



CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

USS *Republic* NCC-1371

September 2007

The USS *Republic* NCC-1371 participated in three events during the month of September: Dragon*Con, Sci-Fi Bingo Night and a Bowling Challenge with the Atlanta MurrFurs.

The USS *Republic* was very well-represented at Dragon*Con, held in Atlanta over the four-day Labor Day weekend, August 31 through September 3, in the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Marquis and Atlanta Hilton hotels. More than half of this year's eight-member all-volunteer *TrekTrak* staff belong to the *Republic*, including Ens Mark A. Ozanick, Ens Sheryl Parsons, Ens Elisa Roper and Ens Keavin Wainwright, as well as Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts, who also serves as Dragon*Con's Director of *Star Trek* Programming. *TrekTrak* presented more than two dozen separate programming events, including "The *TrekTrak* Show," "*Star Trek: The Next Generation* Cast Reunion," "*Star Trek* vs. The New *Battlestar Galactica*," "Happy Hour at Ten Forward" and the world-famous "Miss Klingon Empire Beauty Pageant." Every member of the *TrekTrak* staff worked far more hours than is required by Dragon*Con policy and each member was indispensable to the track's successful execution. The highly acclaimed *TrekTrak* and its volunteer staff were featured in a comprehensive article published on the official *Star Trek* web site at www.startrek.com/startrek/view/news/article/2307984.html.

Several members of the *Republic* served as panelists on various *TrekTrak* programming events, including Ens David Churvis and Ens Brooke Perry on "The Music of *Star Trek*," Cmdr Brian Holloway on "*Star Trek: New Voyages*" and "*TrekTrak* Presents: 'World Enough and Time,'" Ens Chris Jones on "*Star Trek: The Animated Series: The Verdict*," and Ens Susan Rey on "*Star Trek* vs. *Stargate*." Additionally, Ens Andrea Benton competed as "SajQa' sutai Fenix" in this year's "Miss Klingon Empire Beauty Pageant," Ens Marq Collins served as DJ for both the "Rainbow Flag Party" and "Happy Hour at Ten Forward," and of course, Cmdr Holloway serves as Dragon*Con's Costuming Track Director with Ens Lee Cox as his Assistant Director & Room Manager.

The *Republic* shared a fan table with *TrekTrak* during the entirety of the convention, strategically located in a high-traffic area at the bottom of the convention level escalator in the Marriott Marquis. The *TrekTrak* side of the table offered for sale *TrekTrak*-branded merchandise such as t-shirts and programming event DVDs, while the *Republic*'s half promoted both STARFLEET in general and the *Republic* in particular, offering fabulous *Star Trek* gift baskets absolutely free as incentives to potential new members who joined the chapter on the spot, as well as copies (for sale) of the first three issues of the chapter's quarterly newsletter, *The Sovereign Star*. As a result, six copies of *The Sovereign Star* were sold, and the *Republic* recruited one new member: Robert H. Dorton of Macon, Georgia. Each member of the *TrekTrak* staff tended the table for at least one duty shift during the convention, as well as various additional members of the *Republic* for varying periods of time, including Ens Sue Lin Lange and Ens Zannetta Law (this list may be incomplete).

The *Republic* also had a very strong presence at this year's "Happy Hour at Ten Forward" event, thanks primarily to the tremendous efforts of Ens Sue Lin Lange, who single-handedly furnished and created a spectacular two-foot high display of snacks and beverages that dwarfed every other host table in the *TrekTrak* room. Ens Lange and Ens Zannetta Law tended the *Republic*'s table throughout the evening, serving up snacks and soft drinks to the assembled partyers. Ens Sue and Ens Zannetta made a great team—their energy and effervescence were as refreshing as anything on the table, and their

delightful hospitality contributed largely to the event's success.

At a brief ceremony held in the Hyatt Regency's Regency Ballroom shortly before "The *Trek-Trak Show*," on stage and in front of an audience numbering more than a thousand, Region 2 Vice Regional Coordinator FCapt Lucy Ferron presented Capt Watts with the STARFLEET International Commanding Officer of the Year Award for 2006, awarded to Capt Watts at the STARFLEET International Conference in Denver, Colorado, on August 11 by STARFLEET Vice Commander Gen Mark H. Anbinder and International Awards Program Director Comm Elizabeth S. Woolf, and accepted there in his absence by Region 2 Regional Coordinator Comm Jack Eaton. Capt Watts then presented FCapt Ferron, Commanding Officer of the USS *Haise* of Jackson, Mississippi, with the STARFLEET International Chapter of the Year Award for 2006, which was awarded to FCapt Ferron at the same event in Denver and also accepted in her absence by Comm Eaton. Just before these presentations, FCapt Ferron briefly described STARFLEET International to the audience, asked all members of STARFLEET International to stand and be recognized, and thanked those members for attending this ceremony.

