

THE SAME OLD STORY

A Short Story from the Sci-Fi World

8

CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICERS LOG

SUBMITTED BY LT. BRAD JACOBS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome, Greetings, Salutations and y'l'e! Welcome to the Fall 2019 issue of the Ticonderoga newsletter. As difficult as it may seem to be, we are already moving into the final days of 2019. Like so many years that have come and gone, each has its own good and not so good events. This year, even with its rough patches, has had an overtone that fits well with this issue. Super, and Super Heroes!

We all have to admit sometimes, we would love to be able to be able to move that mountain of laundry with our minds, or see whats in the mystery collectibles boxes with X-Ray vision, or maybe just fly and buzz by our old high school bullies house and ding-dong-ditch em!

Well, whatever your first activity might have been once you found out that super powers were yours, that moment may not ever happen. What will happen though, is super hero sized actions that have super sized results every day all across the country by "ordinary" crew who don't let their limits stop them.

So that being said, even though we are going to have to move the laundry, buy the box without looking, and run like a mad man after ringing the bell, we still look to the skies, watch for that flash of lightning, and aspire to master our minds powers as we create our perfect hero in our books, films and comics.

"Ancient astronauts didn't build the pyramids. Human beings built the pyramids, because they're clever and they work hard." —Gene Roddenberry

Never let your dreams be grounded by thinking that just because you are not able to leap tall buildings with a single bound, that you cannot reach the top. Sometimes we just have to wait for the elevator.

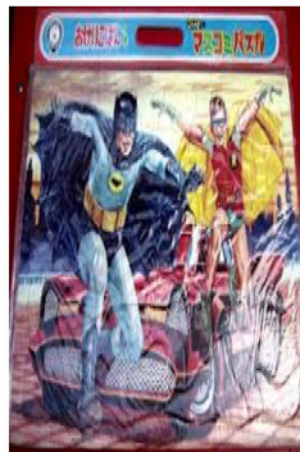
As always... *QaQ jaj laD* "It is a good day...to read"

The Newsletter Staff

THE FERENGITRADER



COLLECTIBLES FROM OUR SUPER HEROES — VINTAGE 1960'S — 1970'S.



THE FERENGITRADER



SUPERHERO COLLECTIBLES FROM THE MODERN DAYS — 1990'S — PRESENT DAY.



USS TICONDEROGA — DART SIDE — NOVEMBER 23RD

Where: Layton Utah

Description: Come and join the crew as we embark on an away mission to the indoor dart shooting arena. Just remember to leave your Red Shirt at home!!

USS TICONDEROGA — WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13TH MONTHLY MEETING

Where: Roy Utah Library

Description: The members of the USS Toconderoga along wth Friends will be gathering at the Roy Library for the monthly meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a friend!

USS KELLY — FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH — ARTIMIS SIMULATOR

Where: 9853 S Blossom Dr, Sandy, UT 84092

Description: The USS Kelly Tactical Department invites you to join us for a night of simulator role play.

USS TICONDEROGA — MOGATU GIFT EXCHANGE — DECEMBER 11TH

Where: Roy Library

Description: Prepare yourself for the delicacies of true Klingon cooking! Blood wine and Gagh will flow freely, as will the blood of those unwise enough to criticize the feast! (Not really, but there may be some shoving to be first in line!)

SEVENTH FLEET — FLEET ADMIRALS BANQUET — TBD

Where: TBD

Description: Join the USS Ticonderoga and her intrepid crew as they form an away team to join the other ships in attending the annual Fleet Admirals Banquet.

For a list of all the activities in the 7th fleet, look for us at <http://www.seventhfleet.org/> or on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SeventhFleet>

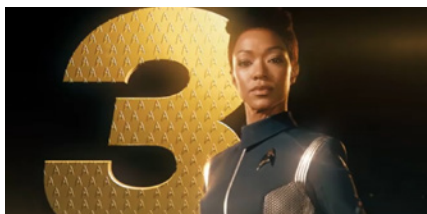


HAPPENINGS FROM AROUND THE FEDERATION



MAKE IT SO! THE *TREK* TO COME IN 2019

2019 will surely be a memorable year for *Star Trek* fans. Where to begin? Patrick Stewart will be back as Picard. The new series is set to premier in January 2020. We know that many of the characters from Next Gen and Voyager will be a part of the crew. *Star Trek: Discovery* will return for its third season. Plus a wide range of wonderful fan events across the globe.



STAR TREK DISCOVERY — SEASON 3 WILL RETURN!

Season three of *Discovery* will kick off in mid 2020 and, when it does, viewers will see not just Burnham, Saru and Tilly in action again, but we will be able to find out what has befallen the crew of the USS *Discovery*. *Discovery's* sophomore year will premier on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 8:30 PM, ET/5:30 PM, PT exclusively on CBS All Access in the United States, and season 3 will most likely follow suit next year!



STAR TREK — EXPLORING NEW WORLDS APRIL THRU SEPTEMBER 2020

Fifty years after a show with modest ratings called *Star Trek* first aired, its stories continue to echo worldwide. Its famous opening line, “To boldly go where no one has gone before,” encapsulates the heart of this iconic series: the dare to hope for a better world. Coming to the Skirball in spring/summer 2020, this fully immersive exhibition will showcase *Star Trek's* significant impact on culture, art, and technology through more than 100 rare artifacts, set pieces, and props, plus state-of-the-art photo and video interactives.



STAR TREK THE CRUISE & DESTINATIONS

Over the course of the 2020 year, there are tons of opportunities for away missions for you and your crew. In March is the Cruise, followed later in the year by Destination Birmingham, England and Destination Dortmund, Germany. Save up those Latinum bars and leave the Red Shirt at home!!



DESTINATION *STAR TREK* — CONVENTION EUROPE RETURNS OCT 25TH - 27TH

Fans in Europe are already counting the days until the next Destination *Star Trek* event, which will once again be held at the NEC in Birmingham, UK, from October 25–27. Among the guests set so far... George Takei and Michelle Forbes. Keep an eye on DestinationStarTrek.com.



STAR WARS — THE RISE OF SKYWALKER / THE MANDALORIAN / CLONE WARS

Set in the Star Wars universe created by George Lucas, and continued by Disney, the final film in the 9 part series will debut this December. This will draw from all 8 previous films, and is expected to have appearances from cast members past and present.

