

Phoenix Rising



June 2016

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MSR REPORT

CHAPTER:	USS Dark Phoenix
REPORT FOR:	May, 2016
SUBMITTED:	06/05/2016
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CHAPTER TYPE:	MEETING
REGISTRATION:	NCC 74920
CLASS:	Prometheus
CO:	RADM Ralph Planthold
XO:	ADM Sunnie Planthold
NEWSLETTER:	Phoenix Rising
PUBLICATION DT:	05/26/2016

FLEET MEMBERS

SCC	EXPIRE DT	RANK	NAME
44342	04/13/2017	ADM	Sunnie Planthold
46072	06/23/2016	COL	Patrick Malone
49691	04/13/2017	RADM	Ralph Planthold
55881	06/23/2016	CRMN	Michael Malone
61751	06/09/2016	PO3	Teague Banister
61754	06/09/2016	CDT	Ethan Banister
64850	06/09/2016	CDT	Emma Banister
70180	09/19/2016	ENS	Karessa Kow
71621	03/03/2017	LTJG	Jeremy Schroeder
73140	01/26/2017	LCDR	John Bevan
73223	02/22/2017	CRMN	David Morton
73240	02/27/2017	LTJG	Carolyn Kaberline
73257	03/04/2017	CRMN	Ruth Lichtwardt
73696	06/14/2016	ENSJG	El Johnston
73697	06/14/2016	ENSJG	Jean Martin
73875	08/02/2016	PO2	Travis Jackson
73876	08/02/2016	CRMN	Jamie Jackson
73877	08/02/2016	CDT	Gabriel Jackson
73878	08/02/2016	CDT	Larissa Jackson
73879	08/02/2016	CRMN	Venita Jackson
73886	08/02/2016	LTJG	KLar Batt
73954	08/20/2016	LT	Brent Barbee Mr
74062	09/19/2016	ENS	Josh Levering
74085	09/27/2016	LTJG	Rezty Felty
74086	09/27/2016	LTJG	Laura Felty
74087	09/27/2016	CDT	Tesla Felty
74088	09/27/2016	CDT	Sagan Felty
74089	09/27/2016	CDT3C	Dyson Felty
74246	11/13/2016	CRMN	Nicole E Blackburn
74365	12/23/2016	CRMN	Jim Robinson
74366	12/23/2016	CRMN	Mary Robinson
74487	08/02/2016	CDT	Hannah Batt
74503	02/03/2017	ENS	Reuben Juarez
74504	02/03/2017	ENS	Selena Juarez
74509	02/05/2017	CRMN	Carol Jean Walker
74601	02/23/2017	ENS	Fahad Far
74613	03/01/2017	CRMN	Brian Cervantez
74659	03/12/2017	ENS	Martin Peterson
74775	04/18/2017	CRMN	Lisa Brown
74796	04/24/2017	CRMN	Tim Burns
74802	04/29/2017	CRMN	Sara Fisher
74803	04/29/2017	CRMN	William Fisher
74804	04/29/2017	CRMN	Troy Fisher
74805	04/29/2017	CDT	Lacy Fisher
74821	01/26/2018	CRMN	Natasha Maklakova
74822	01/26/2018	CRMN	Charles Hays
74823	01/26/2018	CRMN	Judith Bevan

74824	01/26/2018	CRMN	JoAnn Hays
74825	01/26/2018	CRMN	E Dean Bevan
74856	05/13/2017	CRMN	Robert R Planthold
74869	05/13/2017	CRMN	David Planthold
74870	05/13/2017	CRMN	Josie Thompson
74871	05/13/2017	CDT	Kira Thompson
74872	05/13/2017	CDT	Lea Thompson
74873	05/13/2017	CDT	Corbin Thompson
74874	05/13/2017	CDT	Flynn Planthold
74910	05/21/2017	CRMN	Shelby Peek

ACADEMY :

Laura Felty

IOFHS - College of Zoms and Mums

ZOM 202 - The Walking Dead
Characters 1

HONORS 05/29/2016

ZOM 203 - The Walking Dead
Characters 2

DISTINCTION 05/29/2016

Martin Peterson

IOLS - Officer's Command College
(IOLS:OCC)

OCC

HONORS 05/31/2016

OTHER INFO

MEETING DATE : 05/28/2016.

PROMOTIONS :

SCC:	NAME	NEW RANK	EFFECT DT
74821	Natasha Maklakova	CRMN	05/02/2016
74822	Charles Hays	CRMN	05/02/2016
74823	Judith Bevan	CRMN	05/02/2016
74824	JoAnn Hays	CRMN	05/02/2016
74825	E Bevan	CRMN	05/02/2016
74856	Robert Planthold	CRMN	05/13/2016
74869	David Planthold	CRMN	05/13/2016
74870	Josie Thompson	CRMN	05/13/2016
74871	Kira Thompson	CDT	05/13/2016
74872	Lea Thompson	CDT	05/13/2016
74873	Corbin Thompson	CDT	05/13/2016
74874	Flynn Planthold	CDT	05/13/2016
74910	Shelby Peek	CRMN	05/21/2016

ACTIVITIES :

- 05/05 Command Staff met for dinner at Montana Mike's in Lawrence.
- 05/13 Game Night cancelled due to SO (as host) being ill and trying to recuperate for other upcoming ship events.
- 05/14 CO, XO, SO, and Crewman Ruth Lichtwardt attended "Second Saturday Conversation" at the Linda Hall Library. The guest speakers were two Kansas City-area Star Trek novelists named Dayton Ward and Kevin Dilmore. The topic was "Of Tribbles and Technology"
- 05/15 Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Rezty Felty, Chief of Security, led the Away Mission to the Target Time firing range in cooperation with the officers and crew of the USS Valiant. Dark Phoenix members who attended were Lieutenants (Junior Grade) Laura Felty and Rezty Felty.
- 05/16 SO/SOU Team Leader met with SOU Team Member Lieutenant (Junior

- Grade) Jeremy Schroeder over dinner.
- 05/25 SO assumed role as medical shuttle pilot for MSG 269 DOIC Colonel Patrick Malone. Assisted in transport to hospital for tests and in preparation for upcoming medical procedures.
- 05/27 SO hosted Game Night at his home. Members who attended in addition to the Command Staff were Lieutenants (Junior Grade) Laura Felty and Rezty Felty, Cadet Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Dyson Felty, and Cadets Sagan Felty and Tesla Felty. As this was Tesla's first event after her medical procedure of last month, her presence was celebrated with synthehol (aka sparkling grape juice and/or sparkling cranberry juice) served in neon-colored champagne flutes.
- 05/28 Command Staff and Crew Members met in Lawrence to pose for group photos to accompany the Lawrence Magazine article written for its Fall issue by Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Carolyn Kaberline.
- 05/28 Monthly ship meeting at McAlister's Deli in Lawrence. At this meeting, we discussed future plans for the Kansas Sector Picnic (hosted by the ISS Katana) on June 25th, which will also serve as the June ship meeting; the ship's annual picnic; our next P⁴ (Pizza, Pop, Phlicks, and People) event; and the annual Away Mission to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. Further, we discussed the needs of MSG 269 DOIC Colonel Patrick Malone and, through the generosity of our members, collected \$200 to assist in resolving his financial crisis.



