



WELCOME TO AN ALL NEW

COMMANDING OFFICER

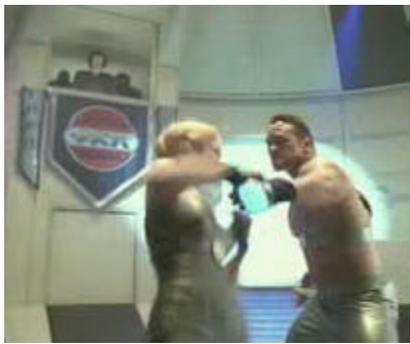
What's old is new again.
FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

I'm back in command of the center seat again. At the December 5, 1999, meeting, I was the only one to receive nominations for Commanding Officer. Therefore, I became CO on January 1, 2000. Since we have a lot of new members that don't know me that well, I'd like to take some time to introduce myself and explain what's happening.

I was born in 1971 about 40 miles north of Huntsville in Fayetteville, TN. Then in 1978, I moved to Ardmore, AL where I've been ever since. Ardmore is 30 miles northwest of Huntsville along I-65 right on the AL/TN border. However, I went 700+ miles away to attend college in Maryville, MO, which is near the Iowa border 90 miles north of Kansas City. I graduated Northwest Missouri State University in 1995 and returned home, where I've worked at my family's aircraft repair business ever since, doing general labor and computer training.

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WHDF UPN channel 15 is now broadcasting in Huntsville. Viva Voyager! Episode guide inside.



NEWSLETTER

Wonders never cease.
FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Wow! What's this you may ask? It sorta looks like a newsletter. It reads like a newsletter. Well, it must be a newsletter.

Yeah, I know, some of you haven't seen a newsletter in over a year. And for that, I apologize. However, lack of finances and submissions prevented me from doing the quarterly monstrosity. Plus I was lazy. I do plan on producing a 1999 yearbook though. I'm waiting on some articles about the LunaTech explosion. It will be a somber issue, but I will try to lighten the mood with some humor pieces.

First of all, you will always be guaranteed at least six pages (three 8½" by 11" sheets of paper) on a monthly basis. Occasionally as time and finances permit, I may try to do a few more pages per issue, but that's not guaranteed. That's all your annual ship dues will pay for. Don't forget that each mailing costs 33 cents for a first-class stamp.

Second, you will receive 12 issues per year. The deadline for submissions is the first of the month prior to the cover date. For example, I need to receive submissions for the April issue by March 1. I hope to mail the issue to you the week before the meeting of the cover date. For example, the April issue will be mailed the last week of March since the meeting is on April 2.

Obviously, by that schedule, I'm already a month behind. Unfortunately, I've been very busy. In addition to the usual holiday hassles, I was in Missouri for the first week of January, and unable to do the newsletter. In the weeks since

Continued on page 3 as Communications Report.

MILLENNIUM

When does it really start?
FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with a joyous and safe New Year. I celebrated the new millennium in Kansas City, Missouri, because I had to usher at a friend's wedding. It appears we made it through the Y2Kaos with only a few incorrect

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8	USS Wernher von Braun Information
8	Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2000.
	Important Notices:
♣	Possible Voyager viewing night on February 19 or 26. Let Rich know.
♣	Security target practice at March meeting.
♣	Only current members will receive future issues of this newsletter.
♣	If you can, please attend the Region 2 Summit in March.

At college I got involved with STARFLEET, the international *Star Trek* fan association. I helped form the USS *Krazny Oktyabr*, which is Russian for Red October. (What can I say, when we formed we were big fans of the *Hunt for Red October* with Sean Connery.) I served in many positions, most notably as Communications Officer in charge of the newsletter. When I graduated, I transferred to the USS *Wernher von Braun* and became their Communications Officer. Under my editorial stint, the newsletter has won numerous regional and international awards. Then in early 1996, I became their new Commanding Officer, which I held for three years.

