



# CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

## USS *Republic* NCC-1371

### March 2008

The USS *Republic* NCC-1371 participated in four events during the month of March 2008: the STARFLEET Region 2 Summit, a 20th Year Celebration Planning Committee meeting, “*Star Trek* Night” with the Atlanta OutWorlders and a Movie & Taco Night Fundraiser.

On the morning of Friday, March 7, Ensign 3rd Class David Churvis, Ensign 3rd Class Zannetta Law and Commander Brian Holloway, who drove to Atlanta from Charlotte, North Carolina, that morning, arrived at the home of Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts to gather and carpool together to the 2008 STARFLEET Region 2 Summit in Montgomery, Alabama. Ensign Churvis had previously picked up and brought with him the new Region 2 sport shirts ordered by Region 2 Coordinator Commodore Jack Eaton from Ensign 3rd Class Hal Doby for transport to Montgomery. The intrepid crew of the *Republic* loaded up two cars for the weekend-long Summit and set their course for Montgomery, full speed ahead!

With Ensign Law in one car and the men in the other, the road trip itself was relatively uneventful except for some great conversation among the men about *Star Trek: Phase II* (formerly *Star Trek: New Voyages*), Capt Watts’ and Cmdr Holloway’s participation in the filming of “World Enough and Time” in 2006, Cmdr Holloway’s experience on the set of “Blood and Fire” last year and his expected involvement in the filming of the next episode in June, the publication of an interview with the Captain in the next issue of the *Phase II* eMagazine, and both Capt Watts’ and Cmdr Holloway’s plans to include members of the *Phase II* cast and crew in their respective programming tracks at this year’s Dragon\*Con. Additional conversation included a discussion of Capt Watts’ short tenure as Region 2 Quartermaster, his being offered the position of STARFLEET Director of Member Recruitment & Retention, anticipation of the next evening’s Region 2 Awards Banquet and which awards the Captain most hoped to bring home on behalf of the *Republic*.

Upon safe arrival at the Lexington Hotel in Montgomery, the crew checked into their rooms and registered for the Summit. Ens Churvis delivered the new Region 2 sport shirts to Vice Regional Coordinator FCapt Lucy Ferron, Capt Watts handed out complementary *Republic* 20th Year Celebration t-shirts and key chains to Commander STARFLEET Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard and eight other Regional Commanding Officers as a way of promoting the event to the whole Region (we would have liked to have given away more, but there were only nine such gift packs available). Later in the afternoon, following a month-long disagreement with RC Jack Eaton over specific recommendations for new Region 2 merchandise, Capt Watts tendered his written resignation as Region 2 Quartermaster to Comm Eaton, citing his inability to continue to serve in that position without Region 2 management’s support of his vision of rebranding the Region’s image with upscale, high-quality merchandise. Eaton asked Watts to reconsider but Watts declined, and Eaton accepted the resignation. The two parted on good terms and the matter was closed with a handshake.

At 6:00 p.m. (CST), an Admiral’s Dinner was held in honor of the Summit’s special guest, Commander, STARFLEET Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard, at the Super Buffet Chinese buffet restaurant located just a few miles away from the Lexington hotel. The dinner was well-attended by many, if not most, of the attendees registered for the Summit by that time, and indeed, it is known that quite a few FLEET members arrived early especially for this dining extravaganza. Members of the *Republic* were especially honored that Fleet Admiral Lizard, RC Eaton, Vice RC Ferron and STARFLEET Chief of Computer Operations Commodore Matthew D. Moyer of the USS *Liberator* joined them at their table, and appreciated the opportunity to speak to Regional and FLEET management about a number of membership-related con-

cerns in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. *Republic* command is especially appreciative that Comm Eaton wore his *Republic* 20th Year Celebration t-shirt to this high-profile, frequently photographed event.

