

# Phoenix Rising



September 2016

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## MSR REPORT

CHAPTER:	USS Dark Phoenix
REPORT FOR:	August, 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:	08/15/2016

## FLEET MEMBERS

SCC	EXPIRE DT	RANK	NAME
44342	04/13/2017	ADM	Sunnie Planthold
46072	06/23/2017	COL	Patrick Malone
49691	04/13/2017	RADM	Ralph Planthold
55881	06/23/2017	CRMN	Michael Malone
61751	06/09/2017	PO3	Teague Banister
61754	06/09/2017	CDT	Ethan Banister
64850	06/09/2017	CDT	Emma Banister
70180	09/19/2016	ENS	Karessa Kow
70978	05/10/2017	LT	Rianna Melton
71621	03/03/2017	LT	Jeremy Schroeder
73140	01/26/2018	LCDR	John Bevan
73223	02/22/2017	CRMN	David Morton
73240	02/27/2017	LTJG	Carolyn Kaberline
73257	03/04/2017	CRMN	Ruth Lichtwardt
73886	08/02/2017	LT	KLar Batt
73954	08/20/2016	LT	Brent Barbee Mr
74062	09/19/2016	ENS	Josh Levering
74085	09/27/2016	LT	Rezty Felty
74086	09/27/2016	LT	Laura Felty
74087	09/27/2016	CDT	Tesla Felty
74088	09/27/2016	CDT	Sagan Felty
74089	09/27/2016	CDT2C	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	08/02/2017	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 Flynne Planthold  
 74910 05/21/2017 CRMN Shelby Peek  
 74918 05/21/2017 CRMN Alton Girdner III  
 74919 05/21/2017 CRMN Melissa McCandless-Girdner

75110 06/22/2017 CRMN Krystin Tally  
 75212 07/20/2017 CRMN John Antons

## ACADEMY :

### John Bevan

IOIE - School of Intel History (SIH)  
 SIH 106 COMMUN.HISTORY  
**DISTINCTION** 08/23/2016

IOLSS - College of Medicine  
 (IOLSS:SACOM)  
 EMS-100 - Basic Emergency Care  
**DISTINCTION** 08/09/2016  
 EMS-102 - CPR/AED  
**HONORS** 08/18/2016  
 EMS-103 - Basic First Aid  
**HONORS** 08/18/2016

IOPFR - College of Survival Studies  
 (IOPFR:COSS)  
 TSS 305 - Advanced Signaling  
**DISTINCTION** 08/23/2016

IOSFTV - College of Stargate (COSG)  
 SGA 101a - Season 1 Episodes - Part 1  
**HONORS** 08/17/2016  
 SGA 101b - Season 1 Episodes - Part 2  
**HONORS** 08/17/2016

IOST - STARFLEET Officer's Radio School (IOST:SORS)  
 SORS 204 - Shortwave Radio  
**PASS** 08/20/2016

### SFA Awards

**Red Squad Member**  
**Awarded** 08/13/2016

BOCP - Chief Medical Officer Certification  
**Awarded** 08/19/2016

### Rezty Felty

SFA Awards  
 Boothby 0050 - Bronze (50)  
**Awarded** 08/01/2016

### Laura Felty

IOIE - School of Espionage(SOE)  
 SOE 101 - Definition and Means  
**HONORS** 08/19/2016  
 SOE 102 - Counter Espionage  
**HONORS** 08/29/2016  
 SOE 103 Escape and Evasion  
**HONORS** 08/29/2016

IOLEM - College of NCIS  
 (IOLEM:NCIS)  
 NCIS-C 110 - Abby Sciuto  
**HONORS** 08/13/2016  
 NCIS-C 103 - Leroy Gibbs  
**HONORS** 08/13/2016

SFA Awards  
 Boothby 0050 - Bronze (50)  
**Awarded** 08/15/2016

## OTHER INFO

**MEETING DATE : 08/27/2016.**

## PROMOTIONS :

SCC	NAME	NEW RANK	EFFECT DT
	None		

## ACTIVITIES :

08/03 Command Staff met for dinner at Perkins to discuss recent political upheaval within SFI upper echelons and decide our position as well as what we wished to advise to the crew.

08/06 Command Staff hosted the 2nd Annual Region 12 Away Mission to the Cosmosphere. During this excursion, we welcomed the opportunity to recruit for SFI and more specifically for the local area ship, the USS Jeannette Maddox. In total, seven business cards were handed out.



L-R: CRMN D. Planthold; ADM S. Planthold; RADM R. Planthold; CDT S. Felty; LT R. Felty; CDT T. Felty; CDT2C D. Felty; LT L. Felty; LCDR Bevan.



Down front in the IMAX Theater!  
 L-R: LT L. Felty; CDT T. Felty; CDT2C D. Felty; CDT S. Felty; LT R. Felty; CRMN D. Planthold; RADM R. Planthold.

Out of frame, left: LCDR Bevan.  
 Behind the camera: ADM S. Planthold.



Lunch at the Sirlain Stockade.  
 L-R: CDT K. Thompson; CDT T. Felty; CDT L. Thompson.



CDT S. Felty found the ice cream.



CDT T. Felty; LCDR Bevan.



Grandma shocks Grandpa (again) in front of daughter-in-law & grandkids.

L-R: CRMN J. Thompson; CDT C. Thompson; CO; chocolate-smearred XO; CDT F. Planthold.



Quiet little father/son chat.

L-R: CRMN D. Planthold; CO.



"May we share with you the Good News of Our Lord and Savior Jean-Luc

Picard?" Itinerant "missionaries" CDT2C D. Felty; LT R. Felty.