Since I had plans of moving to Nashville in 1999, (My plans to do so have fallen through by the way.), I decided to step down during our election process at the end of 1998 so that we'd have an orderly transition. During my tenure, the ship accomplished many wonderful things and won many awards. However, I had also grown weary of the leadership duties and responsibilities, and needed a break. Russ McNutt, who had served as my Executive Officer for a couple of years, was the only person to receive nominations and moved into the center seat.

I'd like to thank Russ for his year of hard work. I know how difficult and thankless the job really is, so please let me be the first to express my thanks. While I didn't know that I'd be returning, the year off has allowed me to invigorate my energies. I'm ready to bring this chapter into a brave new millennium.

One of the things that bothered me was the decline in our numbers over the years. Fortunately, I've stopped feeling personally responsible for this and realized it's nothing that I can control. It's natural for a ship to lose members over time as real world obligations and other problems set in. Plus, the general interest in *Star Trek* seems to be waning. *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager* have never held the general public's interest as much as *The Next Generation* did. And with two series going simultaneously for the past 5 years, the public seems over-saturated with *Trek*.

Perhaps the most damaging to fan groups in general is the emergence of the internet. People no longer have to join a fan club or subscribe to a magazine to get the information they need. It's all available on the web for free in the convenience of their own home at whatever time they want to get it. This is the greatest challenge we face. Unfortunately, I'm not entirely sure how to combat this problem. What does the *von Braun* offer that you can't get on the internet?

First, there's the camaraderie associated with being in a group of like-minded individuals. E-mail lists and chat rooms will never be quite as enjoyable as good old fashioned face to face interaction. And no one likes going to a movie by themselves. With a club you've got a ready made group of friends to do these things with.

Second, there's the community service aspect of STARFLEET. Sure, we're in this to have fun, but we also do a few things to help our surrounding community. It can be as simple as being a living example of the Vulcan IDIC philosophy (Infinite Diversity, Infinite Combinations) to as complicated as doing volunteer work. Sure, this can be done as an individual, but when you add the power of many, you have a much greater effect.

Third, it allows you to get involved and be a part of something larger than yourself. Any organization allows you to focus your energies on accomplishing something. It might as well be this one. At least it involves one of your favorite interests.

Anyway, I'll be taking a much more laid back approach to the ship than Russ had, and even from the way I did things previously. Hopefully, this approach will prevent me from becoming stressed and frustrated. We'll also try to hold more fun activities and try to keep the meetings more enjoyable instead of being so focused on business. That way, maybe more people will show up to them. A tentative calendar of events through June can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Of course, I'll need everyone's help and input. Please suggest things you would like to do. If there's an activity that you think we should do, please suggest it. If you have any comments at all, about anything, please feel free to come to me with them. I have an open door policy. I may not always agree with and act upon your suggestions, but I will give them fair consideration. If you don't feel comfortable talking to me, then bring it to the attention of Russ or any Department Chief (currently only Don).

I can be contacted at home at 256-423-6638. If that's a toll call for you, call my Huntsville cell-phone number at 256-658-1018. Since I work odd hours, it's best only to call between 1 and 10 p.m. I live on the internet, so E-mail is the best way to contact me at RichLT@HiWAAY.net or richard@OmniFacets.com. Of course, you can use the postal mail to reach me; the address is elsewhere in this issue.

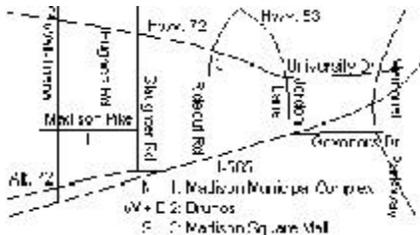
Anyway, take care and I hope to see a big turnout at our meetings and events. ♣



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Things to do and remember. FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Unless a holiday or bad weather occurs, general meetings of the USS *Wernher von Braun* are held on the first Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of the Madison Municipal Complex at 100 Hughes Road in Madison, AL. Please realize that the following events are only a proposed schedule. The actual dates, times and events are subject to change. Please pay particular attention to the **boldface** items.