Upon arriving back at the hotel following the Admiral's Dinner, Ens Churvis spent the evening completing a 19-question entry for the Summit's *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* Trivia Competition. Cmdr Holloway chose to stay in and relax for the evening, an option not taken by Capt Watts and the ever-irrepressible Ens Law. These two chose instead to explore the Montgomery night life and spent the next few hours visiting a couple of nearby establishments featuring dance music, refreshing libations, female impersonation and the hospitality of the local community. This "away mission" within an "away mission" was quite entertaining.

After a "complimentary" buffet breakfast, the Summit's Opening Ceremonies were held on Saturday morning. RC Eaton made a few opening remarks, followed by a few words of greeting from Admiral Lizard. A roll call of attending ships was held, followed by a number of Regional member promotions and the official commissioning of the USS *Atlanta* NCC-79434 under the command of a former *Republic* Commanding Officer, Admiral Michael Henigan. FCapt Nancy O'Shields, Commanding Officer of Summit host USS *New Hope*, dressed as a court jester, performed a few lines from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, in recognition of this year's Summit's tagline, "The Undiscovered Country." Just before these ceremonies got underway, a member of the *Republic* strategically placed the chapter's metal banner adjacent to the podium, maximizing the opportunity for the *Republic's* logo to appear in as many photographs, taken during the ceremonies, as possible.

Following Opening Ceremonies, Capt Watts and Cmdr Holloway met with Comm Moyer to straighten out some specific problems with database access and chapter information. Pursuant to a decision made in February by STARFLEET Chief of Operations Admiral Michael Urvand regarding the status of the *Republic's* original commissioning date, Comm Moyer was able to correct this information in the database (reinstating May 14, 1988, as the correct date), as well as correcting the problem with Cmdr Holloway's database access. Following those corrections, Capt Watts appointed Cmdr Holloway as the *Republic's* Executive Officer, an appointment which was immediately reflected in the database by Comm Moyer.

Meanwhile, Ensigns Churvis and Law had lunch with Vice RC FCapt Lucy Ferron and Susan, a member of the USS *Haise* crew from Jackson, Mississippi. Ens Churvis reports that during his conversation with Capt Ferron, he "realized what STARFLEET was all about." Following this lunch, Ens Churvis took the Officers Training School course and passed with distinction (e.g., a perfect score). He also turned in his trivia contest entry to Cmdr Jan Sleigh of the USS *New Hope*. Elsewhere, Comm Moyer, Comm Eaton, Fleet Admiral Lizard and surprisingly enough, even Capt Watts, among many others, participated in the LifeSouth blood drive. How Capt Watts managed to give blood shall remain off the record.

The big event of the weekend, of course, was the annual Region 2 Awards Banquet. The assembled members of the *Republic* shared a table with, among others, Vice Adm Richard L. Trulson, Commanding Officer of the USS *Wernher von Braun* of Huntsville, Alabama. Although there were some technical difficulties with lighting and sound amplification, everyone looked forward with great anticipation to the presentation of awards. The STARFLEET Marine Corps presented their awards first, followed by the presentation of the regular Regional awards. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, is very pleased to report that the USS *Republic* won the 2007 Recruiting Award, presented by Capt Sandy Dolan of the USS *Continuum*; the 2007 Best Printed Newsletter award, presented by Fleet Capt Ralph F. Planthold of the USS *Gasparilla*; and the 2007 Richard Daystrom Cyberspace Award for the Most Informative Web Site, presented by Commander STARFLEET, Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard. These awards were accepted on behalf of the *Republic* by Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts.

The *Republic* wishes to congratulate Fleet Capt Nancy O'Shields of the USS *New Hope* as the 2007 Commanding Officer of the Year and the USS *Haise* as the 2007 Chapter of the Year.

In a private presentation held after the Awards Banquet, RC Jack Eaton presented Capt Watts with the 2006 Recruiting Award, following the forfeiture of last year's award earlier this year by its original recipient, the ISS *MacArthur*.

