



DRAGON*CON

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson
The largest con in the southeast returns.

Dragon*Con 2000 will be held June 29 through July 2 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, the Atlanta Apparel Mart and the Atlanta Merchandise Mart in downtown Atlanta, GA. Yes, it's so big it takes three buildings to hold everything. Expect over 20,000 guests at the south's largest science-fiction, fantasy, and gaming convention.

As of June 1, 2000, there were 333 guests confirmed for 2000, including: artists Amano, Bob Eggleton, Larry Elmore, Lisa Snellings, and Ron Walotsky; authors Lynn Abbey, Dafydd ab Hugh, Kevin J. Anderson, Terry Brooks, Nancy A. Collins, Ann C. Crispin, Bill Fawcett, Alan Dean Foster, Christopher Golden, J. Gregory Keyes, Katherine Kurtz, Rebecca Moesta, Jody Lynn Nye, Josepha Sherman, and Robert Anton Wilson; comedians Jason Alexander, Bob Burden, Frank Cho, Peter David, Colleen Doran, GWAR, Scott Hampton, Drew Hayes, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Joseph Michael Linsner, David Mack, Dean Motter, James O'Barr, Julius Schwartz, Tim Vigil, and Mark Wheatley; and performers Apollo Smile, The Changelings, The Crossed Swords, The Cruxshadows, Dave Brockie Experience, Fiends Carnival of Souls, Leslie Fish, 5 More Dead, Have Sword Will Travel, The Misfits, Bill Mumy, Sins of Lust, Voltaire, and Z-Axis.

The film and special-effects stars include Richard Biggs, Karen Black, Jeremy Bulloch, David Carradine, Jason Carter, Angela Cartwright, Tim Choate, Kim Coates, Brad Dourif, Richard Hatch, Andreas Katsulas, Lloyd Kaufman, Walter Koenig, Chase Masterson, Jason Mewes, Chris Owens, David Prowse, Ted Raimi, Tom Savini, Claire Stansfield, Christian Tessier, Alexandra Tydings, Karl Urban, and Justin Whalin.

They have over 600 hours of panels and programming for fans of SF, fantasy and horror, Comics and Games, *Babylon 5*, *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *The X-Files*, *Xena and Hercules*, British and American SF media (TV and film), and Anne McCaffrey's *Pern* books and much more! They also have programming about NASA Space Science, electronic frontiers, and special workshops for aspiring writers and artists of all kinds. Younger fans are not forgotten since they have programming and events for children.

Dragon*Con has one of the largest Tournament Gaming departments with over 300 referees for RPG, live-action roleplaying (LARP), card, board, miniatures and computer gaming. Over \$5000 in awards will be given away.

Dragon*Con will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta and America's Mart (Atlanta's Apparel and Merchandise Marts) in downtown Atlanta. Convention events, especially nighttime events, will be centered at the Hyatt. Overflow hotels are also available, many with lower rates.

Memberships for attending Dragon*Con are \$75 at the door. Group Memberships bought in advance are discounted \$5 per Membership when 10 or more are purchased in advance by mail at one time. You must include names and addresses for all members of the group who are registering together. You may order your memberships using Visa or MasterCard by calling 770-909-0115. Guest of Honor Banquet ticket price is \$26. At-Con daily prices are \$60 for Friday through Sunday, \$45 Saturday through Sunday, \$30 for any single day only, and \$25 for Sunday only

Registration is located in the Hyatt's International Ballroom. Hours of operation are as follows:

Wednesday 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Thursday-Saturday: 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Dragon*Con membership covers all four days, all panels, workshops, events, demonstrations, concerts, performances, contests, and a host of other activities. The only things not covered in your membership fee are the Guest of Honor Banquet, most Tournament Gaming sessions, materials costs (for a few workshops), and certain autographs (at the discretion of each star).

Eternal (lifetime) memberships are \$500.00 and guarantee membership for all Dragon*Con conventions in the future. Other features of Eternal Memberships include a special ribbon, pin, and events with the guests, plus occasional freebies and other perks when they can arrange them. There are only a few of these memberships left.

