

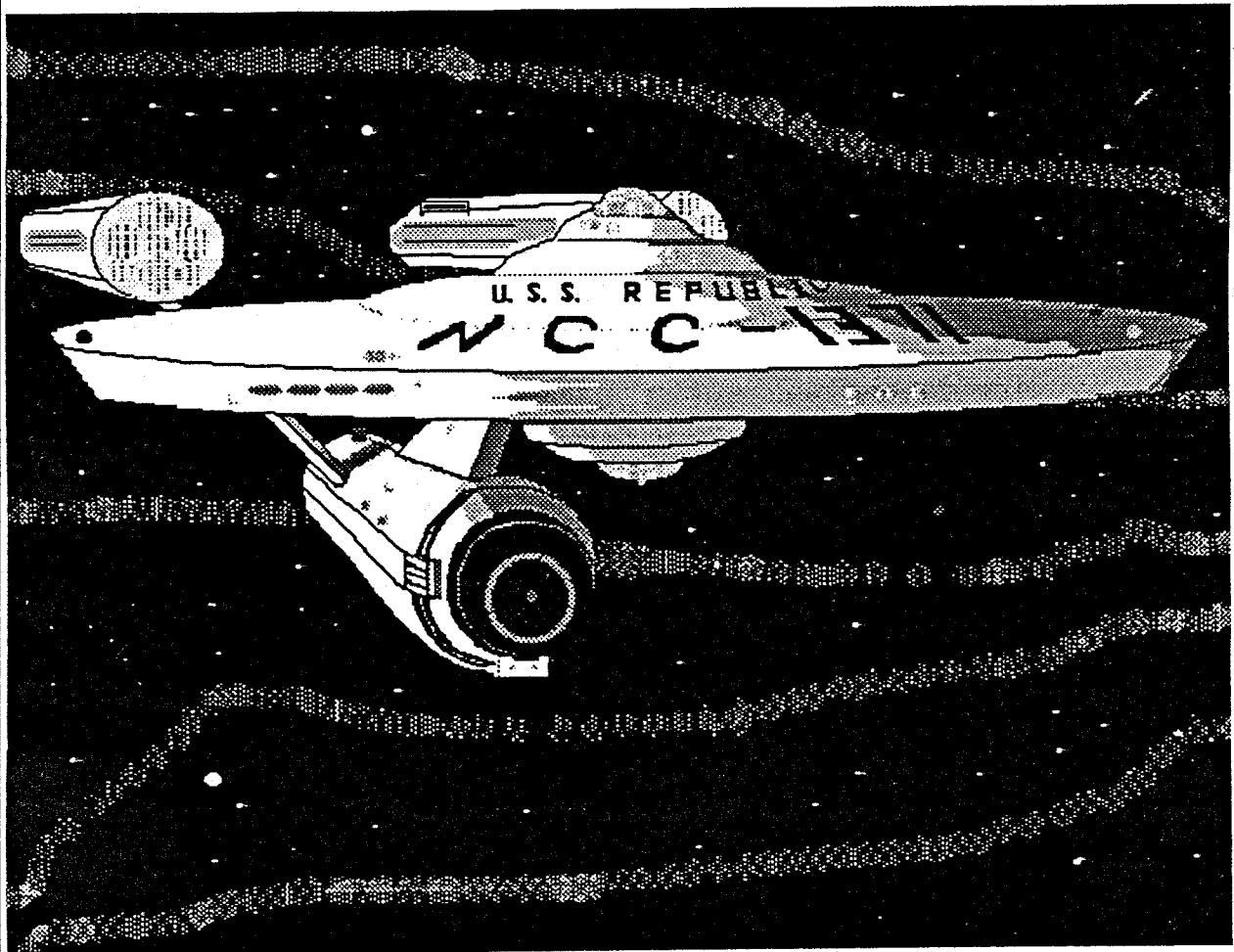
And to the REPUBLIC

VOLUME III, ISSUE TEN

OCTOBER, 1991

The Official Newsletter of the USS REPUBLIC, NCC-1371

TO BOLDLY GO . . .



WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE!

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor-in-Chief

David W. Vosper

Editor

Dan Carson

Assistant Editor

Janet Green

And to the REPUBLIC is a monthly publication of the USS REPUBLIC, the Atlanta chapter of STARFLEET, the International Star Trek fan association. This publication is a non-profit enterprise and is not intended to infringe on any copyrights/trademarks of STAR TREK, as held by Paramount Communications.

