000 years ago because they interbred with early humans could soon decide to face facts and change their Homo sapien minds. Evidence is mounting that, although the two species probably interacted, they were incapable of interbreeding. DNA analysis of three Neandertal skeletons has already suggested that they were a distinct sidebranch of human evolution.

**10 August 2001:** The first land plants and fungi emerged from the seas and colonized Earth's rocky, barren landscape hundreds of millions of years earlier than previously thought, according to scientists who studied the genetics of the modern-day descendants of these terrestrial pioneers. Researchers at Pennsylvania State University, in a study appearing in the journal *Science*, said land plants in the form of mosses appeared about 700 million years ago, and land fungi in the form of lichens appeared about 1.3 billion years ago. Until now, scientists had believed plants and fungi first appeared on dry land around 480 million years ago, based on their oldest-known fossils. "It's considerably earlier," said evolutionary biologist Blair Hedges, who led the study.

**13 August 2001:** President Bush threatened to veto federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research that went beyond the limits he announced last week, setting up a potential showdown with many members of Congress who support funding of research using thousands of "spare" embryos in fertility clinics.

**15 August 2001:** A team of astronomers has found a Jupiter-sized planet orbiting a faint nearby star similar to our Sun, raising intriguing prospects of finding a solar system like our own. The planet is the second found orbiting the star 47 Ursae Majoris in the Big Dipper, also known as Ursa Major or the Big Bear. The new planet is at least three-fourths the mass of Jupiter and orbits the star at a distance that, in our Solar System, would place it beyond Mars but within the orbit of Jupiter.

found to date are in bizarre solar systems, with short periods and eccentric orbits close to the star," Fischer said. "As our sensitivity improves we are finally seeing planets with longer orbital periods, planetary systems that look more like our solar system."

**17 August 2001:** Babies born to mothers who live near landfills are slightly more likely to suffer congenital defects, according to a study published this week. The research, published in the *British Medical Journal*, concentrated on abnormalities such as deformation of the spinal cord, penis, and abdominal wall. The results showed the rate of such defects was 7 percent higher in babies born to mothers who live within 1.25 miles of a landfill where special waste, including hazardous, industrial, and commercial refuse, is broken down. And babies were 5 percent more likely to weigh less than normal if their mothers lived near refuse dumps, the report said.

**17 August 2001:** The queen of the fire ants can be a real tyrant when it comes to her offspring. Responsible for laying all the eggs in a colony, the fire ant queen also plays a royally big role in determining the sex of her offspring, scientists said this week. For reasons the researchers still cannot explain, some queens prefer to have more male offspring than female offspring, and other queens favor the girls over the boys. But regardless of the sex-ratio outcome, the queen rules simply by determining the sex of the eggs she lays, they said.

**21 August 2001:** After more than five months in orbit, three astronauts from the International Space Station were headed home Monday as the space shuttle *Discovery* undocked, flew a loop around the outpost, then backed slowly away and disappeared into a field of stars. "It's time to say goodbye, station, and good luck, new crew," said Russian Yury Usachev, the outgoing station commander, before the hatches closed between station and shuttle. *Discovery* and its crew of four ferried a new crew to the station following its 10 August liftoff. It will return the old crew when it lands in Florida on Wednesday.

4 September 2001: Populations of sharks are declining at alarming rates worldwide, largely due to increasing demand for their fins. Fishers typically land sharks as bycatch—or incidentally while targeting other species of fish. Many of these bycatch sharks are pulled aboard, butchered for their fins, and then tossed back into the ocean to sink and die. Shark fin is a lucrative commodity, particularly in Southeast Asia. The fins are used to make shark fin soup, a delicacy that can cost as much as US\$100 a bowl. Historically, only the wealthiest class of people ate shark fin soup, primarily at special occasions such as wedding banquets. But, over the past twenty years the economic boom in Asia has caused a surge in demand for shark fins and shark fin soup. Viewed as a status symbol, shark fin soup is now routinely served at all sorts of occasions from business dinners to parties.