L-R: LTjg K. Batt; CDT H. Batt; XO; CO; SO; LTjg Kaberline; CRMN Walker; Guest; LTjg L. Felty; LTjg R. Felty; CDT3C D. Felty; LTjg Melton; CRMN Burns.



L-R: CDT T. Felty; LTjg L. Felty; LTjg R. Felty; CDT S. Felty; CDT3C D. Felty; LTjg Melton; CRMN Burns; LTjg K. Batt; CDT H. Batt; XO; CO; SO; LTjg Kaberline; CRMN Walker; Guest.



LTJg Melton receives her amended promotion certificates from CO as SO looks on.



CRMN Walker receives her promotion certificate from CO as SO looks on.



CRMN Burns receives his promotion certificate from CO as SO looks on.

- 05/29 Command Staff met with Ensign Reuben Juarez and Crewman Nikki Blackburn to discuss status of the USS Bahamut and progress toward completion of the VRR for submission to Fleet Operations.
- 05/29 Command Staff met over dinner at SO's home.
- 05/30 Command Staff met for dinner at Perkins to continue discussion of some topics from the previous night's dinner meeting.
- 05/30 Command Staff met with Lieutenant Brent Barbee at SO's home.

FUTURE PLANS

- 06/04 Command Staff will attend memorial service of Commodore John Dubose in Oswego, Kansas, followed by dinner with Colonel Patrick Malone in Kansas City, MO.
- 06/10 SO will host Game Night at his home.
- 06/11 Crew of the Dark Phoenix will assist Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Melton with moving heavier items into her newly-purchased house. Afterward at 4pm, SO will host the P⁴ event at his home with pizza being ordered at 6pm for all those present.
- 06/24 SO will host Game Night at his home.
- 06/25 Command Staff, Officers, and Crew of the Dark Phoenix will attend the Kansas Sector Picnic hosted by the ISS Katana at Shawnee Mission Park in Shawnee, Kansas. This event will serve as both a promotion-eligible event and as the monthly ship meeting.
- 07/09 The Command Staff will host the 2nd Annual Dark Phoenix Picnic, once again to take place at Centennial Park in Lawrence.
- 07/22 Away Mission to see **STAR TREK: BEYOND** in theater.
- 08/06 Command Staff, Officers, and Crew of the Dark Phoenix will journey to Hutchinson, KS for their second annual Away Mission to the Cosmosphere. Those who have already given notice that they will attend are the Command Staff, Lieutenants (Junior Grade) Laura Felty and Rezty Felty, Cadet Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Dyson Felty, and Cadets Sagan Felty and Tesla Felty. If we can get enough people to join us, we can get a discounted group rate. Please contact the SO at sosparky@bdcusa.com as soon as possible so that we can have a head count. We will also use this opportunity to test the new communicators as we caravan along I-70.
- 08/12 **STARFLEET IC2016** in Louisville, KY. -14
- 08/12 **KANSAS CITY COMIC CON 2016.** -14

COMMENTS :

- 05/02: Welcome aboard to CRMN E Dean Bevan, Judith Bevan, Charles Hays, JoAnn Hays, and Natasha Maklakova!
- 05/13: Welcome aboard to CRMN Robert R Planthold, David Planthold, and Josie Thompson, CDT Kira Thompson, Lea Thompson, Corbin Thompson, and Flynn Planthold!
- 05/21: Welcome aboard to CRMN Shelby Peek!
- The following crewmembers are reminded that their memberships are now APPROACHING expiration date, and that they should renew NOW:

SCC	RANK	NAME	EXPIRE DT
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61751	PO3	Teague Banister	06/09/2016
61754	CDT	Ethan Banister	06/09/2016
64850	CDT	Emma Banister	06/09/2016
73696	ENSJG	EI Johnston	06/14/2016
73697	ENSJG	Jean Martin	06/14/2016
46072	COL	Patrick N Malone	06/22/2016
55881	CRMN	Michael Malone	06/22/2016

- The following crewmembers are reminded that their memberships have EXCEEDED expiration date, and that they should renew NOW to retain their positions on the ship, in the region, and at the Fleet level:

SCC	RANK	NAME	EXPIRE DT
73652	LTJG	Carrie M Mills	06/05/2016

- As of May 2, the Dark Phoenix is by far the largest ship in the 12th Fleet, standing at 59 souls compared to the next largest ship (USS Horizon) at 43. Congratulations, USS Dark Phoenix!

Second Officer's
Report
By Lieutenant
Commander John
"Sparky" Bevan



Greetings and Felicitations, everyone! Spring is nearly gone and we get into the furnace blast of summer's heat. Time to hibernate in air conditioning! All those in favor, say Aye! ☺

Medical Update

Our crewmate Colonel Patrick Malone, Deputy Officer in Charge of the 269th Marine Strike Group, has had some twists and turns in his medical situation. First, he did go in to speak with his Cardiac Surgeon at St. Luke's a couple weeks ago and found that triple bypass is the least that they will do but there is the possibility that it may become quadruple bypass. However, there is another complication: as they were running various blood tests and otherwise preparing for the procedure, they found that his tests were showing unexpected reactions that required further tests to be run. Those tests revealed that he has tested positive for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that cause Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Because of this, the surgery has been delayed while the doctors get him onto certain medications and implement the "infectious disease protocols" necessary to move

forward with this open heart surgical procedure.

Because of this, he is looking at being out of work that much longer and therefore continues to look at various sources for emergency funding and other assistance to make ends meet for his finances, which includes his medical insurance. All in all, our crew generously has given \$285 since this was first announced last month and that is spectacular, not to mention greatly appreciated by Pat: he has asked me to pass along his deep gratitude to you all. For those who may wish to contribute toward him at this time, please feel free to let me know and I will arrange a time to meet with you at your convenience so as to accept your contribution.

Additional Update from Colonel Patrick Malone

On Tuesday, June 14th, I went to the KC Care Clinic to meet with my new social worker who is helping me see what programs that I may be able to get into, including Ryan White, that will help with some of the costs.

On Wednesday, June 15th, I went to see my primary Doctor, who then referred me to the Infectious Disease Department at Truman Medical Center. They have scheduled more lab work for my first appointment with them on Thursday, June 30th at 9am. So right now I am looking at the middle or end of July before we

can consider scheduling the heart surgery. That all depends on how well I respond to the medications and how long it takes to lower my viral load and improve my T-cell count. So it may be even longer than that before the procedure can be done.

[Update contributed by Colonel Patrick Malone just before the newsletter was published.]

Fleet Leadership Election

As mentioned last month, we have the election for Commander, Starfleet, coming up in the next few months and so those who wish to run for the top position of our esteemed organization have now announced their candidacy and I am able to release details about each of them.

At this time, we have four candidates in the running: Admiral Robert Westfall, Admiral Johnathan Simmons, Brigadier General Steven Parmley, and Admiral Douglas Mayo. Each man has been in service to SFI in various capacities for many years and each has his own platform as well as his team to implement the ideas in said platforms. I shall detail this information over the next few months so that you can get to know each of the candidates and also so that I do not drown you in too many details all at once, especially so far from the time of the actual casting of ballots.