There are currently 227 commissioned chapters in the worldwide STARFLEET International organization. The Commanding Officer of the Year Award is given to the individual who has shown exemplary leadership and motivational skills and helps set the direction and vision for his chapter. The Commanding Officer of the Year encourages crewmembers to work hard for their chapter and take an interest in Regional and STARFLEET activities, demonstrates conduct consistent with the philosophies of *Star Trek*, and promotes the vision of the various series. The Chapter of the Year Award is awarded to the most distinguished STARFLEET chapter which best represents the ideals, spirit and determination of STARFLEET International. The Chapter of the Year promotes the basic philosophy of *Star Trek*, is involved in community and/or charitable service, promotes activities and projects that are fun for chapter members, is managed by a solid administration and embraces a vision for the future.

Commanding Officer, *Republic*, wishes to express his deep appreciation to all members who attended, participated in and contributed to Dragon*Con in general and *TrekTrak* in particular.

On Wednesday, September 12, the USS *Republic* participated in Sci-Fi Bingo Night, benefitting PALS Atlanta, a local charity that provides ongoing care and support to pets of Atlanta-area persons living with critical illnesses and disabilities, held at the Knights of Columbus hall on Buford Highway near Lenox. Bingo Night is a monthly event hosted by PALS Atlanta with a different theme night each month; players are encouraged to dress up according to that month's theme and nominal prizes are awarded for Best Costume. The theme for September was changed from the previously announced Gospel Bingo to Sci-Fi Bingo in a cooperative effort between PALS Atlanta and the Atlanta Outworlders, hosts of the upcoming Gaylaxicon convention during the first weekend of October. Full-page ads promoting the event appeared in *David* magazine and *Southern Voice*, depicting the event's three drag queen hostesses in the original *Star Trek's* classic miniskirt uniforms.

During the week prior to the event, *Republic* promoted participation in the event to its own membership and invited members of KAG Atlanta to join us. KAG Atlanta, as a group, declined to participate, citing insufficient advance notice and a lack of specific event details, such as the presence and nature of any game prizes and the tax-deductibility of entry fees. With about a hundred people attending the event, representing the *Republic* were Ens Mark A. Ozanick, Ens Chris Jones and Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts, as well as Friend of the *Republic* (and former STARFLEET member) Cmdr Joseph Campbell and his lovely wife Cynthia. Capt Watts set up a small *Republic* display at the check-in counter with our sign and brochures to help promote the chapter.

Ten games of Bingo were played during the evening with cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$500. Cmdr Campbell won the prize for Best Costume, with Capt Watts and the contest's only other contestant both receiving Honorable Mentions. Due to the short notice given, attendance by members of the *Republic* was somewhat light, but all those present had a good time and Commanding Officer, *Republic*, is nevertheless pleased that the chapter participated in this fundraising event for a local charity,

broadening the scope of our activities to include community service.

On Saturday, September 29, in an event that received unexpected and unprecedented media coverage, the USS *Republic* faced the Atlanta MurrFurs in a bowling challenge held at the Midtown Bowl bowling alley in Midtown Atlanta. Following in the footsteps of the *Republic*'s successful challenges with KAG Atlanta in September 2006 and with the Atlanta Outworlders in March 2007, this month's event pitted us against a local group of fans of anthropomorphic animal characters, called "furries," who distinguish themselves by dressing up, in whole or in part, in furry animal costumes.

Commanding Officer, *Republic*, would be remiss to omit within this report that an unfortunate amount of controversy resulted from the marketing of this event. A member of the MurrFurs, with the *Republic*'s blessings, took a photo taken at last year's bowling challenge with KAG Atlanta and posted on the *Republic*'s web site, incorporated it into a poster montage with a group photo of the MurrFurs at one of their own bowling events, added the bold headline, "Furries vs. Klingons," and posted the image to several web sites. The designer who created the image was unaware that most of the Klingons in the photo were not members of the *Republic*, and when the image began to receive wide circulation after being posted on BoingBoing.net, some members of KAG Atlanta were upset that the image seemed to misrepresent them and the true nature of the event, to the extent that they (KAG Atlanta) were not one of the event's sponsors. Although *Republic* issued KAG Atlanta an invitation to join us for the event, several members of KAG Atlanta suggested that their group boycott the event in response to this perceived slight. Quadrant Commander Chris Jones additionally stated that KAG Atlanta required a minimum 30-day notice before they could commit to any group event (a requirement previously unknown to this chapter), and that this event followed too soon after Dragon*Con for their members to participate in, anyway. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, responded to these various complaints by stating that nowhere in the marketing of this event was it conveyed or implied that KAG Atlanta was one of this event's sponsors; that every member of KAG Atlanta in the photo in question knew the photo would be posted online when the photo was taken, and that *Republic* was entitled to use any photo taken at one of its own events to promote any future chapter event; and that given the tremendous amount of attention the upcoming event with the MurrFurs was drawing, KAG Atlanta would be smart to embrace the challenge as a remarkable opportunity for high-profile Klingon visibility, especially at a time when many people are bemoaning the decline of *Star Trek* fandom as a whole. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, reiterated to KAG Atlanta before the event that all Klingons were invited and welcome to attend and participate, whether it was endorsed by their group or not.