- 08/07 SO attended the mandatory TopCon Meeting along with LT K. Batt, L. Felty, and R. Felty; LTJG Kaberline; and ENS S. Fisher. CDT2C Felty and CDT S. Felty and T. Felty were on scene as well but, due to insurance age requirements for TopCon volunteers, were not involved in the meeting.
- 08/09 SO had dinner with ADM James Herring (Commanding Officer, USS Missouri) to discuss recent Fleet political issues.
- 08/10 Command Staff met at SO's home for a conference call with a potential new member in Topeka. Topics discussed were cost of membership, Starfleet Academy, TopCon, and her life-long interest in Star Trek since TOS first aired.
- 08/13 Command Staff convened at SO's home for dinner and discussion of future plans such as a possible new destination for the annual Away Mission.
- 08/14 SO received a communique from a friend of the ship regarding a Star Trek documentary being broadcast via antiquated television signals. SO conveyed this information via subspace to the crew and all friends. Command Staff met at the SO's home to view this documentary.
- 08/17 Command Staff met for dinner at Perkins to discuss certain ship matters.
- 08/19 SO hosted Game Night at his home. This was the first Game Night after a six-week hiatus due to scheduling conflicts. Those who attended were LCDR Bevan, LT R. Felty, CD2C Felty, CDT S. Felty and T. Felty. ADM Planthold and RADM Planthold made a brief (dare I say cameo?) appearance during the event as well.
- 08/20 Command Staff had dinner with COL Malone. Malone provided updates on his recent medical issues and other related matters.
- 08/21 SO met with LT R. Felty, CDT2C D. Felty, and CDT S. Felty and T. Felty at their home to discuss SF1 political issues, Academy matters, and to return equipment accidentally left behind at the 08/19 Game Night.
- 08/24 Command Staff met over lunch to discuss potential change of venue for August 2017's Region 12 Away Mission and to discuss suggested simplification of alert protocols for the ship, as provided by LT R. Felty in his position as Chief of Security.
- 08/24 SO picked up print run of new edition of Crew Handbooks to be distributed to crew at ship meeting on 08/27.

## USS Dark Phoenix NCC-74920



### Crew Handbook

- 08/24 Command Staff met over dinner to continue discussions regarding alert protocols as well as new departments opened on the ship and the positions that need to be filled soon: most notably Chief Tactical Officer and Logistics Officer.
- 08/27 Ship meeting was held at Perkins. Topics discussed were 2nd Edition Crew Handbook, new positions available, Academy Night, TopCon, and radio training.



L-R: SO; ENS ENSjg Martin; XO; CDT2C D. Felty; CDT S. Felty; LT R. Felty; LT K. Batt; CO.



- CO presents promotion certificate to ENSjg Martin as SO looks on.
- 08/28 Command Staff met over dinner to discuss additional positions other than Chief Tactical Officer and Logistics Officer which need to be filled as soon as possible. The decision was made to find a Chief Communications Officer in addition with a Senior Teacher (department chief for the new Education Department), Senior Cadet Instructor (department chief for the new Cadet Corps), Ambassador (department chief

for the new Diplomatic Corps), and Intelligence Officer (department chief for the new Intelligence Department) being highly desirable.

## FUTURE PLANS

- 09/02 SO will host Game Night at his home.
- 09/03 Command Staff will meet for dinner at Minsky's and discuss ship-related issues.
- 09/10 SO will host Academy Night at his home from noon to midnight.
- 09/16 TopCon 2016 in Topeka KS. Crew -18 volunteers will wear chapter polo shirts while on duty.
- 09/24 R12 End of Summer Picnic, 7AM-7PM at Schifferdecker Park in Joplin MO.
- 09/24 2016 Kansas Chocolate Festival, 10AM-5PM on S. Kansas Ave from 6th-10th STs in Topeka.
- 09/24 USS Dark Phoenix monthly chapter meeting, 6 PM at McAlister's Deli in Lawrence.
- 09/30 SO will host Game Night at his home.
- 10/29 2nd Annual Halloween Potluck at SO's home. Costumes optional.

## COMMENTS :

- 08/15: Lawrence Magazine posted online ([https://issuu.com/sunflower\\_publishing/docs/lm16fa/c/sm96d49](https://issuu.com/sunflower_publishing/docs/lm16fa/c/sm96d49)) its Fall edition, which included a 5-page spread featuring LTJG Kaberline's articles about the USS Dark Phoenix and LT Melton (pp. 56-60). The print edition of the magazine is now available as well.



May 28 photo shoot at 3207 Atchison Ave. L-R: LT R. Felty; CDT S. Felty and T. Felty; CDT2C D. Felty; CRMN Walker; CO; XO; SO; CRMN Burns; LT L. Felty; LT Melton; and CDT H. Batt and LT K. Batt (both of whom were cropped out of the magazine photo without our approval).

Bottom right: Doug Stremel, photographer. Behind the camera: LTJG Kaberline.

- 09/16: Game Night cancelled due to scheduling conflict with TopCon. SO will be working at TopCon 9/16 through 9/18, along with many of our crew. The next Game Night will be on 9/30.
- Congratulations to LT R. Felty for earning the Bronze Boothby Award acknowledging successfully completing 50 Academy courses.

- Congratulations to LT L. Felty for earning the Bronze Boothby Award acknowledging successfully completing 50 Academy courses.
- Congratulations to LCDR Bevan for earning Bridge Officer Certification as Chief Medical Officer.
- Congratulations to LCDR Bevan for earning Special Operations certification in Communications.
- Congratulations to LCDR Bevan, named to Starfleet Academy's Red Squad from no fewer than 3 Academy Colleges! They are:
  - Institute of Leadership Studies: Flag Officer School
  - Institute of Military Studies: College of Starship Operations
  - Institute of Star Trek Studies: College of Parallel Studies.
- The following crewmembers are reminded that their memberships are now APPROACHING expiration date, and that they should renew NOW:

SCC	RANK	NAME	EXPIRE DT
70180	ENS	Karessa Kow	09/19/2016
74062	ENS	Josh Levering	09/19/2016

- 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
73696	ENSJG	EI Johnston	06/14/2016
73697	ENSJG	Jean Martin	06/14/2016
73875	PO2	Travis Jackson	08/02/2016
73876	CRMN	Jamie Jackson	08/02/2016
73877	CDT	Gabriel Jackson	08/02/2016
73878	CDT	Larissa Jackson	08/02/2016
73879	CRMN	Venita Jackson	08/02/2016

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



Before I start this month's report, let me ask that we remember those who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The Dark Phoenix sends its condolences to those who lost friends or family because of this event.

Well, everyone, September is here and the cooler weather is starting to force its way into the area, so enjoy the fresh air without the need of environmental controls.

