



THE PHOTOP

Feeding Our Fury

by Commodore Kimberly Brooks

This past month, the citizens of the United States of America were subjected to an avalanche of tributes, memorials and remembrances of September 11, 2001. The day that changed everything. The day we woke up. The day it dawned on us just how small the world really is. The day we started paying attention.

The media is still inundating us with pictures of that day, still shots of the faces reflecting in excruciating detail the shock of having experienced the unimaginable. Over and over, we are witnessing the events, watching them unfold just as we did a year ago in front of our disbelieving eyes. We will assess and reassess our own reactions - both individually and as a nation - to the tragic loss and the maniacal hate that spurred it.

What is happening in the media is, for once, a good thing, although maybe not for the reasons they intended. To honor and pay tribute to the heroes who risked and lost their lives and to the innocent victims who fell prey to the monumental massacre that evil delivered to us that day is important, to be sure. But perhaps even more important is to remember how we felt - you and I, watching the images on television of the event itself and, days later, the cackling madmen behind it who rejoiced in each and every death and in their own genius for having borne it.

It is important to revisit and renew our initial reaction. Human beings have a unique way of allowing time to dissipate passion, righteous anger, and unfortunately, resolve. It is one thing for time to allow perspective - its another thing altogether to allow the passing of time to let complacency creep back in. "Creep" is the right word for it - it is not as though we have forgotten what happened or just woke up one day and suddenly found ourselves less concerned about taking care of the business that MUST be taken care of as a result of 9/11.

Instead it happens slowly, stealthily. With every day that passes in which we are not subjected to the bloodthirsty act of a terrorist, we become a tiny bit less afraid. And as that fear begins to dissipate, little by little, complacency worms itself into its place. With no sign of Bin Laden and no indication of whether he is dead or alive, we no longer have a face to put on the subject of our anger and without that face, we find it harder to direct our anger.

And with no place to direct it, we loosen our hold on it. We know terrorists are still out there, still a threat - but the gradual dissipation of our fear and anger makes it difficult to truly support the actions of our leaders who, conversely, can not afford the luxury of complacency. Our safety is their job, so they hold tighter to their resolve, their anger, and yes, even undoubtedly their fear than you or I do. They know that, other than the dates on the calendar, nothing has changed. Inroads have been laid and progress has been made in the place from which the initial evil sprung, but the evil itself still thrives. The threat is as real now as it was on September 12, 2001, and it has many faces. Our leaders cannot afford to engage in the public's naïve habit of focusing on just one.

So while some may cry out that the inundation of 9-11-related programming is overkill, I disagree. I hope every single American watches every single moment of the retrospectives that they can possibly cram into their week. I want us to remember - not so much what happened, but what we felt. I want us to feel again the horror, the disbelief and the anger, not because I am some sort of masochist, but because it is those three things that result in MAIN thing we need to rekindle.

Our resolve.

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Hailing Frequencies



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Submit all materials to: uss_malverne@yahoo.com

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The View from Vulture's Row

Admiral Tony Rowley

"Months of preparation, one of those few opportunities, and the judgment of a split second are what makes some pilot an ace, while others think back on what they could have done."

-- Col. Gregory 'Pappy' Boyington, USMC

Yup, you guessed it... it's that time again for me to ramble and prattle a bit and otherwise take up space here in the Malverne's venerable and august periodic publication.

I'd like to start with a minor change in assignment and some congratulatory shout-outs:

- First and foremost, the word 'acting' has gone away and the paperwork's in the pipeline; Captain Paul Greene is now XO Malverne. May God have mercy on your soul [grin].

- Kudos to Commodore Kim Brooks [until very recently Dean of Starfleet College of Communications] for her commendation given by Academy Commandant Marlene Miller - Outstanding Service to Starfleet Academy.

- Congrats also to Commander Matt Brooks and Lieutenant Morgan Kirby for receiving the Rogue Squadron award and Starfleet Academy Gold Squadron award; both of these were International Cadet Awards given out at IC2002.

Summer's gone and fall's here, and there are a few things we need to look at:

- website: Our site needs a facelift - the key word is 'our'; suggestions and volunteers to pitch in are welcome.

- events: Now that the smoke has cleared, it's time to

have an event or two of our own. While we're at it, the R7 holiday party and Farpoint aren't too far away to think about.

- recruiting: This is always a good thing. If you haven't already, tell a friend...

