



CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

USS *Republic* NCC-1371

August 2007

The USS *Republic* NCC-1371 participated in two events during the month of August: the Captain's Birthday Party and an "away mission" to the commissioning of the USS *Robins*.

On Friday, August 10, all members of the USS *Republic* were invited to join Commanding Officer Captain Eric L. Watts at the Stage Door Bar & Grill in Tucker, Georgia, to celebrate his 46th birthday. Representing the *Republic* were Ens Dave Churvis, Ens Lee Cox, Ens Zannetta Law, Ens Mark Ozanick, Ens Elisa Roper and Ens Keavin Wainwright. Also helping to celebrate were Friends of the *Republic* Matt Duncan, Aaron Dunne, Mary Macdonald and Mac McKinsey; Eric's "Bear" friends Tim and Greg, Mary's friends Chris and Suzie, and Lee's friend Chuck; as well as a host of Stage Door "regulars" who all wished the Captain a very happy birthday. The Captain was delighted to receive a variety of birthday gifts (and a steady supply of complementary cocktails) throughout the evening from his friends. He then sliced and served up to all assembled a delicious chocolate-on-chocolate fudge birthday cake, decorated with a bear paw inside a red "Delta shield" over the Bear flag and with the wish "Happy Birthday TrekBear" (the Captain's nickname). To the Captain's delight, Ensigns Dave and Elisa each joined him onstage for a memorable karaoke duet. A highlight of the evening was when the Captain changed out of his formal Starfleet dress uniform and into full bar leather while performing "I Am What I Am" from *La Cage aux Folles*, with onstage wardrobe assistance from Ens Dave. The Captain sincerely thanks all those who came out to help him celebrate and genuinely appreciates their friendship.

On Saturday, August 11—at a time *far* too early in the morning after a birthday party—Captain Watts and Ens Zannetta Law travelled to Fountain Park in Warner Robins, Georgia, to attend the commissioning of the USS *Robins* NCC-71838, the newest STARFLEET chapter in Region 2. Approximately twenty people attended the outdoor ceremony, which also included FCapt Russell Ruhland, FCapt Joe Perry and Connie Heller of the USS *DaVinci* from Columbus, Georgia; and Adm Mike Henigan and Adm Kelly Hilliard of the USS *Atlanta* from Atlanta. Charter members of the USS *Robins* in attendance included Commanding Officer Michael Sleeth, XO Adm Barbara Paul, FCapt Bill Paul, Ens JG Doug Sleeth, Ens JG Jennifer Glass, Chief Warrant Officer James Lee and Midshipman Annie D. Lee.

Shortly after 1:00 p.m. and after everyone assembled enjoyed a seemingly endless variety of barbecued food and fixin's, more than a dozen door prizes were handed out by Adm Barbara Paul and FCapt Bill Paul, followed by the commissioning ceremony. USS *DaVinci* XO FCapt Russell Ruhland presented USS *Robins* CO Michael Sleeth with the *Robins*' Certificate of Chapter Charter as Zone 2 Coordinator FCapt Bill Paul unveiled the *Robins*' brand new banner behind them. FCapt Ruhland then presented Cmdr Sleeth his Certificate of Promotion to the rank of Captain. Capt Sleeth then presented FCapt Ruhland with a Certificate of Appreciation and *Robins* XO Adm Paul with a Plaque of Appreciation and a ceremonial batleth. Finally, all the charter members of the *Robins* were presented with Certificates of Deck Plate and Plank Ownership by the USS *Atlanta*'s Adm Henigan.

At some point during these award presentations, STARFLEET's Chief of Operations called Adm Paul on her cell phone from the STARFLEET International Conference in Denver, Colorado, where the assembled crowd collectively shouted a congratulatory message (which only Adm Paul could hear). All those attending the commissioning ceremony returned the favor with a good old-fashioned "yee-haw" back to the Denver crowd via Adm Paul's cell phone. Everyone present appreciated being remembered and acknowledged by the folks at IC.

With pretty much everyone suffering in the 101° heat and with ominous thunderclouds approaching the park, Adm Paul adjourned the festivities around 3:00 and encouraged the attendees to seek refuge from both the heat and the imminent storm. The USS *Republic* is pleased to have attended and participated in this event, congratulates the USS *Robins* on their successful launch, and looks forward to coordinating joint activities with the *Robins* crew in the future.

Photos from these two events can be viewed on the [Republic's web site](#).

Upcoming chapter events include a big presence at Dragon*Con over Labor Day Weekend (at a STARFLEET fan table and the Happy Hour at Ten Forward event) in downtown Atlanta; attending Sci-Fi Bingo Night, benefitting PALS Bingo, in mid-September; facing the Atlanta "MurFurs" in our second annual bowling challenge in late September; our second annual "Halloween Spooktacular" in late October, hosted by Ens Marjan Peltier in Hampton, Georgia; and the planning of the *Republic's* 20th birthday celebration, to be observed in June 2008. The *Republic's* annual Christmas Party will be held sometime in December; further details to be determined.

In other business, four new orders were received in August—one from Ens Eric Koske, two from Ens Keavin Wainwright, and one from Capt Watts—for new chapter t-shirts to add to the six orders already received, finally meeting the ten-shirt minimum quantity for an affordable reorder. After eight months of collecting these orders, the reorder was finally placed on August 13. Shirts will be picked up the weekend before Dragon*Con and distributed to their owners as soon as possible thereafter.

The USS *Republic* did not, unfortunately, welcome aboard any new members in August. The STARFLEET database currently lists our official crew roster at 47 members, with Ensigns Tony Cade, Ian Letendre and Theresa Parker and Ens JG Anita Letendre still listed as Inactive (i.e., dues expired). As reported last month, Ensigns Ian Letendre and Theresa Parker have informed *Republic* command of their decision to not reenlist, Ens Tony Cade has expressed his intent to renew his membership, and Ens JG Anita Letendre's renewal intentions are still unknown. No *Republic* memberships became due for renewal in August, so at the end of the month, the crew roster still stands at 43 Active members and four Inactive. Five *Republic* memberships will become due in September: Ens Patrick Anderson, Ens Eddie Atkins, Ens Russell J. Broomfield, Ens Zannetta Law and Ens Brooke Perry. *Republic* command will encourage these members to reenlist with STARFLEET and looks forward to their continuing membership.

Respectfully submitted,



Captain Eric L. Watts
Commanding Officer, USS *Republic* NCC-1371