The Mandalorian series will take place after the events of Return of the Jedi and before The Force Awakens, and follows a lone Mandalorian gunfighter beyond the reaches of the Republic. In November 2019, the forthcoming series will premier and be set three to eight years after the end of the film Return of the Jedi.

Already shown from the series were galaxy familiars, such as Stormtroopers, IG 88, and a whole slew of scum and villainy. We must be cautious!!

In February, we will get season seven of the much loved series, The Clone Wars. This was revealed at Star Wars Celebration earlier this year. It will continue the story of Anakin Skywalker, General Obi-Wan, Asoka and the final days of the Republic.



BATTLESTAR GALACTICA — ALL CON 2020

Come and join us for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Battlestar Galactica at All-Con 2020 alongside the cast of the Original Series that will be in attendance. Dirk Benedict, Laurette Spang, Terry Carter, Herbert Jefferson Jr., Anne Lockhart, Sarah Rush, Jack Stauffer and more will be congregating in Dallas. Have an away mission to help the last remaining humans find a place called...Earth!!



LEAKY CON WILL BE RETURNING TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Rowling's Wizarding World will return to Orlando, Florida in 2020! Mischief Management will bring LeakyCon back to the Orange County Convention Center from July 31 through August 2, 2020, which means LeakyCon attendees will be able to celebrate Harry Potter and J.K.



GALLIFREY ONE CONVENTIONS — LOS ANGELES CA. FEBRUARY 14TH - 16TH , 2020

What can you expect from Gallifrey One? A fabulous weekend of fun... from guest speakers from all of the worlds of Doctor Who and its spinoffs, to amazing programming such as Q&As, interviews, live episode commentaries, discussion panels, workshops, and the annual Bob May Memorial Charity Auction.

THE SAME OLD STORY

BY SEAN O'KEEFE

Demora had to wonder why on earth she was sitting there. Sure, the Captain had asked her to come along, but, in the end, she decided that life was too short. "You call this a classic?" she asked, incredulous. Captain John Harriman looked at her with a hurt expression.

He had invited her to help her expand her knowledge of their people's history and sometimes he found it useful to draw on movies from the 20th Century to achieve his goal. That they were sometimes cheesy, well, you couldn't win them all. "What do you mean?" His First Officer, Commander Demora Sulu, gestured at the screen. "The characters are ridiculous. The plot is wafer thin and I'm pretty sure that nobody ever actually talked like that. Here's looking at you? Seriously?" John gave her a half smile.

He was reminded of an old saying about leading horses to water. "Philistine," he said good naturedly. They were compatriots of long standing and here, in his private viewing room, they could get away with friendly insults. Demora popped another piece of popcorn in her mouth. John had said the buttery substance added to the sense of nostalgia. All she could think of was how much extra time she would have to spend on the treadmill to work it off tomorrow. Inwardly, she shrugged. Some things were worth it.

As the movie drew to a close the lights in the room automatically came up. "So, what was I supposed to learn from ... that?" she asked, a tad confused. Harriman shrugged. "I don't know. I suppose you already know there are bad guys out there. I just thought you might enjoy the diversion from our usual duties with some good, old fashioned cinema." "So, people used to pay to see things like this?" Demora rolled her eyes. "I'm glad I'm not living back then. I think my brain would have left me for a more interesting person." "I guess it's not for everyone," he conceded.

He glanced in her direction and had to give it one more try. "It is rated as one of history's greatest romances." "Love and romance are not for career Starfleet officers." "That's not what your father thinks." Demora shot him a look. "Dad is one of the exceptions," she said a little tightly. John looked in the popcorn box and considered eating some of the burnt pieces in the bottom. He liked the way they crunched. "Yep. Serving on the original Enterprise then Captain of the Excelsior for ten years before giving up Starfleet and running for President. And winning!" He crunched for a moment before adding: "And still he finds time for

his little girl." "Sexism aside, John, Dad hasn't always been there for me."

She looked back in time and remembered the young lady sent off to the faceless boarding schools. "There were long periods where I wondered where he was and what he was doing. Sometimes even uncertain whether he would return at all. Back then I remember reading about their exploits in the news feeds and wondering whether it was even true." Harriman knew what was coming next. "Now I'm out here I know that it was," she said, a little awed and yet sullen. She had heard the stories from their fellow Starfleet officers who had been there as well and shared in those adventures. By unspoken agreement, neither of them mentioned Captain Kirk. Both of them had been there when he died and the shame of being a part of his demise was still felt even now, over ten years later.

Harriman was a little confused. "You turned out all right." Demora sighed. "While I have to admit the chance of being a mother does have its attractions, the fact is that I wouldn't want to be a part time parent who was never around because I was too busy saving the galaxy." Ever the laid back Captain, John offered: "Then resign, find a good man, settle down and make babies."

Demora slapped him on the shoulder for his impertinence. "It's not for me, Captain Harriman." She looked back on her past and a flicker of pain passed through her eyes. Her observant friend didn't miss it. "What is it?" Sulu's chest ached for a long repressed memory had surfaced. She wondered whether she should share it with John, but he had proven himself to be not only a good friend but a powerful ally. "It was something that happened when I was just seventeen. It was my first year at the academy...."

"Come on Demora! You can climb faster!"

I looked up at Devlin and scowled. I was doing just fine without his childish goading. We were only a few metres from the summit, but I had not only climbed the rock face in record time, I had taken the moment to enjoy the view. The cliff face on Rigel Seven reminded me a lot of El Capitan in Yosemite, a place that my father had taken me before on a holiday. We had climbed it together, Dad showing me the ropes. One of the nice things about this cliff was it wasn't as severe or as high, and it had a nice pool of clear, fresh water on top to cool off in. Most people never got the chance as the students were only ever given six hours to

climb it and it usually took all of that time to make the ascent. I did it in three. With Devlin. The two of us had been pals since we joined Starfleet. We shared a lot of the same classes and often studied together. We often trolled the bars together in our off times, coming back to the base propping one another up as we walked. He was a great friend. To keep fit, both of us would challenge each other on the climbing wall at the Academy and it wasn't long before we stopped considering it much of a challenge. Naturally, when this survival course started, we knew we were well and truly up to the task.

