



RAINBOW CONNECTION

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the USS Heimdal, NCC 1793
Based (Space docked?) in Madison Heights, Virginia

STARFLEET'S CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2008 & 2012
REGION ONE'S CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 1996, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013
REGION ONE'S RUNNER-UP CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2007, 2011, 2017, 2018 & 2021
BEST REGION ONE NEWSLETTER 2011 & 2020 ***
BEST R/1 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 2015, 2018 & 2020 ***
BEST R/1 MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK 2020
WINNER - BEST FLOAT AWARD, AMHERST CHRISTMAS PARADE – 2006, 2020, 2021

*The **AUCTION IS OVER & Summer Almost Is** Issue*

September 2022

Email: heimdalco@aol.com

Website: <http://www.ussheimdal.com>

Visit & LIKE us on Facebook at [Heimdal's Science Fiction Page](#)

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2022 HEIMDAL CHARITY AUCTION

By LCDR Bud Walker



L to R: Bud, Glenda & Carl setting up the auction tables the day before the event



Carl doing his 'expert auctioning thing'



Carol showing our auction guests an item up for bids

I have never experienced the famed (infamous?) Charity Auction for our chapter. While I was a member in the early years of the chapter, the only auction that I had attended were the early ones where we basically just sold Star Trek memorabilia to each other, in some bizarre nerd version of passing around the unwanted fruit cake. And it was amateur hour for sure! I think I was the auctioneer one of those times, which only speaks to the primitive nature of those events. But we had fun, often got silly and somehow managed to raise a few hundred dollars or so.

So, you can imagine my reaction as I helped with the 2022 Heimdal Charity Auction at the Lynchburg Grand Hotel. First of all ... we were at a *hotel*! In a ballroom, no less! Not in someone's musty basement with walls covered with old movie posters. The scale was also so much larger than anything I could remember. I assisted with setting up the auction items the day before and the amount of stuff we had to haul into the room and place



on the tables was amazing. I have seen estate sales with fewer items! I wondered how we would sell all these items in one day.

Probably the most important thing I observed concerned our members. We all wore our maroon Heimdal polo shirts, with black pants, and thus had an air of professionalism. And it was not just for show, as everyone did their job without complaint and with admirable efficiency. The system of processing the bids, taking payments, and keeping records was also impressive. Frankly, if this crew wished to start a small business, I think it would present little challenge for them. And everyone worked well together, kept their humor, and got the job done. No amateur hour here!

Much like my reaction at the recent Anniversary dinner, I marvel at how far this chapter has come since the halcyon days of my youth. Everyone has reason to feel proud of what they accomplished and to have optimism for the future.

COMMAND

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Adm. Linda Smith - Starfleet SFDPP Certified



Now that this year's auction is behind us ... after meeting all the challenges we faced making it a possibility after 2 years canceling the event due to COVID ... and actually having a HUGE auction SUCCESS, I thought the best way to start this newsletter was with Bud's perspective on the event.

On August 20, 2022 Bud Walker was unique in the universe ... the ONLY person alive on this planet who had been one of the Heimdal's first members, left for 30 years, returned in 2020 and was experiencing his first Heimdal auction as a public event.

Way back in 1984 when the Heimdal was the shuttle *ASGARD* Bud was her first Chief of Security. When we were searching for a way to raise funds back then, Bud came up with a really cool idea to do that. He suggested we hold an 'on board' auction – everyone digging into

their Star Trek and s-f collections, finding some items we could make ourselves part with and on a designated meeting night hold an auction and auction them off to each other. We did that and actually raised, I believe, \$50 at that first attempt. We kept making the 'on board' auctions part of what we did and eventually raised several hundred dollars at those events.

This means that the Heimdal's auctions began with an idea Bud had. It changed over the years and morphed into the amazing event it is now and Bud returned on August 20 ... coming full circle ... to experience what his basic 30+ year old idea has become. Reading his article is a delightful glimpse for all of us through Bud's eyes of the impact it had on him. His only reference point was what he remembered from those long-ago first Heimdal auctions that raised enough money for us to donate to the Humane Society of Amherst County and support a whale named Half Moon through the Whale Adoption Project.

Bud's article is a delightful read, filled with nostalgia and his personal awe at what his original idea has become. If you don't read another word of this newsletter, I hope you read that first article.

Thank you, Bud for your wonderful article written by a man that temporarily on August 20 had an experience that was ***unique in the universe***.



At the auction WELCOME TABLE, l to r: Julie, Willy & Beth welcoming our auction guests in their **UNIQUE** welcoming way.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

XO, Chief Science Officer, Adm. Willy Smith – Starfleet SFDPP Certified



For many months many of us with the Heimdal have been gearing up for the 2022 Auction ... not knowing if we would be successful or not was something new. There were many other factors that were a concern that hadn't been so in the past ... but we took them on one at a time (sort of) and all in all did okay. It seems that gone are the days of many crewmembers, each with their own areas to canvass, getting it together to pull off a feat that many have yet to figure out. But the people we DID have mostly were committed, and that's what made this happen.

Things happened that surprised me on auction day. I would guess that 99% of us ... without having to be told, wore the burgundy Heimdal shirts with black pants and shoes and we indeed looked professional. I tried to think who would need a name badge and only 2 out of the bunch needed one and one has just returned from hiatus (good excuse.)

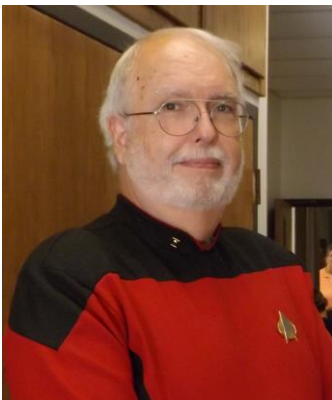
I was happy that the SQUARE card reader worked well but our patrons were not charged any fees ... we, however, were. I figured out **the hard way** that fees weren't auto added and Linda said this was a *"learning curve"*... our first time using the SQUARE to accept credit card payments. We learned from doing. We can be thankful that we didn't run into more glitches than we did and those Heimdal members who worked to make the auction a success will be remembered forever and are thanked (you know who you are.)

As usual, Linda pays for the Sugar Mill pavilion for our Pool Party and Picnic the weekend following the auction as her way of saying thanks to everyone for a job well done. It was so nice having Carl's help and conversation on how the hot dogs were being prepared and the REAL food people brought ... and sorry about you having to run to the store for ice Bud and Karen. We may not have had tons of people but those who came made the evening nice. If you couldn't make it, we missed you.



Willy's REVERED auction purchase.
If there's a pig item in our auctions,
he buys it. GO FIGURE ...