Most of the information in this report was taken from their website at <http://www.dragoncon.org/> ♣

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NOTICE:

- ♣ No meeting in July.
- ♣ Please help with the July 14 *X-Men* movie recruitment.

TREK 411 COLLECTOR'S CORNER

CAPT Russ McNutt

A little of this, a little of that.

Hello to all the Fleet fans everywhere. It's time to take a peek in the Land of the *Trek* Collectible and see what we shall see.

First, my thanks to Dawn Smith-Webber for filling in for me last month. My job, as a computer programmer, kept me going for a long while and I was so immersed in my work, I forgot to write my article. My apologies for slacking.

First off, for the book worms, the DS9 three part series, *Millennium*, is now complete with the third and final book entitled *Inferno*. There is also an audio version of Book One, *The Fall of Terok Nor*, read by Joe Morton. Both should now be out in the book stores or on-line at such sites as www.barnesandnoble.com

For the *Voyager* book worms, there is a novelization of the two part episode "Equinox." Also, we have an interesting novelization of Tom Paris' favorite character, Captain Proton.

Andrew J. Robinson, Mr. Garak, tailor of DS9, has taken up the pen to write a DS9 novel, *A Stitch in Time*. Garek returns to Cardassia Prime to view a ravaged land; the result of wrath of the Founders and the Jem Hadar during the bloody Dominion War.

On the PC front, *Star Trek: Armada* should now be in the stores. This game allows the player to run battle simulations as the commander of fleets from the various *Trek* groups. Please check your current PC set-up and make any required upgrades if you plan to purchase this particular software.

Many of you have probably heard that the next season of *Voyager* will, in all likelihood, be the final season. Now the big question is, what will Paramount's next *Trek* project be?

It has been suggested that George Takei reprise his role as Captain Sulu for a *Trek* show based on the Starship *Excelsior*. This has generated a great deal of support among the fans. This writer supports the project one hundred percent. If any of you readers out there feel the

same, then make your intentions known to your chapter, so that we can mount a big drive to Paramount saying, "We want Captain Sulu!" George Takei is an accomplished actor and deserves to take his place among the *Trek* Captains.

Well folks, that's all I have for now but, please don't hesitate to send your questions/comments to me at

Russ McNutt

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(256) 650-3195 (voice)
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Until next time, Keep on *Trekkin'* and Good Collectin' ♣

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount	Balance
1131	2-10-2000	Kinko's 32 copies of the 8 page (4 sheets) January 2000 newsletter.	-\$19.35	\$50.47
1130	3-5-2000	Voided The Ray/Brookshire Support Fund was closed down.		\$50.47
	3-6-2000	Deposit Ebay charity auction funds \$46.50, 1 T-Shirt sold \$10, and donations \$12.	\$68.50	\$118.97
1132	3-30-2000	Kinko's 33 copies of the 4 page (2 sheets) March 2000 newsletter.	-\$9.98	\$108.99
	4-18-2000	Deposit Two memberships.	\$20.00	\$128.99
1134	4-28-2000	Mike Brookshire Charity donation to former member injured in September 1999 Lunatech explosion.	-\$37.75	\$91.24
1133	5-19-2000	Kinko's 16 copies of the 8 page (4 sheets) April 2000 newsletter. ♣	-\$9.68	\$81.56

CALENDAR

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson
Upcoming activities in June and July.

Please pay particular attention this time since there are some important events coming up that we could use your help on. Please pay particular attention to the items in **bold**

June:

- 6 Laura Peterson's Birthday
- 9 Laura Brookshire's Birthday
- 17 Lunch and movie at Madison Square. Meet at the theater at 12 noon to buy tickets.**
- 29-7/2 Dragon*Con in Atlanta, GA**



FINANCES

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson
A whole lotta action this time.