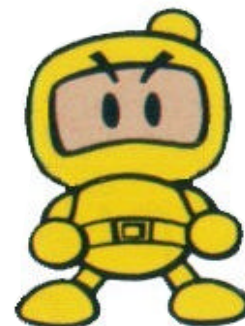
- election: If you haven't already and you're a card-carrying Starfleet member, cast your ballot! The ultimate choice is yours as members, but it's my strong belief that votes of 'no confidence' should be cast for the prospective Fleet Admiral. While certain infrastructure components have worked very well, there's been a dearth of real leadership at the upper levels ['absentee landlord' seems like a good phrase to describe our sitting CS in my opinion] and a resulting increase in toadyism and double standards at the next few lower levels of the food chain. In all honesty, I don't foresee any change in this with the sitting VCS moving up to CS.

If anything, given the apparent emotional instability of members of the proposed administration, I'm forced to wonder about the future viability of the club as a whole if recent antics and incidents are any indication. Remember, get informed and vote!

On a more positive note, the bottom line is that we're still the Malverne and still here. Administrations come and go, some of the faces here change from time to time, but at the heart of it all we're still us, and nobody has the right or power to change that but ourselves.

Let's continue on 'In Harm's Way'!

That's all I have for the moment - see you next issue [if not sooner]!



The Brig

Lt. Commander Greg McDermott

Malverne's Chief of Security is on leave, transferring to new quarters and getting his family settled in. Welcome back to PA, Greg!

On October 19th, there will be a baby shower held to help prepare for Greg and Melissa's little one. For more information, please contact the CO at ridire@netaxs.com. How small do they make Trek uniforms anyway? <G>





X Marks the Spot Captain Paul Greene

As some of you know, I have taken over the duties of the ship's Executive Officer, and hope to serve Admiral Rowley and crew to the best of my ability.

Ops Chief Brooks asked to interview me for my first article as XO, so read on to find out more about me, and how I came to be on the Malverne.

How long have you been with the Malverne?

Since I believe November 1995, I have been and always shall be, with the Malverne, till she is decommissioned or destroyed.

How did you find the Malverne and why did you join?

I was at a Valley Forge convention and picked up an application to SFI from a recruiting table, talked to a few SFI members there. I joined SFI and received a ship's listing with my membership packet. I saw the Malverne listed out of Upper Darby close to my home. I called Tony, who gave me the meeting date and time with the directions to get there. I went to the meeting and met the crew, and we clicked, I felt comfortable with them, and asked if I could join the chapter. I

was asked if I wanted to check out other area chapters first, I declined and said that I like the people there; a motion was asked of the crew, all of whom approved and welcomed me aboard. I have been a fan of Star Trek since the original series first aired.

What is your most favorite Trek era and why?

The movie era starting with The Wrath of Khan. I liked the uniforms and the storyline was about as close to the original series one could get, plus the technology was more advanced than the original series.

What is your least favorite Trek era and why?

Voyager series, because after Gene died, the writers started to move away from his creation, with Deep Space Nine, and with Voyager they strayed too far. The Next Generation was the last really good series and they learn to keep the faith with the TNG movies.

What are your hobbies/outside SFI interests?

Astronomy, I have a Meade 4.5 inch reflector telescope with motor clock drive. Photography, model rocketry, camping, fishing, hunting, travel, would love to learn how to fly, and my gun range time (professional gunsmith for 23 yrs).

What changes would you like to see on the Malverne?

I would like to see more new members with interest in going to the conventions, and get back to working the away missions we used to do, plus the other activities, that get scheduled. Lately my job schedule has interfered with some of the past activities though.



Doctor's Orders Captain Brian Griffin

Greetings from Sickbay!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I can't stress enough how important mammograms are. The third Friday in October each year is National Mammography Day, first proclaimed by President Clinton in 1993. On this day, or throughout the month, radiologists provide discounted or free screening mammograms.

During 2002 an estimated 203,500 new cases of breast cancer are expected to occur among women in the United States. I encourage all women to recognize the importance of early breast cancer detection by participating in National Mammography Day on October 18, 2002. For more information, there are many links at this URL.

<http://www.phenomenalwomen.com/breast-cancer/>

Again, encourage and support your friends and family in fighting this horrible disease. Don't wait until it's too late.





Engine Room

Commander Matt Brooks

Those loud rumbles I've been hearing are not from the Malverne's engines, but of cars dragging in Thunder Valley. Every week I go to Bristol, VA for the Electrified



Thursday Night Street Fights. It's a legal way for one to drag race, show off their car, or just watch. You get the thrills of racing without getting in trouble. Ok, I've done it a few times myself. <G>

College is great, though I hated to see the summer end. We're getting things ready for a road trip to South Carolina in October, to celebrate the commissioning of my former chapter, the USS Francis Marion.