Communications Report continued from page 1.

then, I've been busy serving as a judge for the new Region 2 Richard Daystrom Cyberspace Award. I have to browse and judge all of the web pages linked on the Region 2 web site. Not to mention my usual duties as Chief of Computer Operations. Plus, my parents have me doing their taxes very early this year. Hopefully, the newsletter will be on schedule by the May issue.

Third, I've changed the format a little bit. The most noticeable is that I've shrunk the font size down to 10 points, which will allow me to include more information than before. Otherwise, there shouldn't be too much that has changed.

Actually, I wanted to change the name of the newsletter as well. The *Subspace Static*, while a great name and appropriate for a *Star Trek* club newsletter, isn't very original. I know of at least one other *Subspace Static* in STARFLEET, and there are probably more. I'd like to give it a name that's more indicative of who we are and is unique to our ship.

February:

- 19 or 26 Saturday 7 PM Return to *Voyager* party. Location TBA.
- 25-26? Friday-Saturday IEEE Computer Fair, VBCC
- 25-27 Friday-Sunday Concave 21, Park City, KY

March:

- 5 Sunday 2 PM General Meeting, Security target practice
- 10 Friday 7 PM *Mission to Mars* movie premiere
- 10-12 Friday-Sunday Region 2 Summit, Atlanta, GA
- 24-26 Friday-Sunday MidSouthCon 18, Memphis, TN
- 25 Saturday 6-10 PM Klingon Fund-raising Dinner. Location TBA.
- 31-4/2 Friday-Sunday Magnum Opus Con XV, Athens, GA
- 31-4/2 Friday-Sunday Galacticon 2000, Chattanooga, TN

April: month long scavenger hunt

- 2 Sunday 2 PM General Meeting, Horta Egg Search
- 15 Saturday 7 PM Dinner and a Movie or other small, fun activity?
- ?? Saturday-Sunday Community Day, Madison Square Mall
- 27-30 Thursday-Sunday Panoply Arts Festival, Big Spring Park
- 28-30 Friday-Sunday Parthecon 28, Nashville, TN

May:

- 7 Sunday 2 PM General Meeting, Scavenger Hunt Resolution
- 13 Saturday 10 AM-6 Car Wash and Water Wars**
- 19-21 Friday-Sunday DeepSouthCon 38, Jekyll Island, GA
- 20 Saturday 10 AM-6 Car Wash rain date
- 26-28 Friday-Sunday LibertyCon 14, Chattanooga, TN

June:

- 4 Sunday 2 PM General Meeting
- 16 Friday 7 PM *Titan A.E.* and *Red Planet* movie premiere
- 17 Saturday Monte Sano Park hike and picnic, Planetarium at sundown.
- 29-7/2 Dragon*Con, Atlanta, GA

Therefore, I'd like for the crewmembers to submit names for the newsletter to me. At a future meeting, all the names will be presented and a vote will be taken. Of course, if everyone wants to stick with the current name, that's fine with me as well.

I originally thought the *LaunchPADD* would be a great name. After all, it ties into our space program heritage and it has a *Trek* reference. (To refresh your memory, the PADD is the Personal Access Data Display, the little, thin, palm-computer type device used to relay information like a sheet of paper.) It also conveys the idea that ideas will spring forth from the page. Then I thought of the *Wernher Watch*. It's a typical newspaper type name that I know won't be confused with anyone else. It conveys the idea that we're observing the world around us. At the meeting, new member Donald Lee suggested *The Warp Drive*. What do you suggest?

Also, due to the increased cost of production over the *Mission Briefing*, ONLY ship and STARFLEET members will receive a subscription to the new *Subspace Static*. I may send out an occasional complimentary issue, but I only see that happening once or twice a year at most. Therefore, if you wish to receive future issues, you need to join or renew. If money is a problem, join STARFLEET first and we'll worry about ship dues later. We may also be able to arrange some sort of barter or trade if even Fleet dues are a problem.

Anyway, next issue I'll go into more details about what and how to submit for the newsletter. I'd also like to hear your thoughts on the new *Subspace Static*, as well as any suggestions you have for a new name. My contact information is elsewhere in this issue.

