



CHAPTER ACTIVITY REPORT

USS *Republic* NCC-1371

June 2008

The USS *Republic* NCC-1371 participated in two events during the month of June 2008: the *Republic's* 20th Year Celebration at Sci-Fi Summer Con and “*Star Trek* Night” with the Atlanta Out-Worlders.

After a year of planning, preparation and promotion, the USS *Republic* presented its 20th Year Celebration at Sci-Fi Summer Con at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Marietta, Georgia. The three-day event included a Friday night reception, a Saturday night dance party, two photography studio sessions and fifteen additional hours of programming in a hotel meeting room secured by the *Republic* for the purpose of this celebration.

Much of the general planning and programming development for this event began more than a year earlier, when Capt Eric L. Watts (Dragon*Con's longtime Director of *Star Trek* Programming, a.k.a. *TrekTrak*) and Ens Chris Jones (a.k.a. chairman of Sci-Fi Summer Con and Deputy Quadrant Commander of KAG Atlanta) pooled their considerable science fiction convention organizational and management experience and worked together on a bid for Region 2's 2008 Summit, an annual three-day event hosted by and for the chapters of Region 2 each spring which includes the Region's annual and all-important Awards Banquet. Despite what Capt Watts and Ens Jones believed to be a solid and unbeatable bid package which included a wide variety of interesting, educational and entertaining programming, the 2008 Summit was awarded to the only other bidding chapter: the USS *New Hope* of Montgomery, Alabama. When asked what the deciding factor(s) were in making this decision, Regional Coordinator Jack Eaton responded that the *New Hope* secured a less expensive hotel room rate.

The difference between the *New Hope's* and the *Republic's* negotiated hotel room rate for their respective bids was only \$12 per night—an amount that Capt Watts and Ens Jones believe is negligible in consideration of the depth, breadth and scope of the programming offered in the *Republic's* bid package. Capt Watts and Ens Jones regret that the arguably superior Summit experience was sacrificed for just a few dollars. Nevertheless, in spite of their disappointment and with the *Republic's* twentieth anniversary coming up in June 2008, Capt Watts and Ens Jones decided to take the foundation of their rejected Summit bid package and retool it as a three-day anniversary celebration to be hosted by Sci-Fi Summer Con. After several months of planning committee meetings and a few promotional trips around the Region, the *Republic* finally kicked off its long-awaited 20th Year Celebration on the weekend of June 6-8. The weekend also served as the debut of our brand new, full-color, parade-sized chapter banners, featuring the *Republic's* current logo and a rendering of a *Sovereign*-class USS *Republic* starship against a colorful spacecape, made possible by a generous financial donation by ENS3 Zannetta Law and manufactured by Friend of the *Republic* Tom Long (who created the original rendering) of

Wizard Signs in Macon, Georgia.

Between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday nights, using his own professional photography equipment, ENS3 Hal Doby presented “STARFLEET Studio,” where attending members could have a professional photographic portrait made in their finest STARFLEET uniform and receive a full-color 8 x 10 print on high-quality photo paper, plus a web-ready digital copy on CD, absolutely free. Additional packages were made available at reasonable rates. This event was very popular with folks in costumes from several different science fiction franchises. All of the photographic paper, ink, CDs and other supplies used were donated by Ens Doby.

From 8:00 to 11:00 p.m., the *Republic* presented a “STARFLEET Reception.” All *Star Trek* fans were invited to attend this special reception, hosted on behalf of STARFLEET International and Region 2, in their finest *Star Trek* costume (encouraged, not required) and enjoy some delicious hot *hors d'œuvres* and refreshing beverages and mingle with members of the *Republic* and other regional STARFLEET chapters. Serving as hostesses for this event were Ens Sue Lin Lange, ENS3 Zannetta Law and Ens Naomi Hemingway. Several members of the *Republic* brought a wide selection of hot and cold dishes for this event, including Ens Hemingway’s popular hot wings in three different varieties. Midway through the evening, Capt Watts presented a large 20th Year Celebration sheet cake, colorfully decorated with the *Republic*’s original blue-white-and-yellow Delta shield/starburst logo and the current yellow-black-and-red Delta shield/capital “R” logo. A commemorative group photo was taken with the anniversary cake with as many current and former members as we could find at that moment, although we regret that we were unable to locate a few members we knew to be somewhere in the general vicinity. This event was well-attended and many convention attendees stopped by to enjoy the food (which was considerably more substantial than what was being offered in the con suite at the time) and offer their congratulations to the *Republic*.