To start, Admiral Robert Westfall is known to many of us

on the Dark Phoenix since he is the Commanding Officer of the ISS Katana that is just down the road from us in Leavenworth. He is also the one who arranges and hosts the Annual Kansas Sector Picnic each June. What many may not realize is that he is also one of the upper brass within Starfleet and actually currently serves in the top position as of the passing of Fleet Commander Wayne "Hunter" Killough. To explain, when Wayne passed away, Robert was serving (and still continues to serve) as Chief of Operations, Starfleet. Since Rear Admiral Hayden Segel had resigned as Vice Commander, Starfleet, when Wayne died, that meant that the next person in line for the leadership was the Chief of Operations. Therefore, Robert became the Acting Commander, Starfleet, pending either appointment of another to the position of Commander, Starfleet, by the Admiralty Board or confirmation of his ascension to the post for the remaining few months of Wayne's term. He has been a member of SFI since April 1987.

The next candidate is Admiral Johnathan Simmons, who is also known as "Gumby" by many around the Fleet. He currently serves as Robert's Chief of Staff in the Operations Department. His membership commenced in May 1992.

The third candidate is Brigadier General Steven Parnley. Like Robert, he is a very busy man

in his current roles. He currently serves as Commanding Officer (USS Constellation), Region 12 Surgeon General, Region 12 Emergency Operations Officer, Fleet Assistant Surgeon General, Fleet Fire Commissioner, and Starfleet Marine Corps Deputy Commander of Information Command. He is also known to us here on the Dark Phoenix as he has selected me as his Chief of Staff in his role as Region 12 Surgeon General and he also has selected our Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Rianna Melton to fill the role of Team Leader for the Veterinary Issues Team for Starfleet Medical Corps. He joined SFI in July 2008.

Last, but not least, we have Admiral Douglas Mayo. Currently he serves as Commanding Officer (USS Nelson). His membership began in November 2001.

Next month, I will report about their historical duties within SFI and in August, as that will be just before the ballots go out, I will report on their platforms.

Events

Game Nights continue to be entertaining. However, without more people coming to experience Artemis, we are starting to look toward other games. It is a fun simulator but it wears a bit thin when you have the same people each time we play. As such, we are tabling it until we can get new blood to join us. What would

make it most fun would be if we could get another group to play as a second ship as that would allow us to work in concert and expand the complexity of the missions.

We had our first Game Night for this report on May 27th. As this was the return of Cadet Tesla Felty to our ship upon her release from the Infirmary after her recent back surgery, we celebrated with cake (provided by the Lieutenants (Junior Grade) Laura and Rezty Felty), Little Debbie Zebra Cakes, and synthehol (also known as sparkling grape juice) in neon-colored champagne flutes. She glowed with the special attention provided her and honored us with her brightest smile.

May 28th was our ship meeting for the month. Just prior to the meeting, however, we met at a rocky area at the edge of town currently being developed into housing so that the Lawrence Magazine photographer could take pictures of all of us as a crew, complete with our uniforms. Those who came for the pictures were the Command Staff; Lieutenants (Junior Grade) K Lar Batt, Laura Felty, Rezty Felty, Carolyn Kaberline, Rianna Melton; Crewmen Tim Burns and Carol Walker; Cadet Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Dyson Felty; Cadets Hannah Batt, Sagan Felty, and Tesla Felty. All those so mentioned also came to our ship meeting about an hour later and we also were joined by a guest of

Crewman Walker: specifically, her husband.

At this meeting, we announced the medical condition of our DOIC Colonel Patrick Malone, as mentioned at the start of this article, and it was by the end of this meeting that we already had \$200 collected for his benefit. What a wonderfully supportive crew we have! Qapla'!

The following Saturday (June 4th), the Command Staff embarked on an Away Mission to pay respects to our honored dead, Commodore John Dubose. To show him the honor that he always showed his crew and Starfleet International as a whole, the Command Staff, accompanied by the Vice Regional Coordinator Fleet Captain Shanon Lindbloom, USS Oklahoma Executive Officer Captain Gail Lindbloom, and USS Oklahoma Chief Medical Officer Lieutenant Commander Clemma Ruble performed the Final Mission Ceremony. The flag was folded by Rear Admiral Ralph Planthold and then presented to Shanon who then in turn presented it to John's widow, Fleet Captain Norma Dubose.

Following the trek to Oswego down in the southeastern corner of the state, we journeyed back to the Kansas City metropolitan area to join Patrick for dinner and to present him with the collected funds. It was at this time that he informed us of his latest medical results.

June 4th was also the date of another event: the June Open House of the Farpoint Observatory. From what I have understood, however, attendance by our crew was minimal and, according to our Astronomer, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Carolyn Kaberline, that was a shame since the skies were so clear and dark that the show provided by the cosmos was truly *out of this world!*

On June 11th, our Veterinary Specialist, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Rianna Melton, took possession of her recently-purchased home for when she is not aboard the ship and on duty. From what she has reported, she had plenty of hearty, strong folks to help her move everything, so thank you to all those who volunteered to help her.

Additionally, June 11th was our P⁴ Event for the summer. Attendance was not as much as was hoped (the Command Staff, Lieutenant Brent Barbee, and Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Carolyn Kaberline) but we all had fun. We watched a couple of episodes of the third season of Star Trek: The Next Generation and some fan productions such as Star Trek: Phase II and Project Potemkin (of which Carolyn is a Script Consultant).

Looking ahead, we have quite a number of fun activities. First, we have Game Night on Friday, June 24th. As always, this will be at my home at 7pm. If you

have never come and wish to attend, let me know and I will gladly give you directions. All are invited but I do ask that you RSVP by Thursday evening so that I can make sure to have enough seats, snacks, and other supplies.

On Saturday, June 25th, starting at 10:30am, the ISS Katana will be hosting its Annual Kansas Sector Picnic at Shawnee Mission Park (7900 Renner Road, Shawnee KS, Shelter #8). A map of the park may be downloaded from my business website at <http://www.bdcusa.com/download/smp-map.pdf>. Shelter #8 is at the southwest corner of the lake.

Steaks grilled to order will be served. As such, Admiral Robert Westfall asks for \$10 per person to pay for the steaks and side dishes that he and his wife, Rear Admiral Michelle "Chel" Westfall will supply. Those who wish to do so may pay in advance through PayPal (remit payment to rwestfall99@kc.rr.com) or he will gladly accept payment at the picnic. Also, he has asked that those who wish to attend to RSVP no later than Thursday, June 23rd. Please send your RSVP to isskatana77003@gmail.com.

I wish to point out, as I have previously in our newsletters, that this picnic shall also serve as our monthly ship meeting. While the picnic starts at 10:30 in the morning, historically it has run into the evening hours, so we will commence our meeting on site at the regular time of 6pm. In other

words, do not look for us anywhere in Lawrence as we will not be in town! We will be at the picnic.

Another reminder about the picnic: it is an event that may make one assigned to the Dark Phoenix eligible for promotion. However, one's SFI membership must be active to be able to receive credit for attendance at this event for said eligibility. Those whose memberships have recently expired are advised to correct that oversight as quickly as possible and those whose memberships are scheduled to expire by then are also advised to remedy that without delay.