Sometimes in Trek fandom you meet the nicest people. Kersten Breit, of Star Trek Archives, redid their Starfleet Corps of Engineers logo in English for me. Their website is fantastic, so go to www.startrekarchiv.com and take a look.



By next issue, I hope to have the Malverne's Engineering section of the website complete. I'm also working on Starfleet Academy School of Engineering courses. Now that I'm not a "Cadet" <G> anymore, I'm going to have to take more. It was an honor to win the Cadet Rogue Squadron and Gold Squadron awards though. On to the Red Squadron!



Next Step To A Communicator

Vocera Communications, Inc. announced availability of its new wireless application, the Vocera Communications System, that enables instant voice communication for in-building mobile personnel. The Vocera Communications System improves productivity and increases efficiency by providing instant, hands-free, voice controlled communications within 802.11b networked buildings or campuses.

The company is aiming its wireless application at mobile workers who need to frequently communicate with one another to be effective and productive in industries such as healthcare, retail, and manufacturing. In fact, there are more than 25 million in-building professionals in the United States working on their feet every day who must constantly interact and communicate with each other in order to do their jobs effectively.

The Vocera Communications System consists of Vocera Server Software, residing on a customer premise server, and Vocera Communications Badges, which operate over a wireless LAN (802.11b). The badge, which weighs less than 2 ounces, includes a microphone and speaker, LCD readout to display text messages, and an 802.11b wireless radio. It can be clipped to a shirt pocket or collar, or worn on a lanyard.

With simple voice commands, Vocera instantly connects people. This allows users to make decisions and act quickly anytime, anywhere within a building or campus.

And, with its PBX integration option, Vocera also allows users to place and receive phone calls directly to their Vocera badge.

By converging three new technologies, wireless LAN, VoIP, and speech recognition, Vocera's system allows in-building mobile workers to communicate efficiently. When you wear it, you can communicate hands-free while you continue working.

By pressing a single button on the badge, users can instantly locate and speak with the individuals or groups they need. Simple, natural language commands query the system server for available parties and connect them. Some of the basic calling features include:

- Call by name
- Call by function
- Call by specific location
- Send a message to a group
- Screen calls
- Transfer calls
- Call any telephone number or extension





Science Lab Lieutenant Morgan Kirby

Hello from the Science Lab!

To celebrate my brother Matt's 18th birthday, we went to his favorite Chinese restaurant, The Plum Tree. My Uncle Todd ordered a dish that featured octopus and I told him it was disgusting. He said, "A REAL science officer would try new things." So in the name of science, I ate the nasty thing. It was like chewing rubber!



We have a new crew member in the Science Department. Though already a Malverne member, Kristen Hawkins has joined SFI and is now the Assistant Chief Science Officer. Kristen and I have been friends since we were little and do lots of things together. Like me, she's really into Japanese Anime and music, the X-Files, and her favorite movie of all

time is *The Matrix*. She's driving us crazy waiting for the sequel to be released.

Sciences will be traveling to Greenville, SC to the commissioning of the USS Francis Marion. I'll have to be forcibly dragged from the hot tub for the ceremony. <G>

Because of my age, I'm technically still a Cadet. Recently I was one of two Malverne crew to win a couple of Cadet Awards, which I'm very proud of. We'll have to try harder next year!



Mom & me with our certificates



In Search of Vulcanoids

The innermost region of the solar system has been the subject of considerable debate since the late 19th Century, when many astronomers concluded that perturbations in Mercury's orbit must be caused by a hidden planet, dubbed "Vulcan" after the Roman god of fire and metallurgy. Within decades, Einstein's theory of relativity explained away the gravitational glitches, but theoretical models still indicated that perhaps hundreds of space boulders up to about 20 miles (30 kilometers) in diameter could survive between Mercury and the sun.

The possibility tantalized Alan Stern and Dan Durda of the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) in Boulder, Colorado, who last week soared to nearly 50,000 feet (15,000 meters), snapping pictures of promising space regions to find the fabled space rocks. Vulcanoids, because of their small size and proximity to the sun, would be too faint for detection except under the most ideal viewing conditions. Stern and Durda timed their stratospheric runs in an F-18 to just before dawn, when the Earth blocks the obliterating light of the sun from the innermost part of the solar system. Moreover, they took to the skies as close as they could to the September 23 equinox, when the positional relationship of the Earth and sun offers the best viewing opportunities.