#### Subspace Communications

I have recently established a subspace link with our former member, Ensign Josh Levering. As you may recall, he was transferred out of the area to another posting in Region 3 because of his real-world employment. Currently he still is on our roster as he has not yet established a personnel transfer to another ship or to Retribution Station, the station formerly commanded by our Commander, STARFLEET, Fleet Admiral Wayne "Hunter" Killough. He has said that he is enjoying his new role within his company, his wife Jamie is enjoying the work she has found, his daughter Jasmine is enjoying school and getting along with the band crowd with her saxophone, and his young toddler

Jaxon is "cutting teeth with reckless abandon, so sleepless nights abound for us all" (Josh's words). He sends along his greetings and love for his Dark Phoenix family.

#### Crew Changes

This month, we have to report the resignation of one of our longest members: Lieutenant Rianna Melton. She has turned in her resignation, effective as of September 18<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of TopCon where she will be working as a talent handler for us. She joined our crew in June 2013 and has been with us as we have grown. However, as often happens, her personal life and commitments have grown and she has made the difficult choice to depart in her personal shuttle from our bay. She is always welcome to join us in our activities, meetings, and other adventures as her schedule permits.

Because of her departure, the Command Staff wishes to ask as many of our crew as possible to come to her final official meeting with us on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We wish to give her a warm departure for her independent adventures.

#### Medical Updates

Colonel Patrick Malone has let us know that finally after about seven weeks of treatments, his viral load is now undetectable and that his CD4 count is up to 450. An undetectable viral load means that the HIV infection is

suppressed and controlled which allows for his body to improve, such as evidenced by the higher CD4 count. CD4 are the T-cells that HIV kills. CD4 T-cells are a type of white blood cell which acts as the body's Pony Express to alert the immune system that a virus or bacteria has intruded. A normal CD4 count is between 600 and 1500 but a person with HIV tends to have a count that is under 200.

Pat also has been cleared by the doctors to return to work finally. However, he now needs to get his employer to get him back on the schedule or he will go find a job from another firm, so that is the next hurdle. We have confidence that he will get this accomplished soon.

#### Fleet Leadership Election

Everyone should be receiving (or already received) their ballots for the election. Votes can be either mailed in with the enclosed envelope (but remember to put on a stamp!) or submitted electronically with the 7-digit PIN that is printed on the form. Every active membership, regardless of age, receives a ballot.

Since there are five candidates running for the top post in our organization, it is asked that the voter ranks his choices from 1 to 5. If done by paper, then fill in completely the square of your choice for each candidate. For example, if you wish to have John Smith as your first choice, you

would fill in completely the block labelled 1<sup>st</sup> on his row. Do the same thing for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> for the other candidates in your preferred order.

If you choose instead to complete your ballot online, then you will find the names listed in no particular order on the left side of the screen and blanks on the right side of the screen. Click the names in the order you prefer on the left and they will populate the blanks on the right. When you are satisfied with your choices, click the Submit button at the bottom of the form.

Please be aware that if you see spaces for "Write-in Candidates" on the online form, ignore them! STARFLEET International does not permit write-in candidates and therefore the presence of those blanks are erroneous, something that SFI is trying to correct with the company that is providing the online voting service to us.

### TopCon

This year, we have a total of eight of our crew volunteering for duty at TopCon, so thank you everyone for your willingness to help our friends make their convention the best of their 3-year history!

If you have not confirmed your schedule recently, get in touch with me and let's make sure that the shifts you have requested are still what you are assigned.

Some of the folks have moved around, so the sooner you check in, the sooner we can be sure that there are no conflicts with your other commitments.

Also, something that I would like to request of each of our volunteers is to go to the Action Photobooth in the Vendors' Room and have your picture taken. Get in touch with me so that we can coordinate this as best as possible. There is no fee for getting your picture snapped. The end result will be a picture composed of all of us standing on the bridge of the Enterprise-D. If you wish a copy for yourself, the price is \$20. If not, then the price is only temporary camera flash blindness. ☺

As a further reminder, please wear your ship uniforms since we are there to represent the ship and SFI as a whole. Also, when you go to have your picture taken, be sure to have on your uniform.

### Events

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, we had the first Game Night since our six-week hiatus. Those present were Lieutenant Rezty Felty, Cadet Lieutenant Dyson Felty, and Cadet Sagan Felty. We played a round of Star Trek Catan and had a good time with it. This was only the second time the game had been played, so the game play was a bit slow while we figured out the rules but all still had fun and so I

am sure that we will play it again soon.

August 27<sup>th</sup> was our monthly ship meeting. We handed out the new edition of the Crew Handbook and made some announcements of available positions that we wish to fill. The attendance was a bit lighter than usual but we still had a good turnout and filled the private room of Perkins well. Those who came were the Command Staff, Lieutenants K Lar Batt and Rezty Felty, Ensign Sara Fisher, (lapsed) Ensign (Junior Grade) Jean Martin, Cadet Lieutenant Dyson Felty, Cadet Sagan Felty, and guest Linda Ford (mother of Ensign Fisher).

September 2<sup>nd</sup> was the next event; Game Night. However, the Feltys bowed out due to family illnesses and so it was just me at the event, so I decided to play a game of "Early to bed." ☺

September 10<sup>th</sup> was the Academy Night and we had a lighter turnout than last year's Fall Academy Night (which was also the inaugural occurrence of this event): it was attended by only the Command Staff and Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Carolyn Kaberline. However, between Carolyn and our XO, ten courses were requested and all ten were completed. So far, I have received grades back for only some of them but those that have returned have all been Distinctions, so very well done!

Also, our XO stands to be certified as a Starfleet Chaplain with the completion of her five courses. This feeds right into her strong desire to bring her beliefs and values to the various facets of her life. As many know, she has been learning American Sign Language through KU for the past few years and each summer she has attended Ecclesiastical Sign Language seminars in Fort Wayne, Indiana, so as to learn the additional vocabulary and other special aspects of signing for church services. Her desire is to be involved in the deaf ministry in the local area and serve as the Chaplain of the Dark Phoenix.

Just after we publish this edition of the Phoenix Rising, we will be working the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TopCon convention. Eight of our crew will be providing security services during the three-day event: the Command Staff; Lieutenants K Lar Batt, Laura Felty, Rezty Felty, and Rianna Melton; and Ensign Sara Fisher. We thank each of these folks for taking time from their busy lives so as to help out friends at TopCon.