For those on our mailing list who have not yet joined but wish to do so, this would be a great time to make that happen. If you want to fast-track your promotions, then join within the next week (so that Membership Processing will have plenty of time to get your membership added to the ship roster) and then take the Officer Training School (OTS) examination online. Upon passing OTS, you will be commissioned as an Ensign. Attending the Sector Picnic will then make you eligible for promotion to Lieutenant (Junior Grade). So, in other words, you could raise yourself from the Enlisted rank of Crewman (the rank one is granted upon joining the ship) up into the Officer rank of LTJG in the short span of only a few days. There are few who

have progressed through the ranks so quickly! ☺

Next on the schedule is our next Game Night on July 8th. Same bat-time, same bat-channel: 7pm at my home. As I said before, please RSVP no later than the day before and let me know if you need directions or my address.

July 9th will be the ship picnic. We will arrive at the shelter near Biemer's BBQ in Centennial Park (just west of 9th and Iowa in Lawrence) at 10am and, similar to last year, it will be a traditional picnic with cold cuts, chips, pop, lemonade, and so forth. If you wish to bring something either for yourself or to share with the other attendees, please feel free to do so. Please RSVP by Thursday, July 7th, so that we know how many to expect and how many supplies we should have at the ready.

On July 22nd will be the next Game Night. Same routine: 7pm at my place and please RSVP by the day before.

July 23rd will be our next ship meeting. This will be held at Conroy's Pub in their private room at the usual time of 6pm. Conroy's Pub is located at 3115 West 6th Street in the strip mall just east of the Sonic Drive-In restaurant.

Given the early departure time for the Away Mission that will be mentioned immediately below, we will not have Game

Night on August 5th in order for the Command Shuttle Pilot (yours truly) to have plenty of rest and be ready to rock 'n' roll by the scheduled time of departure: 0700 Hours.

On Saturday, August 6th, we will have our annual Away Mission to the Hutchinson Cosmosphere. For those who wish to attend, please indicate your desire and provide pre-payment for your tickets to me by Wednesday, July 20th because we need to order the group tickets in advance. As has been mentioned in previous announcements, we have worked out a price of \$23 per person for all the exhibits (except for the naviGATOR simulator) and it also includes lunch. The normal price (not including lunch) is \$28, so we are getting more for less money. To achieve this price, we need to have at least 15 in our group. At this point, we have ten who have given their nods (including the three Command Staff, of course), so we need just a few more so that we can all save money, have a good time, and let our enthusiasm for the future of aviation and space travel soar.

For this event, we are hoping to make it not only a fun and educational excursion but also potentially a publicity event and/or recruitment opportunity for our sister ship in the area, the USS Jeannette Maddox (captained by Vice Admiral Christine Leddon), so we ask that all those who attend to wear their ship uniforms (or the

best Star Trek attire that they own if they do not have ship uniforms).

We will meet at the site and enter as a group at 10am. Stragglers will have to purchase their own individual tickets as the Cosmosphere requires that groups enter all at the same time.

Those of our readers who wish to attend and have Cadet-aged children (whether members of SFI or not), please feel free to bring them because we will have Cadets of various ages in attendance this year. While the Cosmosphere counts them the same as adults for the group rate, the more Cadets we have, the more fun it will be for the others of similar ages.

This also is a promotion-eligible event for the crew of the Dark Phoenix as we are opening it up to the Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma Sectors as well as anyone else who might wish to join us, even the Ferengi and Romulans! Therefore if you are unable to attend the picnic, all is not lost: you still have the ability to attend an event to earn that eligibility. However, be sure to understand that eligibility garnered by attendance is allowed by only one event per calendar year. In other words, you cannot attend both the picnic and the Away Mission to the Cosmosphere in the hopes of being eligible for two promotions.

There has been discussion about going to the Cosmosphere in

a caravan with the Command Shuttle being the lead. Those who wish to join the caravan are requested to meet at my place by 6:30am so that we can leave promptly at 7am. If you are in Topeka and wish to join the formation, let me know and we will arrange a place to meet with you so that you can slide right into position. To help coordinate all vehicles, we will issue two-way radios and it will be expected that someone other than the shuttle pilot will be selected to be the communications officer. Further, if there are those who wish to ride share, get in touch with me and we will see what we can arrange. Currently the Command Shuttle has one available seat and others who join the formation may have others. The sooner you get in touch with me, the sooner we can make appropriate arrangements.

For the rest of August, we will have Game Night on the 19th and our ship meeting for the month on the 27th. The August ship meeting will be held at Perkins in their private dining room.

As always, if anyone has any questions about the contents of this article, suggestions for future events, or wish to submit articles or announcements for publication, please feel free to contact me by email at sosparky@bdcusa.com or give me a call at (785) 727-1355. Be aware this is a regular phone, so don't try to send it text messages. ☺

John Bevan is the Second Officer of the USS Dark Phoenix and has been a member of Starfleet International since January 2015. When not honoring our ship with his dedication, he owns and operates a computer sales and service firm he founded back in June 1989. The motto by which he lives is "Nothing changes until something changes."

**STARFLEET Marine Corps
Unit Report Form v3**

Date and time submitted: **Wed Jun 1
21:03:05 PDT**

Unit: **MSG 269**
Battalion: **3**
Brigade: **12**
Reporting month: **June**

****REPORTING OFFICER****
Reporting officer: **ADM Sunnie J Planthold**
E-mail: **sunniejap@bdcusa.com**

****BASIC UNIT INFORMATION****
Type: **MSG**
Branch: **Special Ops**
Nickname: **The Black Bettys**
Motto:

****OFFICER-IN-CHARGE INFORMATION****
Unit OIC
name and rank: **ADM Sunnie J Planthold**
e-mail: **sunniejap@bdcusa.com**
phone: **813-244-9666**
Private: **Yes**
Unit DOIC
name and rank: **COL Patrick Malone**
e-mail: **cowboypm@gmail.com**
phone: **816-721-2492**
Private: **Yes**

****CHAPTER DATA****
NCC Number: **74920**
Name: **USS Dark Phoenix**
CO: **RADM Ralph F Planthold**

****UNIT PERSONNEL DATA****
Unit strength: Active/Reserve: **1/2**

Unit roster:
Name: **Sunnie J Planthold**
Rank: **ADM**
SCC Number: **44342**
Active/Reserve: **Reserve**
Expiration Date: **04/13/2017**

Name: **Patrick Malone**
Rank: **COL**
SCC Number: **46072**
Active/Reserve: **Active**
Expiration Date: **06/22/2016**

Name: **Morgan Hahn**
Rank: **CAPT**
SCC Number: **32367**
Active/Reserve: **Reserve**
Expiration Date: **03/15/2017**

Changes to roster:
Recruits/Discharges: **0/0**

Changes in leadership:
Type the changes to Strike Group/Battalion
leadership here. **N/A**

Awards issued:

Type award name and recipient.

Awards requested:
Type award and nominee.

****UNIT MISSION DATA****
Unit activities:
SUMMARIZE BDE, BN, and unit activities for
the past 60 days.

Volunteered hair care for clients at local
Hospice.
Donated items of clothing to the Willow
Domestic Violence Center.
Contributing monthly article to chapter
newsletter.

SFMC Challenge Data:
Please place any data regarding SFMC
challenges here. Please list BDE, BN, and
unit.

****COMMENTS/PROBLEMS/SUGGESTIONS****
Comments/Problems/Suggestions: **N/A**

Actions taken to rectify: **N/A**

Marine Unit Report
By Admiral Sunnie
Planthold



[Author's Note: What follows is an excerpt from the 2009 Edition of the Starfleet Marine Corps Manual which discusses its history.]

