



CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

USS *Republic* NCC-1371

December 2007

On Saturday evening, December 22, the USS *Republic* NCC-1371 held its annual Christmas Party, hosted by Ens Mark A. Ozanick in his beautiful home in Decatur, Georgia. The occasion included a potluck dinner and the ceremonial presentation of the *Republic's* annual awards. In addition to Ens Ozanick, other *Republic* members in attendance included Ens Andrea Benton, Ens David Churvis, Ens Hal Doby, Ens Chadd Franklin, Ens Reginald Franklin (no relation to Chadd), Ens Chris Jones, Ens Zannetta Law and Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts. Also in attendance were Ens Benton's son Dee, Ens Churvis' partner Matt Duncan, Ens Doby's guests David and Greg, Ens Reginald Franklin's guest Naomi Washington, Capt Watts' friends Tim Garrett & Greg Barrett, and four of Ens Ozanick's neighbors. The *Republic* was saddened to learn that Zone 1 Coordinator FCapt Bill Paul and USS *Robins* Executive Officer Adm Barbara Paul of Warner Robins were unable to attend as planned. The Pauls made it as far north as McDonough, Georgia, before running into some heavy holiday traffic congestion on Interstate 75 and deciding it would be better to turn around and go back to Warner Robins rather than risk being stranded in Atlanta at too late an hour. The Pauls were able to express their regrets and wish the members of the *Republic* a merry Christmas over Capt Watts' cell phone loudspeaker, and the sentiment was returned in unison.

Ens Ozanick provided a huge HoneyBaked® Ham and nearly everyone else brought a hot or cold side dish, including a variety of meats, sweets and treats, so there was plenty of food to go around and everybody enjoyed a hearty meal. Although Capt Watts brought a variety of *Star Trek* games to play (*Star Trek* Monopoly, *Star Trek* Uno, *Star Trek: The Game*, Tribbles, etc.) during the evening, the lively and festive conversations among the guests occupied everyone's attention, as members and guests socialized while circling the ample supply of delicious dishes.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., Capt Watts called the assembled guests together for the highlight of the evening: the presentation of the *Republic's* annual awards. In a prepared speech, he reviewed at length the more than two dozen activities that the *Republic* hosted, participated in or had a meaningful presence at during the twelve-month period between December 1, 2006, and November 30, 2007, including:

- our annual Christmas Party in Conyers and a presence at Galactic ConQuest III in Buford in December 2006;
- an "away mission" to Fernbank's IMAX Theatre in Atlanta in January 2007;
- an Eat 'n' Meet Potluck with Stargate Atlanta in Conyers in February;

- a meaningful presence at the STARFLEET Region 2 Summit in Columbus, a *Star Trek* Game Night with the Klingon Assault Group in Midtown, and a Bowling Challenge with the Atlanta Outworlders, also in Midtown, in March;
- a Spring Dinner & Business Meeting in Decatur in April;
- an “away mission” to *Spider-Man 3* in Lawrenceville and a viewing of *Starship Farragut: “The Captaincy”* in Tucker in May;
- a strong presence at Sci-Fi Summer Con in Marietta and an “away mission” to *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer* in Chamblee in June;
- an “away mission” to the *Transformers* movie in Chamblee, a meaningful presence at Time-Gate 5 in Tucker, and our annual Summer BBQ & Pool Party in Conyers in July;
- the Captain’s Birthday Party in Tucker and a meaningful presence at the USS *Robins* Commissioning Ceremony in Warner Robins in August;
- an extremely strong presence at Dragon*Con in downtown Atlanta over the four-day Labor Day Weekend;
- a presence at Sci-Fi Bingo Night, benefitting PALS Atlanta, in Atlanta, and the extremely well-publicized Bowling Challenge against the Atlanta MurrFurs in Midtown in September;
- a presence at Gaylaxicon in downtown Atlanta, our Fall Business Meeting & Spaghetti Dinner in Roswell, and our annual Halloween Spooktacular, also in Roswell, in October; and
- a meaningful presence at the Sci-Fi Charity Putt-Putt Challenge in Norcross and a meaningful presence at the theatrical premiere of *Star Trek: “The Menagerie”* in November.