Following the banquet, Capt Watts, Ensigns Churvis and Law, Comm Moyer and Vice Adm Trulson

formed another away team to explore the cultural night life in Montgomery. After a bit of an adventure navigating the unfamiliar territory and losing Trulson along the way, the remaining Fleeters landed at a karaoke bar inside a bowling alley. Libations were enjoyed by all and Capt Watts stepped up to the microphone twice to entertain the crowd to a couple of his karaoke standards. Cultural exchange mission accomplished, the mixed crew eventually returned to the Lexington Hotel.

On Sunday morning, during breakfast, Capt Watts had the opportunity to discuss with RC Jack Eaton and Fleet Admiral Sal Lizard a STARFLEET promotion he had been offered in February by STARFLEET Chief of Operations Admiral Michael Urvand. In recognition of the *Republic's* extraordinarily successful member recruitment campaign created and executed over the last 21 months by Capt Watts, Adm Urvand offered Watts the position of STARFLEET Director of Member Recruitment & Retention. Prior to Summit, Watts had discussed the offer with several key members of the *Republic* crew, members he considered to be his closest friends and advisors, for their advice and guidance. The key issue was that Capt Watts was very much interested in the position and believed he could bring to it his considerable experience in creating and launching successful grassroots, low-budget marketing campaigns, experience that he believed made him uniquely qualified for the position and would be especially useful to STARFLEET. But he also had to take into consideration his already overburdened workload, which includes serving as CO of the *Republic* (and its newsletter editor, and webmaster, and quartermaster), plus the very large responsibility of running *TrekTrak* for Dragon\*Con every year, as well as being a singing member of a local community chorus with weekly rehearsals and serving on two of its standing committees, and of course, his regular 50-hour/week day job. Fleet Adm Lizard agreed that Capt Watts was an excellent candidate for the position and stated that it would likely lead to further advancement in the STARFLEET organization, while Comm Eaton suggested that the job would only be as burdensome as Watts chose to make it for himself. Eaton also mentioned that the current STARFLEET Quartermaster, Vice Admiral Pete Mohney of the USS *Hephaestus* of Birmingham, who was the last person to hold the position, was at that very moment in the Summit Dealers Room, and that Watts might consider speaking to him about the position. Capt Watts thanked Fleet Adm Lizard and Comm Eaton for their feedback and did, in fact, find and speak to Vice Adm Mohney about the position. Mohney stated that as Director of Recruitment, he had overseen the most recent revision of the STARFLEET Recruitment Guide and regularly pointed new members of STARFLEET unassigned to any particular chapter to their nearest chapter.

After careful consideration of what the position would entail, require and offer back by way of reward; what he could bring to the position; and the impact accepting the position would have had on his service to the *Republic*, to Dragon\*Con and his various other current responsibilities, Capt Watts, with profound regret, declined the position in an email to Adm Urvand after the Summit, citing that as Commanding Officer of the *Republic*, his first duty was to his crew.

An "Ask the Brass" panel was held at 11:00 a.m. CST with Fleet Adm Lizard, Comm Eaton and Comm Moyer as panelists. The majority of the panel dealt with Fleet Adm Lizard's recent election as Commander, STARFLEET, and of the many improvements he had hoped to bring to the STARFLEET organization. At 12:00 noon, Closing Ceremonies were held, with Fleet Adm Lizard, RC Comm Eaton, Vice RC FCapt Ferron, Summit Chairman Capt Sandy Dolan and Summit Host Fleet Capt Nancy O'Shields presiding. After the obligatory round of congratulatory speeches and mutual back-patting for an ostensibly successful Summit, a number of presentations were made, including a check for \$500 to the Summit's designated charity, the Brantwood Children's Home, presented by Comm Eaton; an Officers Training School diploma for Ens David Churvis, presented by STARFLEET OTS Director General Jill J. Rayburn; a plaque and Klingon beer stein to Ens David Churvis for taking first place in the Region 2 Summit Trivia Competition, presented by Cmdr Jan Sleight; and most surprisingly, a Certificate of Appreciation to Capt Eric L. Watts for donating blood in the LifeSouth blood drive, presented by Lt Col Anne Zecca of the USS *Tiberius*. As Spock might say: "Fascinating."