Starfleet Marine Corps: The Rise
of the SFMC

By the 20th century, most nations of the world used marines. Of them all, one organization--the United States Marine Corps (USMC)--stood out. These soldiers developed the art of amphibious landing into a science. "On land, air, and sea," as their anthem said, the USMC combined outstanding tactical flexibility, overwhelming firepower, and superior mobility with legendary élan to become known as one of the most feared fighting forces of the century.

The SFMC traces its direct history to the chaos following the Eugenics Wars and the Third World War in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Although few records survive from that terrible period, we know from the archaeological record and surviving accounts that in these fifty years of unceasing and uncompromising warfare, up to two thirds of the world's population was destroyed. Entire nations ceased to exist, societies disintegrated, and the world economy was destroyed. The governments that survived were

prostrate, bankrupt, and nearly powerless. The USMC, which had been one of the most efficient military organizations in the world, was a hollow and battered shell, unable to pay its few troops or even feed them. Far more concerned with getting shattered economies on the mend and repairing fragmented societies than worrying about neighbors who were now just as powerless, the nations of the world turned their backs on the legions of men and women who fought for them.

Not everyone had lost in these wars, however. As humanity turned on itself in its own home world, millions of men and women turned to the skies for a better life. These brave (and often poverty stricken) settlers colonized first the moon, then Mars, digging valuable minerals from the hard soils of these bodies to feed the ever hungrier war machines of Mother Earth. While the nations of the Earth fought first the Supermen, then each other, refugees from all over the dying planet flocked to the safe havens above, providing economic power and cheap labor to develop the MegaCorporations.

After the killing stopped, the MegaCorporations needed a new purpose, and for that purpose, they looked further into the heavens. If Mars and the Moon could be colonized, they theorized, then so could planets beyond our solar system. They developed giant "sleeper" ships which could hold whole colonies in cryogenic

sleep for the long trip beyond the solar system. They also needed protection for these colonists and the cash starved governments of Earth were only too happy to accept hard currency in return for MegaCorp control of their militaries. The Colonial Marines were born. Although perhaps not as polished as their prewar ancestors, the first "Space Marines" were tough and smart. Often fighting previously unknown threats--usually in small units--the Colonial Marines kept the space lanes safe for travel and colonization, spending their blood so that their charges could forge a future. The event that spelled the end of the Colonial Marines and corporate armies and marked the beginning of the modern Federation was to write a bloody chapter in the history of Earth.

On October 3rd, 2156, a massive fleet of sublight vessels (by this time, Earth had made first contact with Vulcan and had developed its warp drive capabilities) appeared near the Earth colony of Sectis. The colonists were very puzzled by the strange ships but did have time to transmit a distress signal before they were destroyed by the strange invaders. The Colonial Marines and their naval counterparts, the Maritime Militia, proved completely ineffective against these invaders, now identified by Vulcan sources as the Romulans.

Although Earth possessed greater technology, there was no centralized chain of command and

each corporation was trying to fight its own war. Faced with rising hysteria at home and increasingly serious reversals in the field, the United Nations--now the world's only true government--nationalized all Colonial Marine and Maritime Militia units, forming the United Nations Peace Force (UNPF) in June, 2158. With a united chain of command, the UNPF gradually stabilized the situation and in March, 2162, decisively defeated the Romulan Fleet in the Battle of Cheron, effectively ending the war.

In 2161, in response to the recent Romulan invasion, five civilizations formed the United Federation of Planets. The naval arm of the UNPF became the basis of the Starfleet and the UNPF Marines formed the cadre for the Starfleet Marine Corps. As their UNPF and Colonial Marine predecessors had done, Starfleet Marines served primarily as tactical security for Federation Starbases and planetary bases and as tactical resources for Starfleet vessels. Large-scale ground combat operations were no part of the doctrine of the earliest SFMC. They generally operated in company-size units with larger elements for administrative purposes only. As history was to show, however, the SFMC was not destined to simply be a well-armed security force.



United Federation of Planets
(Circle 2161)



Next time: First Blood: The Klingon Wars (2195 to 2199)

Sunnie Planthold has been a member of Starfleet International since February 1995. She holds the billets of Executive Officer and as the Officer in Charge of the 269th Marine Strike Group--The Black Bettys. When pursuing civilian life, she is an independent sales consultant for LegalShield (alongside her husband Ralph), performs community service for the Lawrence Humane Society and the Willow Domestic Violence Cen-ter, and interprets church services into American Sign Language each Sunday. The quickest way to befriend her is to offer her a bite of chocolate.

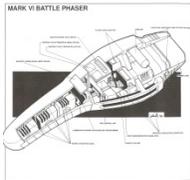
Security Chief's
Report
By Lieutenant
(Junior Grade)
Rezty Felty



Weapons, Part 3

All Starfleet personnel should have a basic familiarity with weapons and be able to demonstrate weapons proficiency unless they have a moral objection to the use of weapons for defense. Our mission is to explore and interact in a positive manner with other species but others do not always desire positive interaction and at times you may be called upon to defend yourself, your crew or your ship. This month I will cover phasers of all different types.

What is a phaser?



Phasers are a directed energy weapon firing a nadiation particle beam. They use energy to excite a stream of nadiation particles which then pass through a superconducting crystal and are rectified into a coherent beam. The beam strength and modulation may be modified to stun or kill.



History

The modern phaser is the natural evolution of the phase-pistol of the 22nd century, itself the next step up in weaponry from EM pistols and the laser pistols of the 21st century. As Humanity evolved, so too did their weapons, from slugs of lead to coherent photons to plasma bursts to energy pulses and finally the weapons with which we are all familiar that fire coherent particle beams.

Theory

The energy source in a phaser, generally one or more dilithium crystals surrounded or encased in high-energy density capacitor packs, discharge into the specialized circuitry that generate the nadiation particles. The resultant beam is "tuned" by more circuitry in the phaser to the desired beam width, intensity, power level, and frequency or wavelength modulation. One might ask how a particle weapon tunes to different wavelengths. Rapid nadiation particles such as photons display characteristics of both particles and waves and phasers take advantage of this. The tuned beam then passes through focusers and finally exits the weapon through the emitter to strike the target.



Versatility

Unlike most earlier weapon types, the phaser is very versatile. By varying the power, intensity, frequency, and beam width, phasers can do much more than just kill a target. A low intensity, low power beam set at a moderate beam width and mildly defocused, delivers nadiation particle energy in a configuration that disrupts neural networks in most sentient brains leading to unconsciousness as the neural pattern temporarily loses cohesion. This configuration may also cause mild skin burns in humanoids. Be aware that some species exhibit little to no reaction to a phaser set to stun as their particular physiology is not susceptible to this energy configuration; Xindi reptilians are such a species, for example. As well, other species may be particularly susceptible to the settings used in stun and though it is intended as a non-lethal alternative, stun may kill vulnerable species such as Trill or humanoids suffering illnesses that render them incapable of recovering from a stun shot.



Phasers also have uses in non-combat situations. In wilderness survival, a wide-beam phaser set at moderate intensity will quickly warm a boulder to serve as a heat source. The same phaser set at high discharge and

tightly focused can be used as a cutting tool on a wide variety of substances.