Representing the USS *Republic* at the Atlanta MurrFurs bowling challenge were Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts, Ens Marq Collins, Ens Hal Doby, Ens Chadd Franklin, Ens Chris Jones, Ens Zannetta Law, Ens Mark A. Ozanick, Ens Keavin Wainwright, and Friends of the *Republic* Derek Simpson and Joy Keltner. Ens Collins, Ens Jones and Friend Keltner bowled in full Klingon gear and represented the chapter extremely well. The Atlanta MurrFurs outnumbered the *Republic* by approximately two to one, with the "Furries" bowling on six lanes and the *Republic* on two.

Surpassing any controversy with KAG Atlanta or the alleged "yiffy" activities of "Furries" was the astonishing amount of media coverage at the event. Camera crews from both G4 TV and FarkTV.com were on hand to report on the event, along with dozens of spectators armed with digital cameras and camcorders. It would not be an exaggeration to report that coverage of the event dominated the event, to the extent that more than half of the two hours of reserved lane time was taken up with on-camera interviews with key personnel and bystanders. Once the bowling actually got started, there was only enough time for one game between the two groups. With no immediate way to determine a clear winner between the lopsided teams, it was decided to have a one-lane "bowl-off": the top four scorers from each group would simultaneously bowl one frame, and the team with the highest combined score would win. With every camera in the building focused on the eight highest scorers, the USS *Republic* emerged victorious with a final determining team score of 32 to 27. A spectacular 28" trophy with engraved

plate, with a \$100 retail value generously created and donated to the event by Ens Hal Doby, went to the *Republic's* highest scorer, Ens Keavin Wainwright. Many thanks go to Ensign Doby for this donation and congratulations go to Ensign Wainwright for bowling the highest score. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, wishes to express his deep appreciation to the Atlanta MurrFurs and Mike Allgood for coordinating this event and helping to make it such a huge success for both groups, as well as to all the members and friends of the *Republic* who attended and participated.

The segments produced by the G4 TV and Fark.TV camera crews can be seen at the following links:

www.superdeluxe.com/sd/contentDetail.do?id=D81F2344BF5AC7BBEAB6C0444043111ADD86148487BAD9C2
www.g4tv.com/attackoftheshow/blog/post/680164/Klingons_Vs_Furries_Requiem.html?detectflash=false

And, more than a dozen short videos recorded at the event by handheld camcorders can be seen by searching for "Furries vs Klingons" at Google Video.

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

Upcoming chapter events include a chapter presence at Gaylaxicon on Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7; our Fall Business & Spaghetti Meeting on Saturday, October 13; and our second annual "Halloween Spooktacular" on Saturday, October 27. The *Republic's* annual Christmas Party will be held sometime in December; further details to be determined.

At the end of August, the *Republic's* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 47 total members, including 43 Active (or Pending) and four Inactive. During September, the USS *Republic* welcomed aboard three new members: Robert H. Dorton of Macon, Georgia, who joined the chapter at Dragon*Con, and domestic partners Tom Wilson & Mike Stauffer of Alpharetta, Georgia, who joined on the last day of the month thanks to the recruitment efforts of Captain Watts. Members who reenlisted with STARFLEET during September include Ens Patrick Anderson, Ens Russell J. Broomfield, Ens Tony Cade and Ens Zannetta Law; memberships that expired and became inactive during September include Ens Eddie Atkins and Ens Brooke Perry. At the end of September, the *Republic's* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 50 total members, including 45 Active (or Pending) and five Inactive. Of those five Inactive members, Ens Brooke Perry and Ens JG Anita Letendre are expected to reenlist, Ens Eddie Atkins' reenlistment intentions are unknown, and two will not be reenlisting. In October, only one member, Ens Michael Shipley, will become due for reenlistment. *Republic* command encourages all our members to reenlist with STARFLEET and looks forward to their continuing membership.

Respectfully submitted,



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