**4 September 2001:** Astronomers have confirmed that the big chunk of solar system real estate they found earlier this summer is actually the largest asteroid found yet. At an impressive 1,200 kilometers or so across, asteroid 2001 KX76 easily knocks its nearest contender, 950-kilometer Ceres, out of the top spot it's held in space record books for about 200 years. The tape measure also puts the newcomer at about half the size of its nearest planetary neighbor, dinky planet Pluto. The finding reintroduces a sore issue in astronomy circles: whether Pluto should be considered a major planet or reclassified as just another lowly asteroid. 2001 KX76 was discovered in May with a "virtual telescope" at the European Southern Observatory that allows astronomers to compile data from many conventional telescopes. It whirls around the sun in the asteroid-rich Kuiper Belt near icy little Pluto.

**4 September 2001:** Brittlestars take the concept of knowing something in your bones to an entirely new level. Scientists have discovered that these marine animals, which resemble skinny sea stars with snaky arms, grow microscopic lenses on their skeletons more perfect than anything human engineers have come up with. These tiny windows on the world are calcite domes about one-twentieth of a

## Telemetry Dump (cont.)

millimeter across located atop the brittlestar's five arms. The crystals they consist of are aligned so perfectly that the lenses refract images free of the distortion seen in manmade spherical lenses. Since the brittlestar essentially has no brain, scientists think the lenses must form in a chemical environment that makes crystal self-assembly as automatic as a ball rolling downhill. Joanna Aizenberg of Bell Laboratories and Lucent Technologies in New Jersey, who published her finding in *Nature*, suspects brittlestars use their lenses to assemble a pixel-by-pixel picture of the external environment. She hopes to replicate the lenses for use in optical computers.

**4 September 2001:** NASA scientists Tuesday unveiled what they called the next generation of firefighting technology: a robot plane able to circle for up to 24 hours over wildfires, beaming video images and information back to computers by satellite. The Altus II unmanned plane uses cutting edge technology usually seen in military aircraft, giving fire crews a real-time view of fires that can burn over hundreds of thousands of acres. The plane could map dozens of fires and topographical features in a day, never endangering a pilot.

**5 September 2001:** For the first time astronomers have detected material being consumed by the supermassive black hole in our own backyard. A violent, rapid X-ray flare, captured by NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, has been observed from the direction of the supermassive black hole that resides at the center of our Milky Way Galaxy.

**7 September 2001:** More carbon dioxide in the atmosphere seems to be turning the planet into a literal greenhouse. Satellites have spotted that vegetation in Earth's Northern Hemisphere is now denser than it was 20 years ago, with plants growing like, well, weeds. The effect was strongest in Eurasia, in forests ranging from central Europe through largely undeveloped far-east Russia. The growing season in Eurasia is now nearly 18 days longer than in 1981 because spring has been arriving a week early, and fall has been delayed by about 10 days. In North America, where forest fragments in the East and the grasslands of the upper Midwest have seen the most change in growth patterns, the growing season has now lengthened by about 12 days.

**7 September 2001:** Archaeologists say a recent discovery of animal bones and stone tools means humans lived there more than 40,000 years ago, and the region then may not have been covered in ice at all. An international team of scientists said this week they had discovered stone artifacts; reindeer, wolf, and horse bones; and a mammoth tusk with human-made marks on a dig at Mamontovaya Kurya in the northern reaches of Russia. The finds are the oldest documented evidence of human activity so far north. "The bones and artifacts found suggest that the northeast must have been relatively dry and ice free in this period of the Ice Age," archaeologist John Gowlett said, commenting on the research in the scientific journal *Nature*. "It is not possible to determine whether they were left by Neanderthals or by some of the first modern humans in Europe, but ... knowing who made the tools is less important than simply knowing that someone was adapted to the cold conditions," said Gowlett from the University of Liverpool.

**12 September 2001:** Humans are building up dangerous levels of resistance to modern antibiotics that could leave them vulnerable to killer diseases, the U.N. World Health Organization said. Farmers who use antibiotics to fatten up livestock and poultry are aggravating the problem because microbes on animals build up defenses against the drugs, then jump across the food chain and attack human immune systems, WHO said. The world health body said tuberculosis strains in several countries had become resistant to two of the most effective drugs, and some antimalarial medicines had become practically useless as parasites adapted their defenses.

**12 September 2001:** The world's coral reefs are far smaller than scientists thought and are shrinking fast under a deadly combination of pollution,

the dust cloud kicked up by the solar wind streaming symmetrically around it, Borrelly's nucleus is located to one side. The flyby marks humankind's second close encounter with a comet; the European Space Agency's Giotto flew past Halley's comet in 1986. Four more American and European missions are scheduled to visit comets over the next decade.