Please direct all inquires to:

AND TO THE REPUBLIC
USS REPUBLIC
P.O. Box 191095
Atlanta, GA 31119-1095

AND TO THE REPUBLIC welcomes submissions of written material and artwork; however, no responsibility for such submissions can be assumed by the publisher.

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

We have been one active chapter this month! The September 7th club display at the Lenox theatre Star Trek movie "Martathon" was an enormous success.

September is our recruiting drive and we met hundreds of new people, and handed out hundreds of STARFLEET and REPUBLIC applications. WELL DONE to all members who participated.

We also handed out free Ensign pins and small tribbles to children (the Next Generation) at the Marathon. We also launched a formal merchandising effort at the Marathon. Our Engineering department generated some merchandise order forms, featuring department badges, rank pins and assorted tribbles. Dozens of these were distributed. We have received two orders for tribbles so far.

We also sent two tribbles to Region 2 for their raffle. Looks like the REPUBLIC is going to be into these little beasties big-time. Even my cats love them.

On the same day, REPUBLIC held her general meeting, where we completed the reading of the screenplay *Star Trek IV: The Klingon Plague*. We also held a class on tribble manufacture, and

finished sewing up dozens of the creatures. The meeting ended in a massive tribble fight, with yours truly being pelted with tribbles from all directions.

On September 14th, we sent an Away Team to Warner-Robbins, GA to visit the USAF Museum of Aviation there, as the guests of the W-R chapter of the International Federation of Trekkers (IFT). We received insufficient notice of this invitation from the IFT to get the event listed in our September newsletter. The museum was fascinating and offered the visitor a pilot's eye view of military aviation. There were acres of military planes of every description and from many nations.

After the tour, we attended a multi-ship meeting of the IFT, where we shared newsletters, and planned a joint Halloween party.

Your Captain personally attended the Georgia Public TV telethon September 8th, and raised about \$850 for them. STARFLEET's USS Ingram from Columbus, GA was on the telethon the previous evening, along with the Dr. Who fan club. The REPUBLIC will participate as a club in December, '91.

At our September 21st general meeting we played Trek Trivia via computer, thanks to Jon-Paul and the Science Department. With the participation of the entire membership present, the game denied us officer status twice. We finally were able to answer enough questions correctly to be promoted from Ensign to Lieutenant (j.g.).

After the games, Karen and Jon-Paul played a cassette tape of the song "Star Trekkin" - sort of a Trek version of the "Twelve Days of Christmas". We made plans to re-record the music, and make it into a live performance/skit for a future Con.

By the time that you read this, we should have enjoyed our video festival at Post Brookhaven, for the ST:TNG season premiere. We are planning a video marathon of all of the Klingon/Worf episodes leading up to Sunday's new season episode. The local Post Brookhaven apartment community is also being invited, making this a limited invitation public event.

I am very happy with our September newsletter. It has received many compliments, I have been proud to share it with other clubs in the Region.

This month we are printing some fiction for you, as well as some member-submitted articles. Publishing it is hard work for the staff, as well as being a major drain on our

treasury, so I hope that you enjoy it.

STARFLEET Region Two has been slow in recognizing the reorganization of the REPUBLIC. However, recent communications from Region 2 have been encouraging. I am now officially listed as the REPUBLIC's CO, and in the minutes of the August Captain's call was the following entry: "U.S.S. REPUBLIC shut down for about ten minutes and now have a new CO and (are) running again."

Both XO Keith B. Rodgers and myself have completed Officer's Command College (OCC) and are eagerly awaiting some sort of official notification (like maybe a promotion!).

Now for some bad news - despite all of the fun that we have been having, our membership is declining (But Captain - that is not logical.) STARFLEET requires that we report only paid-up STARFLEET members to headquarters. In August I reported 54 members. This month, with additional, more accurate membership information at hand, I reported 42.

Of the hundreds of STARFLEET and REPUBLIC applications distributed at our Movie Marathon display, none have been returned to us. I mail out membership renewal letters to members who's STARFLEET and/or REPUBLIC memberships have expired, or are about to expire in the next month. Last month I mailed out 16 membership renewal letters. This month I mailed 21!

As corrective measures, future club applications will include contact telephone numbers. We will also dispatch an Away Team to penetrate areas of Atlanta where STARFLEET has never gone before. I have contacted TV channel 46 about getting regular publicity for the REPUBLIC on their Trek telephone hotline. They are now on our mailing list.