A week after TopCon, on September 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have our next ship meeting. This will be held at McAlister's Deli (2108 West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, the northwest corner of 27<sup>th</sup> and Iowa) at the usual time of 6pm. This is also a special meeting because, as mentioned at the start of my article, we will be saying goodbye to one of our longest members:

Lieutenant Rianna Melton. We wish to have as many attend as possible, so please make special effort to board your personal shuttle, stow away on another's shuttle, beam in, have Q "snap his fingers" to get you here, or find some other way (maybe such as a Goa'uld ring transporter) to attend so as to share in the honor of wishing her well on her independent adventures. As always, please RSVP by noon on the day of the meeting so that we know how many to tell the restaurant to be prepared to serve as part of our group. Please send RSVPs to [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com)

September 30<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm at my home. Please RSVP by September 29<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Please send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

October 14<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm at my home. Please RSVP by October 13<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Please send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the date of our next ship meeting. This will take place at Jin Shan Chinese Buffet in the 10 Marketplace located on the southeast corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Harper. Please RSVP by noon on the day of the meeting so that we

know how many to tell the restaurant to be prepared to serve as part of our group. Please send RSVPs to [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com)

October 29<sup>th</sup> will be the date of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ship Halloween Potluck. I will be hosting it at my home once again. The event is open to our crew, their guests, our friends from around the Fleet, and any friends from outside SFI who want to hang out with all of us. Uniforms and costumes are optional. We ask only that whatever you decide to wear is appropriate since there is the potential for Cadets to be around. Since this is a potluck, please bring a dish of your choice to share with the rest of those who attend. Last year, we had chicken salad sandwiches, homemade pulled pork, sloppy joes, a Jell-o dessert, cookies, coleslaw, and much more. Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, at 11pm so that we can plan enough tables and chairs for those who wish to attend. Please RSVP to [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com)

November 11<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm at my home. Please RSVP by November 10<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Please send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

November 19<sup>th</sup> will be the date of our next ship meeting. Please take note that this is a week earlier than our usual "fourth

Saturday of the month." As always, this is because of the conflict with family plans that tend to occur just after November's fourth Thursday: Thanksgiving. It will be held at Conroy's Pub located at 3115 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This is in the strip mall just east of the Sonic Drive-In and about a block west of the intersection of the 6<sup>th</sup> and Lawrence Avenue. The meeting will be at the usual time of 6pm. Please RSVP by noon on the day of the meeting so that we know how many to tell the restaurant to be prepared to serve as part of our group. Please send RSVPs to [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com)

November 25<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm at my home. Please RSVP by November 24<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Please send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

December 9<sup>th</sup> will be the next Game Night. As always, it will be at 7pm at my home. Please RSVP by December 8<sup>th</sup> so that I can have plenty of light snacks and other supplies on hand. Please send RSVPs to [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto:sosparky@bdcusa.com)

December 17th will be the date of our next ship meeting. Please take note that this is a week earlier than our usual "fourth Saturday of the month." As always, this is because of the conflict with family plans that tend to occur during the fourth

week of December: Christmas. It will be held at Perkins located at 1711 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (the southeast corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Ousdahl). The meeting will be at the usual time of 6pm. Please RSVP by noon on the day of the meeting so that we know how many to tell the restaurant to be prepared to serve as part of our group. Please send RSVPs to [dpcommand@bdcusa.com](mailto:dpcommand@bdcusa.com)

December 23<sup>rd</sup> would be the next Game Night but due to the proximity to Christmas, we are cancelling that and wish everyone a happy family gathering and will look forward to reconvening with everyone on January 6<sup>th</sup> (the day before Russian Christmas, just as a bit of trivia).

As always, if anyone has any questions about the contents of this article, suggestions for future events, or wishes to submit articles or announcements for publication, please feel free to contact me by email at [sosparky@bdcusa.com](mailto: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 the Team Leader of the Special Operations Unit 666--The Dark Devils--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."*

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.]*

**SFMC: The Dominion War  
(2373 to 2374)**

The signing of a treaty of peace with Cardassia did not mean "the end of war in our time" any more than the Khitomer Accords did over 150 years earlier. At most, the major powers of the Alpha and Beta Quadrants maintained a delicate balance.

So delicate was the balance that one incident could tip the quadrants toward all-out war. The entrance of the Dominion into the Alpha Quadrant through the Bajoran wormhole was such an incident. With the arrival of the Dominion, the Alpha and Beta Quadrants destabilized leading not only into all-out war but to multiple alliances of convenience. Alliances between the various powers shifted constantly during this time.

The Dominion War started unlike most wars: that is, they did not enter the Alpha quadrant with guns blazing. Instead the Dominion chose to use subterfuge to undermine the already-fragile alliances that existed in the Alpha and Beta Quadrants.

By undermining those alliances, the Dominion had hoped to push the more powerful governments into open hostilities with each other which would, in the end, weaken them enough so that a Dominion invasion would meet little opposition. The Federation and the Klingons were the first targets of the Dominion. Changelings had infiltrated the Klingon High Command and were feeding false information regarding the recent civilian overthrow of the Cardassian government to Chancellor Gowron.

The infiltrators had Gowron convinced that the Dominion was behind the overthrow and therefore Cardassia must be invaded to stop the Dominion. The Federation disagreed and, in the end, helped the newly formed Detapa Council escape from the Klingon invasion of Cardassia. The Federation's willingness to help the Cardassians and their refusal to participate in the invasion led Gowron to withdraw from the Khitomer Accords.

Open hostilities between the Federation and Klingon Empire ensued. During this time, the SFMC was instrumental in several battles and was used extensively to bolster any planets civilian defense forces. On several occasions, forces of the SFMC were able to hold the Klingons back thus preventing several planets from falling.

Not only did the SFMC enjoy the thrill of victory but the pain of loss. Men and material were being lost at an alarming rate; soon, losses from this stage of the war surpassed those that had been suffered during the war with Cardassia.

While the war raged on, the Federation began to grow concerned that a Changeling had replaced the Klingon Chancellor. A plan was devised to determine whether or not this had actually occurred. While carrying out this plan, a group of Starfleet officers led by Captain Benjamin Sisko discovered that it was not Gowron who had been replaced but his commanding general, General Martok. This fact was revealed to Gowron in spectacular fashion. Captain Sisko's team was allowed to leave Klingon space unhindered and Gowron was able to convince the High Council to call for a cease-fire.