After Closing Ceremonies, most all STARFLEET members who were still in the hotel assembled for a group portrait in the hotel atrium. After all the cameras were finally put away, the 2008 Region 2 Summit had finally come to an end and the intrepid crew of the USS *Republic* made their way home on Sunday afternoon in possession of four Regional awards, proving that the chapter has achieved a most

remarkable comeback in the last two years. Ensign 3rd Class David Churvis, Ensign 3rd Class Zannetta Law, Commander Brian Holloway and Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts were all extremely pleased to represent the *Republic* at this distinguished event.

The USS *Republic* held a 20th Year Celebration Planning Committee meeting on Saturday, March 15, at John Boy's Home Cooking restaurant in Snellville. In attendance were Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts, ENS3 David Churvis, ENS3 Hal Doby and ENS3 Mark A. Ozanick. After a surprisingly good meal, business topics discussed include the previous weekend's Region 2 Summit, the following weekend's Movie & Taco Night fundraiser event, the status of the chapter newsletter, and a review of the current state of plans for our 20th Year Celebration in June. Regarding Taco Night, discussion included who would provide what items and in what quantity; promoting the event to members, friends and other local fan groups; and other possible fundraising strategies, including a possible 50/50 raffle and the *Republic's* 2008 calendar, which Capt Watts had started working on and intended to have available at the event. Regarding the chapter newsletter, Capt Watts once again defended his commitment to keeping *The Sovereign Star* a paper-only newsletter and his insistence that its production costs were in line with the current membership dues structure and did not exceed the chapter's ability to pay. Regarding the 20th Year Celebration, it was reiterated that as Commanding Officer of the *Republic*, Capt Watts must approve all decisions regarding the chapter's plans for the Celebration and was the only person authorized to negotiate and make contractual agreements with Sci-Fi Summer Con management. With these premises established, the Committee revisited its plans for the Friday Night STARFLEET Reception and agreed to budget for it based on the number of "party packs" sold in advance, rather than overbuying food and refreshments for an unrealistic number of expected attendees and hoping that many would attend. The meeting adjourned with everyone in agreement on how to more realistically proceed with plans.

On Friday, March 21, members of the USS *Republic* were invited to join our friends, the Atlanta OutWorlders (AOW), for their monthly event: "*Star Trek* Night," an informal and relaxed social occasion where members will watch two or three episodes of a *Star Trek* series and then enjoy some casual conversation about them. Each month features a specific theme; this month's theme was "Troublesome Tribbles." The episodes shown include "Mirror, Mirror" from the original series and "Crossover" and "Through the Looking Glass" from *Deep Space Nine*. The event was hosted by AOW member Alan Siler in his home in Doraville; *Republic* members in attendance included Commanding Officer Capt Eric L. Watts and Ens David Churvis. Because Frolicon, an adult-oriented science fiction convention in downtown Atlanta, was being held the same weekend, attendance of this month's "*Star Trek* Night" was noticeably lower than previous months, with less than ten people there. However, the smaller number of people did not diminish the enjoyment of the evening, and Commanding Officer, *Republic*, wishes to thank the Atlanta OutWorlders for inviting us to participate in their *Star Trek* Night and looks forward to future events.