By tuning the resonance frequency, phasers can be configured to affect only certain materials, increasing their usefulness even more.



Going back to offensive uses, in extreme situations a phaser may be set to overload and explode, making a field expedient grenade or explosive! To deliberately destroy your phaser, at great risk to you or anyone near it, set it to high intensity, high power, close all focusers, and safe the emitter. The nadiion particle stream will continue to build in the weapon until containment fails and the total energy of the weapon is released in one explosive blast. A phaser on overload makes a distinctive rising whine. If you hear yours doing this, get away from it immediately!

Phaser rifles operate on the same principles as handheld phasers, but the larger body allows for greater energy storage and discharge as well as expanded adjustment ranges.

That concludes my coverage of personnel phasers. Large ship-based phasers may be covered in a later report. Until next month, keep your photon tubes loaded, your emitters clean, and watch your 6!

Rezty Felty insures the safety and security of the USS Dark Phoenix and engages in Warp Core research, has been a Trek fan since the '60s, and has been a member of Starfleet since September 2015. In real life, he is owned by the CMO of the USS Dark Phoenix, 5 kids, and a variety of dogs, cats, and rats when not performing Linux Engineering.

Chief Engineer's
Report
By Cadet Lieutenant
(Junior Grade)
Dyson Felty



The environment on an extraterrestrial planet can be just as harmful, if not more harmful, than any species living on it. That is why this month I'll be talking about Environment Suits within Star Trek and how advanced this technology is compared to where we are now.

First I would like to address the reasons a person would need an Environment Suit. The human body can continue to function only in minimal climate temperatures and pressures. It is unable to tolerate the extremes in other atmospheres. Venus, for example, has an average atmospheric temperature of 860 degrees Fahrenheit (460 degrees Celsius). In contrast, the average temperature on Mars is -80 degrees Fahrenheit (-62 degrees Celsius). Also, the human body requires oxygen: without oxygen, the body will begin to lose consciousness and cease to function. The Martian atmosphere, for instance, is 95 percent carbon dioxide and only 0.13 percent oxygen, far from what humans breathe here on Earth: 21 percent oxygen and 0.09 percent carbon dioxide with the rest being composed of nitrogen (78%), Argon (0.9%), and trace amounts of other gases such as neon, helium, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Venus'

atmosphere also is composed mostly of carbon dioxide as well as nitrogen and sulfuric acid. So as you can see, traveling within our solar system alone requires humans to have some sort of protection.

The Environment Suit or EV suit is generally used for anything outside of a controlled atmosphere or on a planet that could be detrimental to a crew member. The EV suit protects from harmful elements and extreme temperatures. It can also be used as protection during combat but was not designed with that purpose in mind. That being said, some models can be very bulky and detrimental to one's combat prowess. Suits such as the 22nd-Century versions have very large proportions and have been commented as being like having your own miniature spaceship. The suit was made of one piece that closed at a zipper and it auto-sealed, meaning any punctures would be remedied automatically. Life support and propulsion systems were contained in a single harness that had all the necessary equipment to survive for a short time in space.

In the 21st Century, the closest technology we have to this is the Extravehicular Mobility Unit space suit that is extremely bulky, allowing little to no combat abilities, but are one of the two regularly outfitted on the international space station. It seems to be more aimed at protecting the wearer at all costs:

it has life support, comfort padding, and liquid water running through the suit for temperature control. It is not nearly as readily available to the user as the StarTrek EV suit. The wearer must have the EVA planned 24 hours and 45 minutes in advance to work safely outside the shuttle.

The 23rd-Century Environment Suit went through three different phases. The first phase, the suit was more flexible and less durable. In the second phase, it was silver and more form-fitting with a tall helmet. Still later, they switched to a life support belt with a personal force field that would adjust the atmosphere for the crewman.

In conclusion, there is technology out there that can increase our current mobility and safety in our EV suits. It would be beneficial to our crewman to be able to decrease the bulkiness that we currently have and go with more of a free form while not compromising their safety. It will be interesting to see if reality follows a similar path as Gene Roddenberry's vision.

Dyson Felty is the Acting Chief Engineer of the Dark Phoenix and is an exception to the rule of only Officers being in such responsible positions. As he challenges the same Officer training tests as his adult colleagues, he has been granted the rank of Cadet Lieutenant (Junior Grade).

Chief Medical
Officer's Report
By Lieutenant
(Junior Grade)
Laura Felty



[Author's Note: This article was found on the Mayo Clinic website and was written by their staff. As it pertains to a serious issue that most often occurs at this time of year, I felt it was appropriate to relay their valuable information to our crew and friends. All credit for the article is given to the appropriate authors.]

Heatstroke
By Mayo Clinic Staff

Definition

Heatstroke is a condition caused by your body overheating, usually as a result of prolonged exposure to or physical exertion in high temperatures. This most serious form of heat injury--heatstroke--can occur if your body temperature rises to 104 F (40 C) or higher.

Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can quickly damage your brain, heart, kidneys, and muscles. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing your risk of serious complications or death.

Symptoms

Heatstroke symptoms include:

- **High body temperature.** A body temperature of 104 F (40

C) or higher is the main sign of heatstroke.

- **Altered mental state or behavior.** Confusion, agitation, slurred speech, irritability, delirium, seizures, and coma can all result from heatstroke.
- **Alteration in sweating.** In heatstroke brought on by hot weather, your skin will feel hot and dry to the touch. However, in heatstroke brought on by strenuous exercise, your skin may feel moist.
- **Nausea and vomiting.** You may feel sick to your stomach or vomit.
- **Flushed skin.** Your skin may turn red as your body temperature increases.
- **Rapid breathing.** Your breathing may become rapid and shallow.
- **Racing heart rate.** Your pulse may significantly increase because heat stress places a tremendous burden on your heart to help cool your body.
- **Headache.** Your head may throb.

When to See a Doctor

If you think a person may be experiencing heatstroke, seek immediate medical help. Call 911

or your local emergency services number.

Take immediate action to cool the overheated person while waiting for emergency treatment:

- Get the person into shade or indoors.
- Remove excess clothing.
- Cool the person with whatever means available--put in a cool tub of water or a cool shower, spray with a garden hose, sponge with cool water, fan while misting with cool water, or place ice packs or cold, wet towels on the person's head, neck, armpits and groin.

Causes

Heatstroke can occur as a result of:

- **Exposure to a hot environment.** In a type of heatstroke called nonexertional or classic heatstroke, being in a hot environment leads to a rise in body temperature. This type of heatstroke typically occurs after exposure to hot, humid weather, especially for prolonged periods such as two or three days. It occurs most often in older adults and in people with chronic illness.

- **Strenuous activity.** Exertional heatstroke is caused by an increase in body temperature brought on by intense physical activity in hot weather. Anyone exercising or working in hot weather can get exertional heatstroke, but it's most likely to occur if you're not used to high temperatures.

In either type of heatstroke, your condition can be brought on by:

- **Wearing excess clothing** that prevents sweat from evaporating easily and cooling your body
- **Drinking alcohol**, which can affect your body's ability to regulate your temperature
- **Becoming dehydrated** by not drinking enough water to replenish fluids lost through sweating

Risk Factors

Anyone can develop heatstroke but several factors increase your risk:

- **Age.** Your ability to cope with extreme heat depends of the strength of your central nervous system. In the very young, the central nervous system is not fully developed and in adults over 65, the central nervous system begins to

deteriorate which makes your body less able to cope with changes in body temperature. Both age groups usually have difficulty remaining hydrated which also increases risk.