Over the following months, they will sift through hundreds of thousands of images to look for evidence of the asteroids. "Everything went well. The data looks good [but] the actual full reduction of data will take many

weeks. I can't give you a eureka moment answer as to whether we found anything," Durda said.

No vulcanoids turned up after a similar search around the March equinox. But Stern and Durda's latest expedition above the California desert

could prove more productive, considering that their specialized digital video camera was equipped with a more powerful lens. "It can detect objects roughly five times fainter than in the spring," said Alan Brown, a spokesman at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center in California, which hosted the aerial experiment. The camera, originally designed by the SwRI for use on the space shuttle, can take images of objects as many as 600 times fainter than what the unaided human eye can see.

Stern, Durda and colleagues would eventually like to take their search even higher, looking for the fabled drifters in a modified spy plane. "We're hoping to fly to 70,000 feet (21,000 meters) in a U-2 to get up to a darker sky," said SwRI astronomer Dick Terrell.





King Tut in 3-D

by MCPO Kristen Hawkins, Asst. Chief Science

A high-tech facial reconstruction has shed new light on the looks of King Tutankhamen, the teenage king of ancient Egypt immortalized for nearly a century by his golden death mask. Scientists and special effects artists in Britain and New Zealand used digital techniques applied in crime investigations to fashion a fiberglass model they say provides the closest possible likeness of the pharaoh's looks.



The cast of Tutankhamen's head bears little resemblance to his golden death mask. Unlike the famous face of the slight, heavy-lipped youth framed in a pharaoh's headdress, the model shows a wide-faced young man with high cheekbones, smaller eyes and a heavy brow.

The reconstruction team was forced to use X-rays taken in 1968 for its impression of the 18-year-old's looks because the mummified head of Tutankhamen was too dried and sunken to give life-like dimensions, she said.

Robin Richards, a facial rebuilding expert from University College London, scanned the features of people of the same age, sex, build and ethnic group as Tutankhamen to create an approximation of skin type, which was wrapped onto the 3D digital skull. New Zealand special effects artists fleshed out the skull with eye color and skin pigment, and sculptors then created the finished product out of clay, casting it finally in fiberglass.

The tomb of King Tutankhamen, a boy king who ruled Egypt in the 14th century B.C. and died mysteriously at a young age, was discovered by British archeologist Howard Carter in 1922. It was packed with artifacts that took almost 10 years to remove from the site.

"Clearing the Way" - 41st MSG

Greetings from the barracks of the 41st Marine Strike Group, otherwise known as the Fianna. BGEN Neigut has taken command of the shuttle Archer and its 741st MSG, so for the time being I'll be serving as the acting OIC of the Strike Group. Matt Brooks has graciously accepted the posting of Deputy OIC for the unit.

I'd like to take a few moments to comment on the 41st, its nature and its traditions. We've been around a long time, since shortly after the original founding of the Malverne, and we existed even during the period that the Malverne was not affiliated with Starfleet. Some names and faces have changed over the years, but the core and traditions that make up the 41st remain.

A few words from our website, to start:

"The 41st MSG provides liaison and terminal strike guidance/landing area control when serving with other units temporarily deployed aboard Malverne. As a free-standing unit, the 'Fianna' serve as a conventional Fleet Marine Force with the additional role of combat search and rescue for downed aerospace assets." By current SFMC-manual definition, the 41st would be considered a 'special-operations' unit.

The unit nickname for the 41st Marine Strike Group is "an Fianna", or "the Fianna". The Fianna were the guardians of the Ard-Ri, the High King of ancient Ireland. Founded by the legendary Finn MacCumhaill, the Fianna were warriors selected for their ferocity, agility, stealth, skill in fighting and knowledge of the arts. For

centuries they were honor bound to protect Eire from enemies both within and without.

The motto of the 41st Marine Strike Group is "Faugh a Ballagh", sometimes spelled "Fag-an-Bealach" but always pronounced "Faug-a-bollagh". This phrase translates from the Gaeilge [Irish Gaelic] as "clear the road" or "clear the way" and was the battle cry for Irish units on both sides during the American Civil War.

The unit emblem for the 41st was originally inspired by the flash worn by enlisted forward air controllers in the armed forces of the United States. The emblem is a stylized shield shape with a black border, a red interlocking transverse line across its equator, fields of blue and green top and bottom with a hand-and-a-half sword superimposed.