Even though a tenuous cease-fire existed between the Federation and the Klingons, the Klingons were still engaged in a war with the Cardassians. Sometime mid-2373, the Cardassian Union allied with the Dominion. This gave the Dominion a foothold in the Alpha Quadrant and they immediately began sending fleets of warships and supply vessels through the Bajoran wormhole and into Cardassian territory on a weekly basis. The Klingons now found themselves facing a foe that they could not fight alone and they

were forced to withdraw from Cardassian space. War with the Dominion was inevitable and only the combined Federation-Klingon forces stood a chance. With that, Gowron re-signed the Khitomer Accords, thus officially ending hostilities between the two powers.

The Cardassian Union and Dominion meanwhile continued to fortify their positions and secure nonaggression treaties with the Miradorn, Tholians, Bajorans, and most notably the Romulans. Dominion intentions were becoming clearer with each treaty they made. The Federation was forced to act but a preemptive strike was out of the question: there simply were not enough men and material for such a strike to succeed. Instead, it was decided that mining the Bajoran wormhole to prevent further Dominion reinforcements from arriving would be sufficient. The mining of the wormhole provoked the Dominion into acting. Even while apparently reaching an agreement with the Federation to allow limited medical and economic supplies through to help rebuild Cardassia, the Dominion secretly planned an attack on DS9.

The Dominion plan was to attack and take the station before the Federation had time to complete and activate the minefield. However, the Klingons were able to send word to DS9 that a large Cardassian and Dominion fleet was inbound. With this knowledge, DS9 was

able to prepare its defenses and work toward bringing the minefield on line. Even though the Dominion arrived too late to prevent the successful activation of the minefield, they began their assault on the station. No Federation reinforcements were available and in light of the overwhelming force that DS9 faced, Captain Benjamin Sisko was forced to order all Federation personnel to evacuate the station. This would not be the last time that DS9 changed hands during the war. After the evacuation, the reason for the lack of reinforcements was made known. While the Dominion was busy attacking DS9, a combined Federation-Klingon task force had attacked Dominion shipyards at Torros III. That assault had required all available vessels.

The opening months of 2374 saw a string of allied defeats, both in space and planet side. Starfleet saw most of its losses through massive space battles involving huge fleets while the Starfleet Marine Corps saw most of its losses in large tactical engagements on various planets. However, the SFMC also suffered horrendous losses in space engagements, especially in planetary invasions. Troop carriers were favorite targets of Cardassian and Dominion forces. Each troop carrier destroyed meant the loss of hundreds if not thousands of Starfleet Marines. With losses mounting, morale was at an all-time low. However, the tides of fortune would change in

favor of the Allies in the second quarter of that year. That quarter saw the successful implementation of Operation Return, the objective of which was to retake DS9 and the Bajoran Wormhole.

Operation Return was a risky and bold move that succeeded only in due part to the surprise appearance of a huge Klingon attack force. The USS Defiant was able to break through the lines and head toward the Bajoran Wormhole. As the USS Defiant arrived at DS9, the Dominion was able to successfully destroy the minefield placed months earlier by Starfleet. The way was now open for Dominion reinforcements from the Gamma Quadrant. However the Dominion had not taken into account the non-corporeal aliens that dwelt in the Bajoran Wormhole. As the Dominion fleet was en route and in the wormhole, Captain Benjamin Sisko was able to convince the aliens to destroy the Dominion reinforcements. From that point on, no further Dominion ships would make it through the wormhole. With their reinforcements gone and Allied forces breaking through their lines, the Dominion was forced to withdraw from DS9. This was the first major allied victory. SFMC losses during this engagement were light in comparison to other engagements and most were due to the actual space battle.

Next time: The Dominion War (2374 to 2375)

*Sunnie Planthold has been a member of Starfleet International since February 1995. She holds the billets of Executive Officer and 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 Center, 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  
Rezty Felty



## Security Alerts & Conditions

There have been a variety of Security Alerts & Conditions referenced in the various Trek series. In the 23rd Century, Security Alerts came in three levels and were considered as part of General Quarters. Defining parameters of the different levels were not clear from the show.

During the 24th Century, Security Alerts came in a confusing hodge-podge of levels and colors. "Security level" & "Security Condition" seem to have been used interchangeably:

Condition 10: Unknown assailants present, non-essential crew confined to quarters, security teams stationed on all decks, hand phasers issued.

Condition 4: Crew-members disappearing, shields raised, complete internal scan.

Condition 3: Alien life-forms present or crew-members compromised, all hands to duty stations, transporters shut down, intensive shipboard tracking initiated.

Condition 2: Temporal anomalies detected or present.

Condition 1: Compromised Crew-members

Security Alert Yellow (assumed to be distinct from "Yellow Alert"): Ship docking

Condition Blue (AKA Blue Alert or Code Blue): Main power offline, environmental systems off-line or environmental hazard present, ship component (saucer) docking or separation, ship or shuttle making landfall, Multi-Vector Assault Mode (Prometheus-class vessels).

Gray Mode: Energy conservation mode. Warp core is safed to cold mode, IDF/SIF reduced to minimum, sensors reduced to necessary usage or taken off-line, shields reduced to minimum or taken off-line, weapons off-line, shuttlebay off-line, life-support reduced to minimum and shut off on non-essential decks, transporters off-line, turbolifts off-line, holodeck off-line, food replicators off-line. In addition to energy conservation, gray mode could be used to rig for "silent running" to attempt to reduce detectability and sneak past enemies.

General Security Alert: Alien taking over crewmen, crewman dead of unknown causes, alien intruder, alien present, mercenary ships present, aliens transporting in, door security compromised, alien kidnapping crew, aliens attempting to take control of ship.

Other security conditions not mentioned or defined by the various series are implied by the numbering system.

Additionally, there were various Alerts designated by various colors:

Red Alert: Highest alert signal, full shields and weapons online. Red alert may be raised manually, or automatically triggered when raising shields, or being attacked. During red alert, lights dim (presumably due to power being rerouted from non-essential systems to weapons, shields, life-support, SIF/IDF, etc.), all terminals flash red and alarm is played.

Double Red Alert: Used only once when Captain Kirk found an overloading phaser in his quarters.

Yellow Alert: 2nd highest alert signal. Shields are raised but weapons remain off-line. Can be raised manually, or automatically triggered by unknown or hostile vessels, or systems level malfunctions.