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Upcoming conventions near us.
Compiled by Richard L. Trulson
Concave 20
February 25-27
Park City, KY

Concave is celebrating 20 years of sci-fi Fandom in South Central Kentucky with at birthday bash at Park Mammoth Resort. This "relaxacon" features a full-contact consuite, art show, huckster room, and a gaming program. There is an all-you-can-eat buffet banquet on Saturday afternoon for a nominal extra charge. There is no organized programming. Concave is like a big fannish family reunion instead of a multitrack programmed convention. The aren't tons of sci-fi writers or panels, but the guest of honor is Stephen Boucher.

The Park Mammoth Resort is located atop the rolling hills of Kentucky's cave region, and offers an indoor pool, sauna, pool tables, playground, tennis courts, miniature golf course, 18-hole golf course, riding stables, and is only 8 miles from the Mammoth Cave National Park Visitor's Center.

For membership in Concave 20, please send personal check, traveler's check or money order made out to Concave in the amount of: \$20.00 per person postmarked before February 11, 2000, or \$30.00 person at the door. Children 5-12 are half-price; under 5, free; and over 12, full price. Send money to:

Concave c/o Gary Robe
P.O. Box 3221
Kingsport, TN 37664
(423) 239-3106
grrobe@preferred.com

MisSouthCon 18
March 24-26, 2000
Memphis, TN

MidSouthCon, held annually in Memphis in late March, is a Science-Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Science, and Gaming convention. They have multitrack programming, 24hr con suite and video rooms, art show, masquerade, readings, autographs, a dealer's room, SCA demonstrations and events, board games, role-playing and LARP games, CCG tournaments, and lots of other fun stuff. The Guests of Honor are Fred and Joan Saberhagen, the Guest Artist is Robert Daniels, and the Toastmaster is Cullen Johnson. Some other highlights include demonstrations, workshops, and panels by the Society for Creative Anachronism, the MidSouth Rocket Society, and the Klingon Military Academy.

The con is being held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel at 2240 Democrat (at Airways). The phone # is (901) 332-1130 (This hotel will soon become a Holiday Inn.) The rooms are priced at a flat rate of \$73 per night (up to four people). Be sure to tell the hotel that the reservation is for the MidSouth Science-Fiction Convention or you will get stuck with a higher room rate.

Registration is \$25 until March 1, 2000 and \$30 at the door. Children under 12 are half price and under 5 are free. The Great Con Suite Giveaway is an additional \$5. Banquet tickets cost \$12 each. Please make your check payable to MidSouth Science and Fiction Conventions, Inc. The contact address is:

MidSouthCon 18
P.O. Box 11446
Memphis, TN 38111-0446
info@midsouthcon.org
<http://www.midsouthcon.org/> ♣

REGION 2 SUMMIT

Learning while having fun.
FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

A Region 2 Summit can be one of the most rewarding experiences in STARFLEET. This year, they have Lee Shackelford on hand to speak and autograph his work. Lee is a *Star Trek: The Next Generation* script writer. Additionally, a representative from Decipher, the creators of the *Star Trek: Collectible Card Game*, will be on hand to introduce the game. The representative is going to try to bring a free deck for everyone who attends.

Normally, however, a summit is a learning experience, and it still is. But don't let that deter you, as you will have fun while learning. Plus, there are almost always other opportunities for pure fun activities. Not only is it a great chance to learn valuable skills in the various informative panels and workshops, but it's also a great chance to make valuable friendships with people you've only heard about through the *Communiqué*, the *Region 2 Update*, or online. Summit attendance is roughly 75 to 100 people from chapters throughout the region. Usually, some of the STARFLEET Executive Committee are able to attend, like the current Commander, STARFLEET, Fleet Admiral Mike Smith.

Most of the Summit is focused on learning valuable skills pertaining to STARFLEET chapters, such as how to make a newsletter or promote your chapter. The Summit is ideal for anyone who wants to improve their skills as a Department Chief or even as a general officer. However, the skills learned here are general skills that can be used anywhere! So think of the Summit as a general leadership and skills-building conference.