I have also written VAdm. David Forvendel in North Carolina, to obtain a complete database of STARFLEET members in Northern Georgia.

Presently, the entire staff, as well as attendees of the September 21st general meeting, are distributing STARFLEET/REPUBLIC recruiting flyers throughout the Atlanta area. A flyer is enclosed with your newsletter, as well as applications for STARFLEET and REPUBLIC. Please post the flyer in a public place, and pass the applications on to another fan. We have established a recruiting goal of one hundred members by Christmas. Please help us meet that goal.

To members who have not attended general meetings: come out and see us. We are having your kind of fun. To all old members: please renew

your memberships. We need your support to keep STARFLEET alive in Atlanta.

To all members: tell your friends about STARFLEET and get them to join the USS REPUBLIC. The more that we grow, the more fun we have, and the better we can serve our community.

Next month we are planning more fun: an astronomy star party, a theatrical makeup workshop, a visit to a children's hospital and a great Halloween party.

Maintain this heading,
Slow to 3/4 Impulse,

Cmdr. David W. Vosper
Commanding Officer
USS REPUBLIC NCC-1371

NOTES FROM NUMBER 1

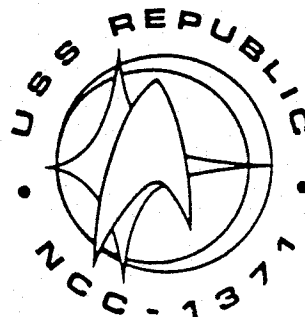
I would like to open by thanking everyone for their help at Lenox for the Marathon. Job WELL DONE!

The ship seems on a steady course to more prosperous times, thanks to you, the best crew in STARFLEET.

I am proud to serve with such high calibre individuals. We have great plans in the coming months, so come on out and participate.

Hailing Frequencies Closed

Commander Keith B. Rodgers
Executive Officer,
USS REPUBLIC NCC-1371



DIVISION REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS LCdr. DAN CARSON

Hailing frequencies open...

This has been a banner month for me as editor of AND TO THE REPUBLIC. This edition marks my first attempt to actually publish the newsletter. I have bought my desktop publishing program, and...well, you are now looking at the result. I think you will like it!

There were two other major events in the communications division this month. First was the Republic's recruiting drive at the Lenox Square Theatres during the STAR TREK movie marathon this past month. We handed out over 100 applications and a good time was had by all.

The other event is, in essence, a major announcement. Kelly Hilliard has beamed back aboard the Republic as the new chief of recruiting. We have not yet decided on what to call the new division or whether it will, in fact, be a separate division.

Well, that is it from this station.

SCIENCES JON-PAUL ESTES

Recycle! Yes, we must all do it. To make it easier, we are going to take all those aluminum cans off of your hands. So, please give them to me at the meetings (or give me a call, and I will try to pick them up).

Gaming has begun! *Star Trek: The Role-Playing Game* is what I am talking about. A small group has begun playing (although so far all we have done is create characters), and we would love for you to join us. We will be adventuring out into the galaxy sometime during the period between the movies and the new series. If you would like to play, give me a call.

Also, as an update on a club created episode

on video, we are planning on using what happens in the game as a guide for the script. This may or may not work. This means that I still want ideas, or even better complete scripts, for this project.

At the last meeting, my wife and I played a song for those attending called "Star Trekkin'," and everyone expressed an interest in performing this at a con. It requires no talent whatsoever, simply the desire to have fun. More news on this will follow.

Until next time, "Happy trails to you, until we meet again. . .

Jon-Paul Estes
Phone: 292-3855

CHAPLAIN/COUNSELOR Lt. (j.g.) KAREN ESTES

September got off to a good start! Between the picnic and the table outside the movie marathon "a good time was had by all." However, we could stand to see more of your smiling faces! The more the merrier! Come join us, join in on the fun and see what is happening with the Republic. Mark Your Calendars!

We will be descending upon Egleston Children's Hospital after our meeting on November 2nd. We need people in costume (or dressed nicely so hospital security will let us in.) But most of all we need smiling cheerful faces to brighten the day of some sick children. We will be passing out our hand made tribbles to the kids, so we will also need to find a time to sew some furry fellows. On that note, we need to collect donations to buy the materials to make these tribbles. Please give generously; you will make some small children very happy.

Stay tuned for more of that later at the meetings and through the phone net! [ed: we will have a donations box at meetings on October 5th and 19th]

Any Questions? Call me at 292-3855 or get in touch with any of the staff.