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECOND OFFICER **RAdm. Carl Davis, 2nd Officer's Report September 2022**



After a very successful Heimdal auction I was ready for a rest. After relaxing on Sunday and Monday, Bonnie and I were blessed to be able to get away for a 3 day mini vacation this month and caught a ride with a van full of church folks to visit Lancaster Pennsylvania. Our main purpose in going was to visit the famous sight and sound theater to see their production of David. The play covers the life of the Bible character David from his childhood to becoming king of Israel and Judah.

Using state of the art special effects the play brings to life the slaying of the giant, Goliath and offers performances by excellent singers. It was a feast for the senses and I would recommend it to anyone. It was nice seeing a sold out theater that seats 2000 people coming together to honor God and be lifted spiritually. Who can't use a little spiritual pick me up from time to time?

While in Lancaster we visited the beautiful countryside and saw the farms of the Amish folk. Cornfields for miles and miles stood nearly ready for harvesting. It was pleasant to see life going on at a simpler pace. Yet it was good to return home to the familiar sights and sounds including the Heimdal picnic.

While there wasn't a record number of people present it was a pleasant group that came together to just enjoy the food and one another's company. The temperature was comfortable and we sat around talking until darkness reminded us that we had to part ways and head back home.

The work involved in putting together yet another profitable auction is behind us and our next big Heimdal event will be the float for the parade. It hardly seems like a year has passed but fall is nearly upon us. Take the time to smell the roses in the arboretum before it's too late.



Relaxing at the Heimdal pool party & picnic



MEETINGS AND COMMITMENTS

SEPTEMBER MEETING



The September Heimdal meeting will be September 17 at the Madison Heights Library and on ZOOM starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring individually wrapped snacks to share.

Our meeting guest speaker will be Costumer Extraordinaire, Alan Provo. If you've seen Alan before you KNOW how amazing his costumes are and he does everything from Star Trek, Star Wars, Steam Punk, and Furries, to name a few. He's also a fantastic mask maker and make-up / prosthetics artist. Photos are some of his work.

This would be an excellent meeting to bring a friend or invite a friend to join you on ZOOM.

Tim Hazlett will be our ZOOM coordinator for the meeting and the coordinates are:

Tim Hazlett is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Heimdal Zoom Meeting Hosted by Tim Hazlett

Time: Sep 17, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9274947336>

Meeting ID: 927 494 7336

Passcode: 273082

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,9274947336#,,,*,273082# US (Washington DC)

8558801246,,9274947336#,,,*,273082# US Toll-free

location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

855 880 1246 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 927 494 7336

Passcode: 273082

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acC7yeT7hQ>

2022 HEIMDAL AUCTION

By Jonathan Hatter



The Heimdal Charity Auction made its comeback in 2022.

I was very happy to be able to come back after the Covid Pandemic has forced us into a holding pattern for the last two years. I have had



the opportunity to work in a few different positions in the few years I have helped. These have included being a runner and a bid tracker, both electronically and on paper. This year Bud and I sat next to Master Auctioneer, Carl. We were going to maintain a list of the winning bids which would then be ferried to Bonnie and Willy who would collect payment outside the auction room.

From my point of view the auction seemed to go smoothly. Our runners did a great job of showcasing the items and getting them to the winners. As Bud and I filled up a tracking sheet we handed it off for delivery to the payment table. Having two of us was a good plan; if one missed some information then the other caught it. We were able to maintain good records and, as always, Carl did a superb job keeping the auction on track.

As far as payment, I can only speak for my items, but the system seemed smooth and my credit card went through without incident. It was processed and sent me a text receipt almost immediately.

I feel like we have a good system that functions efficiently, especially since we have not conducted the auction in the last couple of years. I was glad to have some return customers and hopefully as we emerge from the Pandemic we will get a larger crowd next year.

It's very sad that some of the businesses who donated items no longer exist as a result of the economic hardship that Covid brought on. I like that our auction provides an array of different items to choose from. I try to promote the event as much as possible to people I know. I insist that they can get some great deals and jump start their Christmas shopping.

I believe the setup is an effective and smooth operation. We have crew members who are willing to help and take their roles seriously. Thanks to all that came out this year. It's great that we will be able to continue to support our charities throughout the next year.



Carol, who won this year's Heimdal Bucks for bringing in the most auction donations, receiving those coveted Bucks from Linda at the auction

HEIMDAL PEOPLE

STARFLEET ACADEMY GRADUATES – CONGRATULATIONS!



Willy

WILLY SMITH - A grade of HONORS for SFDPP 2022-2023 Data Protection Recertification from the School of IOLS - STARFLEET Data Protection Policy completed on Aug 26, 2022

LINDA SMITH - A grade of HONORS for SFDPP 2022-2023 Data Protection Recertification from the School of IOLS - STARFLEET Data Protection Policy completed on Aug 25, 2022.



Linda

BUD WALKER - A grade of HONORS for CSO-107 - Bridge Operations from the School of IOSTS - College of Starship Operations (IOMS:COSO) completed on Aug 16, 2022.



Bud

ZAK LYON - A grade of HONORS for CSO-103 - Rescue and Evacuation Operations from the School of IOSTS - College of Starship Operations (IOMS:COSO) completed on Aug 17, 2022.



Zak

RENEWALS

A special THANK YOU to Eric Merrill, Beth and Peter Hopkins, and Jimmy Farlow for renewing and staying with our Heimdal “family” for another year ... hopefully getting back to the normal of the “before times” (thank you, Jody!)

Unfortunately, Jerry and Lana Werner didn't renew and we will miss them so much. The Heimdal door is always open. Our Membership Coordinator (one of the many hats he wears), Willy Smith sends out email reminders to everyone a month in advance of your renewal date. THANK YOU, Willy! And he will renew for you with the Heimdal's PayPal



account and you can pay us back if you'd rather do it that way. To pay the Heimdal back if we renew for you, please make your check out to Linda Smith and she will deposit it into the Heimdal's account. We ask that you reimburse the Heimdal in no less than 60 days following your renewal.

XXX PLEASE NOTE: When Willy sends you your renewal reminder he includes in that email your SCC number and instructions on how to renew through Starfleet's web site, as well as your expiration date.

Remember, Starfleet suggests you renew a month before your expiration date so you won't risk being removed from the Heimdal's roster, which happens at the stroke of midnight on your expiration date if you haven't renewed.