## Medical Alert

by Ann Marie Reilly

*Submitted from the Office of the CMO, U.S.S. Avenger*

WARNING: Bio-Contaminant Notice: A biological of the viral agent cited below is believed to have contaminated members of the crew.

### Spontaneous Deltan Pheromone Syndrome (SDPS)

#### Indications:

- Viral agent usually contracted when a subject is bitten by a Deltan Spah'NEESH Fly (an equivalent to a Terran Mosquito)
- Affects higher brain functions by flooding the bloodstream with adrenaline and endorphins
- Gender-specific increases in Estrogen or Testosterone levels in humanoid subjects
- In male subjects, pryopismic reaction has been documented
- Has been known to have long-term residual side effects to the portion of the psyche known as the 'libido'.

Cultured samples of this viral agent were being kept in stasis for analysis and counter-agent development. At present, there is no treatment for this ailment, save to allow it to fully metabolize through a patient's system.

The following items are being reported missing from Medical: 3 Hyposprays, 1 Portable Bio-Development Incubator, 2 Cultured Samples of SDPS, 1 Colostomy Bag Kit (suspected to be unrelated, but Hey, ya never know)

Symptoms: Crew members infected with this virus will show signs of atypical profuse sweating, lack of concentration on duties, and increased usage of "adult entertainment" media files from ship's database. Behavior akin to straddling the safety railings in Main Engineering and shouting "Whoa, Daddy!" should be reported to Medical and Security immediately. Other symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- Spontaneous compulsion to break into falsetto singing of popular ABBA melodies (George Michael concerts are also to be reported)
- Any crew members seen wearing a Carmen Miranda Fruit-Salad-Hat are to be reported
- Any voiced innuendo along the lines of "Oh, I'd like to beam her!" or "Docking bay's open, I'm ready to receive!" are likewise to be reported.

DO NOT MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANY CREW MEMBER SUSPECTED OF HAVING BEEN INFECTED. Ship's stores are providing insulating gloves and rubber underwear in accordance with quarantine protocols..

# FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

by Lt. Cmdr. Matt Rielly

## ***Ever Forward...but Never Forget***

Normally, I dedicate this column to anything and everything relating to Star Trek...in which I have managed to find some comfort over the years. At the same time, I remind myself of the necessity to stay grounded in reality. Once in a while, we all need the occasional reality check.

Tragically, that came for all of us on the fateful morning of September 11th, another day that many say will live in infamy, just as Franklin Delano Roosevelt described the attack on Pearl Harbor 60 years ago. I have already expressed some of my feelings on this issue in e-mails to our crew, and I thank the Lord above that those closest to me who live in Manhattan were nowhere near "Ground Zero". However, I still find myself having feelings of hopelessness, frustration, and utter disbelief. I see the video footage on the news channels of the planes crashing into the World Trade Center towers over and over, and I tell myself that I'm used to it by now. However, there is a voice inside that echoes the outrage and dismay felt by Charlton Heston's character at the end of the original "Planet of the Apes" movie. I can sometimes picture myself standing on the bank of the Hudson, falling to my knees and pounding my fists into the ground, shouting, "You maniacs! You blew it up!" I doubt anyone used those exact words when the Twin Towers came crumbling down, but I'm certain the same feeling was there.

Every time I drive up the Turnpike near Newark or take Route 3 eastbound through Clifton en route to Secaucus, I get an eerie feeling. Prior to the tragedy, I was used to seeing the old familiar towers of the Manhattan Skyline...including the World Trade Center, an icon of the Big Apple and a landmark to remind me that as long as it was on my right side, I was always heading in the right direction. Even though I had never visited the towers, I felt comfortable knowing they were there and proud to work in sight of them. Nowadays, I make the daily commute northbound and sometimes feel like I'm driving past a dead zone. I look in vain for the towers that once dominated downtown, only to catch an occasional glimpse of a tall crane picking at the wreckage. I was off the week it happened and out of town, so I wondered how I'd react when I returned to work the following Monday. I could still see the smoke and dust rising from the site, and I didn't know what to feel.