MEDICAL GAIL FULLER

OK guys, let's get our fannies in gear. We need first aid for outting and meeting. We need supplies or money. A happy ship is healthy ship. So let's get busy. If you want to put anything in the first aid kit, please let me know. If you know of anyone that needs help, let me know at 994-1833.

ENGINEERING LCdr. WILLIAM KNOPES

This report brings news of the first in a series of engineering competitions. The idea is to utilize the white plastic supports that come in pizza hut boxes and build them into a starship. The rules so far...

1. You may use three (3) supports in any configuration.
2. You can use any way to put them together, but radical cosmetic changes are not allowed.
3. Entries will be judged in three categories:
 - a. originality
 - b. design
 - c. engineering

There will be prizes for the best and the worst, but no prizes have yet been chosen. The background of the display is being redone by Neil Fuller. Engineering hopes that the new display will be ready for the Spring Vulkan.

The engineering newsletter, the *Technical Briefing*, is being revamped in the scope of an engineering "letter", rather than newsletter. Length will be two to four pages and deal with Engineering related matters. If anyone is willing to help with any project, please don't hesitate to call me at 424-5926.

SECURITY NEIL FULLER

It has been another busy month. We attended the KAG (Klingon Assault Group) barbecue, manned the display station at the Star Trek Marathon, went to Warner-Robbins for the I.F.T. museum outing and general meeting.

Friday night, September 20th, I appeared on WTLK-TV's channel 14 with KAG's Michael Duryea where I was able to squeeze in a plug for the REPUBLIC and STARFLEET. I have invited KAG for our video festival on the day of the ST:TNG season opening. A REPUBLIC video is also in the works, and will be shown at the festival.

I have redesigned the backdrop for the REPUBLIC's convention display and am assisting Engineering with plans for the model contest. Saturday evening, after our September 21st general meeting we started up a gaming group at my apartment.

I've made contact with a seamstress for producing ST uniforms. Please contact me for further information on uniforms. I've also put a listing for the REPUBLIC into the popular local Creative Loafing publication, which came out this month.

Lt. Ray Brown of the USS Triumph NCC-26228 (STARFLEET Miami) has asked for volunteers to take the STARFLEET Marine Reserve course. This is recommended for all Security personnel. Those interested in applying, please contact me at 994-1833 by October 7th.

This is too much fun to be legal. Please get in on it. This is your club, and you make it what it is. Thank you.

SECRETARY/TREASURER LCdr. JANET GREEN

A deposit of \$32.50 was made, bringing the current balance to approximately \$207.50.

Editor's note: A copy of the Republic's bank statement is printed on the inside front cover of this month's newsletter.

Promotions

Until such time as STARFLEET officially recognizes Keith and I as the XO and Captain of the REPUBLIC, we will not officially promote anyone. Completion of the STARFLEET Academy Officer Training School is still rewarded by promotion to Ensign by STARFLEET headquarters. Keith Rodgers was promoted to Commander by former Captain David Duncan.

All ship's staff members get an appropriate title (LCdr. for department heads, Lt. for Assistants), but these do not represent permanent promotions -- the rank does not follow the member once they leave the staff position.

Permanent promotions, when we start making them, will be based upon a published standard points system. This system will be based upon the member's record of service to the chapter, to STARFLEET, and to the community. Meeting attendance, SFA courses and time in STARFLEET will also be a factor. Documented rank brought from another chapter, or from the old REPUBLIC, will be recognized.

STALKING ET IN THE ST UNIVERSE (Part II)

by Edmund Trafford

In the first part of this article which appeared in a previous issue of AND TO THE REPUBLIC [March, 1991], the possibility of intelligent extraterrestrial life in our universe in general and the prevalence of intelligent life in the ST universe in particular were examined. The conclusion was that not only could life in general exist elsewhere, but that in the ST universe, many civilizations and life forms could and did flourish simultaneously. In this second part of the article, I want to discuss the kinds of intelligent life encountered in the ST universe and explore the effect of morphology on their development. I'm going

to discuss biological life only; noncorporeal life forms (Organians, "Q," Medusans, the aliens of "Return to Tomorrow," and others) are not considered here.