Those needing to renew are:

October – Glenda & Dan Blanks – October 11


Karen Delano – October 12

November – Tim Hazlett – November 18

December – Carlos Neyre – December 20


***** New bumper stickers will be coming out with renewals starting in October. Be the first in your quadrant to get one when you renew with Starfleet / Heimdal.**

LINDA GIVES WRITING PRESENTATION AT LOCAL LIBRARY



COUNTY OF AMHERST

Public Information Officer
AMHERST COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
155 WASHINGTON STREET
P. O. Box 390
AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521



For Immediate Release August 1, 2022

August Author Event at the Madison Heights Library


You are invited to join the Amherst County Public Library and author Linda Smith on Monday, August 8th 2022, for: To the Blogosphere-and Beyond. During August's Author Event, writer Linda Smith will discuss her breast cancer journey and her writing career, particularly blogging. She will share tips on how to begin a blog, decide on content, and attract and grow an audience. Linda's book will be available for purchase and signing.

The event will be held at the Madison Heights Public Library at 200 River James Shopping Center in the Community Room from 6:30-8:00 PM.

After retiring from her job as an Operating Room Registered nurse, Linda was blindsided by a diagnosis of breast cancer. However, she found a silver lining when she made her to-do-someday list a reality by becoming a writer and public speaker.

Linda collected her poetry to publish her first book, *Reflections of My Life in Rhyme*. As a freelance writer, Linda writes articles for magazines and newspapers and has short stories published in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. Linda began a blog in 2013 and has compiled her favorite blogs on *Life in the Blogosphere*, published in 2020.

Channeling her positive future-oriented outlook, Linda is also the President of the Heimdal Science Fiction Club, a nonprofit that annually sends a high school student to the NASA Space Camp and donates the proceeds from the annual fundraiser to area nonprofit organizations.



Additional information may be obtained from Joy Nicholas at jlnichaus@countyofamherst.com or (434) 946-9400.



In March the Madison Heights Library invited Linda to give a presentation in August at the library on writing ... writing

generally but writing a blog specifically. Following on the heels last year of her latest published book, *Life in the Blogosphere*, the presentation also gave her a chance to sell, publicize and personalize the book.

The once a month Monday night monthly programs are a part of a new initiative begun this year by the library that invites local authors, artists and personalities to present programs open to the public giving the speaker a

chance to interact with the public. So far the programs have been successful with positive attendance, even in a post-COVID atmosphere.

17 people attended Linda's program. Her presentation included how to begin writing a blog, what techniques are most successful, how to pick blog topics and how to find the best blog space in which to publish. Linda also included personal anecdotes and humor that encouraged multiple questions from the audience and made the evening more than successful and fun.

Linda sold a large number of books and signed up numerous members of the audience to follow her monthly blog. Since the presentation she has been contacted by several people so inspired that they have begun and shared their OWN blogs with her. Several others from the audience have continued to communicate with her.

When asked about the experience Linda said, *"It was challenging trying to prepare for the presentation while also canvassing heavily for the Heimdal auction and it was VERY important to me that the presentation be all that I wanted it to be. I have been blessed that it was. This is such a special aspect of my life and gives me immeasurable joy and peace. It is always such a pleasure to share that with people who are truly interested.*

Willy went with me and helped me sell books. I am always happy and blessed to have him with me."

Interested in following Linda's blog? You may find her at HEIMDALCO.WORDPRESS.COM.

Amherst County press release about the presentation



HEIMDAL STUFF

HEIMDAL RECEIVES AMAZING DONATIONS

Auction Related Donations

Following the auction the Heimdal received several donations related to the auction. One came from someone that wanted to be at the auction but couldn't - a \$100 donation, a donation from the Heimdal's Chaplain, Tim Hazlett - \$170, and a \$1000 donation from faithful Heimdal supporters that wish to remain anonymous. That is just WONDERFUL and so appreciated. As we're still trying to decide how to proceed with an auction next year, this money will help sustain us if we have an auction hiatus. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Daly Legacy Fund Donation

On August 31 the Heimdal received a donation from the Daly Legacy Fund at the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation in the amount of **\$2,455.80**. This amazing amount was unexpected and is thanks to Heimdal friends and continuing supporters, Jim and Lynn Daly.

Both Jim and Lynn contributed wonderful donations to the auction. Their donations in 2020 and 2021 through the Daly Legacy Fund made it possible for the Heimdal to not only continue supporting our 9 Christmas charities without decreasing the amount we donated to each, their kind donations ensured that we could continue our Space Camp Program without any delays. We thank them not only for their generosity but especially for the faith they have in the Heimdal and what we do within the community. There simply are no words and THANK YOU doesn't seem like enough ... but THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.

Jim Daly, also a Star Trek fan, said, *"This year's donation is given in honor of Lt. Uhura, Nichelle Nichols..."*

HEIMDAL POOL PARTY AND PICNIC

On August 27 the Heimdal held her final event at the Sugar Mill Recreation Area for 2022 – a Pool Party & Picnic. The party was an opportunity to relax and spend some quality time together as friends and not simply club members. We also needed a chance to unwind after the successful auction the week before and all the work that led up to it.



The turnout was small compared to pre-COVID pool parties and picnics, which seems to be the trend lately with meetings. BUT 11 really cool people got together to enjoy a relaxing evening and some really good picnic food. The conversation was friendly and the atmosphere was exactly what we hoped for ... relaxed.

If you missed this event, we missed YOU and hope that more of our members will start drifting back to enjoy each other's 'in person' company. You don't know what you're missing.



HEIMDAL GAME NIGHT SCHEDULED

By Angie Arnold

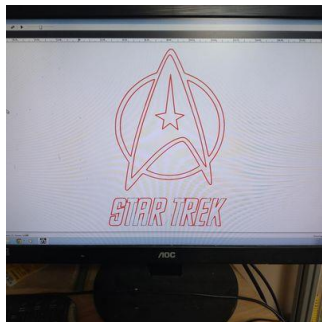
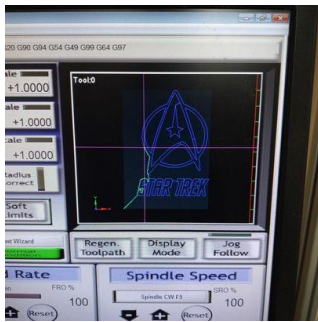
Wanted to let you know we have another fun Game Night of Putt Putt planned for September 10th. We will meet at 6. If you want to get together for a meal before that, please let us know akdecker64@yahoo.com. Rain date will be October 1st same time. Hope to see you there.



RILEY'S RAMBLINGS ...