Here are the recent financial transactions for the ship. As always, if someone would like to review the check register or the bank statements, please ask the CO after the meeting. After each entry is a description of the transaction memo or purpose. Please note that because of the way we need to get two signatures on each check ahead of time, some checks may appear out of chronological or numerical sequence.

- ### July:
- 1 Darryl Osborn's Birthday
 - 2 General Meeting has been CANCELLED in July.**
 - 8 Mary Dyer's Birthday
 - 8&9 CreationCon in Memphis, TN. Tim Russ (Tuvok) and Hudson Leick (Callisto of Xena).**
 - 14 X-Men movie premiere. We'll need your help to have a recruiting table at both the Hollywood and Madison Square theaters.**
 - 17 Heather White's Birthday
 - 18 Mark Schaffer's Birthday
 - 23 Kathy Frame's Birthday
 - 26 Michael Brookshire's Birthday
 - 29 Jan Appling's Birthday
 - 29 Gloria Adams's Birthday
 - 29 Aerospace Day (Tentative)**
 - 28-30 RiverCon in Louisville, KY ♣**

COMMANDING OFFICER

COMM Richard L. Trulson
Voicing your opinions by voting.

Two of the great things about living in a democracy is your ability to voice your opinions on any subject and to vote on the outcome of certain issues. We have the opportunity to express our like or dislike of certain actions and individuals to them or their representatives. And if they don't do what we like, we can vote to have them removed or to put someone else in their place if we think they'll do a better job. The same holds true for this ship, Region 2, and STARFLEET.

Our ship election isn't until November, so you've got a while to consider that still. However, please keep it in mind that healthy competition is a good thing.

The Region 2 Vote of Confidence is underway. Unlike an election, this vote simply states whether we have confidence or not in the current Regional Coordinator to run the Region in our and its best interests. I've been very pleased with the progress and accomplishments of our RC, Pete Mohney, over the past year. He's allowed me to voice my opinions even when they were contrary to his own, and has given them careful consideration. Apparently, the rest of you felt the same since he received unanimous confidence in support from the eligible voters that was at our June meeting.

Also, the STARFLEET election season is upon us. It's time to elect a new Commander, STARFLEET (CS) since Mike Smith has served two full terms. The new Constitution, which the membership overwhelming voted to accept, forbids anyone from holding more than two terms as CS. It also added some much needed checks and balances on the positions of power within STARFLEET.

As a chapter CO, I'm given the privilege to nominate someone for CS. While I could make that nomination blindly based on my own personal choices, I'd rather nominate the chapter's choice. Remember, however, that this isn't the election, it's only the nominations for candidates. The elections will occur

later in the year. We have until July 15 to send our nomination to the Fleet's Chief of Communications, Allyson Dyar, who serves as the Election Coordinator and works with the Certified Public Accountant to get the votes tallied.

Who do you want to nominate? Currently, there are two known candidates that are seeking nominations. RC Pete Mohney is compiling a list of other interested candidates and will mail this out soon in the Regional publications. Since we decided not to have an official meeting in July, you will need to either call, e-mail, or postal mail your nomination request to me by July 1. If there is a tie, I will cast the deciding vote. Remember, you must be a current member of STARFLEET to nominate, and then vote in the election; so consider this a good incentive to join or renew.

Edwin Les Rickard, Jr. is currently serving as Fleet's Chief of Operations and CO of the USS *Normandy*. My guess is that he'll probably keep a large percentage of the existing staff members and policies since he's the heir apparent to Mike Smith's cabinet and legacy. This would probably result in the least amount of transition turmoil, and would maintain the status quo that Smith has established. I've only met Les briefly at the 2000 R2 Summit this past March, though he seemed like a very nice gentleman.

Robert Westfall is currently the CO of the USS *Royal Sovereign* in Missouri, as well as the Region 12 Historian and Finance Officer. You may also remember him as the former Inspector General for STARFLEET for the past few years. I knew Robert personally since he used to be my XO when I was aboard the *Krazny Oktyabr*, the predecessor to the *Royal Sovereign*. He's a very charming man with lots of enthusiasm and excellent ideas. However, if he wins, there would probably be a much larger personnel turnover at the Fleet level.