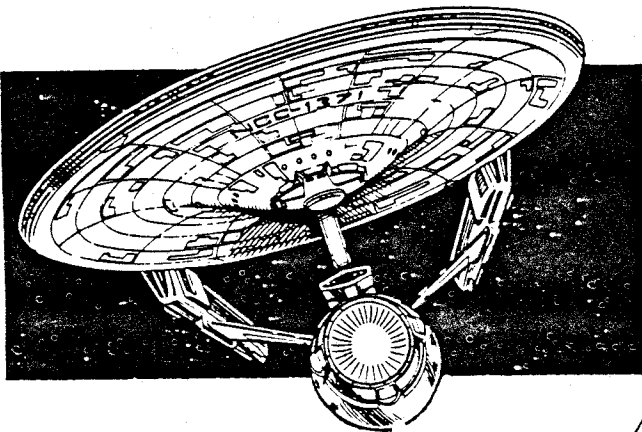
Organic life forms are found--obviously--in three physical environments: air, water (or other liquid) and land. Airborne intelligence is notably rare in the ST universe, and for good reason. Lightweight frames suitable for flight (hollow skeletons or chitinlike exoskeletons) do not offer the support for the large brain (or centralized nervous system equivalent) that many biologists feel is necessary for the development of advanced intelligence. The Skorr appear in the animated episode "Jihad", but although they are indeed capable of flight, they are recognizably humanoid rather than ornithoid, and they have hands, a fact which effectively places them in another category altogether. The Ravens in Carmen Carter's novel *Dreams of the Raven* are more avian than the Skorr, with beaks and head crests, and their young are hatched; but they lack wings and, like the Skorr, the Ravens have hands. The Withiki appear in John Ford's two novels (*The Final Reflection* and *How Much for Just the Planet?*), but it is never made clear that they are capable of actual flight; their wings may be no more than vestigial appendages of an earlier stage of development and-not to labor the obvious they, too, have hands and walk upright, which means that they must be considered a variety of humanoid rather than a true airborne intelligence.

While many marine creatures have the physiological capacity to support a large centralized brain (or similar sensory system), a marine environment creates not one but two impediments to the development of advanced intelligence. First, although the streamlined torpedolike shape of most water creatures is a superb example of environmental adaptation, this morphology does not admit the development of digits or allow any degree of manual dexterity; thus, a marine being is unlikely ever to become a tool-maker, a crucial step in overcoming the limitations of one's environment. Second, the generally benign aquatic environment itself is not conducive to forcing the pace of the development of intelligence; it does not impose a sufficiently harsh demand on its beings to adapt aggressively or die. It is only land-based humanoid life forms that must overcome the

challenges of a frequently hostile environment--and in only doing so they develop and thrive.

(Humankind's rapaciousness in conquering our own planet is obvious, but the fact remains that it is we and not whales who are reaching for the stars.) Marine ETI in the ST universe is as rare as airborne intelligence. The wwfida appear in Howard Weinstein's novel *Deep Domain*, but these sea creatures are really a late development in the life-cycle of the dominant land-based humanoid species, the Akkallans. The aptly name Aquans (from the animated episode "The Ambergis Element") were originally land-based humanoids who deliberately altered their own bodies for life in the sea; they do not represent an indigenous marine intelligence.

There is indeed an astonishing variety of intelligent life in the ST universe. But it is clear that the overwhelming model for ETI is the land-based, bipedal, upright, bilaterally symmetrical humanoid. Startling divergences from this model certainly occur. But for every Hamalki, (Diane Duane's glass spider in *The Wounded Sky* there are Tellarites and Tellurians, Solarians and Seleyans, Anticans and Andorians. For every Vendorian shape-changer (from the animated episode "The Survivor"), there are Vians and Vulcans (and their Romulan cousins), Binars, Benzites and Betazoids. For every Horta (the silicon-based creature from the original television episode "The Devil in the Dark"), there are Deltans, Yonadans, Klingons and Gorns. For every winged snake (from the animated episode "How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth"), there are Orians, Scalosians, Ferengi and Talosians (assuming their humanoid shape is not an illusion). And they are all of a pattern. It could be argued that the creators of the ST universe have demonstrated an amazing and thoroughly un-IDIC cultural bias for the humanoid life form. But the universe could easily be true; the vast majority of ETI conform to a single land-based humanoid prototype simply because in the ST universe there exists a cosmic imperative (divinely ordained or biologically mandated--take your choice) that favors that prototype over all others. In other words, we have met ETI, and he is us!