The Summit also has a very fun side. Besides the general camaraderie that exists when you put a huge group of fans together, there are many fun events planned. You can try your skill at being the Great Dalmuti, which is a very fun card game. If that particular addiction isn't your style, how about the annual RC's Putt Putt Tourney? Miniature golf is

*The Brass of STARFLEET being asked questions at the 1998 Region 2 Summit.
Pictured from left to right, Mike Henigan, Jennifer Rosbury, Cindy Krell,
Mike Smith (Commander, STARFLEET), Ron Fell and Jack Hopkins.*

-Photo by Richard L. Trulson



always a blast, as is the Grand Prix go-cart race. Do you have what it takes to beat our speed demon Regional Coordinator? Would you like to make out like a bandit while helping a very good cause? You'll get your chance at the annual Region 2 Auction, which raises money for various charities.

For something that's fun and even therapeutic, try the Tribble-toss, which helps raise funds for the regional treasury. Need to vent a little frustration? For a small fee, you get to throw a furry tribble in the face of any Regional Staff member, as well as any Commanding Officer or Executive Officer. For a bit more, you can get up close and personal. The tribble-toss replaces the oh so messy whipped cream pie-toss of previous years. But trust me, that fur can irritate your nose like the worst allergies!

The Annual Awards Banquet held Saturday night recognizes all the hard working individuals and chapters who have done a lot for their ship, community, region, and STARFLEET. Over a dozen awards are given out to recognize everything from Shuttle of the Year to Ship of the Year, from Cadet to Officer, from Recruiter to Commanding Officer, and many, many more.

Our ship has won numerous awards in the past. The most notable has been multi-year winning of the Newsletter of the Year and the Brenda Bullock Mothership Award. We've also taken Third Place in the Stampede and OCP Competitions. (See the accompanying articles elsewhere in this issue to find out how you can help win these awards.) We were also Runner-Up in the Interactive Achievement Award at the ship level. But perhaps the biggest win in 1999 was receiving the Runner-Up Award for Chapter of the Year. Don Daniel and I have also won numerous awards as individuals.

The costs of registration for the Summit varies depending on what package you buy and when you register. Package A includes the panels for the entire weekend, the Hospitality Suite, the Auction, and the Awards Banquet. You must preregister before February 28 in order to attend the banquet. After that, Package A and the banquet are no longer available. Package B includes the panels



See what kind of fun you can have at a Summit: Will Burhans CO of the Dark Silence Station, cradles an armful of tribbles to be thrown at Dustin Williams, former WvB Security Chief, at the 1998 Region 2 Summit. Pete Mohney, our current Regional Coordinator, can be seen in the background. -Photo by RLT

for the entire weekend and the Auction, but does NOT include the Banquet or Hospitality Suite. Package C includes the panels on Saturday ONLY and the Auction, but does NOT include the Banquet or Hospitality Suite. You can attend the Awards Ceremony though.

If you register by February 28, 2000, Package A is \$55, Package B is \$30, and Package C is \$25. At the door, Package B is \$35 and Package C is \$25. In order to encourage early registration, a monthly drawing will be held from those who are preregistered. The winner will receive a \$10 "auction bucks" certificate, which can be used at the Summit auction just like cash. If you win a drawing, you are still eligible for subsequent months. Drawings will be held each month through February.

The Summit is being held at the Howard Johnson Hotel. Unfortunately, the site is not ADA compliant. Specifically, there is no elevator service to the upper floor. The hotel can be contacted at:

Howard Johnson Hotel
275 Oxmoor Road
Birmingham, AL 35209
205-942-0919

However, don't call the 1-800 number as they are not aware of the special summit rates. Furthermore, ask for the Region 2 Conference / *Star Trek*

convention since, ironically enough, there is another group there that weekend for kids called Star Fleet. Also, people usually share rooms with their crewmembers to help cut down on individual costs.

All T-shirts MUST be pre-ordered and will be available for pick-up at the Summit. A smaller supply is being ordered this year than in previous years. Therefore, place your order by February 28 when you preregister in order to ensure you get one. What better way to show your regional pride and help the regional treasury than by wearing its merchandise. Prices are \$15.00 for S - XL and \$17.00 for 2XL through 3XL.