Now, only a few metres from the summit, I looked up and saw Devlin smiling back down at me. He had this wicked grin that showed he didn't have a care in the world. To shut him up, I turned my attention back to the rock face and quickly finished my ascent. He reached down and gave me his hand and drew me over the edge, where I sat for a moment to rest. Devlin touched me on the shoulder. "Come with me. I've got a much better idea." I

thought nothing of following him and we soon found ourselves at the pond. It was about the size of an olympic swimming pool, however I had never seen water so clear before. It was coming in by a little spring to one side, the overflow of which created a small waterfall over the cliff. It was surrounded by lush, green foliage with a tiny, sandy beach on our side. It was quite simply breathtaking. Devlin was running towards the water. "Come on! We've got plenty of time!"

I thought for a moment that he was going to jump in the water fully clothed when he surprised me by starting to strip. Both of us were wearing tight fitting outfits with utility belts. It took him all of about ten seconds to divest himself of them and his shoes. By the time he hit the water he was naked as a jay bird, laughing. Caught up in the moment, I thought: What the heck! and did the same. I padded out onto a small rock overlooking the pond, that I could see was fairly deep as Devlin was treading water, and dove in.

It wasn't ice cold, but I came to the surface shivering. After the exertion of climbing, I suppose my body needed a bit of refreshing, but this chilly water was a bit too much! As I started to swim to the bank to get out, Devlin splashed me. "Don't tell me the great Demora Sulu can't take a little cold water!" His goading was all I needed to turn and splash him back. "I am a Sulu! We don't run from anything!" I said.

I turned around and duck dived under the water and tugged him under by his feet. We played in the water for at least half an hour of mucking around and splashing. Eventually, it was enough for both of us. We had climbed a two hundred metre cliff and swum for a while. I know I was pooped, so I swam to the beach and lay

down in the sand, letting the warm sunlight dry me off. Devlin joined me a moment later and did the same. I must have drifted off to sleep.

I don't know for how long. When I woke up he was on top of me. "Are you telling me..." John Harriman said, shocked. Demora gave him a tight non-smile.

John was appalled. His friend had been violated in the worst way possible – by someone she had considered a friend. The chivalrous part of him – a part of every true man – immediately leapt to her defense. He personally wanted to avenge her. "What did you do?" he said, his voice rough. "Did you have him charged?"

John asked, already knowing the answer. He knew his First Officer too well. Demora looked at him sadly. "I didn't know what to do. A good part of me loved him, but what he did I could never forgive. The logical part of me knew that I could never prove what he had done. Never mind that he was an Ambassador's son."

She looked her friend in the eye as if daring him to disagree with her. "I decided to let it go, but I never spoke to him again." John sat back in his chair, reflecting on what she had told him. It was a tragic tale, a chapter in his friend's life he had never guessed existed. He ached for her and wished to himself there was still something he could do for her. "I wonder what happened to him? Karma can be a bitch."

Sulu chuckled. It was an odd sound, full of irony and hidden bitterness. "He graduated and was assigned to the Excelsior under my father. He died in his first tour on an away mission." She looked at the wall as if it were a window to the past. "He drowned when his shuttle malfunctioned and fell into the sea. It sprang a leak and sank to the bottom of the ocean."

The suspicious streak that ran through all good Starship Captains rang a bell. "Did your father know?" "No!" Demora said, not quite certain. "I didn't tell him and I'm not certain there wasn't any other way he could have found out." She took another piece of popcorn and popped it into her mouth. "At least I don't think so." She couldn't tell him that she quietly harboured a doubt. Harriman considered the tale in light of their earlier conversation. "You don't blame your father for what happened, do you?" Sulu sighed. "No, I don't. It's just the little girl inside of me wished my father could have been there to save his princess." She chewed on some more of the confection before adding: "But, after it happened I determined that, if I ever was to become a parent, I wouldn't let my children out of my sight. I would always want to be there to protect them."

The Captain nodded but interjected a piece of sage advice. It was his wish that she would one day take his place on this ship and she wouldn't be able to do so if she was over protective. "It's not practical, though. As ship's Captain I have to send people into dangerous situations all the time. I have to trust that they've been trained well enough to make it through on their own." "Agreed, John. That's one of the reasons why I'm not sure I'd want to become a parent. I can send the people under me on dangerous missions, but I'm not sure I'd ever want to send my own children to school unsupervised. I just can't do it. So, I'm resigned to not having any. Besides, I've got other ambitions."

Her comment broke the ice in the room. "Like becoming the first female Captain of the U.S.S. Enterprise," John said with a grin. She nodded to herself and looked him in the eye. "I'd love to be, but first I'd have to get past you and I know you're not ready for retirement, either." "No, I'm not. There are too many frontiers yet to be explored."

Sulu wasn't entirely sure he was being honest. Recently John had been looking a little restless as if he was itching for a change. At least he no longer lived in the shadow of the EnterpriseB's spectacular maiden voyage. While they had saved forty-seven souls from the doomed Lakul, all anyone seemed to remember was that it was the mission where James T. Kirk was killed.

It had happened on Harriman's watch. That's all anyone ever remembered. Not to mention the personal angst of knowing John had been the first to volunteer to go below but that Kirk had insisted and that he had relented.

When they had finally limped back to Starbase One with their damaged ship without the missing Kirk it had taken more than just Tuesday to get her ready to fly again and even longer for her Captain. He had nearly been court-martialed but for the interference of Captain Scott and Commander Chekov. The two knew Kirk well enough that this was the way he had wanted to go and nothing would have stopped him from having his way.

John checked his watch, another of his favourite anachronistic affectations, and noted they still had some time before they had to crash for the night. "How about some cartoons?" Demora shook her head, no. "I need some sleep. Besides," she shook her popcorn cup, "I have to work this stuff off in the morning." Harriman decided he didn't want to do it alone, so he stood and offered his friend a hand up. "I'll tell you what. Next time, you choose the movie." Demora didn't even know any, but she wasn't about to admit that to the Captain. "All right."

Any further conversation was cut off by the chirp of a communicator. "Captain Harriman," the Communications officer hailed. "You have a priority message from Starfleet Command." John flipped open his communicator and answered. "I'll take it in my office."