It is easy to dwell on the past. We have all done it from time to time. However, we must not forget the good that has come out of the tragedy at both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Blood donations to the American Red Cross and local blood banks reached a point only within a day or two of the attacks where officials actually reported they had more than enough. You cannot turn around anymore without seeing an American flag flying somewhere...even on cars you pass on the highways or see in any parking lot. We have seen candlelight vigils with people from all walks of life, joined in an unprecedented show of unity. We have

seen President George Bush, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and even New York State Governor George Pataki take charge as never before, guiding people through the crisis.

Speaking of symbolism, it's all around...and not just in the stars-and-stripes. The Empire State Building still stands, a proud beacon draped in red, white and blue lights on top at night. It stands yeomanlike as if to tell the tri-state area and the rest of the world, "We are still here. We are alive, we are strong, and still open for business." Even though the Twin Towers are now a memory, one thing just off the southeast corner of Manhattan Island remains standing, resolute and steadfast: the Statue of Liberty. We can even take an example from the New York State flag. Printed below the state crest in bold letters is the word EXCELSIOR. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines its use as an adjective by the following: still higher; ever upward. In that context, the meaning "ever forward" would also apply.

What is the bottom line here? To sum it up in one word, "freedom" would seem most appropriate. More importantly, it is freedom to get on with our lives and live as we should. So, go ahead and buy that new car you have been saving for. Check out a concert, a Broadway show, or even any sales at your nearest shopping mall. Visit a park; go on a picnic; take a plane, train or bus; go to the movies. Hey, even tune in to "Enterprise" and debate with your friends whether Scott Bakula makes a better captain than William Shatner or Patrick Stewart. Let the politicians and the military concern themselves with solutions to prevent any repeat of September 11th, 2001. We the people at large are a resilient sort, both on United States soil and in all reaches across the planet. As we continue to exercise our inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we should also take time to thank firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians and soldiers. If you know someone who is any of the above, shake their hand. Give them a hug. Whatever it takes to say "thank you". If you want to make a donation to the American Red Cross, by all means, do so. To them, that would be the ultimate thanks.

The future, as always, remains uncertain. And, who can say how long the feelings of unity will last? However, we can be thankful that the healing has begun. At the same time, we shall never forget. Ever forward... **EXCELSIOR**



***Our Editor-in-Chief gets ready to work on the Avenger News...***

## THE AVENGER IN FICTION: TWO MORE CHARACTERS

By Alex Rosenzweig, Carlos Maldonado, Jr., and Judy Waidlich

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

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

This issue, we're again taking a break from "Cabin Fever". While we're anxiously awaiting the next chapter, we bring you instead two character files, courtesy of the Avenger Fiction workshop that was held late in August. Among the results of that workshop was an update to CAPT Maldonado's file and the creation of the file for LCDR Judy Waidlich. So, without further ado, we bring you the captain and the assistant chief science officer...

### MALDONADO, CARLOS MANUEL, Jr.

#### CAPTAIN

Serial Number: SC 18443 CEC  
Official Position: Commanding Officer  
Current Assignment: U.S.S. Avenger, Heavy Frigate, NCC-1860  
Nature and Duration of Mission: Multi-Purpose (Exploration; Peaceforcer; Survey; Etc.), 5 Years  
Age: 35  
Nationality: Terran  
Place of Birth: New York-United States-Earth  
Date of Birth: 16 February 2266

**History:** Entered Star Fleet Academy at age 17, the minimum age allowed. Completed all required courses in four years. Assigned with rank of Ensign to the destroyer U.S.S. Palo Alto as a laboratory technician specializing in technical methods development. After a number of months, during which Maldonado was commended for his work on the now-defunct "Water Balloon" project and had his report on same published in a prestigious Federation scientific journal, he was promoted to the rank of Ensign First Class. Two years later, when the Palo Alto was assigned to assist in dealing with a plague in the Transvax Star System, Maldonado—working with communications officer Lieutenant J.G. Chamiel Fuskal—established a series of subspace communications relays between the system's two Class M planets, enabling ready communication between the two planets and with nearby systems, leading to the rapid development of a cure. As a result, at age 24, he was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant J.G.. Some 4 months later, transferred to heavy frigate U.S.S. Avenger as a scientist specializing in technical methods development. Received a commendation soon afterward for his participation in the survey of Jacuzzi III. Data from his report indicated an aptitude for the social sciences, and further studies in this area were encouraged by Chief Science Officer Fillmore.