I honestly can't recommend one over the other right now. I think Rickard offers greater stability and will keep Fleet HQ focused in Region 1, but Westfall has the potential to bring back more of the fun and shift the power back to Region 12. I'm pretty sure both men will receive enough nominations, even without ours. However, I wanted to see if you wanted to lend your voice to one or the other now. And just because our ship nominates someone, that doesn't mean you have to vote for that person during the election. Of course, if you wish not to nominate anyone at all, tell me that as well since we're not required to do so.

Of course, there may be other interested parties that we haven't heard from yet. I engaged in a bit of speculation with some other Fleet members a while



back. We thought some other potential candidates might include Glenn Smith, who was unsuccessful in receiving enough nominations during the last election; and Marlene Miller with Anita Davis (Current Academy Commandant and former Vice-CS, respectively), who seem to always toy with the idea. Glenn Smith doesn't strike me as being able to properly run STARFLEET and I think Miller enjoys being Academy Commandant and Director of the Vulcan Academy of Science too much to actually run. Anyone else I haven't thought of?

Anyway, that wraps up this report. Keep in mind the upcoming activities we have planned. Our next event is a movie premiere gathering on Saturday, June 17. We'll meet at the Madison Square 12 theater behind the mall at 12 noon to buy tickets. We'll go have lunch in the mall and then see a movie, probably *Titan A.E.*, at the first showing nearest 1 p.m. Because of the Independence Day holiday, we'd normally postpone the meeting one week. However, because of me going on vacation the second weekend in July, because of a Memphis sci-fi convention on the same weekend, and because of activities going on the weekend after that, we voted to cancel the regular general meeting in July.

We will, however, have a huge recruiting effort on Friday, July 14, at the Hollywood 18 and Madison Square 12 theaters. This is the premier of the *X-Men* movie, which features Patrick Stewart as Professor Xavior. Everything I've heard about this movie is excellent, so this should be a big chance for us to get new members. Please come in some sort of uniform or costume to work a recruiting table. An X-Men costume would probably be best, but a Starfleet uniform or alien costume would be second choice, as would army BDUs (camouflage). If all else fails, sci-fi related or ship T-shirts is the last resort. I'm even contemplating shaving my head to go as Xavior. More details as they come available, but please arrange time to help with this. ♣

OPERATIONS

Acting CMDR Billy Helms Hello from the new Ops Chief.

As of the 7th of May, I, Billy M. Helms, take over as the Chief of Ops.

I have many things planned like a bowling party with free food and drinks. Plus the bowling is free too. And a free day at the Space and Rocket Center that I am looking into as we speak. So maybe I will have more info on June 4th. Also, on July 14th is the new *X-Men* movie. I am working with a few movie theaters on letting us do some recruiting.

So guys if you would please just bare with me until I get back into the swing of things. I can be contacted at:

Bill M. Helms
1813 Pulaski Pike
Huntsville, AL 35816
Phone: 539-0997

E-mail: GoldFeverAL@aol.com ♣

COMMUNICATIONS

COMM Richard L. Trulson Making the information available.

Because the last issue was so late, I decided to hold this issue for about a week as well in order to even out the distribution. I expect the next issue to come out the first week of July. While technically the deadline for that issue has done passed, get your department reports in to me ASAP and I will include them. While the actual layout of the newsletter only takes about a day, the editing and writing of the articles takes a few weeks.

Once we're back on schedule, the issue should come out the last week of the month on the cover date, or the first week of the next month. This is timed so that you receive your newsletter a day or two before our general monthly meeting. This will hopefully serve as enough of a reminder to come to the meeting that Sunday. Therefore, any submissions should be received by the first of the month on the cover date.