If you're interested in going, please contact me for a registration form. Or, you can get one online by going to <http://www.region2.sfi.org/summit/> on the world wide web. Make sure you include your name, address, phone number, E-mail address (if you have one), ship assignment, package selection, T-shirt size (if ordering one), and credit card information (if paying via Mastercard, Visa, and Discover). All checks or money orders (no cash!) should be made payable to "STARFLEET Region 2". Send the application and your money to:

Region 2 2000 Summit
c/o Pete Mohney
1105 Oak Creek Trail
Birmingham AL 35215 ♠

OCP HELP

Collecting coupons to help others.

Richard L. Trulson

The Overseas Coupon Project (OCP) is a program designed to send manufacturers' coupons to our military personnel overseas. This is a great aid to the military families that live on a meager, fixed salary. Troops can use manufacturers' coupons at their base supply stores. This project is designed to collect, trim, count, and organize manufacturers' coupons.

OCP was started by Becky Thane of the USS *Infinity* in late 1992. As the project continued to grow into a major undertaking, they incorporated in Texas in April 1996 as a non-profit, charitable corporation. In October 1998, they were granted tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Since 1997, the entire OCP program has sent coupons totaling over 1.2 million dollars each year. Since it's inception, OCP has sent coupons totaling over 4.6 million dollars to troops overseas.

Anybody who receives a paper can collect the coupons. There's usually at least one or two coupon books in the Sunday edition. Also, when you shop, grab a few of the manufacturers' coupons from the dispenser that prints them in the store. By all means, keep the coupons that you want for yourself. However, instead of throwing the others away, make them worth the wood pulp they were printed on by contributing them to OCP.

Nor does it take much effort to contribute. All you have to do is trim the excess paper off that surrounds the coupon and sort them into food and non-food categories. However, **ONLY** manufacturers' coupons can be used. Those for a particular store or restaurant can NOT be used. Furthermore, they can be expired for up to three months.

Coupon totals are counted by their dollar value discount, not by the number of coupons. "Buy one, get one free" or mail-in offers don't count toward the value unless they list a specific amount. However, those coupons are still welcomed.



At the 1998 Summit, even the youngest are recognized and awarded for their hard work. Seen here is Michael George (right) shaking Cadet Commander George Keith's hand with Mike Smith patting him on the back. -Photo by RLT

LT(sg) Don Daniel, the Science Chief, has been serving as the OCP liaison for our ship. Please give your coupon donations to him. He has been sending in coupons regularly for over a year now. Our coupons have went to bases in Yokohama, Japan and Giessen, Germany. The *Wernher von Braun* donated \$674.52 in 1998 and \$678.75 in 1999, totaling over \$1,353.27 worth of coupons to date. Unfortunately, we ranked a poor 68 out of 77 chapters in total number of coupons donated in 1998, and ranked 82 out of 86 in 1999.

I'd like to see participation in this activity grow this year. As a result, a small prize will be given to whoever donates the most coupons by the March meeting. The reason being is there a competition between the chapters to participate in the program at the Region 2 Summit. The winning chapter receives an award. We won Third Place in the OCP competition in 1998. Furthermore, an annual award will be given as well.

Don can be contacted at:

Donald Daniel
8146 #9 Oldfield Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-882-2024

sciho@sprynet.com ♣

VOYAGER EPISODES

UPN news and Voyager episodes.

Well, WHDF, originally of Florence, is now broadcasting over the air as a UPN network on channel 15. Unfortunately, they're still negotiating with the cable companies to carry them. So after an absence of over three years, we'll finally get to see *Voyager* as it airs. Too bad there's only one more season after the current one.

#	Date	Episode #	Title
134	2/09/00	STV615	Tsunkatse
135	2/16/00	STV616	Collective
136	2/23/00	STV617	Spirit Folk
137	3/01/00	STV618	Ashes to Ashes
138	?	STV619	Child's Play

"Tsunkatse"

Tuvok and Seven of Nine get captured by a character named Penk. Tuvok is pretty badly injured and Seven is forced to fight in their "pit fighter" type of game called Tsunkatse to save Tuvok's life. Guest Starring "The Rock" of wrestling fame as the Champion.