CNC HOT WIRE MACHINE

By Richard Riley



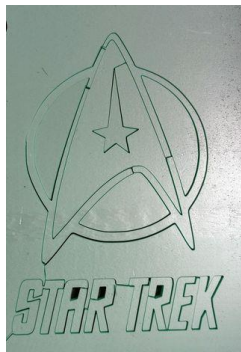
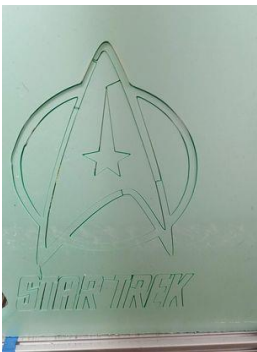
Hello everyone! In the past when I did demonstrations of how I make foam props I had shown the hand tools that I use for carving foam, from small hand tools such as a wood rasp to the hand held tools that use a hot wire to carve and shape the foam. However, I have another tool that I have not shown when giving demo's mainly because of the size of the machine. It is a CNC hotwire machine. For anyone that knows me I am not particularly computer suave; the best I can do is copy and paste and send emails to clients showing the status of their projects!

When I purchased this machine it was at the end of the year and my accountant informed me that I needed a tax deduction so I purchased it. I bought this machine having no idea how to use it but I hoped that it would come in handy every once in a while. I must say I am shocked at the ease of using it and it is now an essential part of my studio!

Now for a bit background information - in the past if I wanted to make a shape or a letter it would require me to either cut the letter freehand or to make cardboard patterns of the shape, place one on either side of the foam and cut around the cardboard with my hotwire. It would give me the shape I needed and keep the edges somewhat straight. It works but if either of the patterns is slightly misaligned then the letter or shape will be slightly off or lopsided. The other issue with doing projects this way is taking the time to create the patterns from cardboard to then use on the foam. This machine eliminates all of that! When I purchased this machine I saw no real benefit to it and thought it would sit in the corner collecting dust like an exercise bike but I was wrong! The versatility to the machine, ease of use and also the speed in which it works have been a "Game Changer" and, yes, I hate to say clichés like that but in this one instance it best describes what it has been.

I don't want to get too far into the weeds describing how the machine works but essentially what you do is find an image of the item you want to cut out, whether it is a logo, an image or even something you might create on your own. The next steps will be putting those images into a program, in this case an art program called Inkscape, which will convert the image into a line drawing. After that the image is then put into the computer that will be running the CNC machine in which you will place the foam, turn on the hotwire, then let it run! It is quite simple and yes there are a few steps I have omitted for clarity but it is a fantastic machine and quite simple to run!

Looking at the pictures you can see that I have cut out a Starfleet logo along with the words Star Trek. The machine follows a predetermined



The piece ready to be glued down, seams caulked, then coat & paint



path and will cut out the shapes. This entire piece was cut out in the course of about 30 minutes. In the past to create this piece it would have required cardboard templates of not only the logo but the letters as well and would have taken me 4 to 6 hours to create.

The Logo measures about 12 x 18 inches. Now after having the letters cut out they will be "shaved down" to give the look of certain areas being recessed or raised. This will all be glued down to another piece of foam and then coated for protection. I can then finish it like it is a shiny metal or perhaps a stone look, whatever the client would require.

A great tool to add to my arsenal and I cannot even imagine going back to my old way of using cardboard patterns! Now off to the next project, which I am sure will require using the CNC hotwire machine! I am including the website address if anyone would like to see not only the CNC machine that I have but also the other hand tools that I use when creating my projects.

<https://hotwirefoamfactory.com/>

FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS



<<SECURITY>>>

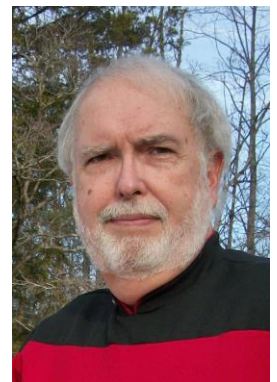
SECURITY REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2022

By RAdm. Carl Davis, Security Chief

Security is pleased to announce that on **September 24th** we will be hosting another **simulated phaser practice** at Mountaintop Christian Adventures. It has been too long since we had the opportunity to practice and hone our skills. Cooler temperatures should make for a pleasant outing and we look forward to seeing many members return and enjoy the exercise as we match ourselves to the challenges of defending our ship and departments in simulated scenarios. It's the best way to get in practice with the hand phaser that doesn't involve the nasty shock that comes from the real thing. Make plans to join us as we build our teams to be all that they can be.



Weapons & Defence



<<<SCIENCE>>>

ARTEMIS I

By Adm. Willy Smith, Chief Science Officer, Starfleet SFDPP Certified

**** BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, ARTEMIS I MAY HAVE LIFTED OFF depending on launch conditions. ** But don't let that stop you from "virtually" visiting the moon ... REALLY! Join me...**

The Moon. Earth's most famous natural satellite ... and your new travel destination.

From its wide vistas and secluded craters, to its unbeatable views of our own planet, visiting the Moon is a must-see for every well-seasoned space traveler's bucket list. Lunar adventures have been quite popular among uncrewed spacecraft in recent years, but it's been a generation since humans have set foot on the lunar surface. That is changing with NASA's Artemis missions.

This year, NASA is embarking on an exciting journey to the Moon—and we're inviting you to come along*. **I REALLY HOPE YOU WILL**



Science





VIEW THIS SHORT VIDEO, BECAUSE IT GIVES YOU MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT OUR FUTURE OF SPACE TRAVEL: <https://youtu.be/s3gt0mGwke8>

The Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and integrated Orion spacecraft will help us get a feel for what astronauts will experience on future flights. Artemis I is an important step in NASA's long-term goals for space exploration, paving the way for us to land the first woman and the first person of color on the Moon, explore more of the lunar surface than ever before — and prepare to travel on to Mars.

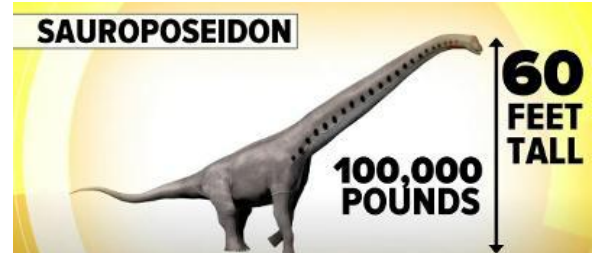
DINOSAUR TRACKS AND CEMENT GALOSHES

From Nicola Lemmer Cole



Across the world, vanishing waters from drought conditions are showing a bunch of previously hidden objects. In Europe, dozens of [Nazi warships](#) appeared, in China receding waters uncovered [three Buddhist statues](#) and human bodies and sunken ships have [turned up in Nevada's Lake Mead](#).