Someone also requested that I start sending out e-mails a few days before events as well. Normally, I only sent out one if the newsletter wasn't going to arrive on time. However, some may prefer to use these e-mails as a better reminder. If you, or someone you know, would like to be added, send me e-mail at WvB@OmniFacets.com and ask to be put on our e-mail distribution list. I'll never give out your e-mail, or other personal information, to anyone other than the immediate Command Staff. At most, you should receive no more than two or three e-mails a month from me.

This issue was also held because I was hoping to get information from our June meeting about events during the next few months as well. That way I could include a fairly detailed calendar of events. Hopefully, this should allow people plenty of time to make plans to attend our activities.

Other than this delay, things are going fairly well in Communications. Except for getting the actual material, the newsletter comes together fairly easily in the new, smaller format. It's also much easier to stomach the copying and mailing costs in the smaller, monthly doses instead of the huge, quarterly drain.

In this issue I've caught everyone up on the past few months of meeting minutes. I apologize for not including those regularly, but I haven't set aside enough time to compile them. I've lessened my procrastination problem, but I still haven't got rid of it completely. I've also included a detailed financial report. As always, if you'd like to see the actual bank statements to verify that they correlate with what's in the newsletter, please feel free to ask for them after a general meeting. ♣

MEETING MINUTES

Compiled by Richard L. Trulson
March 5, 2000

Members Present: Laura Peterson, Rebecca Self, Ron Zuckerman, David Rawlings, Don Daniel, Russ McNutt, and Richard L. Trulson

CO: FCAPT Richard L. Trulson

Communiqué 96 has been received.

Richard acquired the necessary signatures on the command transfer paperwork.

XO: CAPT Russ McNutt

Russ handed out several promotions that occurred as a result of people joining STARFLEET last year. David Rawlings and Ron Zuckerman were both awarded the rank of Petty Officer, Third Class.

Russ announced that the *Communicator* magazine is now offering the white dress uniforms seen in *Insurrection* for \$125 in sizes M to 2XL. He's also having computer troubles with *Hidden Evil*. A book is being released featuring Shakespeare's works in Klingon. Rules of Acquisition booster packs are available for CCG fans. UPN is now available on both cable networks. He urged people to visit Laura Peterson's web site for anything they may need. *Galaxy Quest* is available on Amazon.com. You can also reserve your copy of *Star Wars, Episode I*.

Communications: Richard L. Trulson

The March issue will be the last free issue sent out to the 30 people currently receiving it. You must subscribe or join the ship to receive it after that. It was sent out this long so people could see that Richard could produce a quality, monthly newsletter worth paying your dues for.

Sciences: LT(sg) Don Daniel

Don received another letter of donation receipt from OCP. He also donated a *Highlander* tape to the ship stores. He also had several science magazines available to read.

General Business:

Richard finally transferred the funds that he received for our online charity auctions to the *von Braun* bank account. We took in a total of \$75.50 in auctions on Ebay. The ship voted to donate half of those funds to the Ray/Brookshire Support and Assistance Fund. Richard volunteered to personally pay the \$16 in fees that Ebay charged us to sell items. Therefore, a check for \$37.75, which is half of the total amount raised, will be sent to the Fund.

Richard collected coupons and stamps to enter into the OCP and Stampede Competitions at the Region 2 Summit next weekend. He asked if there was anything that the crew wanted to ask while he was at the Summit and if anyone wanted to go at the last minute.

Panoply is coming up the last weekend in April. Please volunteer if you can. The *Dark Silence* has also offered to help. Details about what we do can be found in the current newsletter.

Possible ship activities were discussed. If we could find a location to have it, a Klingon Spaghetti dinner might be a good fund-raiser. A car wash in May would probably work best if we charged people a flat fee instead of trying to get pledges per car washed.

April 2, 2000

Members Present: Ron Zuckerman, Laura Peterson, Donald Daniel, Russ McNutt, and Richard L. Trulson

CO: COMM Richard L. Trulson

Richard announced that the command transfer paperwork was done at the Summit. He also announced that he was promoted to Commodore and received a special Certificate of Appreciation for his work as Region 2 Chief of Computer Operations.