"The Collective"

Several of *Voyager's* crew members are taken hostage by several Borg children who run an entire cube by themselves. ♣

STAMPEDE HELP

Join the stampede!

FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

OK, this is a activity that EVERYONE can participate in. Furthermore, it doesn't cost you a thing except a little bit of your time. Even that can be done while you check your mail. Before you throw your junk mail envelopes in the recycle bin (You are recycling, right?), take an extra moment to tear the stamp off the envelope.

We will then collect and trim your stamps so they can be entered into the Stampede. This is another STARFLEET program that many chapters participate in. The stamps are sold to collectors. The money is then split among four different charities, though I forget which ones. All we need is your canceled stamps.

However, there are a few stamps that we can't use. None of the common flag stamps (25, 32, 33 cents, etc.) can be used, nor can any of the "letter" stamps (F, G, H, etc.) or the rate makeup stamps. Stamps that are damaged (torn, cut, stained, bent, incomplete, etc.) can't be used either. Furthermore, stamps on dark colored envelopes (like dark red or green for Christmas) can't be used since the dark ink stains the stamps when they are soaked off.

If you really want to help us, please trim off the excess paper around the stamp. However, leave 1/4 to 1/2 inch of paper around the stamp. Better to leave too much than to trim too close. Do NOT soak the stamps off. Embossed or hologram stamps, where the stamp is part of the envelope, should be sent in as is on the ENTIRE envelope. The same goes for preprinted postcards, where the stamp is printed on the postcard. DO NOT TRIM these special stamps off the envelopes.

None of the common "Flag" or "Letter" stamps can be used.



Collect stamps for charity! Please trim them first, but remember to leave about a half inch of envelope on all sides of the stamp. This one could use more on the left and bottom sides.

A small prize will be given to the person who donates the most stamps by the March meeting. The reason being is there a competition between the chapters to participate in the program at the Region 2 Summit. The winning chapter receives an award. We won Third Place in the Stampede competition in both 1998 and 1999. Furthermore, an annual award will be given as well. Stamp donations will be measured by weight, not by the number of stamps.

Actually, tell your friends, family, and co-workers to save their stamps for you. You'd be surprised how eager some people are to help with this project. One of the ladies at my parent's church donates so many, that I made her a special award based on the actual Stampede Award for all of her contributions. As mentioned earlier, it takes very little time and can be done by anyone who receives a letter. It's especially effective when you know someone in the mailroom at work.

Granted, trimming the stamps takes a bit of effort. However, I or our Stampede liaison will be glad to trim and sort out the bad ones if you will simply provide the stamps. Laura Peterson, our resident sci-fi merchandise dealer, serves as our Stampede Director on the *Wernher von Braun*. Contact her or me if you have any questions or have some stamps to donate. Laura can be contacted at:

Laura Peterson
102 John Walker Dr.
Harvest, AL 35749
256-721-1843

sci-fi-col@pop.mindspring.com ♠

STAR TREK NEWS

Tidbits of info from around the net.

Compiled by

FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Kes Returns To Voyager

At a recent *Trek* convention in Portland, OR, Robert Picardo (the Holodoc) announced that Jennifer Lien has been signed to reprise her role as Kes in a guest shot later this season. Kes was last seen in the fourth-season episode "The Gift", where she ascended to a higher plane of existence.

Frakes To Spoof Sci-Fi

Jonathan Frakes, who became famous playing Riker on *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, has signed to shoot a film lampooning the sci-fi genre. "Steve Was Here" is about a withering town that decides to stage a phony alien landing to attract tourists. Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich, the duo behind *Independence Day* and *Godzilla*, will serve as executive producers. Norman Steinberg is writing the script. Frakes is also schedule to direct *Total Recall 2*.