As he turned to go he muttered: "It's still the same old story." Demora smiled. "The fight for love and glory." Harriman laughed. "So, you were paying attention. I thought you'd nodded off." At that, his First Officer chuckled. "Not a chance, Captain. I just want to make sure you never have to play it again."



CREW DATABASE



DAMON RICKS

Where are you from and where are you now?—I was born and raised in Rexburg, Idaho and now living in North Ogden, Utah.

Married/Single?—I am very happily 23 years Married. She is the Co-Pilot of my Ship!

Family?—Well, I have both Parent still alive. 4 Sisters and 1 Brother, I am the second oldest. Amanda's Family are my extended Family. 2 Girls and 2 Boys. I have 7 Children, 5 Boys and 2 Girls.

Hobbies outside of Star Trek?—I love anything and everything to do with Sci-Fi and Fantasy. I have been an avid fan since I was a very young teenager. I enjoy costuming, fishing, cooking, going to the movies, anything I can do with my Family and close Friends. I'm an avid collector of Science Fiction and Fantasy as well as Star Wars & Star Trek Items.

Favorite Ticonderoga Club Memory?—My Favorite one I have to say thus far is the first activity I ever went to was the BBQ/meeting at the Clearfield park. The main reason was when I went to the meeting, I had some pre conceived ideas (negative ones) about the Club and realized very quickly I was way off the mark! They were the nicest, most welcoming people then they mentioned having show & tell and that clinched the deal!!

Favorite Fan Encounter?—Fantasy con. We were doing a Jedi training for the kids when a security person told me that the “Dwarves” would like to meet the kids. We were able to meet several of the “Dwarves” from the Hobbit, and shortly after they arrived, they confiscated our lightsabers and had an impromptu “Middle Earth” battle with the sabers.

Worst Fan Encounter?—No—Everybody I've met so far have been very courteous and very nice to me.

When did you first get into Sci Fi and with what series?—A little movie came to theaters called 'Star Wars'!! My Parents did not take me to the theaters to see Star Wars but they did buy me the Star Wars trading cards. Reading the back of the trading cards got me started on loving Science Fiction. My first novel in that genre was the Prydain Series.... That series of books was my first introduction into Fantasy.

Favorite series, Episodes, and Films in Star Trek?—Favorite series is Star Trek Voyager, My Favorite film is Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home and my favorite episode is “Scorpion Parts 1 & 2” from ST: VGR. Honorable mentions is ST:TNG series, Star Trek First Contact for the films and ST:TNG episode “....All Good Things”

Favorite series outside of Star Trek?—I would have to say Star Wars, duh, Lord of the Rings/The Hobbit, Harry Potter, The Big Bang Theory, Chuck, Indiana Jones movies, of course, the Matrix and Dr. Who.

What are some of your Dreams and Goals?—I really want to see my Family continue to thrive and be just as close nit to each other as they are right now. I look forward to planet hopping in my Millennium Falcon after I am dead.



CREW DATABASE



AMANDA RICKS

Where are you from and where are you now?—? I was raised in the Military and am now in Ogden Utah.

Married/Single?—Married to Damon Ricks for 23 years.

Family?—We have 7 children. 5 boys and 2 girls. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

Hobbies outside of Star Trek?—? I love Basketball. My current interests are shuttling children to and from their various events and school. I like to go to the gym, and our youngest Fox goes with me to play in the kids care. Our family are big fans of Sci-fy and we like watching those shows together. Especially Dr Who, Harry Potter, Stranger Things, and Star Wars.

Favorite Ticonderoga activity?—My favorite memory was our first one that we attended with the group and I saw my husbands eyes light up as the group began show and tell, and I knew that we were meant to be a part of this club.

Favorite Fan Encounter?—At the first Salt Lake Comic Con, we attended the Adam Baldwin panel and Ryan, went up to ask a question. Ryan asked him if he would make a better captain than Mal from Firefly, and of course he said yes. While there he let our son Ryan come up and meet him, gave him a hug and told him that his “Star Wars Reads” shirt was awesome.

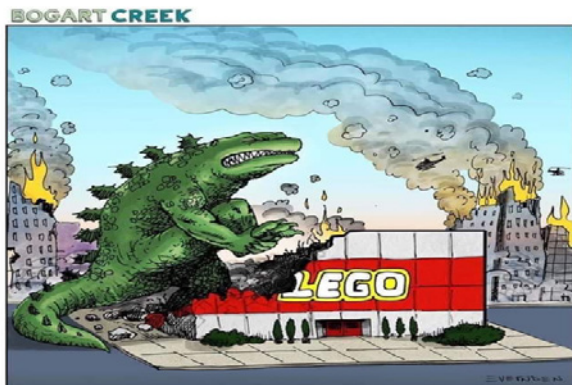
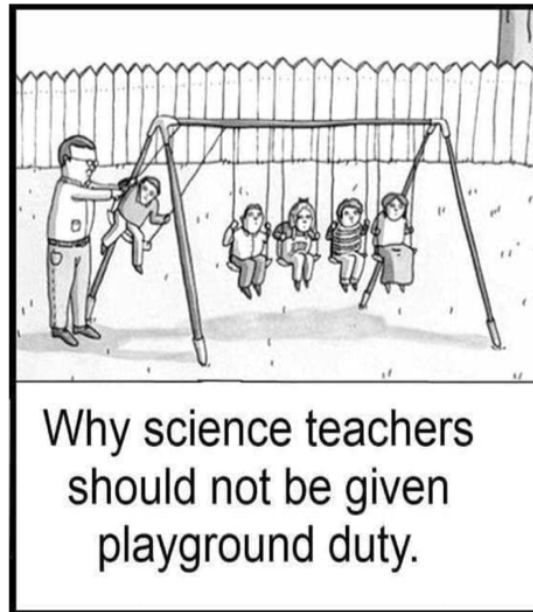
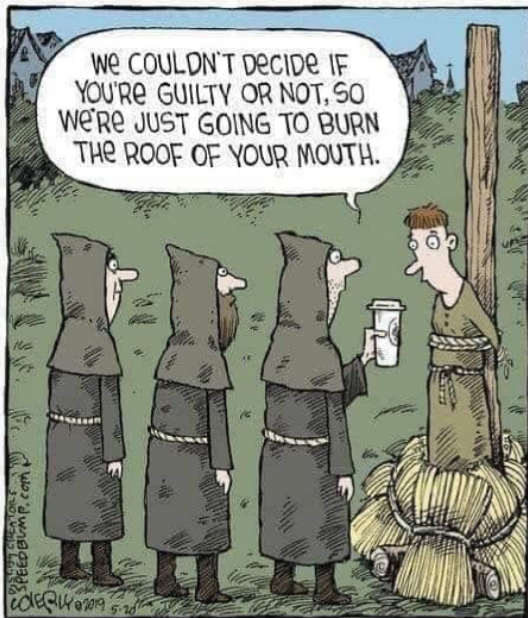
Worst Fan Encounter?—John Barrowman got very offensive during his panel at FanX.