Unfortunately, the ship didn't win any awards this year. We did submit entries in the Stampede, OCP, and Recruiters Award competitions. If they still awarded Runner-Up and Honorable

SCIENCE-FICTION COLLECTIBLES



Autographs, jewelry, T-shirts, toys,
trading cards, and other collectibles.

LAURA R. PETERSON

256-721-1843

sci-fi-col@mindspring.com

<http://sci-fi-col.home.mindspring.com/>

Mention categories, we probably would have won something. Otherwise, nothing much was said about Summit other than he wished more of the crewmembers could have gone.

The Ray/Brookshire Support Fund is no longer in existence at the bank. Therefore, the old check will be voided and a new one will be made out to Mike Brookshire directly.

XO: CAPT Russ McNutt

Russ announced there were several new books in the works. Additionally, StarTrek.com has been completely reworked. He also mentioned the *Excelsior* campaign.

Communications: Richard L. Trulson

Department Chief reports are desperately needed.

Sciences: LT(sg) Don Daniel

Don shared a brochure from the von Braun Astronomical Society.

General Business:

Discussion was held about the International Federation of Trekkers' plan to hold an *Excelsior* Campaign on Saturday, April 22. We discussed if we wanted to participate and in what manner. We finally decided to have a video party to watch *Star Trek's* IV and VI, and the *Voyager* episode that features the *Excelsior* in a flashback. Ron Zuckerman volunteered to have it at his house beginning around 1 p.m.

Richard has been trying to contact the Panoply people without success. However, he needed to see who would be willing to help work, and for how long. Handling volunteer parking in the Mental Health Center parking lot is easy work. However, you are outside for most of the day.

Plans for a charity car wash were set for May 13. We voted to give half the profits to Mike Brookshire. Times and location would be announced at the next meeting and in the newsletter.

May 5, 2000

Members Present: Ron Zuckerman, Billy Helms, Russ McNutt, and Richard L. Trulson

CO: COMM Richard L. Trulson

Richard thanked everyone for helping with Panoply. It was a successful event despite the problems that occurred. Our role was greatly reduced this year as

a result of the problems with the Panoply organizers. The following people received Commendations of Excellence for volunteering: Billy Helms, Laura Peterson, Will Burhans, Carol Burhans, Don Daniel, Ralph Brigham, Catherine "Kit" Ramsey, and Richard L. Trulson.

Communiqué 97 has been received. The *Region 2 Update* was also received via e-mail.

We voted to spend the money to pay for Pete Mohney's airfare to attend the 2000 STARFLEET Intentional Conference. We felt that our Regional Coordinator should attend, even if his proxy, the Vice-RC, will be there. Furthermore, the crew didn't mind if regional funds were used to purchase a banner.

Mike Brookshire has received and cashed the check we sent to him from our charity auction. Our bank account currently has \$91.24 in it.

XO: CAPT Russ McNutt

Russ announced that the North Alabama Science-Fiction Association (NASFA), which he is also a member of, has placed a bid to host the 2002 Deep South Con at Con†Stellation in October.

The actor who plays the Cardassian Garak on *Deep Space Nine* has released a novel. There's also a *Voyager* book based on Captain Proton.

Communications: Richard L. Trulson

The newsletter has been delayed a couple of weeks because of Panoply hassles.

Operations: Acting CMDR Billy Helms

Billy Helms introduced himself and expressed his desire to become Operations Chief. The Command Staff approved and appointed him as the new Operations Chief.

General Business:

Possible activities were discussed. We decided on a hike and picnic at Monte Sano State Park on Saturday, May 20. Wear long pants and comfortable shoes if you wish to hike the trails. There is a \$1 donation to get in.

Because of the hassles with Panoply, Richard was unable to make arrangements for the car wash. As a result, if a location can be had, we'll try to have one on June 10. Additionally, the *X-Men* movie premier is July 14, and we hope to have a major recruiting effort there. ♣

USS WERNHER VON BRAUN INFORMATION

WvB@OmniFacets.com

<http://www.OmniFacets.com/wvb/>

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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