Doohan To Have Daughter

James Doohan, our beloved engineer Scotty on the original *Star Trek* series, will be a father again just weeks after his 80th birthday on March 3. Wende Doohan, 43, is expected to give birth to a girl on April 1, according to the Doohan's agent. Sarah Christina Ann Doohan will be the couple's third child. While they didn't plan to have another child, they seem thrilled that it is happening. The Doohans live near Seattle and already have two sons, aged 21 and 23. Doohan

recently signed a deal to serve as a spokesman for a new online bill-paying service and has a lead role in a film, *The Duke*, scheduled for release this summer. ♠

This stamp can't be used because it's torn and is printed on dark colored paper.



dates. Computers still work and the world did not come to an end, thankfully. Though we may still see some problems on our bills for January. And since this is a Leap Year, we may not be entirely finished with the computer snafus until after March.

I also hear some of you green blooded, anal-retentive, logical Vulcans saying they the new millennium doesn't start until January 1, 2001. Technically, you're right since there was no year zero on our current calendar. However, most people just like numbers that end in zeroes, from birthdays to anniversaries and from bank balances to calendar years. Therefore, 2000 is a nice, round, even number close enough to the actual date.

If you still have trouble dealing with it, think of it like this: A millennium is just a period of 1000 years according to the dictionary. Therefore, every instance of time since the beginning of time is the beginning of a new millennium. This includes every second, minute, hour, day, week, month, year, decade, and century. This is also like the difference between decimal (1000) and binary (1024) megabytes. People can't count in binary megabytes as easily as computers, so we use the easier decimal form to approximate them.

Therefore, think of 2000 as being the human millennium and 2001 as being the calendar millennium. I won't even go into the fact that several other calendars use an entirely different starting point. And as a result, neither 2000 or 2001 are a new millennium. So I say celebrate both and have twice the fun. Or better yet, celebrate the entire year.

Since the holiday was so close to our January meeting date, we had to reschedule it. That has always been our policy in case of bad weather or holiday occurring on or near our meeting date. Instead of risking lives, we postpone the meeting for a week. If the weather is questionable, just watch the local news for a postponement notice. I'll also try to send an e-mail notice by Saturday night, so check your e-mail just before leaving for the meeting. ♣

USS WERNHER VON BRAUN INFORMATION

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The USS *Wernher von Braun*, NCC 72069, is the Huntsville, Alabama chapter of STARFLEET, the International *Star Trek* Fan Association. STARFLEET's and our general purpose is to be a social organization of *Star Trek* fans that work to fulfill Gene Roddenberry's dream: a future where mankind has learned to work through its differences and problems to live in harmony. The USS *Wernher von Braun* accomplishes this through a variety of social and community service activities. But most of all, we have fun by sharing a common interest in all forms of science-fiction. For more information or questions about the USS *Wernher von Braun* or STARFLEET, contact:

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Submissions for the next issue are due by the first of each month for the newsletter that comes out the following month. For example, the July issue would have a deadline of June 1. Preferred submission format is by plain ASCII text via E-mail, though handwritten submissions are acceptable. Any ship, science-fiction, or fantasy related submission is welcomed. This includes reports, interviews, cartoons, artwork, reviews, poetry, short fiction, and more. Please send all submissions and comments to:

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MEETING MINUTES

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson
January 9, 2000

Members Present: Richard L. Trulson, Russ McNutt, Ron Zuckerman. Since there were so few present, an official meeting wasn't held. However, Richard made a few announcements.

CO: Richard L. Trulson

Richard thanked everyone for electing him to be CO again and announced Russ would serve as XO. Several Department Chief positions need filling.

He reminded everyone that bad weather or a holiday on our meeting day will postpone the meeting one week.

XO: Russ McNutt

Russ filled everyone in on the latest sci-fi and *Trek* collectible news.

Business:

The 2000 Region 2 Summit is March 10-12 in Birmingham. Richard would like for many crewmembers to go. <http://www.region2.sfi.org/summit/>

General talk and discussion of possible activities occurred.

Richard announced that WHDF UPN channel 15 is now broadcasting on the air. Russ said they were still negotiating their contract with the cable companies.

The next meeting will be February 6.

After the meeting, Ron and Rich went to see *Toy Story 2*. ♣