



# CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

## USS *Republic* NCC-1371

October 2007

The USS *Republic* NCC-1371 participated in three events during the month of October: Gaylaxicon, held Friday through Monday, October 5-8; our Fall Business Meeting & Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, October 13; and our second annual “Halloween Spooktacular” on Saturday, October 27.

Earlier in the year, Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts secured a fan table for *TrekTrak* and the USS *Republic* at the four-day Gaylaxicon convention, hosted by the Atlanta OutWorlders at the newly renovated Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in downtown Atlanta, and it was Capt Watts’ intention to arrive at the convention on Friday evening, set up the fan table and actively promote the chapter for the next two days. However, on Thursday, October 4—the day before the convention—Capt Watts was involved in an automobile accident that totalled his car. Although Capt Watts suffered no serious injuries, he was banged up a bit, and although he made it to and through work on Friday, by that evening, he was too sore to be seen in public. Despite his most earnest intentions, he stayed home on Friday evening and all day Saturday in order to rest and recuperate.

On Sunday, October 7, although not fully recovered and still sore from head to toe, Capt Watts managed to load up his borrowed vehicle with a variety of promotional materials, including *Republic* newsletters and brochures, three of his famous *Star Trek* gift baskets, a dozen or so *TrekTrak* programming DVDs and a box full of *TrekTrak* t-shirts. Although the convention was more than half over by the time he got there early Sunday afternoon, Capt Watts nevertheless set up a full table display and spent the next several hours promoting the *Republic*. Partly because the assigned fan table was in a back corner of the dealers room, partly because it was Sunday afternoon, partly because there was not a great deal of traffic through the dealers room, and partly because so many of the convention’s attendees were from out of town, promoting the chapter to potential new members proved to be a genuine challenge. The highlight of the afternoon, however, was that the *Republic*’s fan table was located directly across the aisle from David Gerrold’s dealer table, and Capt Watts had an opportunity to speak to Mr. Gerrold—author of the iconic *Star Trek* episode “The Trouble with Tribbles” and author and director of the recently filmed *Star Trek: New Voyages* episode “Blood and Fire”—about his (Watts’) involvement in the production of the *New Voyages* episode “World Enough and Time” in 2006. Capt Watts invited Mr. Gerrold to apply to Dragon\*Con for guest status and assured him that he (Watts) would look forward to involving Mr. Gerrold in next year’s *TrekTrak* programming, including a screening of “Blood and Fire.” Mr. Gerrold replied that he would very much like to attend Dragon\*Con and would look forward to negotiating terms for an appearance with convention management.

The Gaylaxicon dealers room closed down at 6:00, so Capt Watts broke down the *Republic*’s table display less than six hours after setting it up without having recruited any new members and, after storing the merchandise and materials under a skirted table, went to the con suite to socialize with other members of the convention. It was here that Capt Watts had much better luck in promoting STARFLEET and the *Republic*. Although the Captain was unable to give contact information for specific chapters located in other cities to those with whom he spoke about STARFLEET, he did refer them all to the main STARFLEET web site for additional information, and it is the Captain’s hope that some of them followed through on that. Capt Watts did, however, successfully recruit one new member to the *Republic* during the evening: Joshua Graham of Cave Spring, Georgia, a member of the Gaylaxicon con suite staff who claimed to be a huge fan of *Star Trek: Voyager*. Joshua received his choice of one of the

Captain's famous *Star Trek* gift baskets upon joining the chapter. The command and crew of the *Republic* warmly welcomes Joshua to our chapter.

Other members of the *Republic* who were in attendance at Gaylaxicon include Ens David Churvis, who performed on Friday night with the live band Hyperdrive; Ens Susan Rey, who worked in con registration; and Ensigns Patrick Anderson & Russell Broomfield.

After making several new friends and getting reacquainted with some old ones, Capt Watts loaded up the truck and headed home around 9:00. While the *Republic's* presence at Gaylaxicon was not as strong as it has been at some other local conventions recently, it was nonetheless a successful event for the chapter with the recruitment of one new member.