- **Exertion in hot weather.** Military training and participating in sports such as football in hot weather are among the situations that can lead to heatstroke.

- **Sudden exposure to hot weather.** You may be more susceptible to heat-related illness if you're exposed to a sudden increase in temperature such as during an early-summer heat wave or travel to a hotter climate. Limit activity for at least several days to allow yourself to acclimate to the change. However, you may still have an increased risk of heatstroke until you've experienced several weeks of higher temperatures.

- **A lack of air conditioning.** Fans may make you feel better but during sustained hot weather, air conditioning is the most effective way to cool down and lower humidity.
- **Certain medications.** Some medications affect

your body's ability to stay hydrated and respond to heat. Be especially careful in hot weather if you take medications that narrow your blood vessels (vasoconstrictors), regulate your blood pressure by blocking adrenaline (beta blockers), rid your body of sodium and water (diuretics), or reduce psychiatric symptoms (antidepressants or antipsychotics).

- Stimulants for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and illegal stimulants such as amphetamines and cocaine also make you more vulnerable to heatstroke.
- **Certain health conditions.** Certain chronic illnesses such as heart or lung disease might increase your risk of heatstroke. So can being obese, being sedentary, and having a history of previous heatstroke.

Complications

Heatstroke can result in a number of complications depending on how long the body temperature is high. Severe complications include:

- **Vital organ damage.** Without a quick response to lower body temperature, heatstroke can cause your

brain or other vital organs to swell, possibly resulting in permanent damage.

- **Death.** Without prompt and adequate treatment, heatstroke can be fatal.

Tests and Diagnosis

It's usually apparent to doctors if you have heatstroke but laboratory tests can confirm the diagnosis, rule out other causes for your symptoms, and assess organ damage. These tests include:

- **A blood test** to check blood sodium or potassium and the content of gases in your blood to see if there has been damage to your central nervous system
- **A urine test** to check the color of your urine, because it's usually darker if you have a heat-related condition, and to check your kidney function, which can be affected by heatstroke
- **Muscle function tests** to check for serious damage to your muscle tissue (rhabdomyolysis)
- **X-rays and other imaging tests** to check for damage to your internal organs

Treatments and Drugs

Heatstroke treatment centers on cooling your body to a normal

temperature to prevent or reduce damage to your brain and vital organs. To do this, your doctor may take these steps:

- **Immerse you in cold water.** A bath of cold or ice water can quickly lower your temperature.
- **Use evaporation cooling techniques.** Some doctors prefer to use evaporation instead of immersion to lower your body temperature. In this technique, cool water is misted on your skin while warm air fanned over your body causes the water to evaporate, cooling the skin.
- **Pack you with ice and cooling blankets.** Another method is to wrap you in a special cooling blanket and apply ice packs to your groin, neck, back, and armpits to lower your temperature.
- **Give you medications to stop your shivering.** If treatments to lower your body temperature make you shiver, your doctor may give you a muscle relaxant such as a benzodiazepine. Shivering increases your body temperature, making treatment less effective.

Lifestyle and Home Remedies

Home treatment is not sufficient for heatstroke. If you have signs or symptoms of heatstroke, seek emergency medical help. Others should take steps to cool you off while waiting for emergency help to arrive.

If you notice signs of heat-related illness, lower your body temperature and prevent your condition from progressing to heatstroke. In a lesser heat emergency, such as heat cramps or heat exhaustion, the following steps may lower your body temperature:

- **Get to a shady or air-conditioned place.** If you don't have air conditioning at home, go someplace with air conditioning such as the mall, movie theater, or public library.
- **Cool off with damp sheets and a fan.** If you're with someone who's experiencing heat-related symptoms, cool the person by covering him with damp sheets or by spraying with cool water. Direct air onto the person with a fan.
- **Take a cool shower or bath.** If you're outdoors and not near shelter, soaking in a cool pond or stream can help bring your temperature down.
- **Rehydrate.** Drink plenty of fluids. Also, because you lose salt through

sweating, you can replenish salt and water with some sports drinks. If your doctor has restricted your fluid or salt intake, check with him to see how much you should drink and whether you should replace salt.

- **Don't drink sugary or alcoholic beverages to rehydrate.** These drinks may interfere with your body's ability to control your temperature. Also, very cold drinks can cause stomach cramps.

Prevention

Heatstroke is predictable and preventable. Take these steps to prevent heatstroke during hot weather:

- **Wear loosefitting, lightweight clothing.** Wearing excess clothing or clothing that fits tightly won't allow your body to cool properly.
- **Protect against sunburn.** Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool itself, so protect yourself outdoors with a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses and use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. Apply sunscreen generously and reapply every two hours--or more

often if you're swimming or sweating.

- **Drink plenty of fluids.** Staying hydrated will help your body sweat and maintain a normal body temperature.
- **Take extra precautions with certain medications.** Be on the lookout for heat-related problems if you take medications that can affect your body's ability to stay hydrated and dissipate heat.
- **Never leave anyone in a parked car.** This is a common cause of heat-related deaths in children. When parked in the sun, the temperature in your car can rise 20 degrees F (more than 6.7 C) in 10 minutes.

It's not safe to leave a person in a parked car in warm or hot weather, even if the windows are cracked or the car is in shade.

When your car is parked, keep it locked to prevent a child from getting inside.

- **Take it easy during the hottest parts of the day.** If you can't avoid strenuous activity in hot weather, drink fluids and rest frequently in a cool spot. Try to schedule exercise or physical labor for cooler parts of the day,

such as early morning or evening.

- **Get acclimated.** Limit time spent working or exercising in heat until you're conditioned to it. People who are not used to hot weather are especially susceptible to heat-related illness. It can take several weeks for your body to adjust to hot weather.
- **Be cautious if you're at increased risk.** If you take medications or have a condition that increases your risk of heat-related problems, avoid the heat and act quickly if you notice symptoms of overheating. If you participate in a strenuous sporting event or activity in hot weather, make sure there are medical services available in case of a heat emergency.

[Source:

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/heat-stroke/basics/definition/con-20032814>]

Laura Felty doesn't just play in the medical field in SFI: she has been employed in the nursing field for over 30 years and works as a Registered Nurse. She and her husband Rezty have five children and three grandchildren.

Veterinary
Specialist's Report
By Lieutenant
(Junior Grade)
Rianna Melton



Firework Fun!

Is it too early to start thinking of the 4th of July? Of course not! Warm summer nights, good food and friends, and lots of family fun with memories you'll cherish for years to come! Who doesn't love that night? Well, for some families, the answer may be their pets. Here are a few tips to keep your pet safe and comfortable on July 4th!

This is the one day of the year that more pets go missing than any other. By properly preparing, you can be sure to spend the evening without having to worry about your pet all night! Desensitization to loud sounds is always an option and with only a couple weeks left, now is a good time to start! Begin with low volume and a couple sessions a day. Distract your dog from the noise with treats or games and reward them as he ignores the noise. Gradually increase the volume of the sounds as long as your pet is still responding correctly. If he starts to get scared, turn it back down and go a little slower. If your pet is still even a little noise sensitive, then consider making a safe place for him in a large closet or in the basement. Leave him with his favorite bed and toys and possibly

some extra yummy treats or chew toys to help distract him!