When did you first get into Sci Fi and with what series?—I watched Star Wars the originals, and the original Superman every year on VHS growing up.

Favorite series, episodes, and films in Star Trek?—Galaxy Quest. ;) I also really like the new JJ Abrams films.

Favorite series outside of Star Trek?—The Matrix.

What are some of your Dreams and Goals?—? I would like to take the entire family on a cruise someday.

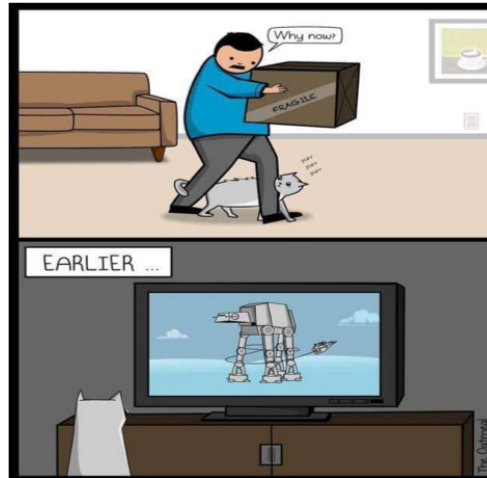
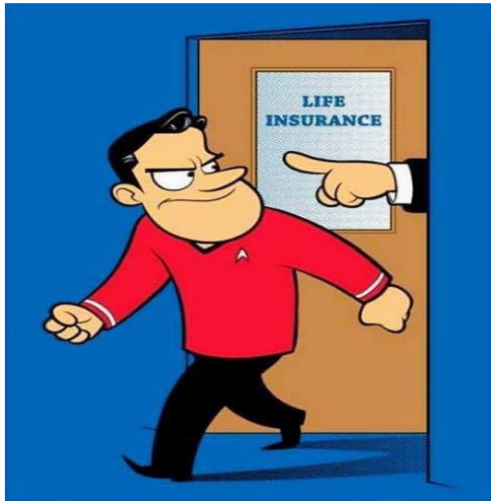


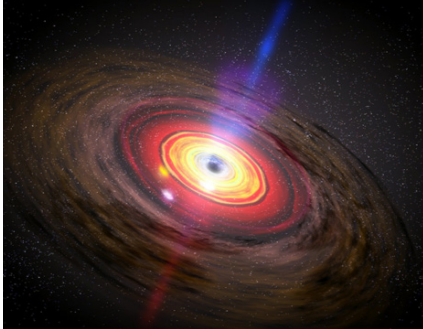
You might be a Trekkie if...

someone says good morning to you and you answer "Ka Plah!"...
you know the proper Vulcan greeting and response...
your girlfriend tells you "it's either me or Star Trek!" and you wave good-bye...
you think "Q-Tips" is a self help book written by a certain Star Trek Villain...
you learned to pick up women by watching Captain Kirk...
you keep flipping open your cell phone hoping to get a communique from Scotty...
you hear someone say "he's an enterprising young man," and you look for his communicator...
you get in your car and say engage...



THE LAUGHING KLINGON JOKES, FUNNIES, ETC





AN ASTRONOMY ARTICLE BY CREW-MEMBER ANNIE STEPHENS — LUNAR

Gravity Gone Mad

But the Federation can handle it!!!

Starship captains and crew are no strangers to Black Holes. They have experienced this gravity gone mad and prevailed!!! All they have to do is put their warp drive into reverse and punch it! There are arguments that it would not work, but if warp drive is FTL, and the escape velocity around a neutron star is only $\frac{1}{2}$ the speed of light, why can't it? Kirk escaped it. It threw him back in time but he did make it back.

And he did it again by dropping and exploding the warp core then riding the waves out. 'They' say this is not possible either, that the warp core would just become matter that gets sucked in. Let's not argue this detail. We know the future is invented by Star Trek and this could very possibly become possible. Right?

Back up to the 'time' thing and black holes. If time slows down the closer we get to a black hole how slow does it actually get?

We know 13 seconds can be 25 years. Nero descends into a black hole, waits 25 years for Spock but to Spock it has only taken seconds to meet the doom of his people.

A black hole trapped the crew of Voyager. They experienced temporal and spacial distortions but Janeway figured out they just needed to blast a dekyon beam through the event horizon and then blast on out of there. But seriously, once we really are on the cusp of this 'event' we really are going down...down...down. Even in the future event horizons are still event horizons. Luckily she was able to broaden the existing hole just enough for Voyager to escape through and continue the voyage home.

That was probably a really big black hole. If our sun was a black hole, we would freeze of course, but we wouldn't get 'sucked' in. The event horizon in this scenario would only be 10 miles from the sun and we wouldn't even be part of the accretion disk. We would just keep orbiting around per usual.

Our sun will never be a black hole, it is too small, but just saying...

By 2152 the Vulcans had charted over 2,000 black holes. Estimates from NASA in this century are over 10 million in the universe. In context both investigations are worthy summations.

Romulans used quantum singularities to power their warships. NASA does not have a statement on this. I don't think the Federation does either. Singularities are at the bottom of black holes, well way down in them anyway, and most species don't really know what they are let alone be able to create one and harness the power. 'Singularity' is great word for what happens at the end of our understanding of how physics works and a beginning for Romulans to be a formidable foe.