Now, a severe drought in Texas has revealed 113-million-year-old dinosaur tracks in Dinosaur Valley State Park. The prints are usually covered by the Paluxy River—the last time they were visible was in the year 2000 ... yeah, a drought then. There's some irony in the fact that dinosaurs, that were wiped out by very rapid climate change—now [the] evidence of them living is exposed because of



human-made climate change and MORE people might be showing up with 'cement galoshes' if the drought continues.

The river dried up completely in most locations, allowing for



more tracks to be uncovered here in the park. Probably why they call it Dinosaur Valley State Park ... you think? Most of the tracks belong to the carnivorous [Acrocanthosaurus](#), which lived about 115 to 105 million years ago. These dinosaurs walked on two legs and had three toes with claws on each foot. They weighed up to 7 tons and stood some 15 feet tall. Jurassic Park at one time with different species living together.

<<MEDICAL>>>

CMO BRIEF- SEPTEMBER 2022: WHAT IS MONKEYPOX?

Source – Medical News Today



Monkeypox is a [zoonotic virus](#) [Trusted Source](#), meaning it transfers from animals to humans. Some [animals that can carry monkeypox](#) [Trusted Source](#) include various species of monkeys, giant-pouched rats, African dormice, and certain types of squirrels.

The disease belongs to the [Orthopoxvirus genus of viruses](#), which also includes [smallpox](#). Because of that, its symptoms are generally similar to, but not as severe as those of smallpox.

Medical clinicians found the first cases of monkeypox in 1958 during two outbreaks in monkeys being kept for research.

Researchers recorded the [first human case](#) [Trusted Source](#) of the disease in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, 11 African countries have reported cases of monkeypox.

The first monkeypox outbreak outside of Africa happened [in the United States](#) [Trusted Source](#) in 2003. Scientists tied this incident to prairie dogs infected with monkeypox.

- Earlier this month, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the recent monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency.
- There are more than 16,000 reported cases of monkeypox within 75 countries and territories.
- Monkeypox has a current fatality rate of between 3-6%.





- A recent study found 95% of monkeypox cases between April and June 2022 occurred during sex between men.
- Two vaccines are currently available to help protect against monkeypox.

On July 23, 2022, WHO's Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [declared Trusted Source](#) the recent monkeypox outbreak a "[public health emergency of international concern Trusted Source](#) (PHEIC)."

How does someone become infected?

As previously mentioned, monkeypox is a virus that transfers from infected animals to humans. Transfer of the virus from an animal to a human occurs through:

- being bitten or scratched by an infected animal
- eating meat or using products from an animal with monkeypox
- coming into contact with an infected animal's body fluids.

Once a human becomes infected with monkeypox, they can transfer the virus to another human through:

- respiratory droplets during prolonged face-to-face contact
- intimate physical contact, including kissing and sexual intercourse
- directly touching the infectious rash or body fluids of an infected person
- touching clothing, bedding, and other materials that have been in contact with an infected person's rash or body fluids.

Because monkeypox is spread between humans through close contact, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers [guidelines Trusted Source](#) for people who are sexually active to protect themselves and their partners from contracting the virus.

A recently released study in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) found that, between April and June 2022, 98% of the persons with a monkeypox infection were gay or bisexual men, and 95% of monkeypox cases occurred through sexual transmission.

Is monkeypox, then, a [sexually transmitted disease](#) (STD)?

According to [Prof. Piero Olliaro](#), director of clinical research at the Epidemic Diseases Research Group Oxford (ERGO) and International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infections Consortium (ISARIC), not so.

He emphasized it is important to remember that monkeypox is transmitted on the occasion of close contact via a variety of means. That includes sexual intercourse, but that is not the only means of transmission.

While the virus does not only circulate through intercourse, the fact that it can transmit through respiratory droplets might mean that it may more easily transmit between members of close-knit communities, such as LGBTQIA+ communities.

"The fact that the current outbreak in non-endemic countries is — so far — essentially involving men who have sex with men means the involvement and buy-in of the LGBTQ+ community is essential," Prof. Olliaro also told *Medical News Today*.

"This has proven to work in other similar circumstances to help identify what would work, and make it happen to break the chains of transmission," he added.

What are the symptoms of monkeypox?

If a person becomes infected with monkeypox, the incubation period before they begin to show symptoms lasts anywhere from 5 to 21 days.

Most people experience two sets of monkeypox symptoms. The first symptoms occur for about 5 days and include:

- fever
- headaches and/ or back pain
- swollen lymph nodes
- muscle aches
- low energy.

A few days after having a fever, a rash normally appears on the person infected with monkeypox. The rash looks similar to [pimples](#) or blisters and can appear on many parts of the body, including:

- face
- chest
- palms of the hands
- soles of the feet
- inside the mouth
- genitals and/ or anus.





Symptoms normally last between two to four weeks. Monkeypox currently has a fatality rate of 3% to 6% [Trusted Source](#).

How is monkeypox treated?

Disease treatment normally includes medications to treat certain symptoms.

[Tecovirimat](#) [Trusted Source](#) (TPOXX) is an antiviral drug developed by SIGA Technologies for the treatment of smallpox and related diseases. According to [Dr. Dennis Hruby](#), chief scientific officer at SIGA Technologies, TPOXX is the only approved antiviral for the treatment of monkeypox.

The public health agencies that have so far approved TPOXX for the treatment of monkeypox infection are the [European Medicines Agency](#) (EMA) and the [Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA) in the United Kingdom.

In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Tecovirimat for the [treatment of smallpox](#) [Trusted Source](#), but not currently monkeypox.

For that reason, the CDC holds a non-research expanded access Investigational New Drug (EA-IND) protocol allowing clinicians to use tecovirimat to [treat all orthopoxvirus infections](#) [Trusted Source](#), including monkeypox, in both children and adults.

“The U.S. has 1.7 million courses of TPOXX in the [strategic national stockpile](#),” Dr. Hruby told *MNT*. “It is distributed by the CDC under an EA-IND for the treatment of monkeypox. SIGA has donated small quantities of tecovirimat to the U.K. for use in the most severe cases.”

<<<<ENGINEERING>>>>

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Captain Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer, Starfleet SFDPP Certified

ENGINEERING: MONTHLY UPDATE SEPTEMBER

Monthly Ops Report - Engineering SD: 202208.30

Capt. Darrell Millner, Chief Engineering Officer, R1 Chief Engineer



Amazing times we are living in from a Trek Universe perspective. A few highlights from the Heimdal Engineering Department and the month of August.