Another handy tool, primarily for dogs, is called a ThunderShirt. These are tight-fitting vests that are fitted around the dog's torso like a jacket. The slight pressure effect can help him feel more secure in uncomfortable situations. As the name suggests, these were developed with storm-phobic dogs in mind but they work well for other triggers such as trips to the vet or fireworks. The principle is based on swaddling infants or weighted vests or blankets for children with autism, ADHD, or other neurological disorders. There is quite a bit of research out there to support the concept and I'll say that I was one of the biggest skeptics when I first heard of them. After seeing how much they can help some pets, it never hurts to give it a shot!

How about if you are having some people over to your house and notice that someone has an anxious dog with her? Should you approach and offer to help? Absolutely! But do so with tact. Many people take offense if it is suggested that they are not handling their pets appropriately, but for the animals' sake I encourage you to try. You might try the approach of first befriending the dog (if possible) and the owner if you don't already know them. Ahead of time, suggest "Hey, I was wondering if I could take your dog inside for you when the fireworks start? The fireworks are really loud here, and

I know they really hurt my dogs' ears. They hurt mine too – I have to wear earplugs! (Laughter.) I know of a really quiet place where he'll be very safe and I even have a bone for him to chew on. That way, you can just relax and enjoy the show and not have to worry at all! I can show you where it is or I can take him for you?" But be prepared to be declined and have to watch helplessly as a dog struggles with the fireworks next to an owner who doesn't seem to realize it. You might also offer to sit next to the dog and comfort him or cover his ears if the owner wants him left outside. Just please use caution! Avoid making the situation worse by encroaching on the dog's space: stressed dogs can snap out of fear. It may also be a good idea to keep children away from any such pet as a precautionary measure as many children do not recognize the warning signs of a stressed dog.

Otherwise, enjoy your evening! And a funny video of course 😊 (As a side note: Never let your dogs this close to fireworks!!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y3EYOIjKQ>

Rianna Melton is a member of SFI since June 2013 and is a former veterinary assistant who now works in the capacity of installation and maintenance field technician of veterinary diagnostic equipment. In her free time, she is mother to two dogs and two cats. One word of warning: under the human skin beats the heart of a proud Klingon warrior!

Astronomer's
Report
By Lieutenant
(Junior Grade)
Carolyn Kaberline



Upcoming Celestial Events

It was a perfect night for exploring the heavens at this month's open house at Farpoint Observatory: Those present were able to see the cloud bands of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn including the Cassini division, dark spots on Mars' surface, the Ring Nebula, a binary star system, and the Whirlpool Galaxy which is actually composed of two galaxies passing through each other (which will also happen when the Andromeda Galaxy collides with the Milky Way Galaxy about 4 billion years from now; to read more about this, go to http://flip.it/YT_6W). In addition, several meteors flashed across the almost totally clear sky.

While there's not too much going on in the skies in the next month, there are a couple of events you should be aware of:

First, there's the summer solstice on June 20th. On this day, the North Pole will be tilted toward the Sun which will have reached its northernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Cancer. Summer in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern Hemisphere officially begins at 6:34 EDT on the 20th.

Another event to be aware of is the arrival of NASA's Juno spacecraft at Jupiter after a five year journey. Launched on August 5th, 2011, Juno will be put into a polar orbit around the fifth planet on or around July 4th. The spacecraft will then study Jupiter's atmosphere and magnetic field. The craft will remain in orbit until October of next year when it will be sent to crash into Jupiter's surface. You might want to try the Eyes on Juno link <http://eyes.nasa.gov/eyes-on-juno.html?linkId=25229162> for an interactive visualization of the event.

Looking ahead to later in July, the Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower is scheduled for July 12th to August 23rd with the peak occurring July 28th and July 29th. The moon's light will block some of the fainter meteors at this time but most people should still be able to see quite a few good ones from a dark location. Considered an average shower, it can produce up to 20 meteors an hour at its peak. The meteors will seem to come from the constellation of Aquarius but can appear anywhere in the sky. These meteors are produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht.

The next public open house at Farpoint is scheduled for 9 pm July 9th. All are also welcome to attend NEKAAL (Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomers' League, Inc.) general meetings at the Topeka Shawnee County Public library

where a wide variety of topics related to astronomy are discussed. The next general meeting will be on June 23rd at 7 p.m.

Information for this article came from the NEKAAL, the Sea and Sky, and NASA websites.

Carolyn Kaberline is a semi-retired public school teacher, having retired from one school district after teaching high school English for 45 years and now is a substitute teacher in another school district. Additionally, she is a script consultant for Project: Potemkin, a fan-created Star Trek-themed web series. In her spare time, she is an amateur astronomer and member of the Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomers' League (NEKAAL) as well as a freelance journalist.

Fun and Frivolity

Trek Trivia

TOS: What is the full title of the acronym IDIC?

TNG: What was Keiko's name before she married Miles Edward O'Brien?

DS9: What is the name of Quark's Klingon "ex-wife?"

VOY: How long was Voyager's original mission supposed to last?

Logic

1. Buck Shot has a bow and 60 arrows. If Buck shoots the first arrow at exactly noon and continues to shoot one arrow every minute thereafter, at what time will he run out of arrows?
2. Governor Granger, who was looking for a very smart man to be his advisor, was down to the final three candidates. He told the three men that he had five hats: three white and two green. He explained that he was going to put one hat on each of their heads. The first man to correctly state the color of his own hat and explain how he arrived at that conclusion would land the job. After the hats had been placed, the first man looked at the other two and said that he did not know the answer. The second man looked at the first and the third and said that he did not know the answer either. The third man, who was blind, correctly stated the color of his hat

and then went on to explain his reasoning. What color was the blind man's hat and how did he know?

Sudoku

	7		1		6		5	
2			7	4			8	
	4			3	2			1
	3			9	7		6	2
		7				4		
4	2		3	5			1	
7			5	6			2	
	5			1	9			6
	1		8		4		9	

Something Funny Happened On the Way Across the Internet

Top 12 Things A Klingon Programmer Would Say

12. Specifications are for the weak and timid!
11. This machine is a piece of GAGH! I need dual Core i7 processors if I am to do battle with this code!
10. You cannot really appreciate Dilbert unless you've read it in the

original Klingon.

9. Indentation?! I will show you how to indent when I indent your skull!
8. What is this talk of 'release'? Klingons do not make software "releases." Our software "escapes," leaving a bloody trail of designers and quality assurance people in its wake.
7. Klingon function calls do not have "parameters." They have "arguments" and they ALWAYS WIN THEM.
6. Debugging? Klingons do not debug. Our software does not coddle the weak.
5. I have challenged the entire quality assurance team to a Bat'leth contest. They will not concern us again.
4. A TRUE Klingon Warrior does not comment his code!
3. By filing this Systems Programming Request, you have challenged the honor of my family. Prepare to die!
2. You question the worthiness of my code? I should kill you where you stand!
1. Our users will know fear and cower before our software. Ship it! Ship it and let them flee like the dogs they are!