What is at the bottom of a black hole? A singularity? What happens when AI picks up where human consciousness ends? No one knows but many believe this singularity is near. A singularity is like a question with out an answer, or a unique event with an impressive outcome (we don't know what the outcome will be) and we may or may not want to be around when we do find out.

When AI becomes Data, it would be great. When we cross over into the black hole, get pulled apart into spaghetti, actually called 'spagettification' not so great, but the crossing would be quick.

But V'Ger didn't get pulled apart. It transcended even Data, and ceased being a singularity.(Did you know they used actual Voyager 1 and 2 models for this movie? Did you know that Voyager one is now in interstellar space and Voyager 2 is not far behind?)

Speaking of singularities, do you remember that 'T'Pol is immune to the 'exotic' effects of them? Good thing. Someone had to maintain proper starship decorum and save the ship. Captain Archer didn't and had to get 'pinched', proper procedure for sure. Of course the allure of a trinary, not binary, system with a black hole is exotic itself. Maybe this is one of the black holes the Vulcans know about and have a plan to go back. Maybe humans will not be invited.

Would you go? Perhaps, if you were a creature from trans dimensional space and looking for a nursery.

The recent picture, the one with this article, of the black hole at the center of M87 would make Spock proud. Don't you think?

Afterall:

The black shadow in the center of this picture is 4 to 6.5 'billion' times the size of our sun.

The event horizon stretches out about 25 'billion' miles. If this was the center of our solar system, it would swallow up Pluto. It would cease being a planet and a planetoid.

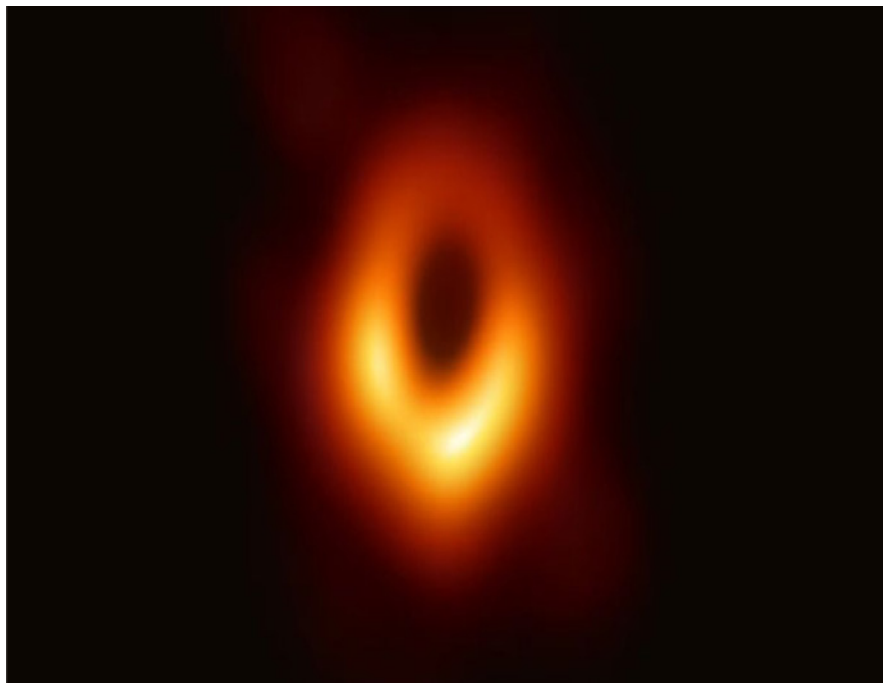
Gas is being accreted into the accretion disk at the rate of 90 earth masses every day. Where is all this coming from? And where will it end up...in the depth of the hole or spewed out in the jet?

It has a jet stream coming out of it (not getting consumed for reasons unknown to us although Spock would probably know) that stretches out 5,000 lights years and traveling at near the speed of light.

This true marvel of our universe has been christened with a name: Powehi. It is Hawaiian and comes from an 18th century chant describing the creation of the Hawaiian universe. It means 'the adorned fathomless dark creation' and 'embellished dark source of unending creation.'

Doesn't that just make you want to board the Enterprise right now, this very instant, and explore where we have never gone before? This would be an away mission extraordinaire!!! Make it so!!!

Actual Image taken by the Hubble Telescope of M87 Black Hole.





BLACK CANYON AWAY TEAM MISSION: BY DAVE STOCK

This year's joint away team mission with the USS Pioneer from Denver, CO. was at the Black Canyon Gunnison National Park Near Montrose, CO. This place is about 8,000 feet above sea level and is about 12 miles long. The canyon is deeper than it is wide and is more than twice the height of the empire state building. The Gunnison River that carved the canyon drops an average of 34 feet per mile (6.4 m/km) through the entire canyon, making it the 5th steepest mountain descent in North America. By comparison, the Colorado River drops an average of 7.5 feet per mile (1.42 m/km) through the Grand Canyon. The greatest descent of the Gunnison River occurs within the park at Chasm View dropping 240 feet per mile (45 m/km). The Black Canyon is so named because its steepness makes it difficult for sunlight to penetrate into its depths. As a result, the canyon is often shrouded in shadow, causing the rocky walls to appear black. At its narrowest point the canyon is only 40 ft (12 m) wide at the river.

The extreme steepness and depth of the Black Canyon formed as the result of several geologic processes acting together. The Gunnison River is primarily responsible for carving the canyon, though several other geologic events had to occur in order to form the canyon as it is seen today.

The walls of the canyon are made of Precambrian gneiss and schist. The Black Canyon was formed 1.7 billion years ago during a metamorphic period brought on by the collision of ancient volcanic island arcs with the southern end of what is present-day Wyoming. The lighter-colored pegmatite dikes that can be seen crosscutting the basement rocks formed later during this same period.

Cretaceous - Tertiary

The entire area underwent uplift during the Laramide orogeny between 70 and 40 million years ago which was also part of the Gunnison Uplift. This raised the Precambrian gneiss and schist that makes up the canyon walls. During the Tertiary from 26 to 35 million years ago large episodes of volcanism occurred in the area immediately surrounding the present day Black Canyon. The West Elk Mountains, La Sal Mountains, Henry Mountains, and Abajo Mountains all contributed to burying the area in several thousand feet of volcanic ash and debris.