Our team had its departmental ZOOM on 15 Aug @ 7 pm. Exciting, informative, fun and surprising as always. We also met as the Interdepartmental Role Play team on 25 Aug and those results are found here in the Rainbow Connection, part 14 “On the Sixth Day.”

My crew continues to provide excellent reporting, articles, and materials for “The Engineering Link” and we invite you to check out our R1 award winning publication (<https://trek.millnernet.com/home/eng-link/>) which includes a full 12 month archive. It’s come a long way since its initial printing in the late 80’s.



From a SFA perspective we have two reported graduates this month, LCDR Zak Lyon received Honors for CSO-103 Rescue and Evacuation Operations and LCDR Bud Walker received Honors for CSO-107 Bridge Operations. We are very proud of both their continued efforts. Plus when this occurs the graduate sponsors a pot luck in the Shuttle Bay observation room – and as an El-Aurian you can bet it will be something interesting (someone have Medical on standby).



Darrell & Barbara ... what the BEAR???? (We can dress them up & send them to a Summit but we can’t make them BE-HAVE with the locals)

I continue to participate in the “Solar System Step Challenge” sponsored by STARFLEET Medical and encourage everyone to reach out to CMO T. White for details; it’s simple, it’s healthy, and helps promote



and represent her department and the Heimdal.

Barbara and I also attended the R1Summit in Gatlinburg, TN 19-21 August, other articles are included but I wanted to say that we can't wait to attend with some fellow Heimdal members next year.

I truly hope you will all take a look at The Engineering Link, your fellow crewmembers work closely with Cetacean Ops, solve mysteries, crash shuttlecraft, drink lots of Raktajino's and eat way too many scones; it's fun and informative. LCMD Z. Lyon has even developed a way our Dolphin crew members can even move around the ship, Bud is chasing specters, and Jody has found the Zen spot. Come check us out and if you are still deciding on a department, let me show you around. Millner Out.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS) IS SCHEDULED TO MEET ITS END IN 2024*

By Captain Darrell Millner, Chief Engineer

Since the ISS initial launch 20 NOV 1998 I have been in awe of this amazing endeavor - "the next step to a permanent manned presence in space." What many of us thought to be a complex structure with interchangeable parts that would continue to modify and expand - continuing in a course of "rebirth" one might say - would be an almost permanent fixture in the night sky.



At first with the cancellation of the Space Shuttle Program worry came into focus on how the maintenance and repair would proceed.

Then private enterprise came to the rescue and other nations around the globe and WOW! - breathe a sigh of relief. Now how strange to discover the ISS original "use by date" (so to speak) was 15 years, and beyond 2024 all supporting agencies across the globe would need to sign on to

continue the project (basically).

As with so many visions maintenance seems to be the primary challenge with keeping it going (a lot like a 1978 Datsun B210). But how short-sighted was that? Barbara and I had the thrill of being in Huntsville on two occasions and saw modules and components before they were packaged for delivery to NASA. So I don't know about you; I had always hoped ISS could be pushed out to a Lunar orbit or somewhere in between to support mission and research for decades to come. Not SKYLAB (May 14, 1973 - July 11, 1979) version 2.0.

Fortunately, many private companies have risen to the call, Blue Origin, Space X, Sierra Space, and more. It is my hope that some will move to establishing a fueling station, orbital manufacturing, assembly and more so the true work of space** can begin beyond the glitz and glamor. Face it fellow STARFLEET Engineers, it's not all about the Bridge, we must build for performance and durability - not just for an Admirals Photo Op.

Just a few thoughts - BTW, interesting information I found about Orbital Reef - <https://www.orbitalreef.com/> Another step in reaching for the stars. - Millner OUT (*Modified version of original article from The Engineering Link issue #013, **in my opinion)

<<<<COMMUNICATIONS>>>>

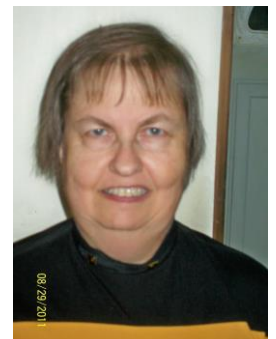
SEPTEMBER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Vice Admiral Glenda Blanks, Communications Chief

As the Rainbow Connection went to press last month, we heard of the passing of Nichelle Nichols at the age of 89. Since she was the first communications officer in the Star Trek universe, I would like to pay tribute to her.

Nichelle Nichols started her career as a dancer with Duke Ellington's band, but a leg injury forced her to try her hand at acting. After appearing in several episodes of The Lieutenant, one of Gene Roddenberry's earlier TV series, she was cast as Lt. Nyota Uhura in Star Trek, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Everyone knows about her conversation with Dr. Martin Luther King, her influence on a young



Whoopie Goldberg, and the first inter-racial kiss (if you don't, let me know and I'll fill you in).

After appearing in 3 years of The Original Series, 2 years of the Animated Series, and 6 feature films, Nichelle turned her attention from science fiction to science reality. At a time when astronauts were all white men, Nichelle petitioned NASA to include women and blacks. Through her efforts, NASA recruited Sally Ride, the first female astronaut, and Guion (Guy) Bluford, the first black astronaut. Nichelle also helped recruit Judith Resnick and Ronald McNair, both of whom tragically died in the Challenger explosion.

Nichelle Nichols was a special person. RIP.

CADET NEWS

HEIMDAL'S CADET CORPS



Heimdall's Cadet Corps: Left to right – Allen Hatter, Darrell Spencer and Jonah Ryan

SUMMER CAMP 2022 WITH CADET HATTER

By Jonathan Hatter



Cadet Allen and I spent July 3 through the 9th at the Cherokee Scout Reservation in Yanceyville, North Carolina this year as part of Scouts BSA Troop 29. It was fun but it was also very hot this year. We had to be sure to stay hydrated as we traveled all over the camp property. Our campsite was a half mile from the dining hall and then there was the walking to the different class sessions. We got plenty of steps in that week.

We arrived on Sunday and transported all of our gear to the campsite and then received the camp tour. The dining hall was air conditioned so everyone looked

forward to our meal times.

We awoke Monday morning around 6:30 and assembled for the flag ceremony. We have a flag raising ceremony and an evening flag lowering every day of camp. After breakfast the Scouts began their classes. This year Allen took Forestry, Nuclear Science, Space Exploration and Astronomy in the morning sessions. His afternoon sessions were focused around rifle as it was an extended class period. His class educated Scouts on the safety, function and cleaning of a .22 rifle. In all, Allen completed four merit badges that he will receive at the next Troop Court of Honor.