On Saturday, March 22, Ensign 3rd Class Hal Doby hosted the *Republic's* first Taco & Movie Night fundraiser event at his home in Conyers. Also in attendance were ENS3 David Churvis, Ens Reginald Franklin, Capt Eric L. Watts and Friends of the *Republic* Mike Antol, Chris Hensley, David McDonald and Warren Rutledge. While attendance was lighter than hoped for, the event went very well, with several new friends in the mix. The Movie Night started with a surprise movie, *Beerfest*, in Ens Doby's incredible home theater. After that movie, everyone attacked the spectacular Taco & Nacho buffet table, with freshly cooked ground beef, hot cheddar cheese and freshly chopped lettuce, tomatoes, onions and other toppings. Capt Watts arrived somewhat late, but with the fruits of his labor in hand: the *Republic's* brand new 2008 commemorative calendar. This full-sized, 10.75" x 17" calendar, printed on 90# index card stock and suitable for any wall, features full-color photos of twelve different chapter events held during the previous year and a half, the birthdays of all our members, all federal holidays and other notable occasions. Comb-bound and predrilled for easy hanging, the *Republic* is asking a mere five dollars for each calendar—a great value for this one-of-kind keepsake destined to be a collector's item.

As everyone munched on freshly made, delicious tacos, members talked about future *Republic*

events, including our second annual Pool Party and BBQ in July, as well as things related to *Star Trek* and other sci-fi genre topics, before venturing back into the home theater for more movies. First was the new “Final Cut” of the legendary movie *Blade Runner*, presented in high-definition on Blu-Ray Disc, followed by Luc Besson’s *The Fifth Element*, once again on Blu-Ray. Everyone in attendance had a great time and Commanding Officer, *Republic*, wishes to thank Ensign Doby once again for his warm and gracious hospitality.

Photos from the STARFLEET Region 2 Summit and our Movie & Taco Night Fundraiser can be viewed on the [Republic’s web site](#).

In accordance with the *Republic’s* membership promotion policy, Ensign Marjan Peltier was promoted to Ensign 3rd Class on March 14, 2008. This Time In Service (TIS) promotion was given for successfully completing her first year of service aboard the *Republic* and renewing her membership dues in both STARFLEET International and the *Republic*. Also in accordance with the *Republic’s* membership promotion policy, Ensign 3rd Class David Churvis was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade (Lt. JG) upon his successful completion of Officers Training School and Officers Command College on March 23, 2008.

Upcoming chapter events include an “away mission” to the USS *Robins’* Welcome Home Party in Warner Robins on Saturday, April 12; “Mystery *Star Trek* Theater” at Lt. JG David Churvis’ home in Norcross on Friday, April 18; an “away mission” to the USS *Hephaestus’* Spring Cookout in Birmingham, Alabama, on Saturday, April 19; *Star Trek* Night with the Atlanta OutWorlders on Friday, April 25; and our Spring Dinner & Business Meeting on Sunday, April 27, in Norcross. Additional upcoming events include TimeGate ’08 on May 23-26 and of course, Sci-Fi Summer Con on June 6-8.

At the end of February, the *Republic’s* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 48 Active members and four Inactive (Ens Sean Anderson, Ens Eric Koske, Ens Sheryl Parsons, Ens Stephanie Wallace), for a total of 52 members. During the month of March, Ens Joel Michaels and Ens Millicent Michaels’ memberships became due for renewal. Ensigns Anderson, Wallace and both Michaels indicated their intent to not renew their memberships and have been unassigned from the *Republic* in the STARFLEET database, reducing the total roster to 48 members. Ensigns Koske and Parsons indicated their intent to reenlist but as of the end of March, have not yet done so. During the month of March, four members of the USS *Atlanta* transferred their memberships through STARFLEET to the *Republic*: Tamara and Jeff Pakulski of Peachtree City, Georgia, and their young daughters, Alexandra and Anna, increasing the *Republic’s* total roster to 52 members. However, of these four, only Tamara has officially joined the *Republic* by paying chapter dues and has been assigned the rank of Ensign; *Republic* command hopes Jeff, Alexandra and Anna will also become full members soon. At the end of March, the *Republic’s* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 50 Active members (47 plus Jeff, Alexandra and Anna Pakulski) and two Inactive (Koske, Parsons) for a total of 52 members.

Respectfully submitted,



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