Capt Watts also praised the *Republic’s* new, full-sized, full-color, magazine-style, quarterly chapter newsletter, *The Sovereign Star*, for being loaded with interesting and well-written articles and original artwork contributed by a variety of our members at large, and not just a compilation of dry departmental reports from key ship’s personnel.

Capt Watts also reported that over the course of this extremely busy year, the *Republic* recruited no less than an unprecedented 33 new members into STARFLEET—almost three times the number of new members recruited during 2006. Taking into account the unfortunate, if inevitable, loss of a few members along the way for reasons of their own, the *Republic* could nevertheless claim, as of the date of the Christmas Party, 46 members in good standing. As reported in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Sovereign Star*, the USS *Republic*—having been placed on “stand-by” status by STARFLEET in early 2006 for having fewer than the constitutionally mandated number of members in good standing on its roster—was recognized by STARFLEET International in October 2007 as the largest chapter in the world at that time. In November, the USS *Southern Cross*—a correspondence chapter in New Zealand—bumped the *Republic* out of the #1 spot, but even so, we remain the largest meeting chapter in the world. Capt Watts then reminded the assembly that compared to where we were a year and a half ago, our journey this year has been absolutely extraordinary, and declared that these accomplishments that we, as a chapter,

have achieved, were made possible solely by the loyalty, dedication, energy and tireless industry of its members. Capt Watts expressed his profound gratitude to the membership for their faith and trust in his leadership and sincerely thanked them for being members of the USS *Republic*.

Capt Watts then announced the creation of the *Republic's* first annual Member of the Year award, given to honor and recognize those members who have demonstrated exemplary loyalty and dedication to the *Republic* by participating in all those many chapter events, contributing their time and energy to our activities, and making significant contributions to the welfare and operations of the chapter. Capt Watts then briefly explained how the winner was selected.

In many other organizations, Member of the Year awards are often decided by a vote of the membership, or selected by one or a handful of officers or committee members. The result of this process is that the award all too often becomes either a popularity contest, or the selection of a personal favorite—the dreaded “teacher’s pet.” These highly subjective selection processes often leave the other members of these organizations bewildered and/or angered. To avoid any such controversy, the selection of our Member of the Year was purely objective. Capt Watts created a point system, based on membership participation, personal activity, scholastic achievement or other noteworthy contribution to the chapter. Simply put, the member with the most number of points at the end of the year will be recognized for their efforts.

Capt Watts then explained what activities earn a point. Any member who, between December 1, 2006, and November 30, 2007, attended any of the *Republic's* official chapter events or activities; served as a member of the *TrekTrak* staff at Dragon*Con; was a *TrekTrak* programming participant and introduced as a member of the *Republic*; hosted a chapter activity in their home; submitted a named contribution to the chapter newsletter; edited or produced an issue of the newsletter; completed any online STARFLEET Academy course; and/or made a “significant unreimbursed donation” to the chapter (the only category where there actually was some discretion given in the decision-making), earned one point for each item.

With these explanations made, Capt Watts then announced the top five scorers in the 2007 Membership Participation awards:

For hosting two chapter events in his home and attending two others; for contributing two excellent articles to *The Sovereign Star* and printing the entire first issue in full color; for donating a fully operational, professional grade Hewlett Packard 2500C color printer—the printer which allows the chapter to print our full-color newsletters and brochures—to the club, free and clear; and creating and donating a two-and-a-half foot tall trophy for the winner of the Atlanta MurrFurs bowling challenge; with a year-end total of 11 Member Participation points, the fifth most active member of the USS *Republic* during 2007 was Ens Hal Doby.

For attending and/or participating in no less than eleven different chapter events and activities, and also for serving as a programming participant on the *TrekTrak* panel, “The Music of *Star Trek*,” with a year-end total of 12 Member Participation points, the fourth most active member of the USS *Republic* during 2007 was Ens David Churvis.

For attending and/or participating in no less than thirteen different chapter events and activities, and also for serving as Capt Watts' right-hand man for the duration of Dragon*Con as *TrekTrak's* Assistant Director, with a year-end total of 14 Member Participation points, the third most active member of the USS *Republic* during 2007 was Ens Mark Ozanick.

Capt Watts presented Ens Doby, Ens Churvis and Ens Ozanick each with a framed Certificate of Appreciation recognizing them for their outstanding membership participation, to the applause of the assembly.