When Lt. Commander William Johnson vacated the position, Maldonado was promoted, at age 25, to the grade of full Lieutenant and assigned as the chief scientist (social sciences). In the following months, Maldonado demonstrated clear leadership capabilities, which drew the attention of the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, and other members of the senior staff. Consequently, at age 26, following the resignation of then-

Commander Fillmore from the post of Alpha Shift Watch Commander, Maldonado was appointed to that position, and received a brevet promotion to the grade of Lt. Commander. Shortly thereafter, following consistently excellent performance in both positions, the promotion was made permanent. Several months later, Maldonado requested reposting in the technical sciences, citing a much greater interest in that area of research. The request was approved, and he returned to his p

revious post as a scientist specializing in technical methods development. Following continued excellent performance, at age 27, Maldonado was promoted to the grade of Commander. In early-2294, at age 28, Maldonado was offered—and accepted—the post of Executive Officer when Commander Johnson stepped down in preparation for his reassignment to Star Fleet Sciences. At age 29, following an extended series of outstanding performance reports, and at Admiral Rosenzweig's recommendation at the end of Avenger's 5-year mission in 2295, Maldonado was promoted to the rank of Captain. In 2299, due to a reorganization of personnel at Star Fleet Headquarters, Admiral Rosenzweig was reassigned to a position on Earth. At the age of 33, and at Rosenzweig's recommendation, Maldonado was appointed as Commanding Officer of the Avenger.

**Personal:** Married. Wife, Chaym Gale', is currently Chief of Recreation, U.S.S. Avenger. Two children, Arianna and Kiran. Parents are alive on Earth, where his father is a Certified Public Accountant and his mother works for the local division of social services. Two brothers, George and Danny. Danny is in college, and both have entered the work force. Maldonado's paternal grandmother, who lives with the family, is described as "good enough reason for many in the household to go into space". She has an apparent penchant for criticism, making Maldonado sensitive to such while on duty. One significant romance, with Suzanne Lake, lasted for roughly 2.5 years. However, while on vacation on a frontier world, an accident took place in which Maldonado was injured while riding in a hovercraft driven by Lake. It was determined that Lake was at fault, and family pressures on both sides broke up the relationship. At a celebration following the completion of the Jacuzzi III survey, Maldonado and then-Lieutenant Chaym Gale' Re'ming'ton initiated a relationship. Both have since claimed that it was alcohol-induced, and challenge the suggestion that it was "love at first sight". After nearly two years, the two became engaged, and married in late-2296. After extensive biogenetic research done by Captain Wendy Fillmore, Commander Urbanavage (formerly Chief Medical Officer, U.S.S. Avenger) monitored the embryos from implantation. Two of the four implants took root. One was distinctly Mohnan, the other Human. The due date was 8 February 2298. Because of the highly-unusual nature of this pregnancy, Chaym was allowed to remain aboard ship, and Admiral Rosenzweig pursued and secured a waiver of standard regulations which would require one or both parents to transfer to surface duty. The children were born on 18 February 2298 (see file on Maldonado, Arianna and Kiran). Hobbies include chess, computers, computer gaming and simulations, roller skating, reading, writing, constructing model vehicles, and using remotely-controlled vehicles of various types. Although serious when necessary, Maldonado tries not to be overly so. Although he tends to push himself to the limit in simulations, he is often overcautious in reality. Maldonado often enjoys piloting the ship's shuttlecraft on the occasional missions when they are needed, to the frustration of the ship's Flight staff. Maldonado Impressed a brown fire-lizard from the second hatching on the Avenger, and named it Scorch. The fire-lizard was lost while saving the Avenger from destruction in early 2296.

(cont.)

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## Avenger in Fiction (cont.)