As you can see, this wide array of alert signals, conditions, colors, and modes would make it very confusing for any Starfleet crewman. Frankly, I don't know how they kept track of what do to when and when to trigger the various alerts without carrying a manual 24/7.

I am proposing a simplified system for the Dark

Phoenix. Situations trigger alert levels, of which there are only three:

Red Alert: Ship under attack by internal or external enemies

- Any situation which any member of the Command Staff believes warrants Red Alert.

Yellow Alert: Ship-wide emergency

- Crewmembers compromised, whether medically, psychically, alien possession, etc.
- Systems failures
- Any situation deemed by any member of the Command Staff to require heightened alert status
- May be raised to Red Alert at Command Staff discretion

General Quarters: Any situation deemed by any Command Staff member to require heightened Alert status

- May be raised to Yellow Alert or Red Alert at Command Staff discretion

And the Condition issued defines the action to be taken:

Condition 1: All hands to battle stations, shields raised, weapons online, and automated target tracking system active.

Condition 2: Shields raised, weapons charged and at standby. Automated target tracking system inactive.

Condition 3: Ship-wide lockdown: Non-essential crew, cadets, and civilians confined to quarters, transporters locked, essential personnel report to stations, security teams to blanket ship. Weapons and automated target tracking system offline.

Condition 4: Silent Running--see Code Gray above. Weapons and automated target tracking system offline.

I believe this simplified system should cover most situations, having colors for alert levels and conditions for required action is clearly organized. Having three alert levels and four conditions is a manageable amount to memorize and command staff can issue orders to cover any situation that falls outside these parameters.

If the command staff approves, this is the Alert & Condition system I propose for the Dark Phoenix.

*[Editor's Note: The Command Staff has already discussed and approved this proposal. It is being made part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Crew Handbook which will be released next summer.]*

*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 International 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 Dyson  
Felty



Dilithium crystals are the power source of many of Star Trek's starships but they also use fuel. In the television series, the fuel is referred to several times as deuterium. Upon further research, deuterium is an isotope of hydrogen as opposed to our real life rocket fuel liquid oxygen.

Deuterium (or heavy hydrogen) is an atomically-modified version of regular hydrogen atoms. The fact that it's an atomically-altered version of hydrogen means that early rocket scientist were correct in their assumption that hydrogen could prove a valuable fuel for space travel and that it would be cleaner because when one combines hydrogen with oxygen, the only byproduct is water.

More than just being a starship propellant, deuterium also is fuel powering nuclear reactors on Cardassian space stations, meaning that in the show's continuity deuterium may have replaced general fuels in the future.

Although no price has been stated, it can be assumed that deuterium is a valuable resource as a couple of episodes have started or ended a conflict saying a now abandoned or thought-to-be-abandoned factory or illegal operation could be turned into a

deuterium refinery. So it is fairly valuable.

Deuterium may not be the be-all end-all of fuel though, as in an episode it was said that they would run out of fuel before they would outrun the enemy, so either fuel tanks will have to be upgraded or perhaps a new fuel to be found and not only replace deuterium but also dilithium. This would imply that this fuel will be capable of inducing warp speeds unlike deuterium.

Deuterium is one of two stable isotopes of hydrogen, the same as conventional hydrogen with an added neutron. It is commonly found in water; Earth's oceans contain tons of it with deuterium comprising 1 out of every 6,250 atoms of hydrogen in the water. It is found much more frequently in "heavy water," the water used to cool nuclear fission plants, as the fission process sends millions of neutrons careening through the cooling water and many of these lodge in the hydrogen atoms of the cooling water, converting the common hydrogen atoms, known as protium, into the less common deuterium.

Fuel in the show has not been touched on more than that it is needed for a ship's impulse power, nuclear plants, and possibly a general fuel but there is the question on how renewable this is and what byproduct it would have. As for its renewability, it is basically hydrogen and with the amount of

life it is safe to assume that there is plenty of water, fresh or otherwise. I can't find a byproduct for it but its abundant use in the show would seem to imply that if there is a byproduct it is completely clean and possibly self-sustaining.

Deuterium is a real life element but has not seen widespread use yet, other than in experimental fusion reactors but should a space exploration directive should be put in place, deuterium may see wide use, seeing that we see its value as a fuel source.

*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 and tasks as his adult colleagues, he has been granted the rank of Cadet Lieutenant.*

## Remote Sensing Engineer's Report By Crewman David Planthold

### Not Even Remotely Part 1

Working as part of the IT team at a small college has brought a wide variety of projects my way. Some of them have been a little mundane but others have been surprisingly interesting. I've been encouraged to share a couple of these more interesting projects of late because they're a bit out of the norm and they both deal with a rapidly growing area of technology: remote sensing. I'll share a bit about each in two separate articles.

The first project involves creating a system that, as a whole, is a fairly novel combination; at least we haven't found an animal like this before. For our Welding Technology program at Hutchinson Community College, we've designed a First Person View (FPV) Presenter system that allows the instructor to show what he's working on from his perspective in real-time with the option to record it for later use and this is all done wirelessly.

Greg, our Welding Tech program coordinator, had initially approached me with a simple request: "Can you recommend a tripod mount to hold an iPad?" But, like a lot of projects, the real needs behind these requests can be much more complex. After a few brainstorming sessions to flesh out what his real needs were, it was clear that we would need to build

a system to let him meet a number of growing challenges.

As it turns out, Greg was somewhat a victim of his own success. His classes had been 6-8 people at a time but, because of his experience and proficiency, those numbers had ballooned to 16-18. This is too large a group to expect people to just "gather round" to see how things are done when it's time to move from the classroom to the shop.

Greg had noticed that in every class there was at least one individual who had what we've dubbed "functional dyslexia." These students lacked the ready ability to translate what they watch into something they can then do. For example, if he watched an instructor from across a table demonstrate a technique from left to right, he would attempt to do it from right to left, resulting in frustration and failure.

We needed a tool to allow Greg to move from the classroom to the welding shop, demonstrate a variety of techniques and equipment, show what he was doing from his own perspective in real-time, record it for later use, and do all of the above wirelessly so he wouldn't be constrained by cables and cords while surrounded by students and equipment. And because we needed more than just one perspective, we planned on one GoPro camera mounted to the welding helmet with audio from inside, as well as a separate GoPro camera and digital microscope that

could be switched to for greater detail.