- The black border of the emblem represents the blackness of interstellar space.
- The scarlet red interlocking line in the middle of the emblem represents the liaison between Fleet and Corps elements.
- The medium-blue field of the top half of the emblem symbolizes aerospace forces.
- The forest-green field of the bottom half of the proposed cloth flash symbolizes ground forces.
- The hand-and-a-half sword symbolizes the warriors of ancient Ireland from which the 41st was named.

Hopefully this bit of info has answered some questions and perhaps provoked a few new ones. Feel free to ask! Until next time...



Operations

Mediapedes - by Commodore Kimberly Brooks

The ancient Greeks called humans "featherless biped", to distinguish them from other members of the animal kingdom. In the middle ages, philosopher Boethius was fond of calling humans "featherless bipeds who laugh". It now appears that this term is about to undergo another evolutionary step as we are transformed into 21st century "mediapedes" (translated as "media on two feet").

In USA Today magazine, Arnold Brown defines a mediaped as a flesh-and-blood being "bonded to and dependent upon machines". He adds that we "are also becoming bonded to and dependent upon media". As he sees it, "Life is increasingly lived via mediated exposure, from print to wireless. More and more, this is how we accumulate our experiences, our knowledge and our human contacts."

This is how Brown envisions the near future, and much of the ever changing present, for mediapedes: "Linkages will be everything and everywhere. Networks will link cell phones, digital assistants, and all other types of handheld peripherals. We will be in constant contact with miniature, wireless, highly personalized networked computing, with computers embedded in our clothing and our bodies... within the next 50 years neural implants will augment all of our senses and provide virtual sensory experiences." What's more, these neural implants "will extend the brain's capacity, suppressing inputs from our real senses when virtual reality is required and replacing our senses with signals appropriate for the virtual environment." But will we be mediapedes who laugh? Or will laughter also be virtual rather than "real", with laugh tracks installed inside every PDA? I certainly laugh a lot when I see someone using one of these useless and ludicrous devices.

Needless to say, definitions of identity are also changing as we evolve into mediapedes. Brown sees the day coming in the not-so-distant future (i.e. tomorrow afternoon) when we "may no longer be recognized for who we are, but as verifiable or registered information (e.g. via digital certificates verifying our handwriting) or one of a variety of aliases we adopt in our business or personal communication to guard our online and offline identities." Instead of having names, we will have passwords that identify who we are - all subject to change, of course. Like Sandra Bullock's character in "The Net", we will at that point cease to have a verifiable physical identity. Marshall McLuhan's oft-quoted dictum, "The Medium Is The Message", is on the verge of becoming uncomfortably true.

The question of identity is accompanied by what Brown calls a "human factors gap", the ever widening gap between availability of information and our abilities to process, and even make sense of it. The alarming thing is

that "machines are getting bigger, faster, smarter - and we're not". This situation generates "negative information." - such a huge volume of information that trying to comprehend it actually reduces rather than increases our limited efforts make sense of it. We are on the verge of becoming dumbed-down mediapedes, outperformed on almost every count by our machines. Hopefully, we can still find things to laugh at during this frightening and humiliating process. Imagine a social gathering where our PDA's talk to each other, but we humans/mediapedes are at a loss for words.

I can envision all sorts of marketing opportunities here. Fashion designers will no doubt be busy designing wardrobes for mediapedes as gadget geeks work overtime to litter the landscape with ever more sophisticated and annoying PDA clones. Even the Geek Guru himself, Bill Gates, froths at the mouth when pontificating about how mediapedes "could e-mail handwritten notes or listen to music from the Internet while driving in their cars". Something tells me the horrific accidents that will result from trying to drive and e-mail handwritten notes at the same time will be more real than virtual, and that will be something other than battery fluid leaking from our bruised and battered bodies.

This transformation from human to mediaped will not be cheap, says Brown. In fact, he envisions a new kind of pollution, not chemical but software-based, in its wake. For instance, during "the next 50 years, more than 100,000,000 software applications will need to be 'cleaned up,' including those affected by the switching to the euro, the rollover of Unix and C libraries, and extension of digits for Social Security and telephone numbers," not to mention the millions of new codes that need to be generated so every mediaped will know who he or she is. Over one trillion dollars are already being generated annually on telephone area code changes, and one hundred and fifty times that amount will be needed to make the switch to the euro currency system. I am already feeling the effects of negative information, aren't you? I'm not sure I want to be a mediaped after all. At least I don't own a PDA yet, and hope I never will. My tattered memo book still gives me all the information I could possibly want, and it's a whole heck of a lot cheaper than a Palm Pilot (and never needs batteries).