The modern Gunnison River set its course 15 million years ago as the run-off from the nearby La Sal and West Elk Mountains and the Sawatch Range began carving through the relatively soft volcanic deposits.

Quaternary

With the Gunnison River's course set, a broad uplift in the area 2 to 3 million years ago caused the river to cut through the softer volcanic deposits. Eventually the river reached the Precambrian rocks of the Gunnison Uplift. Since the river was unable to change its course, it began scouring through the extremely hard metamorphic rocks of the Gunnison Uplift. The river's flow was much larger than currently, with much higher levels of turbidity. As a result, the river dug down through the Precambrian gneiss and schist at the rate of 1-inch (25 mm) every 100 years. The extreme hardness of the metamorphic rock along with the relative quickness with which the river carved through them created the steep walls that can be seen today.

A number of feeder canyons running into the Black Canyon slope in the wrong direction for water to flow into the canyon. It is believed that less-entrenched streams in the region shifted to a more north-flowing drainage pattern in response to a change in the tilt of the surrounding terrain. The west-flowing Gunnison, however, was essentially trapped in the hard Precambrian rock of the Black Canyon and could not change its course.

History

The Ute Indians had known the canyon to exist for a long time before the first Europeans saw it. They referred to the river as "much rocks, big water," and are known to have avoided the canyon out of superstition. By the time the United States declared independence in 1776, two Spanish expeditions had passed by the canyons. In the 1800s, the numerous fur trappers searching for beaver pelts would have known of the canyon's existence but they left no written record. The first official account of the Black Canyon was provided by Captain John Williams Gunnison in 1853, who was leading an expedition to survey a route from Saint Louis and San Francisco. He described the country to be "the roughest, most hilly and most cut up," he had ever seen, and skirted the canyon south towards present-day Montrose. Following his death at the hands of Ute Indians later that year, the river that Captain Gunnison had called the Grand was renamed in his honor.

The Denver & Rio Grande

In 1881, William Jackson Palmer's Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had reached Gunnison from Denver. The line was built to provide a link to the burgeoning gold and silver mines of the San Juan mountains. The rugged terrain precluded using 4' 8 1/2" standard rail; Palmer decided to go with the narrower 3' gauge. It took over a year for Irish and Italian laborers to carve out a 15-mile roadbed from Sapinero to Cimarron, costing a staggering \$165,000 a mile. The last mile is said to have cost more than the entire Royal Gorge project.

On August 13, 1882, the first passenger train passed through the Black Canyon. The editor of the Gunnison Review-Press rode in one of the observation cars; he remarked that the canyon was "undoubtedly the largest and most rugged canyon in the world traversed by the iron horse. We had often heard of the scenery of this canyon, but no one can have the faintest conception of its grandeur and magnificence until they have made a trip through it. It is a narrow gorge with walls of granite rising in some places to a height of thousands of feet...Throughout its entire length there is probably not a quarter of a mile of straight track on it. It is a serpentine road in every respect and the curves are frequent and sharp. In hundreds of places the walls of granite are perpendicular and in many places the road bed is blasted out in the side of the walls of rock which overhang the track." He went on to proclaim, "Another such a feat of railroad engineering probably can not be found in the world, and there is probably no section of Colorado or of the whole country where such a varied and interesting lot of scenery can be found."

In the hopes of running the railroad through the rest of the Black Canyon, Palmer sent his top engineer Bryan Bryant on an inner canyon exploration. Bryant set off with a 12-man crew in December 1882 expecting to complete the survey in 20 days; he returned in 68. "Eight of the twelve-man crew left after a few days, terrified of the task in front of them. What the rest of the men saw was spectacular and had never been seen by another human." Bryant reported that the Black Canyon was impenetrable, and that it was impossible to build anything in its depths.

Heeding Bryant's advice, Palmer decided to route the railroad south of the canyon and in March 1883, it completed its connection to Salt Lake City and for a brief period the canyon was on the main line of a transcontinental railroad system. While the railroad and early visitors used the canyon as a path to Utah and mines to the southwest, later visitors came to see the canyon as an opportunity for recreation and personal enjoyment. Rudyard Kipling described his 1889 ride through the canyon in the following words: "We entered a gorge, remote from the sun, where the rocks were two thousand feet sheer, and where a rock splintered river roared and howled ten feet below a track which seemed to have been built on the simple principle of dropping miscellaneous dirt into the river and pinning a few rails a-top. There was a glory and a wonder and a mystery about the mad ride..."

By 1890, an alternate route through Glenwood Springs had been completed and the route through the Black Canyon, being more difficult to operate, lost importance for through trains. However, local rail traffic continued over the "Black Canyon Line" until the route was finally abandoned in the early 1950s. Today, various elements of the railroad have been preserved in the Cimarron area including a steel bridge in Cimarron Canyon.



The Gunnison Tunnel

In 1901, the U.S. Geological Survey sent Abraham Lincoln Fellows and William Torrence into the canyon to look for a site to build a diversion tunnel bringing water to the Uncompahgre Valley, which was suffering from water shortages due to an influx of settlers into the area. Torrence, a Montrose native and an expert mountaineer, had taken part in a failed expedition the previous year, and his experience proved valuable on his second excursion. He opted to bring a single rubber air mattress instead of the heavy wooden boats that had doomed his previous journey into the canyon. They entered the canyon on August 12 equipped with "only hunting knives, two silk lifeline ropes, and rubber bags to encase their instruments." After a harrowing 10 days braving rock falls, waterfalls, and 76 river crossings, they emerged from the canyon with a suitable tunnel site.



Construction on the tunnel began 4 years later, and was fraught with difficulties right from the onset. "Working conditions at the tunnel were difficult due to the high levels of carbon dioxide, excessive temperatures, humidity, water, mud, shale, sand, and a fractured fault zone...It took the tunneling crew almost one year to bore through 2000 feet of water-filled rock. The tunnel was driven through granite, quartzite, gneiss, and shale as well as layers of sandstone, coal, and limestone. Work on the Gunnison Tunnel was first done manually and by candlelight. One miner would hold the drill and rotate it while the second miner would use a sledgehammer to drive the drill into the rock. This work required strong, hard-working men. In spite of good pay and fringe benefits, most disliked the dangerous underground conditions and stayed an average of only 2 weeks." 26 men were killed during the 4 year undertaking. The tunnel was finally completed in 1909, stretching a distance of 5.8 miles and costing nearly 3 million dollars. At the time, the Gunnison Tunnel held the honor of being the world's longest irrigation tunnel. On September 23, President William Howard Taft dedicated the tunnel in Montrose. The East Portal of the Gunnison Tunnel is accessible via East Portal Road which is on the South Rim of the canyon. Although the tunnel itself is not visible, the diversion dam can be seen from the campground.