For attending and/or participating in ten different chapter events and activities; for editing, producing and contributing to the very first issue of *The Sovereign Star*; for serving as the DJ for not one, but two, *TrekTrak* events (the "Rainbow Flag Party" on Saturday night at Dragon*Con and the "Happy Hour at Ten Forward" event on Sunday night); for completing one online STARFLEET Academy course; and, most notably, for acquiring the Internet domain name, USSRepublic.com, for the chapter, and paying for its first year of registration; with a year-end total of 16 Member Participation points, the second most active member of the USS *Republic* during 2007 was Ens Marq Collins.

Unfortunately, Ens Collins was not present to accept his Certificate of Appreciation. His award was appropriately recognized by the assembly in his absence.

Capt Watts then made the final presentation of the evening. For attending and/or participating in no less than an amazing twenty different chapter events and activities this year, including "away missions" to Columbus, Georgia, in March and Warner Robins, Georgia, in August; for working the *Republic's* fan table at Dragon*Con and the *Republic's* host table at the "Happy Hour at Ten Forward" event; and for bringing her joyous, bubbly, effervescent personality and charisma with her everywhere she goes; with a year-end total of 20 Member Participation points, the most active member of the USS *Republic* during 2007 and the winner of the USS *Republic's* Member of the Year award was Ens Zannetta Law.

Capt Watts presented Ens Law with an 8 x 10 award plaque, engraved with her name, the name of the award and the *Republic's* logo in full color on a satin finish plate, trimmed in "Republic red" and mounted on a green marbleized board, created and donated by Ens Hal Doby. The assembly applauded and congratulated Ens Law for her outstanding membership participation and for winning this prestigious award.

A mere moment after the presentation of Ens Law's Member of the Year award—as if on cue!—STARFLEET Region 2 Regional Coordinator Comm Jack Eaton called from Florida to wish Ens Law his personal congratulations on her award, to wish all members of the *Republic* congratulations on their outstanding year as a chapter, and to wish everyone at the party the merriest and happiest of holidays. During the phone call, Capt Watts held up a poster-sized photo of Comm Eaton that he just... *happened...* to have handy. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, wishes to thank Comm Eaton for calling and playing along in our little reindeer game.

After the awards ceremony, the party continued for another couple of hours and everyone

had a good time. Naomi Hemingway, who attended the party as the guest of Ens Reginald Franklin, joined the chapter online before the end of the evening. Many thanks go to Ens Mark A. Ozanick for his gracious hospitality and for being such a wonderful host.

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

Upcoming chapter events include a 20th Year Celebration planning committee meeting on Saturday, January 12; a *Star Trek* night with the Atlanta Outworlders on Friday, January 18; an "away mission" to Fernbank Planetarium on Sunday, January 27; and a number of other events which are currently in the planning stages.

At the end of November, the *Republic's* roster on the STARFLEET database included 52 total members, including 46 Active (or Pending) and six Inactive (Ens Eddie Atkins, Capt Matt Ebeling, Ens David Churvis, Ens Ian Letendre, Ens Christina Miller, Ens Theresa Parker). Three of the six Inactive members (Letendre, Miller, Parker) notified *Republic* command that they would not be reenlisting, and accordingly, were officially "unassigned" from the *Republic* in early December, reducing the chapter's database roster to 49 total members, including 46 Active (or Pending) and three Inactive. During the month of December, the USS *Republic* welcomed aboard three new members: Naomi Hemingway of Lithonia, Georgia; Terry Lee West of Atlanta, Georgia; and Page E. Lewis, also of Atlanta, both thanks to the recruitment efforts of Captain Watts. Members who reenlisted with STARFLEET during December include Ens David Churvis. No members' STARFLEET membership became due for renewal during December. At the end of December, the *Republic's* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 52 total members, including 50 Active (or Pending) and two Inactive (Ens Eddie Atkins, Capt Matt Ebeling).

During calendar year 2007, the USS *Republic* recruited 36 new members into STARFLEET International and, with 50 Active members as of December 31, held the distinction of being the second largest chapter of STARFLEET in the world (and the largest meeting chapter), behind only the USS *Blackheart* of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with 51 Active members.

Respectfully submitted,



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