Karl Marx may have gotten it wrong after all. Instead of a conflict between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, as he envisioned it back in the 19th century, maybe we'll soon see featherless bipeds squaring off against mediapedes. Which side will you support? I, for one, am getting my "Featherless Bipeds Who Laugh UNITE!!" sign ready.



Ship Services



Crew Birthdays

Matt Brooks - 9/28
Kristen Hawkins - 10/12

Malverne On the Web

USS Malverne Cafepress Store: www.cafepress.com/ussmalverne

cafepress

Crew Fave Trek Sites:

Spike's Star Trek Site
<http://www.st-spike.de/>



Commander Tomalak's Trek Animations
<http://members.tripod.com/CmdrTomalak/>



Baen Free Library
www.baen.com



Conventions & Events

October 12

Asimov/Sovereign PA Renaissance Wine Festival
Contact: Beryl Washington, kapnkitty@aol.com or
Martin Lessem, mufasa@aol.com

October 13

Ocean County Columbus Day Parade
Hosted by the USS Challenger
Contact: Bob Vosseller, chalnrcmd@aol.com

October 19

USS Francis Marion Commissioning Celebration
Greenville, SC
Contact: Tony Rowley,
ridire@netaxs.com

October 19

Regional Halloween Party
Hosted by USS Sovereign
www.geocities.com/bjhacker/halloween.html



October 26

USS Challenger Halloween Party
Contact: Bob Vosseller, chalnrcmd@aol.com

December 7

R7 Holiday Party - Annapolis, MD
Hosted by USS Edinburgh & USS Highlander
Contact: co@ussedinburgh.com

December 13

Star Trek: Nemesis Premiere
Philadelphia, PA area - contact ridire@netaxs.com
Kingsport, TN area - contact kimi@chartertn.net



Welcome Back, Mike Smith!!

First off, let me say that we're glad you're finally back in Region 7 where you belong. It wasn't the same without you. Did you miss us? <G>

Of course I did. I spent almost all of my STARFLEET "career" on the East Coast, and many of my very good friends are here.

Is SFI on the West Coast very different than on the East?

To be fair, I didn't spend much time playing with the West Coast 'Fleet members for a variety of reasons, so I really can't compare.

Since you're back with your former crew, the USS Starlord, what are your plans?

Not much, to tell you the truth. I'm Starlord's 2nd Officer and Webmaster, and that'll probably be about all. I'm still a SFMC Reservist as well, with the 725th.



Is there any truth to the rumor that you're planning on doing something on a regional level? Inquiring minds want to know.

As of right now, the only things on the regional level I'm doing are helping with the IC2005 Bid Committee, and working with Regional Staff as the System Administrator for region7.com.

As for what may or may not happen down the road? Who knows?

Do you miss being the Commander of Starfleet?

Yes, and no. I certainly don't miss the petty politics and butt-kissing. I *do* miss the traveling I got to do and I *do* miss seeing the many good members of STARFLEET I met while attending Summits, Conferences, and ICs.

Thank you, Mike, for granting us this interview. Again, welcome back!

USS Inkosi – Sister Ship in South Africa

Greetings, gallant crew of the USS Malverne!

The past few weeks have been great for us on the African Subcontinent.

With the thousands of delegates for the World Summit on Sustainable Development invading our city, we've had an interesting time of it. Although I didn't manage to get to any of the Summit events myself, it was a real education seeing all the events, discussions and exhibits in the media.

We also had tremendous luck with our Star Trek MEETUP in August. Once the venue voting had been finalised, we realised that none of us knew where the place was. After much searching and phoning around, we discovered that it didn't exist. We got hold of every signed-up member and moved the MEETUP to a new location ourselves where we had an attendance of no less than fourteen Trek fans from around Johannesburg. We all sat up talking Trek until very late in the evening, and a great time was had by all.

Last week saw the re-kindling of the Inkosi's relationship with the Johannesburg Philharmonic Choir (a local non-profit group). After an unfortunate incident involving theft of some personal possessions at one of their concerts, the Choir agreed to let us have a couple of Security Officers on guard at every performance. We've had guards at one such performance so far, much to the satisfaction of the choir members who felt secure in the fact that their belongings were being looked after.

So, we've had a busy time, and it looks like we're going to get busier. Upcoming events include the launching of a Star Trek CCG tournament circuit for Johannesburg, the planning of a family picnic to celebrate the Tallaxian holiday of Prixin, a mailing campaign to ensure our public broadcaster screens season 6 of Voyager, and, of course, more Star Trek MEETUPS.