On Saturday, October 13, the USS *Republic's* Fall Business Meeting & Spaghetti Dinner was hosted by and in the home of Ens JG Anita Letendre in Roswell, Georgia. In addition to our lovely hostess, also attending the meeting were Ens Marq Collins, Ens Chris Jones, Ens Sue Lin Lange, Ens Zannetta Law, Ens Mark A. Ozanick, Ens Mike Stauffer, Ens Tom Wilson and Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts. A sumptuous dinner including spaghetti and meat sauce, salad and garlic bread was served around 1:30 p.m. and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Around 3:00 p.m., Capt Watts conducted the business meeting, held primarily to determine and finalize plans for activities for the remainder of the calendar year and to address the chapter's current needs. Upcoming events being planned by the *Republic* or to which the *Republic* has been invited include a "Halloween Spooktacular" on Saturday, October 27, a costume-required event to be hosted by Ens Letendre; the Sci-Fi Charity Putt-Putt Challenge, hosted by KAG Atlanta, at the Malibu Grand Prix entertainment center in Norcross, Georgia, on Saturday, November 3; an "away mission" to the digitally remastered, high-definition theatrical release of *Star Trek: "The Menagerie"* on Tuesday, November 13, at the Regal Cinemas Hollywood 24 in Chamblee, Georgia; a "Warriors Challenge," hosted by KAG Atlanta, at the Dave & Buster's entertainment center in Marietta, Georgia, on Saturday, November 17, to kick off their annual Toys for Tots campaign; a Christmas Party to be held in December; and a joint "away mission" with KAG Atlanta to the Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta sometime in January 2008. Also discussed was the *Republic's* 20th Year Celebration, to be hosted by Sci-Fi Summer Con (SFSC) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Marietta, Georgia, next June 6-8. The *Republic* will guarantee SFSC \$300 in membership sales, half of which is due by December 31, in exchange for a 500-square-foot programming room during the convention in which to run a track of programming dedicated to *Star Trek*, STARFLEET and the *Republic*. Events will include a STARFLEET reception on Friday evening and a dance party on Saturday evening, with karaoke planned for either or both events. A planning committee will be formed later in the year to develop and produce specific programming and activities for this event.

Issues that were addressed at the business meeting include the lack of member response to polls posted on the chapter's YahooGroups message board; Capt Watts is concerned that members may either be unfamiliar with how to respond to poll questions or, worse, are not reading their message board email at all. Also, Capt Watts stated that he is overwhelmed with the administrative responsibilities associated with running the chapter, and needs more help from the membership with these tasks. The Captain said that he is behind on updates to the chapter's web site and production of the chapter newsletter, and too much of his time is taken up with member retention (i.e., collecting dues renewals), an area of responsibility which he would like to delegate to another member, or perhaps even the Executive Officer, as soon as possible. Ens Lea Hepler has volunteered to help with the newsletter and Ens Russell Broomfield has offered to help with the web site, but no one has yet volunteered or nominated anyone else for the member services position, which is the area where the Captain needs the most urgent help. Capt Watts stated that he would like to complete four issues of the newsletter himself (he is currently working on his third) and then hand those duties over to another member, and he intends to follow through with Ens Broomfield's offer shortly. In the meantime, he will continue to handle members services as best he can until someone else offers to help.

The final order of business was Capt Watts' announcement, for the benefit of those members who had not attended Dragon\*Con, that he had been awarded the Commanding Officer of the Year award for 2006 at the STARFLEET International Conference in Denver, Colorado, in August, and that STARFLEET Region 2 Vice Regional Coordinator FCapt Lucy Ferron had presented the award certificate to him at a brief ceremony held at Dragon\*Con. The Captain also announced that he had recently been informed by Region 2 staff that the USS *Republic* was now the largest chapter in all of STARFLEET, with 46 members in good standing. Capt Watts stated that he was "flabbergasted" to learn of the chapter's ranking, and that these two achievements would be the lead article in the Fall issue of the chapter's newsletter, *The Sovereign Star*, currently in production.

After the business meeting was adjourned, everyone went outside to pose for a group photo. Shortly thereafter, Ens Letendre thanked everyone for coming and said she looked forward to seeing everyone again at the "Halloween Spooktacular" she was hosting two weeks later. The *Republic* is grateful for Ens Letendre's warm and gracious hospitality.

On Saturday evening, October 27, the USS *Republic*'s second annual "Halloween Spooktacular" was hosted by and in the home of Ens JG Anita Letendre in Roswell, Georgia. In addition to our lovely hostess, also attending the party were Ens David Churvis, Ens Mark A. Ozanick and Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts, as well as Ens Churvis' partner Matt Duncan and more than a half-dozen of Ens Letendre's friends. At Ens Letendre's request, the party was "costume-required," and a great deal of imagination, originality and creativity were on display. Ens Letendre provided a tremendous assortment of snacks, munchies and refreshments, and everyone "gobbled up" the goodies. In keeping with the occasion, Ens Letendre showed the Johnny Depp movie *Sleepy Hollow* on her big screen TV. After a couple of hours of ghoulish festivities and the end of the movie, the evening drew to a close and members and guests all thanked Ens Letendre for her gracious hospitality as they departed.

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

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. Two of those five Inactive members will not be reenlisting, reducing the chapter's internal crew manifest to 48. During the month of October, the USS *Republic* welcomed aboard one new member: Joshua Graham of Cave Spring, Georgia, who joined at the Gaylaxicon science fiction convention thanks to the recruitment efforts of Capt Watts. Members who reenlisted with STARFLEET during October include Ens JG Anita Letendre and Ens Michael Shipley; members whose dues remain or became expired by the end of the month include Ens Eddie Atkins and Ens Brooke Perry. At the end of October, the *Republic*'s crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 51 total members, including 47 Active (or Pending) and four Inactive. Two of the four Inactive members will not be reenlisting, reducing the chapter's internal crew manifest to 49. *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