On Monday the 4th of July we traveled into Danville to watch fireworks. Our Scoutmaster had arranged for a luxury van to transport the boys to a local pavilion where there were vendors and live music to celebrate the holiday. We enjoyed a fun evening watching the sky light up.

During the week I took a class entitled **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills**. This is a course to help adult leaders brush up on their Scouting skills that include knots, Dutch oven cooking, and hiking. We even had a small cookoff on Thursday where all of the adults competed against each other.

We had a couple of big thunderstorms but there are safety protocols in place to keep everyone out of harm's way. It was a fun week but it was also nice to get back to the air conditioning at home. I always enjoy helping out with events and seeing the Scouts develop new skills and grow.



HEIMDAL'S PET FLEET

ARCHIE BLANKS OF PETFLEET REPORTING:



While the Heimdal was on shore leave, Mom and Dad attended what they called an "auction." There they won what they said was a "raffle," which included gifts for me - a bio-bed, my own

Jeffries Tube, and a battle simulator so I can sharpen my razor-like claws to be ready in case we come across any intruders aboard the Heimdal.

Mom also said that this "auction" thing raised over 4,000 bars of gold-pressed latinum, which will go to help needy people and pets in this section of the galaxy. Of special interest to me was that 2 of the places to benefit from the auction are places called humane societies, where cats and dogs go who are not fortunate enough to have a Mommy or Daddy like me.

Well done, Heimdal. You make me proud to be a member of this crew.... *Archie out.*

REGION ONE STUFF

R/1 SUMMIT, GATLINBURG, TN, 19-21 AUGUST 2022

By Darrell Millner

Millner Away Mission Summary:

For the very first time in our STARFLEET experience Cmdr Barbara Millner and I obtained permission to use a shuttlecraft and zip away for a conference. From a personal perspective it was a wonderful trip with fun travel, friendly people, a wonderful location, information, dancing and fellowship. In my new role as RDC of Engineering for Region One it was an opportunity to engage with other RDC's, CO/XO's from all over, plus rub elbows with the likes of Commander STARFLEET, RC and VRC of R1, the legendary Jill Rayburn (SFA), Region 09 Thomas Sigmundson from Iceland, and many, many more.

The breakout sessions were my favorite (besides the auction) to have interactive discussion with the other RDC's and have frank discussions was very helpful. VADM John Hoppa of Communications and CO of the USS Renegade provided amazing insight regarding publications. I'm still looking through my notes on that one. And to sit down with GEN Jill Rayburn of SFA and CO of Station Nikola Tesla to pick her brain – WOW, too cool.

VADM Benn Redding and his crew from the SS Bennu Station hosted the weekend and did a stellar job.

But let's talk AUCTION. Like a true Ferengi we acquired several items at almost criminal prices but let's cover one with historical significance... In 1993 the RC of R1 was our own Linda (Neighbors) Smith, the *RDC of Engineering* was one Carolyn Cook. Carolyn had a creative idea and sent out one foot square pieces of white material to different divisions and the RC. They each personalized the squares and returned them to Cook. She then created a masterful quilt for the R1 Conference (Summit). 29 Years later the *RDC of Engineering* acquired the same quilt at the R1Summit – Talk about coming full circle.



R/1 1993 Vintage Quilt



To our delight, Cmdr Barbara Millner also represented the USS Heimdal with flying colors and Klingon pain sticks in coming in 2nd place for the glory of her vessel “STARFLEET Region One Summit 2022 Scavenger Hunt” Qapla.’

We successfully landed back on the Heimdal’s shuttle bay 2 late on Sunday and none of the Elks, Black Bears, tourist traps or foggy mountains impeded our return. –
Millners Out.....

STARFLEET STUFF

FLEET ADMIRAL ELECTION

By Stephen Stott, Starfleet Inspector General

Just a friendly reminder that voting for CS STARFLEET began on September 1st. Good luck to all the candidates!

STARFLEET SEPTEMBER MEDICAL CHALLENGE

From Cmdr. Pip Slack

I am very happy to announce the Solar System Challenge for September - The Moon!

This month you will be making a trek around the planet, with the following landmarks:

Starting point, Tycho Crater– 5 miles

Byrgius Crater – 10 miles

Mare Humorum Sea of Moisture – 20 miles

Mare Nubium Sea of Clouds – 30 miles

Grimaldi Crater – 40 miles

Mare Cognitum Sea that has Become Known – 50 miles

Oceanus Procellarum Ocean of Storms – 60 miles

Mare Insularum Sea of Islands – 70 miles

Copernicus Crater – 80 miles

Mare Imbrium Sea of Showers – 90 miles

Mare Serenitatis Sea of Serenity – 100 miles

Plato Crater - 110 miles

Mare Frigoris Sea of Cold, Finish – 120 miles.

Your report weeks for September are:

Week 1: September 1st to 9th

Week 2: September 10th to 16th

Week 3: September 17th to 23rd

Week 4: September 24th to 30th

Until then, you have a few more days to try and get as far as you can with Mars, so come all, let's make a final push to reach that next landmark!

If you're enjoying these challenges, why not try to get some of your crewmates involved too; the more the merrier!

You'll all help cheer each other on 😊

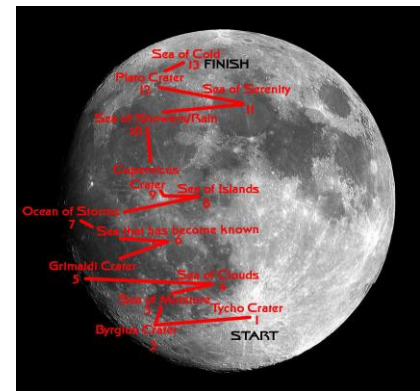
Have fun,

LLAP

Capt. Pip Slack

Deputy Surgeon General

STARFLEET Medical



STAR TREK STUFF

STAR TREK LEGEND, NICHELLE NICHOLS’ ASHES TO BE LAUNCHED INTO DEEP SPACE ON VULCAN ROCKET

From Fox News

Late "Star Trek" actress Nichelle Nichols’ ashes will boldly go where few have gone before when they are launched into space aboard a historic Enterprise Flight later this year.



Nichols, who was known for playing the iconic Lieutenant Nyota Uhura on all three seasons of the original show from 1966-1969, died on July 31. She was 89.

Launching later this year on board United Launch Alliance's aptly named Vulcan rocket, Nichols will live long and prosper among the stars through Celestis Inc., the leader in memorial spaceflights.

Nichols' remains will be joining late "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry, who died in 1991, and his deceased wife and "First Lady of 'Star Trek'" Majel Barrett Roddenberry, who passed in 2008.