Captain Owen Swart
Commanding Officer
U.S.S. Inkosi



A Tale of Two Campsites

by Tony Rowley

We have here a study of contrasts - bright sun vs. rainy fog, larger group vs. smaller group, campfire dining vs. restaurant repast. We also have commonality - both trips were a good time...



The first of these trips was the USS Richtofen's Gettysburg trip. In addition to the Red Baron crew there were members from USS Justice, USS Edinburgh and the Shuttle van Braak in attendance. Thanks to some scheduling issues on my end I arrived at the campground just as everyone else was returning from a horseback tour of the battlefield. Our camping area was immediately adjacent to the campground's equestrian area and right smack in the middle of a shadeless field, which reminded me of the Serengeti from Pennsic Wars gone by... It was most definitely bright and sunny and some of the attendees bore its brunt in the form of fresh, red sunburn.



Evening came and with it dinner at the Farnsworth House, served in the manner of the Civil War era. The game pie was delicious as was the rest of the meal. Following dinner the assemblage wandered through town a bit and then took in a ghost-story walking tour back at the Farnsworth House. The stories and storytellers are highly entertaining and the walking tour is worthwhile even if one doesn't believe in the supernatural. Following this we returned to the campground where several of us wound up chatting into the wee hours. Morning came and we all went our separate ways. This event will recur in October 2003, so keep an eye out...



The second trip began life as a multi-chapter event originally slated for Holston Mountain in Tennessee. The dates remained more or less the same, but the location shifted to Loft Mountain alongside the Skyline Drive and the list of attendees shook down to the Malverne's CO and CoO. What should have been a 4.5-hour drive became a 9-hour ramble over hill and dale because rain and fog made parts of the Skyline Drive and surrounding roads all but impassable. At long last I did make it to the campground but almost missed the parking area due to the dense fog. I was more than pleased to find the campsite and all its various accoutrements completely squared away prior to my arrival - truth be told, I was exhausted from the ride down and stopped only for fuel and to pick up dinner a few miles from the Skyline Drive. The campsite itself was about 50 meters down the steep side of the ridge tucked in alongside a cluster of other occupied sites.



Sunday arrived and the rain and fog stayed for the most part. It was mostly a day for relaxation, although we did venture down from the mountain to pick up additional supplies. Dinner was a campsite masterpiece - vegetable soup [stew? :)] and cornbread cooked on a camp stove and oven; Commodore Brooks' efforts were most appreciated [and delicious]!. My efforts at a campfire were slightly less successful - a combination of uncured purchased wood and wet gathered wood made for a smoky, stubborn fire at best. Some delicious local wine helped assuage my frustration with the campfire, however.

Monday was a travel day homeward, which started with the task of humping all those things which made the campsite so comfortable back up the ridge. Gravity was -not- our friend, not by a long shot. At long last we loaded up and headed back to civilization after a lunch of Chinese food and a stop for fuel. My own journey home took almost 9 hours thanks to holiday-weekend traffic.

Thus ends my tale of two campsites.



ENTERPRISE

"Carbon Creek"

When Archer invites Tucker and T'Pol to dinner to celebrate her first anniversary on the crew, he asks why she took a five-day leave at the old mining town of Carbon Creek, Pennsylvania. She tells them that she wanted to visit the site of the first contact between humans and Vulcans, which was not Montana as every school kid learns. T'Pol claims that her great-grandmother was on a vessel that crashed in Carbon Creek in 1957 during a survey mission, and asks whether they would like to hear the story...

I really enjoyed this episode. So much that afterwards I rewound the tape and watched it again. The issues over what's canon or not doesn't bother me. As long as the story and acting are good, that suits me. Any Trek is better than no Trek at all.

J. Paul Boehmer, who plays Mestral, has had a long and illustrious career as a Trek guest star. He's been a Cardassian, Klingon, holographic Nazi and a Borg. He gets



many wonderful lines in this episode, from a reference to *I Love Lucy* (Get the Desilu - Trek connection?) to a touching and awkward first kiss with a divorcée. "It's not easy keeping a lid on my emotions," she confesses to him, handing him the opportunity for the best line of the episode: "I know." The second-best line belongs to Stron, who wants to know exactly what Mestral admires about humans. Is it the frozen fish sticks or the threat of nuclear annihilation? Also, Stron's attempt at concealing his annoyance over his hairstyle being compared to the Moe of the Three Stooges is amusing.

Sometimes a series needs a sweet romance, or a nostalgic yet non-idealistic look at the past. This one had the right balance of humor and drama, with well-crafted performances and just enough cheesiness to make the visuals fun. It didn't have any big dramatic moments leading to fear of discovery, but haven't we seen enough of those over the years? This time we get a nice human story about Vulcans.