A beautiful view of the canyons. Not a place for the weak spirited to Trek!



A LOOK INSIDE WHAT THE TICO COLLECTIVE COLLECTS.— DAMON RICKS

Collection: Figures and Sabers and Ships, “Oh Myyyy!”

1. What do you collect and when did you start collecting?

I have a definite interest in Star Wars, Star Trek, and LOTR. However, as you look through mu collection, you'll find a wide range of other items too. Dr Who, Harry Potter, Back to the Future, etc. I started collecting seriously after I was out on my own and lucasfilm began to re-release the Star Wars Toys.

2. What sparked your interest with collecting these items?

In 1977, Star Wars was released and along with it came the toys. My parents, however, were not able to buy them for me. What they could get me were the trading cards. I would get 10 cards, a sticker card and stick of gum for fifteen cents. I spent quite a bit of time looking at them, reading the backs and falling in love with Star Wars.

3. What are some of your favorite items in your Collection?

I have many that are very cool, animatronics, vintage, etc, however the favorites...I'll narrow it down to the 2 most favorite. First is the Millennium Falcon. I was engaged to Amanda, going to college and this was the biggest-baddest toy out in 1995. After a dinner at her house, she walked me to my car and there it was on the front seat.

The second would be a 2002 Toy Fair Vader. I met a fellow collector at a toy store and we each wanted to see the others collections. After he saw mine, I went to his home and bowed to the master. One item he had was this Vader that was valued at 5-600 at the time. I commented that if he ever found another, let me know. He went into his garage and returned with one that he gave me as a gift. I had no words, but he has been a part of our family ever since the day we met.

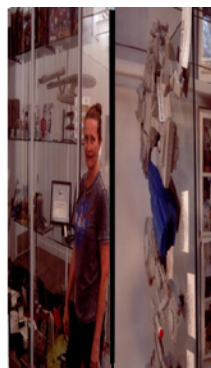


THE FINAL CUTS

SPIDERS AND CONS!!

Over the summer months the crew of the Ticonderoga proceeded to have away missions and Federation gatherings that had creatures from across the galaxy as well as some that looked like they should have been, yet live right in our own back yards.

Fortunately, once again there were no Red Shirts lost while having these adventures!





CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICERS LOG ENTRY: JUNE 2019.... By Lt. Brad Jacobs, U.S.S. Ticonderoga

As many of you know, the Nation just celebrated this past July the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing that happened back in 1969! The last issue of the Club newsletter (Summer 2019) focused on this great event in U.S. and World History!

On this date, July 20th, 2019, the U.S.S. Pulsar among other 7th Fleet ship members attending, celebrated this Historic event at a small gathering at the Trolley Square Mall in Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to our Fleet being present a few other groups were represented at this gathering including the USU Engineering department, and the Mars project to name a few.

Several displays on huge poster boards depicted ads, articles, and newspaper front page headlines of the times when the Apollo 11 and her crew made flight into history. Also, on the boards were patches from NASA Missions displayed from the flights orbiting the Earth, orbiting the Moon and later Moon landings that occurred in the early 1970s. Kudos goes to the crew of the U.S.S. Pulsar for setting up a table and heading up this event in honor of the Moon landing.

The first weekend in August was the Science Departments second activity of this year was the 7th annual Spider Fest on Antelope Island State Park. A minimal Science away team consisted of myself, Lieutenant Richard Luke and Lieutenant Kathryn Luke shuttled out to the Island for this all-day event. *thanks go to Lt. R. Luke for transporting us to and from the Island*

There were booths, a spider costume contest, poetry, a spider walk and even met 'scooter' the jumping spider (more on that later in the report), and panels to attend in the Visitors Center.

The panels we attended were about the reproduction of spiders and not all females devour the male after mating. And another panel was about a new species found in the Grand Tetons area and learned more about this newly discovered species, the Mason Spider.

We participated in the spider walk heading out on a nearby trail close to the visitor's center—lead by a Ranger and a Zoologist pointing out the Western spotted orb weavers along the walk, it was fascinating and insightful walk. At one of the booths, Lt Kathryn Luke go to meet and get acquainted with 'scooter' a domesticated small black jumping spider. He hopped on her finger and just chilled a bit. (There is a website you can go to and watch some videos of domesticated jumping spiders at...the phidippus project if interested).

As the Away Team wrapped up the activity we came away with a better understanding and a positive experience toward our arachnid critters and their life cycles on Antelope Island. We truly were 'Inspidered' okay had to put that in...

One more thing before ending the science report.... I would like to thank Justina Parsons Bernstein (She works for the State) that helped get this spider fest put together. We emailed back and forth before the event. I let her know about the Club and when I mentioned we are planning a Science Dept activity to attend the spider festival out at the Island, her response was..." EXCITING beyond words that Federation Starfleet Science Officers and team will be making an exploratory visit to our Planet/Island/Festival! Once again thank you Justine!

End of report.

Lieutenant Brad Jacobs

Science Chief, U.S.S. Ticonderoga NCC 74676

ANGELA WILLIAMS



CAPTAINS LOG

WORDS OF WISDOM (OR OTHERWISE) FROM THE CAPTAINS READY ROOM.

(From an earlier edition, these words from our Captain are even more relevant now as we close on the year and prepare for 2020. Read, ask and assess once again!)

Greetings, All! And happy 2019!

I hope this issue finds you well.

Did you make any resolutions? How have you kept up on them?

Remember that any progress, no matter how slow, is still progress. If you've somehow not lived up to your goals and expectations, don't worry.

There is always another day to start again.

May that good energy serve to support and aid you in all the new year's endeavors.

Captain Erica Stark

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