WAIDLICH, JUDITH ANN

LT. COMMANDER

Serial Number: AS 54198

Official Position: Assistant Chief Science Officer

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

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

Age: 28

Nationality: Terran

Place of Birth: New Jersey-United States-Earth

Date of Birth: 12 August 2273

History: Pursued a degree at the University of Maryland, and graduated at age 19 with a bachelor's degree in history and xeno-anthropology. Chose to pursue a career in Star Fleet, and entered Star Fleet Academy the semester following her college graduation. Completed all required courses in two years. Graduated at age 22, and assigned with the rank of Lieutenant J. G. to the heavy scout U.S.S. Gommorhea as a scientist specializing in archaeology. Waidlich participated in a number of archaeological surveys and site digs, gathering information on some twelve vanished cultures on as many worlds. At the age of 24, she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, in recognition of her experience and active contributions to the research process. After another year or so, Waidlich indicated an increasing interest in more widely-varying exploration and research opportunities, and at the age of 26, she transferred to the heavy frigate U.S.S. Avenger as a scientist. She not only performed her duties within the ship's Social Sciences department, but also actively pursued opportunities to learn in other areas of the Sciences Division. As a result, at the age of 27, Waidlich was promoted to the rank of Lt. Commander. Several months later, when Assistant Chief Science Officer Siobhan Antrim was promoted and left the Avenger, Waidlich was offered the position. She accepted, and was appointed as Assistant Chief Science Officer in May of 2301.

Personal: Unmarried. Parents deceased, having died in a freak accident in 2296. No siblings. Waidlich has described herself as a "strange child", and says her parents "quit while they were ahead". Waidlich has had few close friendships, and even fewer romances, with the notable exception of one relationship at the Academy, which ended badly shortly before graduation. Since that time, Waidlich has preferred to focus on her work, and until recently, remained immersed in the lore of dead civilizations. Her most recent promotions have had the effect of drawing her out more, however. Interests include art, horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking, camping, and spelunking (all useful hobbies for one involved in the exploration of ancient ruins). Waidlich is intelligent and curious, yet quiet and shy at first in new situations. She tends to prefer the "hard way" to reach ruins, traveling on foot or animal-back, rather than a convenient beam-in. She is an excellent marksman and natural athlete, and has also gained considerable skills as a shuttlecraft pilot while participating in multiple surveys.

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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 seri-

alization 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] The Avenger is transporting diplomats from a recently-discovered race to important negotiations with Federation representatives. Unknown to the crew, the new race gives off a strange invisible aura that begins to affect electronic equipment, causing it to malfunction. As the voyage progresses, food synthesizers begin belching out inedible slime or won't stop producing chocolate pudding, etc. Lights and turbolifts go wacko, the ship's computer alternately pipes old disco hits and Klingon marching songs mixed with jokes (in Vulcan) over the intercomm - which nobody can shut off. And so forth. The crew must find the source of the trouble and fix it without resorting to beaming the diplomats out into space, etc. before the ship's systems totally fail.

2] During a first contact with a technologically advanced civilization, an Avenger officer uses one of the species' artifacts and accidentally wipes out the whole race from existence. How does he cope with it? Can he be judged for his crime? And how come the officer was allowed to use such a powerful artifact? What was the species' real agenda? Are they really dead?

Finally, as a part of this series, we're including 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 permits. 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, contact ADM Rosenzweig for help/information.



Welp, it's another fine issue of... ah, !\$%(^%) it...

I'm not in the mood to make jokes, and you're not in the mood to hear em. We've all gotten to the point where we're no longer glued to the TV sets, or calling everyone we know to "check in". But it doesn't mean we ain't thinking about it, and it doesn't mean life is back where it was during the last issue.

So many folks have focused on commemorating those lost or affected by the events of Sept 11 (an event so unthinkable it's considered obscene to directly mention it by name) that I want to focus instead on the many smaller changes that have occurred in our lives. I guess for me, the most shocking effect would be the way in which we have changed as American citizens.

Having witnessed the election debacle of 2000, seeing two unimpressive candidates that the American people could not choose a clear winner from, I believed that our interest in our government has truly reached an all-time low. The candidates were laughable, the citizens couldn't do anything about it, and furthermore they did not care. In the back of my head, I remember thinking "Now, what would happen if Candidate X was President during a time of war? Would I feel safe?" Well we

## Ops Report (cont.)

elected one, and here we are, and there he is. And the man we laughed at as a clueless goof a few months ago is now being revered as our leader and our hero.

The city of New York is another shining example: the city so many Americans saw as a pit of greed, sin, vice and pretentious gits wearing way too much black is now the center of the nation's prayers and hopes for the future. New Yorkers are now the center of the world's attention (before, they just THOUGHT they were... sorry, I HAD to make that joke...). And every little step on the road to recovery—the curtains going back up on Broadway, most notably—is cheered throughout the nation.