Our initial pitch to administration was well received and, since it was thought likely we might receive a grant to fund this project, we were given the green light. That's when the fun really began.

So, months of research, phone calls, experiments and one grant approval later (Yea!), we have arrived at what we consider the prototype for our system. With almost 50 separate components, we've created a solution that ends up borrowing tech from a number of different markets. For high definition wireless video transmission with less than 1 millisecond latency, we're using equipment designed for professional video production (Teradek Bolt Pro 300). To allow us to quickly position a variety of lenses or filters in front of the GoPro cameras, we're using a rig designed specifically for underwater video (Flip4Pro from Backscatter). And as a means to secure all of the equipment the instructor needs to wear (including video transmitter, HDMI switcher, audio module, and battery packs to run the whole smash), we're using a tactical harness with MOLLE system designed for military and law enforcement (Blackhawk S.T.R.I.K.E. LBE Harness).

This just accounts for the content generation/transmission side. Added to that mix is a 60" 4K "monitor" attached to an 80"

tall rolling cart that contains the video receiver unit, capture card, PC, and other accessories. It's an impressive/formidable arrangement (depending on your perspective).

Whether we're in the process of testing this equipment or not, we often get comments from passerby to the effect of, "What the hell are you guys doing in here?" For those who have a few minutes, they get the nutshell explanation--and they're often excited about the applications of this system for Welding Tech and other curricula we offer at the college. For those who are in more of a rush, we say, "Working with grant money." That seems to satisfy.

The end result of this venture is more than just an instructional tool--or at least it is to me. It represents a mindset that I'm proud to say is fostered where I work: we are encouraged to find creative solutions to unusual problems, that technology is meant to serve us, and that exploration comes in many guises.

Sure, we could have just stuck an iPad on a tripod but where's the fun, or more importantly the challenge, in that?

*David Planthold lives, works, and causes mischief in Hutchinson, KS along with his wife, 5 kids, 3 cats, hamster, and hermit crab (seniority in this roster varies by the day). He's a raving multipotentialite who wishes there were more hours in the day. He has worked as a graphic designer,*

*web designer, UX designer, motion graphics designer, technical support and trainer, social media coordinator, optics technician, copy clerk, roofer, sign painter, and bag boy (among other things). Current interests include parametric modeling, 3D printing, photogrammetry, microcontrollers, things that go boom, and how best to get lead paint off an older home.*

Chief Weapons  
Officer's Report  
By Lieutenant Klar  
Batt



No article submitted.

Chief Medical  
Officer's Report  
By Lieutenant  
Laura Felty, SFMD



Hi Everyone!

I hope all of you who are eligible to vote have gotten your ballots in.

I have received a special request for this article. It was for information about colonoscopy. I have been lucky enough never to have needed one as of yet but I decided to do this article on endoscopy as a whole, pun intended. So I will be discussing the upper and lower testing.

So the ability to see your inner gastrointestinal lining is generically known as endoscopy. The doctor uses a long thin tube with a camera and a light at the end and can view your insides. The instrument is known as an endoscope. Of course, they use separate tubes for each end.

For most people it is recommended that they receive a colonoscopy, depending on the doctor, every 5-8 years after that age of 50. When a doctor does a colonoscopy, he gives you a medication regime to clear out your colon. This can be quite difficult for some as by the time you are done, you have clear liquid BMs. This is usually occurring throughout the night so that by morning there is nothing left in your colon and the physician can easily see the colon

rectal lining. The physician is looking for ulcers, tumors, bleeding, or inflammation of the lining in the colon or rectum as well as polyps which can be pre-cancerous. This can be early detection for colon or rectal cancer. This is also the way Crohn's Disease and colitis are diagnosed. It is very important to follow your health care provider's advice as to how frequently to get repeat colonoscopies as well as taking prescribed medication.

So I guess I started at the back first. Next I will discuss the upper endoscopy. A similar flexible small tube with a camera and light are used for this procedure. This procedure is used to view the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum. The physician is looking for similar things here. He is observing for inflammation, bleeding, ulcers, tumors, and polyps. Again, this can assist in early diagnosis of cancer.

So there are a lot of similarities with these two different procedures. The risks are similar. There is the potential for bleeding or tearing of the intestinal tract as well as a risk for infection. However, with the upper endoscopy you also have the risk of broken or cracked teeth. With both of these different procedures, you can expect to be semi-awake. The staff will medicate you so that you do not feel uncomfortable. You will not be allowed to drive after the procedure is completed. You can ask your physician for pictures if

you are interested to see what your insides look like. You can expect for the staff to watch over you for a short bit after the procedure to ensure that you are ok and recovering as expected. With both procedures they should give you after-care instructions such as when to call into the office or after hours.

There is also a new procedure out. It is the "camera in a pill." You simply swallow the pill and it takes pictures as it goes through. It transmits a video as it goes through the GI tract about 10 hours, through a transceiver worn on your belt. This was approved only about a year ago, so there is not a lot of information out there on it. However, I understand that it is a great alternative to those who are unable to complete the colonoscopy prep. You may still be recommended to go back to your provider for a colonoscopy if there are any abnormalities seen on the video.

I hope you have found this article informative. If you have any other suggestions for an article please feel free to contact me. Don't forget to eat your fiber to keep away the endoscopy tube!

*Laura Felty doesn't just play in the medical field in Starfleet International: 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  
Rianna Melton



### Finding the Right Veterinarian for Your Pets

Hello Dark Phoenix crew,

First and foremost I would like to make you aware that after this month I have decided to resign my post with Starfleet. It has been a fun ride but I feel the time is right for me to get off. You are always still welcome to contact me if you wish but I will no longer be participating in ship functions or events. Thank you all for the wonderful comradery and great memories.

As such, I feel I should leave you with one last article that I hope will be helpful when you consider the wellbeing of your pets. This can be a difficult decision but every owner has to decide for themselves: "What vet do I take my pets to?"

The first thing you should consider is: What pets do you have? Dogs, cats, exotics, large animals like horses or goats? Most vets only see the most common species like dogs or cats while others on the edges of town see the large or farm animals. Fewer still specialize in reptiles or "exotics" like ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc. Depending on what animals you have, start your

search for vets that treat those species.