At 10:00 on Saturday morning, Lt JG David Churvis and Friend of the *Republic* Alan Siler presented “The Music of *Star Trek*.” Panel description: “Alexander Courage. Jerry Goldsmith. James Horner. Dennis McCarthy. Leonard Rosenman. Russell Watson? From the iconic opening riff to the unmistakable Klingon fanfare, we explore and celebrate the orchestral contributions of these legendary composers to the *Star Trek* franchise.”

At 11:00 on Saturday morning, Cmdr Brian Holloway and Ens Lee Cox presented a “*Star Trek* Costuming Workshop.” Panel description: “You’ve got a *Star Trek* costume, but it just doesn’t look quite right. Why not? The devil is in the details. Our costuming experts will examine your costume, discuss the design, tailoring and ornamental details with you, and offer suggestions on how to improve it to make it the top-notch uniform you know you really want.”

At 12:00 on Saturday afternoon, Friends of the *Republic* Josheua Samuelson and Rosalind Wills presented “*Star Trek* Simulations and *Star Trek: Andromeda*.” Panel description: “Dream of living in the *Star Trek* universe? Here is your chance. Find out how *Star Trek* simulations work and then become part of the journey—write the next chapter in *Star Trek*. Learn about *Star Trek: Andromeda*, a simulation which offers players the unique opportunity to create worlds, write the history of civilizations and place a character (or two) in the heart of a galaxy full of adventures.”

At 1:00 on Saturday afternoon, Capt Eric L. Watts, Lt JG David Churvis and Friend of the *Republic* Todd Dissinger presented “*Star Trek XI*.” Panel description: “The eleventh *Star Trek* feature film will star both Leonard Nimoy and Zachary Quinto as Spock, with no sign of The Shat in sight. But... another prequel? If going backwards didn’t work for *Enterprise*, how can we expect it to work for this movie? Is J. J. Abrams the new Harve Bennett... or another Rick Berman?”

At 2:00 on Saturday afternoon, Lt JG David Churvis and Friend of the *Republic* Matt Duncan presented “Star Treknology.” Panel description: “A discussion, review and critique of some of the modern, real-world technologies and products whose invention and creation were inspired by the fictional technology depicted in the *Star Trek* franchise.”

At 3:00 on Saturday afternoon, Adm Mike Henigan and Comm Jeff Kirkland presented “STARFLEET International.” Panel description: “With more than 3,600 members belonging to 223 local chapters worldwide, the International *Star Trek* Fan Association is the largest *Star Trek* fan club in the world. Come meet some of our regional officers, ask questions, find out how to locate your local chapter and discover why you should join!”

At 4:00 on Saturday afternoon, Ens Chris Jones and Friend of the *Republic* Tony Roberts presented “Klingons and the Klingon Assault Group.” Panel description: “It seems that most *Star Trek* fans migrate towards either Federation fandom or Klingon fandom. The Klingon Assault Group has a strong presence in the Atlanta area. Who they are, what they are, why they exist.”

At 5:00 on Saturday afternoon, Comm Jeff Kirkland, Adm Mike Henigan, Capt Eric L. Watts and Friend of the *Republic* Dawn Benton presented “20 Years: A *Republic* Retrospective.” Panel description: “Commissioned in May 1988, the USS *Republic* is one of the oldest, and is now one of the largest, chapters in STARFLEET. It has a long and distinguished history, has been commanded by a slate of dedicated Captains, gone through a couple of name changes, and recently made an amazing comeback. Commanding officers past and present gather to present a retrospective of the *Republic’s* esteemed history.”

At 6:00 on Saturday evening, Atlanta resident and *Star Trek: Enterprise* episode “Horizon” guest star Ken Feinberg hosted “*Star Trek Family Feud*,” based on the TV game show of the same name, pitting members and friends of the *Republic* against members of KAG Atlanta. Playing for the *Republic* were Ens John Godwin, Ens Chadd Franklin and Cmdr Brian Holloway. Playing for KAG Atlanta were Kevin Parker and others. Capt Watts assisted Ken by handling the sign board. After a raucous game that included some truly bizarre answers to the survey questions (which often called the intelligence of those who took the survey into question), the KAG team won the game by a close margin. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, would like to extend a special thank-you to Ken Feinberg, who attended the convention with his family and graciously hosted this event at Capt Watts’ invitation.