And the citizens of the United States have behaved in a way that I honestly never would have believed at the publication of our last issue. Not only the overwhelming donations of money, time and supplies to the victims, their families and the rescue workers, but also the thoughts and prayers of Americans nationwide, people who may have never been to either the NYC or DC (I know people in my rural hometown that flat-out refuse to venture into “the big city” all their lives, staying hidden and safe in their little houses in the woods. My last trip home, even they were expressing their support in the churches, in displays on their houses and on their cars.

But most poignant was the way my friends and family, even people on the other side of the country, were getting in touch with me. On the 11th, myself and my coworkers were getting calls during work, on the way home, and once I got home I had many calls on my answering machine, from family members, from friends, even from people I was not exactly on the best terms with. They all wanted to know I was all right, just because they knew I sometimes went to NYC for business purposes. My boyfriend in Maryland (himself a few miles from the Pentagon) also reached me at work to make sure I was okay.) And his concerns for my welfare were reflected in his fellow Highlanders when I attended the Maryland Renaissance Faire with my fellow Avengers.

And throughout Fleet, I have seen the vast network of chatrooms and listservs overwhelmed with the concerns and hopes of all members of our “extended family”. I have seen desperate calls out for folks unaccounted for, and the relief that came from seeing all of those names on the “check-in” list Underwood displayed on the Avenger web site. I did a similar list for the Federation, and linked to the Fleet list as well. Both organizations share common members, friends and events, and now was NOT the time for petty rivalry. I was scared for my buddies in NYC on Renstar, and on the Avenger, and on the Osiris, and on the Northstar, and the list just goes on.

And we all just kind of keep going, trying to keep up with the developing news, trying to deal with the various scares, hoaxes and panic-raising news reports being thrown at us daily. And we just try to deal, through inspirational music and stories, through displays of patriotism and community. The premiere of the series Enterprise certainly has been very uplifting, both in its entertainment and in its vision of a brighter future. So has the various forms of humor that spread like wildfire through email and websites.

My favorite so far, an example of the before-and-after comparisons that inspired me to write this article:

### **BEFORE & AFTER:**

Before: I hate my job.

After: I am lucky to have a job.

Before: Get out of my way, I am trying to get to work here.

After: Drive safely, god bless.

Before: Petty things have lasting impacts

After: Phone calls to my family who fly frequently for their jobs.

Before: Did you clean your room and do your homework yet?

After: You know I will always be here for you right?

Before: Florida news

After: International News & Do people really live like that?

Before: Life is hard.

After: I am blessed.

Before: You want me to what?

After: How can I help?

**Before:** Paula Zahn interviews tarot card reader on whereabouts of Chandra Levy on Fox News

**After:** Paula Zahn interviews Christiane Amanpour on whereabouts of OBL on CNN

**Before:** News organizations planning to release yet another recount of the Florida election results (on Sept 11)

**After:** News organizations accept that George Bush is president nine months after the fact

**Before:** MSNBC's Ashleigh Banfield is a bottle blonde

**After:** MSNBC's Ashleigh Banfield is a bottle brunette

**Before:** Rudy Giuliani is a Nazi

**After:** Rudy Giuliani is a god

**Before:** Blacks against racial profiling

**After:** Blacks favor racial profiling (of Arabs)

**Before:** Tony Blair = Clinton's Best Bud

**After:** Tony Blair = Bad Cop to Bush's Good Cop

**Before:** Primary Colors

**After:** Red, White and Blue

**Before:** Airport security sucks

**After:** Airport security still sucks

**Before:** All we are saying, is give peace a chance

**After:** SHUT UP!

# MISSION DOCKET

## (UPCOMING EVENTS)

### October

**October 20 – Franklin Institute**, Philadelphia, PA. Join the crew of the Avenger on a journey to explore the wonders of science at Philadelphia's premiere science museum. Admission cost is \$12.00 (basic) and \$16.00 (with IMAX) for adults, and \$9.00 and \$13.00 respectively for senior citizens and children aged 4-11. Suggested meeting time is 9 AM at the New Brunswick Train Station to catch the 9:21 AM train bound for Trenton and Philadelphia.