SCHEDULE CHANGES

1. October 3-6: Away Team to Georgia Star Party at Hard Labor Creek Observatory, sponsored in part by the Atlanta chapter of the Astronomical Society of the Atlantic, Inc. Hard Labor Creek State park is located 40 miles East of Atlanta on highway I-20, just south of Athens. The Away Team will attend Saturday afternoon, October 5th, for the observatory and equipment tour and general observing session. The CO will bring his 8" Celestron telescope. The CO and other interested members will depart from the REPUBLIC general meeting at 1:30 P.M. and stay overnight. The remainder of the Away team will return to Atlanta late Saturday night. for cabin/lodging reservations call the Society Information Recording at (404) 264-0451, or the REPUBLIC at 814-1308 or Science Officer Jon-Paul at 292-3855. The one night registration fee is \$10.00. If the local terrestrial weather appears overcast on Saturday afternoon, this REPUBLIC event will be canceled.
2. October 4-6th: Oktobertrek, Hunt Valley, MD. Guest: Nichelle Nichols.
3. October 4-6th: ROVACON 16, Salem, VA. (703) 389-9400.
4. October 19th: General meeting at noon, Fernbank Science Center. Theatrical makeup workshop.
5. October 31, Thursday night: Joint USS REPUBLIC/RODGER YOUNG (IFT) Halloween party, 120 The Fifth Green Ct., Atlanta, GA (Southern Roswell), at the home of LCdr. Kelly Hilliard. Maps and exact times will be furnished at the October general meetings on the 5th and 19th.
6. November 2nd: Away Team to Egleston Children's Hospital, 2:00 P.M. after the noon general meeting.
7. November 9-10: Away Team to Creation Con, Charlotte, NC. Guest: Nichelle Nichols. Call CO Dave - 814-1308.
8. November 22-24th: Away Team to Vulkan, St. Petersburg, FL. Guest: DeForest Kelley. Call Chief of Security Neil Fuller - 994-1833.

Congratulations

The following people are to be congratulated for their recent achievements:

1. Kathleen Kelly has just passed her OTS exam and has donated five dollars to the Republic from recycling. Good job and thanks for your support!
2. Keith B. Rogers has recently been hired at a video production and engineering firm. Great news, big guy!
3. Kelly Hilliard has been appointed as the head of our new recruiting division. He'll be responsible for adding new blood to our growing ranks. Kelly has also just donated \$25.00 to the treasury. Thanks Kelly!
4. Our C.O. Cmdr. Dave Vosper has passed Officer Command College (OCC), and is on his way to a promotion, we hope.

AWAY TEAM TO WARNER-ROBBINS

BY BILL KNOPE

In the spirit of goodwill and comraderie, the USS Republic sent a small group of representatives to Warner Robins for a gathering of Star Trek clubs on Sept 14th.

The gathering was hosted by the USS Stargazer (International Federation of Trekkers) of Warner Robins. Also showing were the USS Rodger Young (IFT) of Atlanta and the Shuttle Nokib'ral (Starfleet) of Tifton.

The events began at the Robins Air Force Base Museum of Aviation. We toured the exhibits and the planes and generally tried to keep cool. We proceeded to the city library for a meeting with the other groups and then took in a bite to eat at Shoney's. We made contacts within the Rodger Young and activities between our groups are in the works.

ROSTER CHANGES

Marak Puzio 642-6386
Commander James Corley P.O. Box 306,
Sunny Side, GA 30284

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

STARDATE 9109.04

in attendance:

David Vosper, President
Keith Rodgers, Vice President
Jon-Paul Estes
Karen Estes
Neil Fuller
Gail Fuller
Dan Carson

1. Dave Vosper received notes from RDC Deborah Nelson.

2. New Region 2 Logo contest: possibly use old artwork from our library.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Stationary - envelopes, cards, etc.

Bill showed the old stationary. Business cards were discussed and rubber stamps and envelopes. Was decided to retain our existing logo both written and graphic.

Will order items when the club has completed its reorganization.

Bill Knopes is to obtain proces for all items.

4. Aluminum recycling.

Jon-Paul collected 5 lbs, but has not found a recycling place yet.

Action item for JP- Find recycling place.

5. Have a donations box at the general meetings, for refreshments.

6. Invite KAG to our video festival, Sept. 29th - without uniforms.

7. By-Laws Discussed - All voted to abolish the present by-laws.

8. Club dues reviewed:

a. newsletter costs \$.95 each.

b. newsletter pages will be limited to save money

c. Jon Paul will supply newsletter reproduction services gratis.

9. Shuttles discussed:

a. Shuttles Inevitable and Maco not

recognized by STARFLEET HQ.

b. Shuttles are internal shuttles only, are just REPUBLIC members.

c. Contact shuttle in Tiffton.