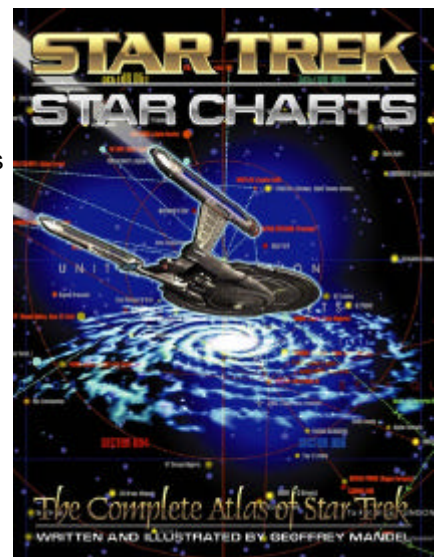


Star Charts: The Complete Atlas of Star Trek

Finally, just what the fans have requested--a definitive guide to the *Star Trek* worlds and their stars.

Ever wondered just where the Klingon homeworld is? Or how close it is to Earth? "Star Charts" provides fans with this information and more--including the routes of each of the ships featured in all the *Star Trek* series, from Archer's *Enterprise* to Janeway's *Voyager* to the latest TNG movie, *Star Trek: Nemesis*.

See how far Earth is from Vulcan or plot a course to the Klingon homeworld with these fabulous full color maps of the *Star Trek* universe. From Qo'noS to Bajor, from Vulcan to the farthest reaches of the Delta Quadrant, these charts reveal the location of every major *Star Trek* world and star system. In addition to maps of the stars themselves there are mission charts for each of the main starships featured in the various *Star Trek* series, from the *Enterprise* commanded by Captain Kirk in the original classic series to the *USS Voyager* on her epic journey of exploration, and now back to the very first *Enterprise* of all as seen in the brand new *Star Trek* series, ENTERPRISE. As a special bonus there are charts from the upcoming tenth *Star Trek* feature film, *Nemesis*.



Visual Logs



Star Trek Meet Up

Kimi & Brian representing *Malverne's*
Ops and Medical Departments



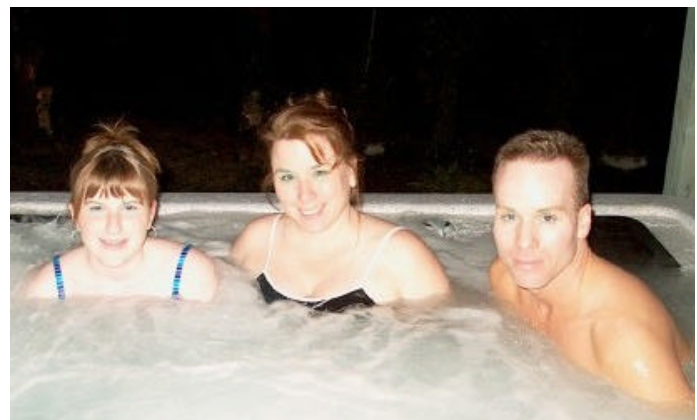
Tony Taking a Shortcut

All part of a day's work during the Firefighter
Survival class, part of the Rapid Intervention
Team Program



Always an Engineer

Matt checks over his car



Breaking in the *ISS Olympia's* hot tub

Morgan & Kim with Todd Fields, the *Olympia's*
Chief Science Officer



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Harry Potter AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Harry has to spend a miserable summer with his Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon, and cousin Dudley, dreaming of returning to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for his second year. While banished to his room while Uncle Vernon hosts important clients, a house-elf named Dobby shows up in Harry's room with the warning that terrible danger awaits Harry at Hogwarts and not to return there. Harry refuses to believe him, but is locked in his room. He is rescued by the Weasley brothers in a flying car.

So Harry returns to Hogwarts despite Dobby's warning. Sure enough, Harry begins hearing an evil voice that nobody else seems to hear. The dreaded Chamber of Secrets is open again at Hogwarts, and the unknown Heir to Slytherin is determined to wreak havoc on Muggle-blooded students. As students become petrified, Harry, Ron and Hermione have to act.



Get ready for round two! In the J.K. Rowling books, Harry and his friends gradually get used to their lives as wizards-in-training, and their adventures get more elaborate and exciting. Likely, the films will follow suit. *Chamber of Secrets* is going to be even better than *Sorcerer's Stone*. Practice makes perfect! *Chamber of Secrets* opens November 15, 2002. Muggles be warned!