Family or friend references are also a good way to gather inside info about a practice. People are eager to tell you if they've had a good or bad experience at a certain place. Be wary of online reviews as anyone and everyone can write a bad one with no guarantee their experience actually happened or that they properly interpreted the events.

Once you decide who to go to, give the clinic a call or stop by. What do you notice when you walk in the door? Is it clean/does it smell good? Is the staff welcoming and friendly? Do they take the time to greet you and engage to find out what you need? If you answered No to any of these, keep looking. There are fantastic veterinarian offices out there that you will likely be much better off visiting.

Next, if you wanted to take the time to make an appointment to bring in your pet for a meet and greet and to talk one of the doctors or techs, they should be willing to accommodate you. Deciding who to take your furry family member to is a big choice and I'm a fan of having a conversation with some of the staff who will be taking care of them. How do they treat your pet? Are they patient, gentle, understanding of any anxiety or fear? How does your pet react to the place and to the people? These are all great questions to

make sure it's a good experience for everyone involved.

It would also be worth your time to ask some questions of the staff while you're there. Make a list before your visit of some things you'd like to know about the practice. What vaccines do they recommend/how often? If you will be boarding your pet, what happens while they're there? The staff really loves the prepared client who knows what they're looking for!

And finally, one last funny video for you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-1F-CokXNU>

Lieutenant Rianna Melton signing off.

*Rianna Melton is a member of Starfleet International 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



Probably the biggest astronomical event this month occurs on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. On that day at approximately 9:21am CDT, the sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night everywhere in the world. This is the first day of autumn in the northern hemisphere and the first day of spring in the southern hemisphere. For us that means that winter will soon be here.

Other events include the full moon which occurs on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Known by the early Native American tribes as the Full Corn Moon because corn crops are usually harvested about this time of year, it is also known as the Harvest Moon. This will be one of the brighter full moons of the year due to the position of the Earth and Moon.

If you've ever wanted to see the planet Mercury, one of your best chances will be on September 28<sup>th</sup> as that is when Mercury will be at its greatest western elongation of 17.9 degrees from the sun and at its highest point above the horizon. Look for it low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

Faint objects in the sky such as galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae will be easiest to see on

October 1<sup>st</sup> as that's the when the next new Moon arrives. Since the Moon will not be visible at this time, there will be no moonlight to interfere with stargazing.

A week later on October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Draconids Meteor Shower will occur. A minor meteor shower producing only about 10 meteors per hour, it is produced by dust grains left behind by comet 21P Giacobini-Zinner, which was first discovered in 1900. The Draconids provide an unusual shower as the best viewing is in the early evening instead of early morning like most other showers. The shower runs annually from October 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and peaks this year on the night of October 7<sup>th</sup>. The first quarter moon will block the fainter meteors in the early evening but it will set shortly after midnight leaving darker skies for observing any late meteors. Best viewing will be in the early evening from a dark location far away from city lights. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Draco but can appear anywhere in the sky. (Information from "The Sky," a web page presented by Sea and Sky at

<http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2016.html>)

In other recent news, astronomers now say there are hundreds of undiscovered black holes out there. There is also a newly discovered asteroid named 2016 RB1 that just recently passed very close to Earth, coming within 23,900 miles as it did so. While that may not seem all that close,

it's actually just outside the orbit of many communications satellites. This asteroid was just discovered on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and was estimated to be between 24 to 52 feet in size. While not large enough to trigger a Doomsday scenario, it was still large enough to cause major damage should it have hit the planet.

*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 was the name of the Vulcan ship destroyed in "The Immunity Syndrome?"

TNG: What race invented the alcohol substitute known as synthehol?

DS9: Name Dax's eight Trill hosts.

VOY: What beverage did Captain Janeway once consider to be an essential part of her life?

## Logic

1. "Therein lies the secret," said Scheming Susie. "For you see, there is a seven-letter word in the English language that contains ten words without rearranging any of its letters." What is the word?

2. "Mr. Shady, I'm afraid I have some bad news for you," said Shadow. "Your brother-in-law is dead and I have reason to believe that he was murdered." "Oh no!" exclaimed Shady. "I just saw Sam a couple of days ago. To tell you the truth, though, I'm not surprised. Sam did have a big mouth and quite a few enemies. As a matter of fact, both of my sisters' husbands and Sam had a big fight over a business deal that turned sour. Then there was a friend of my brother who loaned Sam a lot of money and never got it back. Another person is my wife's brother who just got out of

jail and accuses Sam of framing him. He swore that he would get even." As Shady rambled on about Sam's enemies, Shadow read him his rights and arrested him on suspicion of murder. Why?

3. While mixing sand, gravel, and cement for the foundation of a house, a worker noticed a small bird hopping along the top of the foundation wall. The bird misjudged a hop and fell down one of the holes between the blocks. The bird was down too far for anyone to reach it. Someone suggested using two sticks to reach down into the hole and pull the bird out but this idea was rejected for fear it would injure the fragile bird. What would be the easiest way to get the bird out of the hole without injuring it?

## Logic Puzzle

Record Island has several stations where customers can listen to CDs before they buy them. Currently the listening station in each position (labelled clockwise A through D) is occupied by a different person who is listening to a different hot new song from a different CD. These music fans are happy to be able to listen to these tunes hear and now. From the information provided, can you determine the position in which each person (including Amber) is listening to a song and the CD on which it appears?

Given 1: Joely is listening to the song from *I Can't Wait*. Karl is at

the station in position B (which isn't where "Elvis's Tear" is playing).

Given 2: The person at the station in position A is listening to the single from *The Mummy*. The person at the station in position C is listening to the single from *Elegant*.

Given 3: "Do the Crawl" is playing at the station immediately clockwise from the station where Uri is listening to a tune.

Given 4: The song from *I Can't Wait* is playing at the station immediately clockwise from the station where "Trip and Fall" is playing.

Given 5: The song from *Tequila Sunset* is playing at the station immediately clockwise from the station where "Spiders" is playing.

[Logic Puzzle Source: PennyPress Original Logic Problems. <http://www.pennydellpuzzles.com/>]

As always, the answers for the puzzles may be found at: <http://www.bdcusa.com/downloads/september2016.pdf>. For previous month's answers, change the URL to the appropriate month such as <http://www.bdcusa.com/downloads/august2016.pdf>.