10. Planned Sprt. 7th General meeting-discussed activities.

a. read script

b. make tribbles

11. Club size discussed:

a. current members - 54.

b. resolved to have 100 members by Christmas

c. goals will be periodically reviewed.

12. Saturday Marathon:

a. have music, ST cassettes

b. Neil and Keith will bring card tables

c. Bill/Neil meet at Dave's at 9:00 AM

d. All meet at Keith's house at 10:00

e. Set-up at Lemnox mall at 11:00 AM

f. Use old display, no light table (no electricity)

13. Promotions-

No promotions until Dave and Keith are certified by SFHQ. Will establish standard promotion, points system. Ranks will transfer from other ships, with appropriate documentation.

14. Security - press release delivered to Creative loafing publication.

15. Medical dept:

Science Dept to aid in tracking charity events for the club to participate in.

16. Trip to Warner-Robbins with IFT:

a. car pool

b. open to all members

c. meet at Dave's at Post Brookhaven, 8:30-9 AM, Saturday, Spet 14th.

d. get word out on phone net.

17. Newsletter

a. Generate press releases, Communications and Science departments to identify media targets.

b. Target all facets of the media.

c. September newsletter: WELL DONE

d. submit articles in IBM computer format.

18. Recruiting: Dave will supply sample flyers at next staff meeting for city-wide distribution.

STAFF MEETING MINUTES

(CONTINUED)

STARDATE 9109.18

In attendance:

David Vosper, President

Keith Rodgers, Vice President

Jon-Paul Estes

Karen Estes

Neil Fuller

Gail Fuller

Kelly Hilliard

Janet Green

8:08 - Meeting opened by David Vosper

David Vosper introduces LCDR Kelly Hilliard, who will be in charge of recruiting.

A "well-done" to everyone for the Republic appearance at the movie marathon.

200 membership applications were given out. None have yet been received.

14 complimentary newsletters were sent out.

Dave Vosper has sent the monthly report to Region 2 along with a poster requesting that the Republic be saved. Dave received a Region 2 update and Captains' report which declared that despite recent problems, the Republic is alive and well. A flyer for the Region 2 raffle was passed around. The Republic donated 2 tribbles for the prize bag.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer - The Republic account now contains \$175.00.

Engineering - 2 mail orders for tribbles were filled.

Science - Jon-Paul Estes plotted geographic distribution of membership and determined that Fernbank is centrally located. He has checked on prices at several recycling centers and will select one. Suggested a plotting party to plan a short video. Discussed KAG involvement in video.

Security - Neil Fuller put ad in Creative Loafing. Discussed KAG appearance on Channel 14 talk show in Rome on 9/20. Neil and Dave will get a mention of the Republic on the show. Discussed getting a PSA for the Republic on Channel 46 also.

Medical - Gail Fuller is looking into charitable activities in which the Republic can participate. Decision was made not to pursue walk/run event for Georgia Head Injury association.

Counselor - Karen Estes is looking into scheduling a visit by the Republic to distribute tribbles to children at Eggleston Hospital on a weekend.

Recruiting - No new memberships have been received, 12 memberships have been lost, and 7 memberships are pending renewal. 21 renewal notices were sent out this month. Current roster - 35 (42) members. Flyers were passed out for distribution at comic book stores, hobby stores, book stores, laundromats, video stores, etc. Schools and universities are not recruiting targets at this time. Minority areas of town are recruiting targets.

Decision made that staff officers will pay club dues.

Decision made that department heads will have honorary rank of LCDR, and assistant department heads will have honorary rank of LT while serving. Department heads will include Counselor and Secretary/Treasurer positions.

Dave, Neil, and Bill Knopes went to Warner-Robbins and met with IFP group. The Atlanta IFT group have invited the Republic to join in a Halloween party on October 26. Discussed alternate Halloween activities, such as party at Masquerade club. Kelly Hilliard offered his home as possible party location.

Will have computer ST:TNG trivia game and Wing Commander game at general meeting on 9/21.

Mention ST:TNG Spock episodes on 11/10 and 11/17 in newsletter.

Discussed OCC for all department heads.