At 9:00 on Saturday evening, following Ens Doby’s “STARFLEET Studio,” the *Republic* hosted a “*Star Trek* Dance Party,” featuring hot disco and dance music. Lt JG David Churvis provided the music, amp system and room lighting, and served as DJ for the first two hours. Friend of the *Republic* Bruce Berryhill provided a fractal light show. ENS3 Mark A. Ozanick took over as DJ mid-evening and worked the music until the end of the party around 2:00 a.m. Due to other events taking place around the hotel at the same time, this party got off to slow start, but

between the approximate hours of 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., it was *the* place to be and the room was filled to capacity with all sorts of costumed creatures dancing well past midnight. Special mention must be made of the incredibly enthusiastic crowd response to “Doctorin’ the TARDIS” by The Timelords, a 1988 dance remix including classic *Doctor Who* theme music, Gary Glitter’s “Rock and Roll (Part Two)” and sections from “Blockbuster!” by Sweet and “Let’s Get Together Tonite” by Steve Walsh. This dance party turned out to be one of the most popular and well-attended events of the entire convention, not just of the *Republic’s* anniversary celebration. A number of surreptitious videos recorded during the party have found their way to YouTube.

At 10:00 on Sunday morning, Capt Eric L. Watts, Lt JG David Churvis and Friend of the *Republic* Dawn Benton presented “Loading the Canon: What Is ‘Real’ *Star Trek*?” Panel description: “Five live-action TV series, one cartoon, ten movies, hundreds of licensed novels, dozens of licensed comic books and a handful of live-action Internet series have presented *Star Trek* adventures... but how much of it is ‘canon’? What exactly *is* ‘canon’?”

At 11:00 on Sunday morning, Friends of the *Republic* Denise Adelman, Richard Burke, Kevin Parker and Angela Tebbe presented “*Star Trek* vs. *Stargate*.” Panel description: “Is *Stargate* the new *Star Trek*? Which franchise is better sci-fi? Which is better television? Which is more important? Ten years from now, will anybody remember *Stargate*? Will anybody still care about *Star Trek*?”

At 12:00 on Sunday afternoon, Ens Chadd Franklin and Friend of the *Republic* James Lynn presented “*Star Trek* Video Games.” Panel description: “How many *Star Trek* video games have been made? What is the future of *Star Trek* video games? Which ones are the best and the most fun to play? We’ll discuss these topics and then experience the challenges and the excitement of games such as *Star Trek Conquest* for Nintendo Wii and *Star Trek Invasion* for PS1. Come and play!”

At 1:00 on Sunday afternoon, the *Republic* presented a roundtable discussion of “*Star Trek* vs. *Battlestar Galactica*.” Panel description: “The new *Battlestar Galactica* is enjoying critical acclaim and viewer ratings like *Star Trek* hasn’t seen in... well, a generation. What is *BSG* doing that is so right? What should CBS/Paramount be learning from *BSG’s* phenomenal success? Will J. J. Abrams’ new movie help *Star Trek* reclaim its rightful place in the hearts of science fiction fans?”

At 2:00 on Sunday afternoon, the *Republic* presented a screening of the *Star Trek: New Voyages* episode “World Enough and Time,” starring George Takei as Sulu. During an emergency transport, Lt. Sulu returns 30 years older than when he left and—with his daughter. Capt Watts served as a production assistant on this episode, which also includes a scene with the *Republic’s* very own Executive Officer, Cmdr Brian Holloway. Following the screening (around 3:00), Capt Watts and Cmdr Holloway, both of whom spent a week on the *New Voyages* set during the filming of this episode, presented “Behind the Scenes of ‘World Enough and Time,’” showing hundreds of behind-the-scenes photos, sharing their tales of on-set shenanigans and reporting on the current status of the series, including the filming of the two-part episode “Blood and Fire” and the name change to *Star Trek: Phase II*.

In addition to this full slate of programming, the *Republic* also maintained a fan table throughout the weekend where we sold t-shirts, calendars and memberships, signing up four

new members.

The success of this event cannot be overstated. In addition to meeting its goal of celebrating the *Republic's* twentieth anniversary by presenting an interesting, educational and entertaining track of programming, Sci-Fi Summer Con chairman (and *Republic* member) Ens Chris Jones credits the *Republic* with increasing convention attendance by a significant percentage by bringing in almost three dozen new memberships, as well as hosting the convention's most popular event, the Saturday night "*Star Trek* Dance Party"—a type of event that, oddly enough, had never been held at Sci-Fi Summer Con before. More importantly, upon the successful conclusion of this event, the *Republic* has clearly emerged as the biggest, most visible and most influential *Star Trek* fan club not only in the metro Atlanta area, but in the entire state of Georgia and, quite likely, in the southeast. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, wishes to thank everyone who assisted in the planning and presentation of this celebration, as well as everyone who attended. Our only regret is that our twentieth anniversary celebration did not seem to attract any more support, attendance or participation from other Region 2 chapters than it did—something that *Republic* command will certainly keep in mind as other regional chapters plan and promote their own events in the future.