The cremated remains of late "Star Trek" actor James Doohan, who played Montgomery "Scotty" Scott and died in 2005, and visual effects pioneer Douglas Trumbull, who died in February, will also be included in the mission to mark the unique "Star Trek" reunion flight.

"We are truly honored to add a legendary actress, activist, and educator to the Enterprise Flight manifest," Charles M. Chafer, co-founder and CEO of Celestis Inc., said in a release.

"Now our Enterprise Flight will have on board the person who most completely embodied the vision of Star Trek as a diverse, inclusive, and exploring universe."

The flight is scheduled to travel between 150-300 million kilometers into deep space and beyond the Earth-Moon system.

On the mission, Nichols will also be joined by her son, Kyle Johnson, who will submit his DNA to allow him to take this journey with his mother.

"My only regret is that I cannot share this eternal tribute standing beside my mother at the launch," Johnson said.

I know she would be profoundly honored for this unique experience and enthusiastically encourage all of her fans to join us vicariously by contributing your thoughts, affections, memories, NN inspired successes, dreams, and aspirations via email to be launched with her on this flight! WOW!" Johnson said in a statement.

On the mission, Nichols will also be joined by her son, Kyle Johnson, who will submit his DNA to allow him to take this journey with his mother.

"My only regret is that I cannot share this eternal tribute standing beside my mother at the launch," Johnson said.

Fans are encouraged to submit their names and tributes to Nichols as part of a worldwide public memorial page at enterprise-flight.com, which can then be digitized and launched with her on the journey.

LITTLE KNOWN STAR TREK FACTS

From Fact Republic

Patrick Stewart signed a 6-year contract for "Star Trek: The Next Generation" because he, his agent, and others with whom Stewart consulted all believed that the new TV show would quickly fail, and he would return to his Shakespearean career after making some money.



CONTINUING ROLE PLAY

INTERDEPARTMENTAL ROLE PLAY, PART 14 "On the Sixth Day"

As both the Stravinsky and Phoebe's Folly land in Main Shuttlebay, the logical chatter begins to pick up: *Where is Cmdr. Hatter? I don't see any pirates! Why is there no damage? Where's my phaser?* ... as the hatch opens you hear the booming voice of Chief Davis "Nicely done, Rowland."

We step out to the main flight deck to see Security Chief Davis, Cmdr Hatter, Comm officer K. Whately, Engineer L. Whately and a line of the Heimdal's elite security team. Off to the side, Lt. Walker stood at attention as the Admiral turns to her crew with a nod of thanks. Chief Davis calls the all-clear and the security team exits. Admiral Smith speaks with our welcoming party as the rest of us try to take in what has happened these past five days.

Captain Millner, Ens. Lyon, Lt Cmdr. Rowland are looking into space at the three alien vessels as the Shuttlebay door alarms signal they are lowering, there is a momentary shimmer as the vessels simply *disappear*. As the doors closed with a loud swoosh, the returning away party relaxed with relief.

"Looks like we are finally out of danger," Commander Hudson spoke into the silence.

Millner huffs "Nothing surprises me anymore; I can't wait to get back to Engineering."

Lt. Lyon closed his eyes and listened. "Out of danger? The ship is in danger. Is...was...and soon never had been. Boy oh boy, my heritage certainly gives me a weird perspective on things. And the potential for ice cream headaches without ice cream. Bummer. And, of course, the lingering smell of blueberries. That tends to happen whenever my El-Aurian stuff kicks in. That's fine. But that's what



you get when an entire cadre of pirate ships not only vanishes but very quickly will never have existed. Still trying to retain the memory of the Nausicans, the Orions and the other races on those ships. I am sure they felt as if they had existed. Felt the adrenaline of combat. *Someone* needs to remember. And how does all this affect my fully human crewmates? Fighting for the ship against what? Phantom, illusory enemies. That's a lot to process. I could use some rest. But that will have to wait until tomorrow. Today I spend debriefing.

Lt. Lyon crossed the deck shaking hands until he reached Hatter. "I am so happy to see you, Jonathan." Jonathan gives that confident smile and twinkle that makes you wonder what HE knows that you don't.

Ens. Lyon met Lt. Whately's eyes. She walked slowly toward her, then sprinted to embrace her. "We couldn't have done this without you. You were our lifeline to the Heimdal when we really needed one. Thank you, my friend. When everything settles down, let's get a meal together."

Lt. Whately smiles "Jody, you were so brave and calm during all this. I admire you so much! I'm going to need a long nap to recoup. However, a good meal with your delightful company would be better than any nap, so I will take you up on that offer." (They hug and are about to take off to work on their logs).

At that moment CO Smith and Chief Davis call the team together. "Command staff will need your logs by 08:00. You're dismissed."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From Linda

After so much really hard work and so many challenges, the auction is behind us ... was successful ... and most of all, we proved and realized that WE COULD ACTUALLY PULL IT OFF. I am overwhelmed with joy and amazement.

Now we have the Heimdal's future to consider and secure. Things have changed ... we've lost members ... but we are still solid and the Executive Committee and I are moving forward to assure that the Heimdal remains the best ship in the fleet ... hopefully finding a way to embrace our changes as we've done so many times in the past.

We've moved our meetings back into the library. Our attendance is low but we are going to keep meeting there and offering the fantastic guests and programs we've grown famous for. It's up to all of us to make the Heimdal just the experience we want it to be, which means participation. We look forward to the future with you. And we'll see you at the September meeting, in person and on ZOOM.

THAT'S IT - WE QUIT ...

We'll see you soon at the meeting.

Thank you to ALL of our newsletter contributors. You make this publication outstanding and give it the amazing personality it has. See you soon.

Linda, Willy, Glenda and all of our staff and contributors.

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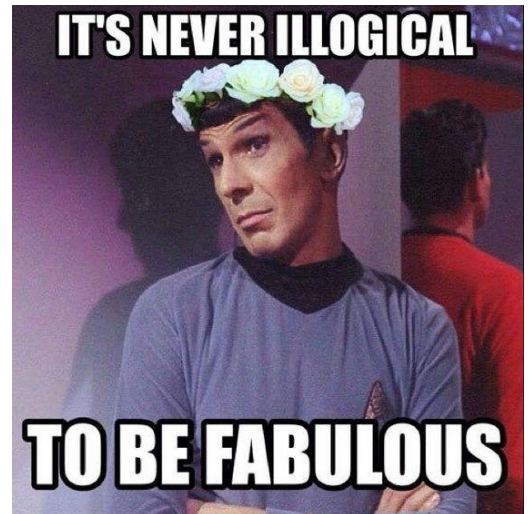
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We'll see you around the galaxy...