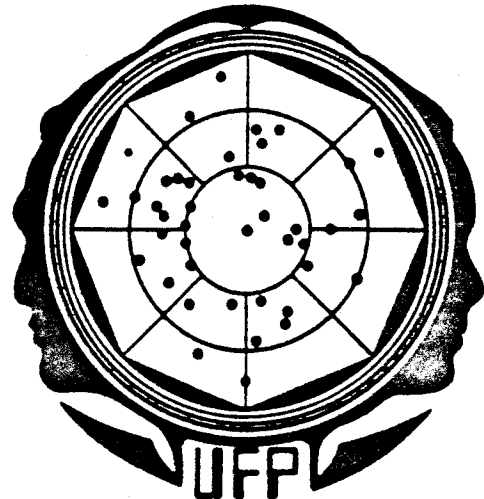
Discussed Republic participation in programming at Dragon Con and AFF. Suggested holding STARFLEET general meeting, inviting Fleet Admiral Jeannette Maddox, and performing Star Trekkin' song. Discussed inviting Ed Kramer to future staff meeting to discuss options.

Camelot Music in Lenox Square has display for ST video discs including a sign acknowledging the Republic's contribution of tribbles. Camelot may donate Kirk and Spock cutouts to Republic.

Newsletter submissions due 9/22.

NEW BUSINESS for next staff meeting:

- Holding general meetings on weeknights
- Changing staff meeting schedule to weekends
- Scheduling plotting party for video
- Setting up phone contact list for carpools



From an alternate universe, the adventures of a

WING COMMANDER

by Major "BIGFOOT" Vosper

Things are tough here on the flight line. On my last mission, I lost my wingman Captain Joseph Khumalo, a.k.a. KNIGHT. We were on a search and destroy mission against the Kilrathi (the enemy race of felinoids). We were ordered to locate and destroy one cargo ship and one troop transport. We were warned that a Kilrathi fighter ace, Baktosh Redclaw, was in the vicinity.

KNIGHT and I located and took out the cargo ship in short order, despite a heavy kitty fighter escort. We then proceeded at high speed to Nav Point 2 to search for the transport. We located the transport immediately, and began a standard missile attack. I had just taken one shot at the 'sport when Baktosh Redclaw taunted me on the comm channel.

I was lucky - most pilots don't get so much warning when Redclaw is around. But it seems that I have developed quite a reputation in this sector, and Redclaw wanted to call me out. I immediately broke off my attack and veered my Raptor fighter into a sharp turn, searching for Redclaw. I kept turning and locking onto fur-ball fighters, until my firecontrol computer identified Redclaw's Jalthi-class fighter.

It didn't take me long to lock onto his tail. Redclaw was not as tough as I had feared. He twisted and turned madly, making a good missile lock almost impossible. I did manage to get off several Pilum FF missiles, one of which found its target. However his shields held and I had to settle for peppering him with following fire with my mass driver cannon and neutron gun. After about five minutes of the wildest chase of my life, his shields finally failed under the steady assault of my guns, and Redclaw's ship exploded in a fiery, furry explosion.

KNIGHT and I then both completed our attack on the troop transport, dispatching her in short order. We then started mopping up on

the remaining fighters. KNIGHT contacted me, recommending a strategic withdrawal. I was in no mood to quit. As we pursued the kitty fighters, we came upon a bonus - a second troop transport! I contacted KNIGHT on the comm and ordered him to break and attack the remaining fighter. I attacked the 'sport with guns and my remaining missiles.

I was making good progress, unhindered by fighters, when KNIGHT called again, asking for assistance. I had to make a command decision - complete the mission objectives, and finish the transport full of furballs, or come to KNIGHT's assistance. I hung tight and desperately attacked the 'sport with everything that I had. She obligingly turned her venerable jets towards me. Soon, with a barrage of my gunfire flaring off her shields, the transport exploded. I located KNIGHT on my scope and zoomed towards him, only to receive his final message: "Avenge my death!"

I ordered the navigation computer to locate our carrier - the Tiger's Claw, and headed for home. The landing was routine. At the debriefing, the Colonel was up-beat and congratulated me on completing my mission, and on my victory against Redclaw. He also expressed his sympathy at the loss of KNIGHT.

KNIGHT's funeral was both dignified and awesome. The entire wing gathered in pressure suits and stood in formation, while the Colonel praised Captain Joseph Khumalo as "one of the Federation's finest warriors". KNIGHT's casket was then launched into space, while seven of his fellow warriors fired him a 21 gun salute.

I was feeling terrible about losing KNIGHT, when more bad news arrived - the Federation colony in this sector has been attacked and destroyed by Kalrathi troops, despite our efforts against their transports. The job of a warrior is hard, but I must carry on despite our set-backs. I'm sure that KNIGHT would have wanted it that way.