On Friday, June 27, 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 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 "Reappearances I." The event was hosted by AOW member Alan Siler in his home in Doraville. It is not known by this reporter how many *Republic* members were in attendance this month; however, we wish to thank the Atlanta OutWorlders for inviting us to participate in their "*Star Trek* Night" event and look forward to future events.

Capt Eric L. Watts and Cmdr John R. Sims began working together in April to launch a shuttle in Cmdr Sims' hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. With Capt Watts' assistance and support, Cmdr Sims recruited the required number of potential crewmembers to launch a new shuttle in May and the shuttle received its official STARFLEET name and registry in June as the USS *Exeter* NCC-1706. Members of the *Republic* recently recruited by Cmdr Sims to be assigned to the *Exeter* upon its launch include Ens Hyo Soon Yoo, Ens Jordan Cain, Ens Julie Cain, Ens Ryan McDowell and Ens Chris Hamm, all of Jacksonville. Commanding Officer, *Republic*, is pleased to report that the *Exeter* held its first organizational meeting on Sunday, June 22, at Cmdr Sims' home. His first meeting report and photos from the occasion will be published in the July issue of *The Republic*. Capt Watts wishes to congratulate Cmdr Sims on the successful launch of the USS *Exeter*.

Photos from the *Republic's* 20th Year Celebration at Sci-Fi Summer Con and the USS *Exeter's* first organizational meeting can be viewed on the [Republic's web site](#).

On Wednesday, June 25, Capt Eric L. Watts emailed the third issue of the *Republic's*

monthly eZine, *The Republic*, to more than 200 email addresses, including members and friends of the *Republic*, as well as all known Region 2 Commanding Officers and several key STARFLEET personnel. The purpose of *The Republic* is to keep our members and friends up-to-date on our upcoming events and activities, as well as to announce new members, member birthdays, upcoming membership renewals and occasional special offers. The June issue included information about the *Republic's* invitation to "Star Trek Night" with the Atlanta OutWorlders, our upcoming "away mission" to *The Dark Knight*, and our annual Summer Pool Party. Additional information was included about Capt Watts' and Ens Michael Shipley's upcoming concert appearance in *They Had It Coming! The Music of Kander & Ebb*; the publication and availability of the sixth issue of the *Republic's* award-winning chapter magazine, *The Sovereign Star*; and a "help wanted" ad for a Communications Officer; as well as information about chapter merchandise (20th Year Celebration t-shirts and 2008 *Republic* calendars), recent chapter event photos, a wish list, relevant hyperlinks, a brief chapter overview and a brand new "flashback" feature, debuting this month: "Twenty Years Ago Aboard the USS *Republic*," reprinting chapter activity reports from archived newsletters.

Upcoming events include "Star Trek Night" with the Atlanta OutWorlders on Friday, June 27; our upcoming "away mission" to *The Dark Knight* on Saturday, July 19; and our annual Summer Pool Party on Saturday, July 26.

At the end of May, *Republic's* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 54 Active members (51 plus Jeff, Alexandra and Anna Pakulski) and eight Inactive members (Ens Katherine Akin, Ens David Cambouris, Ens William H. Dover, Ens Eric Koske, Ens James Newton, Ens Richard Otero, Ens Adam Rocca, Ens Keavin Wainwright) for a total of 62 crew members. During the month of June, *Republic* welcomed aboard four new members: Todd Dissinger of Jacksonville, Alabama, and John Godwin, Marilyn Teague and Chris White, all of Atlanta, all of whom joined at Sci-Fi Summer Con. Also during the month of June, Active members whose dues came up for renewal include Ens Andrea Benton, Ens Lee Cox and Cmdr Dave Slaughter. Members who reenlisted during June include Cmdr Slaughter and Ens Chadd Franklin. At the end of June, *Republic's* crew roster on the STARFLEET database included 56 Active members (53 plus Jeff, Alexandra and Anna Pakulski) and ten Inactive members (Akin, Benton, Cambouris, Cox, Dover, Koske, Newton, Otero, Rocca, Wainwright) for a total of 66 crew members.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric!".

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