**October 27 – Region 7 Halloween Party**. The Region 7 Halloween Party will be hosted once again by the U.S.S. Challenger on 27 October at 7 p.m. - midnight at the Seaside Heights Community Center, Seaside Heights NJ. It is a potluck affair and we'll have a collection box for donations to the Red Cross Victims of 9-11-01 Fund. Contact Captains Mary Francen or David Singleton at 732/288-0435 by 21 Oct. or e-mail them at Gempladi@aol.com for confirmation of what you will bring or mail a check for \$7 per person to U.S.S. Challenger, 554 Hollywood Ave., Toms River NJ 08753-6708 (Checks MUST be received by Oct. 21). Games, contests, DJ music and great food will all be present, and this whole thing will benefit a good cause, so come out and enjoy the party!

**October 27 – 29 – Chiller Con**, Meadowlands Sheraton. A "Lost in Space" Reunion with June, Jonathan, Mark, Bob May, Marta, Billy and Angela. Linda Harrison and Lou Wagner represent "Planet of the Apes". From "The Poseidon Adventure": Carol Lynley and Stella Stevens. Four actors from "F Troop" who played Wrangler Jane, Corporal Agorn, Dobbs and Crazy Cat. Lisa Loring and Ken Weatherwax from "The Addams Family". Claudia Christian, Peter Jurasik and Julia Nickson from "Babylon 5". Also Ray Park, Erin Gray, Joe Pantoliano (Sopranos), David Allen Brooks (Crusade) and Tony Amendola. And their big Trek Star is Robin Curtis; also attending will be Robert Picardo. Plus the usual "Dark Shadows", horror movie stars and playmates. The website is <http://www.chillertheatre.com>.

### November

**November 2 to 4 – Region 7 Conference**, held at the Holiday Inn at King of Prussia, in King of Prussia, PA. Following Halloween closely, the theme of this year's conference will be "The Scariest Region 7 Conference, You'll Ever Attend".

**November 3 – Game/Project Day!** Contact Ann Marie for details.

**November 11 – Ship Meeting**, Barnes & Noble, North Brunswick, NJ, 3 PM. Also, join us for a book signing and author panel, with noted Star Trek authors Keith R. A. DeCandido and Bob Greenberger as our guests! The book signing begins at 1 PM. Those interested can also join our guests

**November 9 to 11 – United Fan Con XI**, Springfield Massachusetts. For more info go to [www.unitedfancon.com](http://www.unitedfancon.com)

**November 17 – Chocolate Show**, in New York City. Details to come.

### December

**December 1 – Region 7 Holiday Party** – This party will take place at both the Officer's Club of West Point Military Academy AND the Annapolis Officers' Club on the grounds of the Annapolis Naval Academy. That's right, TWO LOCATIONS at the same time. Both events will be linked via the web and chat. The cost is \$25 per person. This is a sit-down dinner with DJs and Dancing. Dress is Semi Formal (dress nice). Please RSVP by November 15th, 2001, to FCapt Sanford Berenberg at [sberenberg@e-steel.com](mailto:sberenberg@e-steel.com).

**December 9 – Ship meeting**, Barnes & Noble, North Brunswick, NJ, 3 PM. And don't forget lunch at T.G.I. Friday's at 1 PM.

**December 15 – MiSHaP 4** – The MultiShip Holiday Party returns for a fourth year! Details to come.

#### Contact List

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



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

## Next Meeting:

**November 11, 2001**  
**3:00 pm**

**Location: Barnes & Noble**



*Good coffee here too...*

*Good burgers here....*

### ***Promotions:***

- Bruce Adams from Ens to Ens First Class (EFC)
- Lauren Milan from Brevet LT. Commander to full Lt. Commander (LCDR)
- Idalina Teixeira from LT. to LT. Commander (LCDR)

### ***It's never too early!***

#### ***In the works for Avenger news #80:***

- Reviews of *Star Trek: The Franchise After This One*
- *Avenger in Fiction*: "Cabin Fever," Chapter 10
- Reports from CO Kiran Maldonado and XO Lauren Milan

**The Deadline for the next issue is:**  
***Nov. 30, 2001***

### ***DISCLAIMER:***

These folks wear nuthin' under their kilts.... You've been warned...